

NET 1 UEPS TECHNOLOGIES INC

Form 424B3

May 20, 2004

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration Number 333-112463

Proxy Statement and Prospectus

May 14, 2004

To the Shareholders of Net 1 UEPS Technologies, Inc.:

The board of directors of Net 1 has approved the acquisition by Net 1 of substantially all of the assets and the assumption of all of the liabilities of Net 1 Applied Technology Holdings Limited, a public company incorporated in South Africa and listed on the JSE Securities Exchange South Africa, through a newly incorporated South African company called New Aplitec, which will become a subsidiary of Net 1. In addition, the board of directors of Net 1 has approved the acquisition by Net 1 of certain assets of Net 1 Holdings S.a.r.l., a company incorporated in Luxembourg that currently holds the U.S. patent for the Funds Transfer System for which Net 1 currently holds a license.

In connection with the recapitalization of Net 1 and to provide the necessary liquidity to consummate the acquisition of Aplitec, the board of directors of Net 1 has approved the issuance of 105,661,428 newly issued common shares of Net 1 to the Brait Consortium, a group of affiliated investment funds, through its representative, SAPEF III International G.P. Limited, in consideration for a capital contribution of \$52.8 million.

I cordially invite you to attend our special meeting of shareholders to vote on proposals to:

- (i) authorize an amendment to Net 1's articles of incorporation to (a) increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from 100,000,000 to 500,000,000, (b) increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock from 3,000,000 to 300,000,000, (c) modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock that may be issued by Net 1 from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share, and (d) authorize the terms of the special convertible preferred stock;
- (ii) authorize the issuance and terms of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock of Net 1 in connection with the Aplitec acquisition;
- (iii) authorize the issuance of 105,661,428 shares of common stock of Net 1 to the Brait Consortium in exchange for a capital contribution of \$52.8 million; and
- (iv) approve the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.

If any one of these proposals is not approved at the special meeting of Net 1's shareholders, the transactions will not be completed.

If the transactions are approved, we will be required to issue up to an aggregate of 192,967,138 shares of common stock in connection with the acquisition of Aplitec. Each Aplitec shareholder who elects the reinvestment option will have the right to receive an interest in 0.814286 shares of Net 1 common stock for each ordinary share of Aplitec it holds.

The special shareholders meeting will be held on May 27, 2004 at 9 a.m. at the offices of Schneider Weinberger LLP, 2200 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Suite 210, Boca Raton, Florida 33431. We cannot complete the transactions unless, among other things, the disinterested holders of a majority of outstanding shares of Net 1 common stock that cast votes at the special meeting of shareholders approve each of the above-referenced proposals.

Your board of directors has determined that the proposed transactions are fair to, advisable and in the best interests of Net 1 and its shareholders. The board recommends that at the special meeting you vote FOR the proposed transactions.

The board of directors has received a written opinion dated January 30, 2004 of its advisor, Stenton Leigh Capital Corp., to the effect that, as of such date and based upon and subject to the matters stated in the opinion, the issuance of shares of common stock of Net 1 to the Brait Consortium at a price of \$0.50 per share was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of Net 1 common stock. **You should be aware that while the trading price per share of Net 1 common stock quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board was \$8.10 on May 5, 2004, the fairness opinion issued to us by Stenton Leigh in connection with the transactions concluded that the value of one share of Net 1 common stock was approximately \$0.004 as of January 30, 2004 without giving effect to the proposed transactions.** See Annex C to this proxy statement/

Edgar Filing: NET 1 UEPS TECHNOLOGIES INC - Form 424B3

prospectus for the full text of Stenton Leigh's fairness opinion.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. To assure your representation at the special meeting, please complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope according to the instructions set forth on the enclosed proxy card. This will allow your shares to be voted whether or not you attend the meeting.

Table of Contents

Detailed information concerning the proposed transactions is set forth in the accompanying proxy statement/ prospectus. I urge you to read the enclosed material carefully and request that you promptly complete and return the enclosed proxy in the enclosed return envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. **You should, in particular, consider the matters discussed under Risk Factors beginning on page 26.** If you attend the special meeting, you may vote in person even if you have previously returned your proxy. Your vote is important regardless of the number of shares of common stock you own.

We support the proposed transactions and urge you to vote FOR the proposed transactions.

Sincerely,

Serge Belamant
Chairman of the Board

Neither the United States Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the shares of common stock or the shares of special convertible preferred stock to be issued by Net 1 under this proxy statement/ prospectus or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this proxy statement/ prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This document serves as a proxy statement and as a prospectus of Net 1 for the 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock to be issued to shareholders of Aplitec in connection with the transactions and the shares of Net 1 common stock issuable upon conversion of the special convertible preferred stock. As described in this proxy statement/ prospectus, this document also serves as a prospectus in respect of a rescission offer being made to Aplitec shareholders.

This proxy statement/ prospectus is dated May 14, 2004, and is being first mailed to shareholders on or about May 14, 2004.

Table of Contents

NET 1 UEPS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MAY 27, 2004

Dear Net 1 Shareholder:

A special meeting of shareholders of Net 1, a Florida corporation, will be held on May 27, 2004 at 9 a.m., local time, at the offices of Schneider Weinberger LLP, 2200 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Suite 210, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

At the meeting, you will be asked to:

1. authorize an amendment to Net 1's articles of incorporation to (a) increase Net 1's authorized shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, from 100,000,000 to 500,000,000 shares, par value \$0.001 per share, to allow for additional shares of common stock of Net 1 to be issued in connection with the proposed transactions, (b) increase Net 1's authorized shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.10 per share, from 3,000,000 to 300,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.10 per share, to allow for a sufficient number of shares of preferred stock to be issued in connection with the Aplitec acquisition, and (c) modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock that may be issued by Net 1 from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share;
2. authorize the issuance and terms of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock of Net 1 in connection with the Aplitec acquisition;
3. authorize the issuance of 105,661,428 shares of common stock of Net 1 to the Brait Consortium, through its representative, SAPEF III International G.P. Limited, in exchange for a capital contribution of \$52.8 million;
4. approve the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan; and
5. act upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

The accompanying proxy statement/prospectus describes the proposed transactions in detail.

The board of directors has set the close of business on May 5, 2004, as the record date for determining shareholders entitled to receive notice of the meeting and to vote at the meeting, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The proposed transactions cannot be completed unless a majority of Net 1's shareholders that cast votes at the special meeting of shareholders approve each of the above-referenced proposals. Net 1 Holdings, a Luxembourg company, owns 53.75% of the outstanding shares of Net 1. Dr. Serge Belamant, the current chairman of Net 1's board of directors, the chief executive officer of Aplitec and the chief executive of Net 1 Holdings, has the right to vote these shares on behalf of Net 1 Holdings. Because of Dr. Belamant's interest in the proposed transactions to be voted upon, the shares owned by Net 1 Holdings will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum at the special meeting, but those shares will be voted in proportion to the votes cast (FOR and AGAINST) by our disinterested shareholders. Thus, the vote of a majority of Net 1's shareholders other than Net 1 Holdings will be determinative of the outcome of the proposed transactions.

We will admit to the special meeting (1) all shareholders of record at the close of business on May 5, 2004, (2) persons holding proof of beneficial ownership as of such date, such as a letter or account statement from the person's broker, (3) persons who have been granted proxies, and (4) such other persons that we, in our sole discretion, may elect to admit. **All persons wishing to be admitted must**

Table of Contents

present photo identification. If you plan to attend the special meeting, please check the appropriate box on your proxy card.

By order of the board of directors,

David Anthony
Secretary

May 14, 2004

Your vote is important. Please return your proxy as soon as possible, whether or not you expect to attend the special meeting in person.

You may submit your proxy by completing, dating and signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before the special meeting. If you attend the special meeting and vote in person, your proxy vote will not be used.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Questions and Answers about the Proposed Transactions</u>	1
<u>Summary</u>	7
<u>Summary Historical Financial Data of Net 1 and Aplitec</u>	20
<u>Comparative Stock Prices and Dividends</u>	22
<u>Exchange Controls</u>	24
<u>Risk Factors</u>	26
<u>Risks Relating to Holders of Net 1's Special Convertible Preferred Stock</u>	38
<u>Special Note Concerning Forward-Looking Statements</u>	38
<u>The Special Meeting</u>	40
<u>The Proposed Transactions</u>	44
<u>The Rescission Offer</u>	76
<u>Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Information</u>	79
<u>Business</u>	94
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	107
<u>Description of Net 1's Capital Stock</u>	133
<u>Management Of Net 1 After The Proposed Transactions</u>	137
<u>2004 Stock Incentive Plan</u>	140
<u>Principal Shareholders After The Proposed Transactions</u>	144
<u>Related Party Transactions</u>	146
<u>Experts</u>	147
<u>Shareholder Proposals</u>	147
<u>Legal Matters</u>	147
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	147
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1
<u>Annex A Articles of Amendment</u>	A-1
<u>Annex B 2004 Stock Incentive Plan</u>	B-1
<u>Annex C Opinion of Stenton Leigh Capital Corp.</u>	C-1

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS

Q1: What are the proposed transactions for which I am being asked to vote?

A1: You are being asked to approve and adopt:

- (i) amendments to Net 1's articles of incorporation to (a) increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from the current 100,000,000 shares to 500,000,000, (b) increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock from the current 3,000,000 to 300,000,000, (c) modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock that may be issued by Net 1 from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share, and (d) authorize the terms of the special convertible preferred stock;
- (ii) the Aplitec acquisition and the issuance of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock in connection with such acquisition;
- (iii) the issuance of 105,661,428 shares of common stock to the Brait Consortium, through its representative, SAPEF III International G.P. Limited in exchange for a \$52.8 million capital contribution; and
- (iv) the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.

Without your approval of the above-referenced proposals, we will not be able to consummate any of the proposed transactions.

Q2: What are the benefits and risks of the proposed transactions to Aplitec, Net 1 and their respective shareholders?

A2: Since its formation, Aplitec has implemented numerous UEPS smart card systems and has developed the unique skills and business models required to successfully implement these smart card systems from an operational and financial perspective. Although Aplitec owns the FTS/ UEPS patents only for South Africa and its surrounding territories, it has also been successful in exploiting the technology in countries outside its designated territories through a Distribution Agreement with Net 1. The proposed transactions will consolidate the FTS/ UEPS intellectual property rights under a single structure, which will allow Aplitec to fully capitalize on Net 1's global rights to the FTS/ UEPS patents.

Net 1 has been unable to raise sufficient capital to implement its business model, due partly to its failure to have successfully implemented any smart card systems. Additionally, Net 1 is concerned that it may not have the capital to continue as a going concern beyond the second quarter of 2004. The proposed transactions will provide a much-needed capital injection into Net 1, and will give Net 1 access to the business model, intellectual property rights and operations of Aplitec.

The proposed transactions will dilute your interest in Net 1 by up to 95.29%, and it will further dilute the interests to be held by Aplitec's reinvesting shareholders by up to 42.73%. Additionally, the proposed transactions may have a variety of negative effects on Net 1. For example, there may be challenges of combining the two companies due to the complex group structure and the management focus required to implement the combination. Additionally, there are substantial costs, expenses and taxes to be paid by Net 1 in connection with the proposed transactions which will reduce the funds available for Net 1 to implement its business plan. Finally, there is a possibility that if a sufficient number of Aplitec shareholders do not elect the reinvestment option, the Brait Group may control Net 1. The risks related to this possible scenario are more fully addressed under Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Proposed Transactions.

Despite these significant risks, we believe that the proposed transactions also provide substantial benefits that are aimed to enhance the companies' overall value. For example, they will create:

a platform from which the combined group can compete on global markets;

a base of credible strategic investors;

Table of Contents

capital to implement Net 1's international expansion; and

the ability to attract funds from large institutional investors in the future.

The proposed transactions will also provide Net 1 the capital it needs to continue as a going concern. If the proposed transactions are not completed, Net 1 may not be able to continue as a going concern beyond the second quarter of 2004.

Q3: Why is Net 1 issuing new shares of common stock to the Brait Consortium?

A3: Net 1 has entered into a Common Stock Purchase Agreement with the Brait Consortium (through its representative SAPEF III International G.P. Limited), pursuant to which Net 1 will issue to the Brait Consortium 105,661,428 restricted shares of Net 1 common stock at a purchase price of \$0.50 per share, or a total purchase price of \$52.8 million. Of this amount, approximately \$33.67 million (assuming a conversion rate of ZAR 6.825 = \$1.00) will be used to fund cash payments to Aplitec's current shareholders in connection with the Aplitec acquisition, and the remainder will be used by Net 1 to finance its operations and implement its business plan.

Fees and expenses of approximately \$6.5 million will be paid out of the resources of Net 1, of which approximately \$3.9 million will be paid to the Brait Group.

In addition, Net 1 will issue to Aplitec shareholders who are U.S. residents and who elect the reinvestment option Net 1 common stock immediately upon completion of the proposed transactions. These Aplitec shareholders who are U.S. residents will not be required to hold their interests in Net 1 through the South African Trust or the Cayman Trust. These U.S. residents will receive, for each ordinary share of Aplitec subject to the reinvestment option, 0.814286 shares of Net 1 common stock.

Q4: Does the current market price of shares of Net 1 common stock reflect the true value of these shares?

A4: No. In connection with the proposed subscription for shares of Net 1 by the Brait Consortium, Net 1 obtained a fairness opinion from Stenton Leigh Capital Corp., the full text of which is attached to this proxy statement/prospectus as Annex C. In its fairness opinion, Stenton Leigh concluded that the value per share of Net 1 common stock was approximately \$0.004 as of January 30, 2004 without giving effect to the proposed transactions. The higher trading price per share quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board may result from the very limited liquidity available for those shares, which contributes to great fluctuations in the share price when small numbers of shares trade and does not reflect the true value of those shares.

Q5: What consideration is Net 1 paying to consummate the Aplitec acquisition?

A5: In addition to the ZAR 229.8 million (\$33.67 million) that Net 1 will pay in connection with the Aplitec acquisition, Net 1 will issue special convertible preferred stock to the Cayman Trust (convertible into up to 58.14% of the shares of Net 1 common stock on a fully diluted basis), whose trustee is Walkers SPV, for the benefit of Aplitec's reinvesting shareholders. In addition, Net 1 will cause New Aplitec to issue B class preference shares and to extend B class loan accounts to the South African Trust for the benefit of Aplitec's reinvesting shareholders. The purchase price for the Aplitec acquisition, including the amount of cash consideration and stock interests, was determined through negotiations among Claude Guerard (Net 1's Chief Executive Officer), representatives of the Brait Group and a special committee of Aplitec's board of directors. The cash consideration reflected the maximum amount that management believed that Net 1 could afford to pay in connection with the Aplitec acquisition, taking into account the availability of external financing and the cash needs of Net 1 after the proposed transactions.

Table of Contents

Q6: What consideration will Aplitec shareholders receive in connection with the consummation of the proposed transactions?

A6: As part of the proposed transactions, each Aplitec shareholder will receive, for each Aplitec ordinary share held, either:

1. the cash option in a amount of ZAR 5.00 (\$0.73) or,
2. the reinvestment option consisting of:

ZAR 1.90 (\$0.28) in cash; and

one unit in a South African Trust, which we refer to in this proxy statement/ prospectus as a beneficial interest. This unit will represent an interest in 0.814286 shares of Net 1 common stock.

Those Aplitec shareholders who elect the reinvestment option are referred to herein as the reinvesting shareholders. Interests in the South African Trust may not be transferred by reinvesting shareholders to third parties. To allow the South African Trust to obtain the common stock for reinvesting shareholders upon the occurrence of a trigger event which is described more fully in Answer 9 the South African Trust will initially hold 100% of the New Aplitec B class preference shares and B class loan accounts, as well as a right to receive 100% of the Net 1 special convertible preferred stock held by a Cayman Trust. Each unit of the South African Trust will represent one B class preference share and one B class loan account of New Aplitec and an interest in the Cayman Trust.

For purposes of allocating a portion of the consideration payable by Aplitec shareholders who make the reinvestment election, each B class preference share of New Aplitec has been assigned a value of ZAR 1.84 (\$0.27) and each B class loan account of New Aplitec has been assigned a value of ZAR 1.01 (\$0.15).

In effect, for each ordinary share of Aplitec subject to the reinvestment option, an Aplitec shareholder will receive an interest in 0.814286 shares of Net 1 common stock. The trustee of the South African Trust will be First National Asset Management & Trust Company (subject to the approval by the Master of the High Court in South Africa) and the Trustee of the Cayman Trust is Walkers SPV. The South African Trust and the Cayman Trust are described more fully on pages 68 and 69, respectively, of this proxy statement/ prospectus.

Net 1 believes that the combination of loan accounts and shares to be issued by New Aplitec represents the optimal corporate structure for a South African company. For example, the loan accounts will give New Aplitec the flexibility to take advantage of certain potential tax benefits available in South Africa.

Q7: Will the shares of Aplitec or New Aplitec continue to be tradeable or be listed after the proposed transactions are consummated?

A7: No. After the transactions described in this proxy statement/ prospectus are completed, the shares of Aplitec (which currently are listed on the JSE) will be de-listed and will no longer be tradeable. Moreover, reinvesting Aplitec shareholders will receive, through the South African Trust and the Cayman Trust, interests in the common stock of Net 1, which interests will not be listed on any securities exchange and will not be transferable. The only manner by which a holder who chooses the reinvestment option will be able to trade its interests will be by means of directing the sale of shares of Net 1 common stock held for its benefit through the South African Trust and the Cayman Trust.

Q8: Is Net 1 permitted to issue special convertible preferred stock?

A8: Yes. Net 1's articles of incorporation permit the issuance of up to 3,000,000 shares of preferred stock with conversion rights and other characteristics as the board of directors of Net 1 may determine. Net 1 is seeking the specific approval by its shareholders to authorize issuance of the special convertible preferred stock to be issued by Net 1 in connection with the Aplitec acquisition, including increasing the number of authorized shares of preferred stock, which

Table of Contents

will facilitate consummation of the proposed transactions.

Q9: What are the key features of the Net 1 special convertible preferred stock?

A9: The Net 1 special convertible preferred stock will be issued to the Cayman Trust for the future benefit of Aplitec's current shareholders that choose to reinvest in the combined company. Each share of special convertible preferred stock, together with 1.228070 New Aplitec B class preference shares and 1.228070 New Aplitec B class loan accounts held by the South African Trust, will be convertible into one share of Net 1 common stock on the occurrence of a trigger event. A trigger event is defined as any one of the following events:

notification by the reinvesting Aplitec shareholder of the intention to convert some or all of the shares of Net 1 special convertible preferred stock attributable to him or her (via the South African Trust) into shares of Net 1 common stock;

the abolition or relaxation of South African Exchange Control regulations such that South African residents would be permitted to directly hold shares of non-South African companies; or

the liquidation, insolvency or other winding-up of either New Aplitec or Net 1.

Prior to their conversion into shares of common stock, the special convertible preferred stock will have voting rights in Net 1 that correspond to Net 1 common stock and will entitle the holders to receive dividends payable from all of Net 1's business operations outside of South Africa and on the liquidation of New Aplitec.

Q10: How many shares of special convertible preferred stock will Net 1 issue?

A10: 192,967,138.

Q11: Can the price at which shares of common stock of Net 1 are issued to the Brait Consortium change between now and the time the transactions are completed?

A11: No.

Q12: Can the number of shares of special convertible preferred stock that is issuable in the Aplitec acquisition change between now and when the transactions are completed?

A12: No.

Q13: Can the consideration that Net 1 will pay to acquire Net 1 Holdings change between now and when the transactions are completed?

A13: No.

Q14: What are the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the transactions to Net 1?

A14: Net 1 will not recognize any income or gain as a result of the issuance of its shares of common stock and special convertible preferred stock in the proposed transactions.

Q15: What vote is required for approval?

A15: The proposed transactions contemplated herein must be approved by holders of a majority of the shares of Net 1 common stock voting at the special shareholders meeting, provided that a quorum has been established. Shares of Net 1 common stock held by shareholders with an interest in the transactions will be tallied to establish a quorum at the meeting and will be voted in proportion to the votes cast (FOR and AGAINST) by Net 1's disinterested shareholders. You are entitled to vote at the meeting if you held Net 1 common stock at the close of business on the record date, which is May 5, 2004. On that date, 15,852,856 shares of Net 1 common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote.

Q16: What is the rescission offer and why is it being made?

A16: The SEC has advised Net 1 that a preliminary proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed by Net 1 on December 3, 2003 and certain Aplitec announcements that were made in South Africa in October and November 2003, as well as the Aplitec shareholder vote required under South African law to approve the sale of Aplitec's assets that was held on December 9, 2003, may not have complied with Section 5

Table of Contents

under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Thus, we are offering to all Aplitec shareholders the opportunity to rescind any acceptance of Net 1 securities that may have been offered to them prior to the December 9 vote. This rescission offer will be made prior to the election by Aplitec shareholders with respect to the reinvestment option. If holders of a majority of the outstanding Aplitec ordinary shares accept the rescission offer, the proposed transactions will not be consummated as a result of the failure of certain of the conditions to which the Aplitec acquisition is subject.

Q17: Will Net 1 shareholders have dissenters or similar rights?

A17: Shareholders who vote against the proposed transactions are not entitled to dissenters or similar rights under Florida law and Net 1's articles of incorporation.

Q18: What regulatory approvals are required in order to close the proposed transactions?

A18: As a condition precedent to the closing of the Aplitec acquisition, certain approvals from South African regulatory authorities are required. Specifically, approval from the Exchange Control Department of the South African Reserve Bank, the JSE Securities Exchange South Africa, the Securities Regulation Panel and the Competition Commission are required. All of these approvals have already been obtained. The remaining regulatory approval, the registration of the New Aplitec prospectus with the Registrar of Companies, is still outstanding as of the date of this filing.

Q19: Are there any third party consents required as a condition to closing the proposed transactions?

A19: The Aplitec acquisition is subject to approval by the holders of a majority of the issued ordinary shares of Net 1. The Aplitec acquisition has already been approved by the shareholders of Aplitec, but if holders of a majority of Aplitec's ordinary shares accept the rescission offer which is described in Answer 16 the Aplitec acquisition will fail and none of the transactions will be consummated. However, the decision by Aplitec's shareholders whether to reinvest in the combined company will be made only after the Net 1 special meeting.

Q20: When do you expect the proposed transactions to be completed?

A20: We expect to complete the proposed transactions in the second quarter of 2004.

Q21: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?

A21: You should instruct your broker to vote your shares, following the directions your broker provides. If you do not instruct your broker, your broker will generally not have the discretion to vote your shares.

Q22: What do I need to do now?

A22: After carefully reading and considering the information contained in this proxy statement/ prospectus, please fill out and sign the proxy card, and then mail your signed proxy card in the enclosed prepaid envelope as soon as possible so that your shares may be voted at the special meeting. Your proxy card will instruct the persons named on the card to vote your shares at the stockholders meeting as you direct on the card. If you sign and send in your proxy card and do not indicate how you want to vote, your proxy will be voted FOR the proposed transactions. YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Q23: May I change my vote after I have mailed my signed proxy card?

A23: Yes. You may change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the special meeting. You can do this in one of three ways. First, you can send a written notice stating that you want to revoke your proxy. Second, you can complete and submit a new proxy card. If you choose either of these two methods, you must submit your notice of revocation or your new proxy card to:

Executive Mail Service
P.O. Box 265
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

Third, you can attend the Net 1 special shareholder meeting and vote in person.

Table of Contents

Simply attending the meeting, however, will not revoke your proxy; you must vote at the meeting. If you have instructed a broker to vote your shares, you must follow directions received from your broker to change your vote.

Q24: What does the board of directors of Net 1 recommend?

A24: Net 1's board of directors has determined that the proposed transactions are fair to, advisable and in the best interests of Net 1 and its shareholders and recommends that you vote FOR the proposed transactions.

Q25: Will Net 1 continue as a public company?

A25: Yes. Net 1 will continue to be a public reporting company under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and its shares will continue to be quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board.

Q26: Will I have the same ownership and voting percentages in Net 1 after the transactions are completed as I do now?

A26: No. The proposed transactions will dilute your interests in Net 1 by up to 95.29%.

Q27: Who can help answer my questions?

A27: If you have any questions about the proposed transactions or if you need additional copies of this proxy statement/ prospectus you should contact:

David Anthony, Company Secretary
(604) 669-4561

Table of Contents**SUMMARY**

This summary highlights selected information in this proxy statement/prospectus and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should carefully read the entire proxy statement/prospectus, including the annexes, for a more complete understanding of the proposed transactions. For purposes of convenience, we have provided certain amounts in both South African Rand (ZAR) and U.S. dollars. Unless otherwise noted, the rate of exchange used in determining these U.S. dollar amounts was ZAR 6.825 = \$1.00, which was the noon buying rate for customs purposes of the Rand as reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on May 5, 2004. You should not construe these translations as representations by us that the nominal Rand or constant Rand amounts actually represent these U.S. dollar amounts or could be converted into U.S. dollars at the rate indicated.

The Companies (page 94)***Net 1 UEPS Technologies, Inc.***

Net 1 was incorporated in the State of Florida on May 8, 1997. Net 1 is a development stage company engaged in the business of commercializing the smart card technology-based Universal Electronic Payment System (version 10 and any further releases), or UEPS, and the Fund Transfer System, or FTS, through the development of strategic alliances with national and international bank and card service organizations. The patent rights for the FTS technology in the U.S. is held by Net 1 Holdings. The FTS patents in South Africa and its surrounding territories (Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland) are held by Net 1 Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd., or Net 1 (Pty), which was acquired by Aplitec in July 2000. Net 1 has a license in respect of the U.S. FTS patent and owns the exclusive marketing right for the UEPS technology for the world excluding South Africa and its surrounding territories. To date, Net 1's activities have consisted only of acquiring certain rights to the above-mentioned technology from Net 1 Holdings and entering into a Distribution Agreement with Net 1 (Pty), pursuant to which Net 1 (Pty) currently markets and sells products that utilize the UEPS technology on behalf of Net 1 outside of South Africa. Net 1 has one full-time employee, its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Claude Guerard, who provides services to Net 1 pursuant to a consulting agreement. Net 1 generates all of its revenues by selling technology licenses on behalf of Net 1 Holdings, for which Net 1 receives a fee equal to Net 1 Holdings' net profit before amortization. Net 1 currently receives revenues in connection with technology licenses sold to institutions in Latvia, Burundi, Ghana, Rwanda and Malawi. Each of these licenses is material to Net 1's operations.

As a development stage company, Net 1's management devotes most of its activities to raising the funds required to implement its business plan. Planned principal activities have not produced significant revenues. Net 1 has suffered recurring operating losses since its incorporation and it has so far been unsuccessful at raising funds. Net 1's loss from operations for the 2003 fiscal year was \$281,869 and the accumulated deficit was \$2,523,508 at December 31, 2003. These factors raise substantial doubt about Net 1's ability to continue as a going concern beyond the second quarter of 2004 if the proposed transactions are not completed.

Net 1's principal executive offices are located at Suite 325-744 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 1A5, and its telephone number is (604) 669-4561.

Net 1 Applied Technology Holdings Limited

Aplitec is a holding company established and existing under the laws of South Africa. Aplitec's subsidiaries employ specialized smart card technologies to add efficiency to commercial activities requiring money transfers, payment systems and other electronic data applications.

Through its subsidiaries, Aplitec is involved in the administration, management and payment of social welfare grants and handles the payment of pensions on behalf of the government in five of the nine provinces of South Africa. Revenue is generated through registration fees, card loading fees and transaction fees in the distribution of social welfare grants, and commissions generated through the

Table of Contents

provision of automated payment collection services to third parties. Aplitec also operates micro-lending businesses, operating more than 100 branches throughout South Africa and develops, markets and licenses administrative and payment solutions for the micro-finance industry. The primary source of revenue of this business is interest income. Aplitec also provides financial services to pensioners through its proprietary smart card platform and provides technical, operational and outsourcing services to companies.

Aplitec, through its subsidiary Net 1 (Pty), owns the FTS patents for South Africa and its surrounding territories and, pursuant to a Distribution Agreement with Net 1, provides integrated software and hardware services to customers outside its designated territories, for which it charges service fees and makes a margin on software and hardware sold.

Aplitec's principal executive offices are located at 4th Floor, President Place, 148 Jan Smuts Avenue, Rosebank 2128 South Africa, and its telephone number is +27 11 343-2000.

Net 1 Holdings S.a.r.l.

Net 1 Holdings, a Luxembourg company, owns the U.S. FTS patent and marketing rights to the UEPS technology for all regions other than South Africa and its surrounding territories. On May 3, 2000, Net 1 Holdings granted a license to Net 1 to use the U.S. patent and an exclusive marketing right to the UEPS technology worldwide, except for South Africa and its surrounding territories, in exchange for 4,729,612 shares of Net 1 common stock. At December 31, 2003, Net 1 Holdings owned 8,520,578 shares of Net 1 common stock, or 53.75% of the issued and outstanding shares of Net 1 common stock.

Net 1 Holdings' principal executive offices are located at No. 6, Rue Jean Monnet, L-2180 Luxembourg, and its telephone number is +352 466-1111.

Net 1 Applied Technologies South Africa Limited (formerly Newshelf 713 (Proprietary) Limited)

New Aplitec is a company incorporated in South Africa that will become a subsidiary of Net 1 upon the completion of the Aplitec acquisition. New Aplitec was formed solely for the purpose of effecting the Aplitec acquisition, and it has not carried on any activities other than in connection with the Aplitec acquisition.

The Brait Consortium

The Brait Consortium consists of funds under the management of the Brait Group, Southern Cross Capital Limited and FF&P Asset Management Limited. The Brait Group is an international investment group focused on private equity, alternative funds management, corporate advisory services and proprietary investing. The Brait Group has an established team and a track record that is recognized as a leader in the private equity asset class in the African region. Southern Cross Capital Limited manages a number of private equity funds that are funded by various Oppenheimer family interests. FF&P Asset Management Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fleming Family and Partners Limited, an independent privately owned investment house, that manages funds and trusts on behalf of its clients. The Brait Consortium is acquiring Net 1's common stock in this transaction through its representative, SAPEF III International G.P. Limited. Pursuant to the terms of the Common Stock Purchase Agreement described in further detail below, SAPEF III International G.P. will assign the right to purchase shares of Net 1 common stock to South African Private Equity Fund III, L.P., a fund managed by FF&P Asset Management Limited, and two funds managed by Southern Cross Capital Limited.

The Proposed Transactions (page 44)

The Aplitec Acquisition

Pursuant to the terms of a Sale Agreement between Aplitec and New Aplitec, a copy of which has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this proxy statement/ prospectus is a part, New Aplitec will acquire substantially all of the assets, and assume all of the liabilities, of Aplitec. As part

Table of Contents

of the proposed transactions, Aplitec's shareholders will receive, for each Aplitec ordinary share held, either:

1. the cash option in an amount of ZAR 5.00 (\$0.73) *or*,
2. the reinvestment option, consisting of

ZAR 1.90 (\$0.28) in cash; and

one unit in a South African Trust, which we refer to in this proxy statement/ prospectus as a beneficial interest.

This unit will represent an interest in 0.814286 shares of Net 1 common stock.

For purposes of allocating a portion of the consideration payable by Aplitec shareholders who make the reinvestment election, each B class preference share of New Aplitec has been assigned a value of ZAR 1.84 (\$0.27) and each B class loan account of New Aplitec has been assigned a value of ZAR 1.01 (\$0.15).

Those Aplitec shareholders who elect the reinvestment option are referred to herein as the reinvesting shareholders. To allow the South African Trust to obtain the common stock for reinvesting shareholders upon the occurrence of a trigger event, the South African Trust will initially hold 100% of the New Aplitec B class preference shares and B class loan accounts, as well as a right to receive 100% of the Net 1 special convertible preferred stock held by the Cayman Trust. The trustee of the South African Trust will be First National Asset Management & Trust Company (subject to the approval by the Master of the High Court in South Africa) and the Trustee of the Cayman Trust is Walkers SPV.

Assuming that 100% of Aplitec's current shareholders elect the reinvestment option, they will receive cash in the amount of ZAR 450.3 million (\$65.97 million) and an interest (via the South African Trust) in New Aplitec B class preference shares, B class loan accounts and shares of Net 1 special convertible preferred stock, which together are convertible into 58.14% of the aggregate shares of common stock of Net 1. Brait S.A. and several of its affiliates, or the Brait Group, has committed to acquire all of the rights of the reinvestment option not taken up by Aplitec's current shareholders up to a maximum amount of 64.70% of the total reinvestment option. The Brait Group will pay ZAR 2.85 (\$0.42) per Aplitec share not involved in the reinvestment (e.g., all shares with respect to which the cash option is elected). Accordingly, the Brait Group has committed, in addition to its obligations under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement, to invest up to a maximum amount of ZAR 437.0 million (\$64.03 million) in respect of the reinvestment option not taken up by Aplitec shareholders by acquiring interests in the South African Trust. The Brait Group is a member of the Brait Consortium. Aplitec has received written indications from two shareholders who together own 35.30% of Aplitec's outstanding shares, of their intent to elect the reinvestment option. Additionally, Aplitec has received a commitment from a South African asset manager, whose clients together own 22.24% of Aplitec's outstanding shares, that it will recommend the reinvestment option to such clients. This commitment to recommend is common in South Africa. Therefore, Net 1 believes that at least 57.54% of Aplitec's current shareholders will elect the reinvestment option. We have not received any indications from any of our shareholders or from the South African asset manager regarding their intentions with respect to the rescission offer.

In addition, as consideration for a capital contribution of ZAR 229.8 million (\$33.67 million) from Net 1 to New Aplitec, Net 1 will receive 100% of the A class shares and 100% of the A class loan accounts of New Aplitec.

Contribution by the Brait Consortium

Pursuant to the terms of a Common Stock Purchase Agreement between Net 1 and SAPEF III International G.P. Limited (as representative for the Brait Consortium), a copy of which has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this proxy statement/ prospectus is a part, the Brait Consortium will purchase from Net 1 105,661,428 newly issued restricted shares of Net 1 common stock for \$52.8 million.

Table of Contents

The following table represents the ownership and voting interests in Net 1 of the Brait Consortium and the Brait Group after completion of the proposed transactions described in this proxy statement/ prospectus, based on various scenarios:

Anticipated(1)	Minimum(2)	Maximum(3)
32.84%	31.83%	69.90%

- (1) Assumes that 100% of Aplitec shareholders elect the reinvestment option and the Brait Group elects to apply \$2.5 million of its capital raising fee to purchase five million shares of Net 1 common stock at a purchase price of \$0.50 per share. Based upon Aplitec's share price on May 5, 2004 of ZAR 7.15 (\$1.05) per share, which is above the cash offer price of ZAR 5.00 (\$0.73) per share, it is assumed that 100% of the Aplitec shareholders will elect the reinvestment option.
- (2) Assumes that 100% of Aplitec shareholders elect the reinvestment option and the Brait Group elects not to apply any part of its capital raising fee to purchase shares of Net 1 common stock. Accordingly, this scenario takes into account only the 105,661,428 shares of Net 1 common stock to be issued to the Brait Consortium in connection with its capital contribution.
- (3) Assumes that the Brait Group takes up the rights to the reinvestment option not taken up by Aplitec's current shareholders up to the maximum of 64.70% of the reinvestment option and the Brait Group elects to apply \$2.5 million of its capital raising fee to purchase 5 million shares of Net 1 common stock at a purchase price of \$0.50 per share. This would consist of the Brait Group's interest held via the South African Trust (37.06%) as well as the shares of Net 1 common stock that the Brait Consortium (of which the Brait Group is a member) will receive directly from Net 1 (32.84%).

Net 1 Holdings Acquisition

Pursuant to the terms of an Asset Purchase Agreement between Net 1 and Net 1 Holdings, a copy of which has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this proxy statement/ prospectus is a part, Net 1 will acquire, on behalf of a wholly owned subsidiary formed in Luxembourg, selected assets of Net 1 Holdings (including the U.S. patent for the FTS and rights to the UEPS technology) for aggregate consideration of \$1.00.

Structure of the Proposed Transactions

The following charts present the structure of the constituent companies before and after the proposed transactions. The post-transaction share ownership of Net 1 is presented on a fully diluted basis and assumes that 100% of Aplitec's current shareholders elect the reinvestment option. To the extent that any Aplitec shareholders elect the cash option, the Brait Group will acquire the interests in the South African Trust that are not subscribed for by such shareholders, thus increasing the Brait Group's ownership interest in Net 1. The various ownership scenarios of the Brait Group are detailed in the table appearing under the heading Contribution by the Brait Consortium. The risks associated with the Brait Group possibly owning a majority of the voting interest of Net 1 are more fully addressed under Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Proposed Transactions.

Table of Contents

Before the Transactions

* Dr. Belamant beneficially owns, or has the right to vote, a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of each of these companies. There are no voting agreements among these companies.

Table of Contents

After the Transactions

* Dr. Belamant will own 3.49% of the voting interest of Net 1 via the South African Trust.

** The Brait Group's and the Brait Consortium's ownership interests in Net 1 can range from 31.83% to 69.90%. Please see the table appearing on page 10 for an explanation of the factors affecting this range of potential ownership percentage.

On March 12, 2004, Brait Capital Partners Trustees (Pty) Ltd. resigned as trustee of The South African Trust. First National's appointment as replacement trustee is subject to the approval by the Master of the High Court in South Africa, which we expect will occur prior to closing.

The Proposals (page 40)

Below is a summary of each of the proposals to be voted upon at the special meeting. **If any one of these proposals is not approved at the special meeting of Net 1's shareholders, we will not be able to complete the proposed transactions.**

Proposal #1: Amendment to Net 1's Articles of Incorporation

You are being asked to approve an amendment to Net 1's articles of incorporation. The amendment will (a) increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from the current 100,000,000 shares to 500,000,000, (b) increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock from the current 3,000,000 to 300,000,000, (c) modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share and (d) authorize the terms of the special convertible preferred stock. This amendment is necessary because Net 1's current articles of incorporation do not authorize enough shares of common stock or preferred stock to complete the proposed transactions. If the proposed amendment is not approved by Net 1's shareholders, we will not be able to complete the proposed transactions. We encourage you to read the proposed amendment to our articles of incorporation, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Proposal #2: Issuance of Special Convertible Preferred Stock to the Cayman Trust

You are being asked to approve the issuance of 192,967,138 restricted shares of Net 1 special convertible preferred stock in connection with the Aplitec acquisition. These shares will be issued to the

Table of Contents

Cayman Trust and held for the benefit of Aplitec's current shareholders who elect the reinvestment option. Upon the occurrence of a trigger event, shares of Net 1 special convertible preferred stock, along with a proportionate number of New Aplitec B class preference shares and loan accounts, are convertible into shares of Net 1 common stock. A trigger event is defined as any one of the following events: (a) notification by a reinvesting Aplitec shareholder of the intention to convert some or all of the shares of special convertible preferred stock attributable to him or her into shares of Net 1 common stock, (b) the relaxation of South African Exchange Control Regulations such that South African residents would be permitted to directly hold shares of non-South African companies or (c) the liquidation, insolvency or other winding-up of either Net 1 or New Aplitec.

The purpose of this structure is to allow Aplitec's current shareholders to invest in the combined company. South African Exchange Control regulations currently restrict South African residents from investing in non-South African companies (please see the section titled "Exchange Controls" for more information on these regulations). The proposed acquisition structure, which has been approved by the South African Reserve Bank, provides Aplitec shareholders who elect the reinvestment option the opportunity to invest in Net 1.

The Net 1 special convertible preferred stock has been designed to afford its holders substantially all of the rights and benefits of Net 1 common stock. These shares will vote at all meetings of Net 1, and they will be entitled to share in certain distributions of Net 1 in respect of non-South African amounts. We encourage you to review the complete terms of the Net 1 special convertible preferred stock in the proposed amendment to our articles of incorporation, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus.

Proposal #3: Issuance of Common Stock to the Brait Consortium

You are being asked to approve the issuance of 105,661,428 shares of Net 1 common stock to the Brait Consortium in exchange for a capital contribution of \$52.8 million. This will allow Net 1 to fund the Aplitec acquisition and to pay cash to Aplitec's shareholders, and it will also provide needed capital for Net 1 to finance its operations and implement its business plan.

This issuance is governed by the terms of a Common Stock Purchase Agreement, dated January 30, 2004, between Net 1 and SAPEF III International G.P. Limited (as representative of the Brait Consortium). The material terms of the Agreement are summarized beginning on page 63 herein, and a complete copy of the Agreement was filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this proxy statement/prospectus is a part. We encourage you to review this information.

Proposal #4: Net 1 2004 Stock Incentive Plan

You are being asked to approve the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. The Plan will permit Net 1 to grant to our employees, directors, and consultants a variety of options and stock-based awards. The total number of shares of Net 1 common stock available under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan will be 17,441,872, of which 8,720,936 shares may be used with respect to stock options, and 8,720,936 shares may be used in respect of other stock-based awards. The Net 1 board of directors, or any committee that it may delegate, will administer the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, and in that capacity will determine who will receive awards under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, as well as the form of the awards, the number of shares underlying the awards, and the terms and conditions of the awards. Net 1 will issue stock-based awards in respect of all 8,720,936 shares of Net 1 common stock available for such awards to Serge Belamant, Herman Kotze, Brenda Stewart, Nitin Soma and other key employees, in each case for no cash consideration upon completion of the proposed transactions. No awards may be granted after the tenth anniversary of the effective date of the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, but awards granted before such tenth anniversary may extend beyond that date.

A detailed summary of the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan begins on page 140 herein, and a complete copy of the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement/prospectus. We encourage you to review this information.

Table of Contents

The Rescission Offer (page 76)

On February 3, 2004, Net 1 initially filed with the SEC the registration statement of which this proxy statement/ prospectus is a part. In connection with its review of the registration statement, the staff of the SEC advised Net 1 that a proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed by Net 1 on December 3, 2003 and certain Aplitec announcements made in South Africa in October and November 2003, as well as the Aplitec shareholder vote required under South African law to approve the sale of Aplitec's assets on December 9, 2003, may not have complied with Section 5 under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Thus, we are offering to all Aplitec shareholders the opportunity to rescind any acceptance of Net 1 securities that may have been offered to them prior to the December 9 vote. This rescission offer will be made to all Aplitec shareholders of record on June 7, 2004 prior to the election by Aplitec shareholders with respect to the reinvestment option. The rescission offer is not an admission that we did not comply with U.S. federal securities laws.

If the holders of a majority of the outstanding Aplitec ordinary shares accept the rescission offer, the proposed transactions will not be consummated as a result of the failure of certain of the conditions to which the Aplitec acquisition is subject. If holders of a majority of the issued Aplitec ordinary shares do not accept the rescission offer, the transactions will be consummated as originally contemplated and Aplitec shareholders will receive cash or, if they elect the reinvestment option, cash and an interest in the South African Trust, subject to the satisfaction of any unfulfilled conditions. However, in the event that the proposed transactions are consummated, Aplitec shareholders who accept the rescission offer or who abstain from voting in respect of the rescission offer may retain the right to institute a claim for rescission after completion of the transactions.

In connection with the rescission offer, neither Aplitec nor Net 1 has obtained any undertakings from any of its shareholders to vote for or against such offer. The directors and executive officers of Aplitec who own, in aggregate, 7.5% of the shares of Aplitec currently outstanding, will also have a right to vote in respect of the rescission offer.

The Board of directors of Aplitec has recommended that Aplitec shareholders vote **AGAINST** acceptance of the rescission offer.

The Special Meeting (page 40)

When and Where. The special meeting of Net 1's shareholders will be held at 9 a.m., local time on May 27, 2004, at the offices of Schneider Weinberger LLP, 2200 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Suite 210, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

Purposes of the Special Meeting. At the special meeting, you will be asked to approve (i) an amendment to the Net 1 articles of incorporation to (a) increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from 100,000,000 to 500,000,000, (b) increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock from 3,000,000 to 300,000,000, (c) modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock that may be issued by Net 1 from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share, and (d) authorize the terms of the special convertible preferred stock, (ii) the Aplitec acquisition and the issuance of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock in connection with such acquisition, (iii) the issuance of shares of common stock to the Brait Consortium in exchange for a \$52.8 million capital contribution, and (iv) the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. A copy of the proposed amendment to our articles of incorporation is attached as Annex A to this proxy/ statement prospectus. The material terms of the Aplitec acquisition and issuance of shares to the Brait Consortium are fully described in the section titled "The Proposed Transactions." The Net 1 2004 Stock Incentive Plan is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement/ prospectus, and its material terms are fully described in the section titled "Management of Net 1 After the Proposed Transactions."

Record Date; Voting Power. Holders of Net 1 common stock as of the close of business on May 5, 2004, the record date, are entitled to vote at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. Each share of Net 1 common stock is entitled to one vote.

Vote Required. The affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Net 1 common stock that cast votes at the special shareholders meeting is required to approve (i) the amendment to Net 1's

Table of Contents

articles of incorporation, (ii) the Aplitec acquisition and the issuance of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock in connection with such acquisition, (iii) the issuance of shares of common stock to the Brait Consortium in exchange for a \$52.8 million capital contribution, and (iv) the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. As of the record date, 15,852,856 shares of Net 1 common stock were outstanding. Because of Dr. Belamant's interest in the proposed transactions to be voted upon, the 53.75% of Net 1 common stock owned by Net 1 Holdings will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum at the special meeting, but those shares will be voted in proportion to the votes cast (FOR and AGAINST) by our disinterested shareholders, who together own 46.25% of Net 1's common stock. Thus, the vote of a majority of Net 1's shareholders other than Net 1 Holdings will be determinative of the outcome of the proposed transactions.

Quorum; Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes. The required quorum for the special meeting is a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Net 1 common stock as of the record date. Both abstentions and broker non-votes will be included in determining the number of votes present at the special meeting for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. The actions proposed in this proxy statement/ prospectus are not matters that can be voted on by brokers holding shares for beneficial owners without the owners' specific instructions. Brokers who hold your shares of Net 1 common stock as nominees cannot vote those shares unless you instruct them to, following the procedures they give you.

How to Vote. A shareholder may vote in person at the special meeting or by proxy without attending the special meeting. To vote by proxy, a shareholder must complete the enclosed proxy card, sign and date it and then return it in the enclosed prepaid postage envelope.

Revocation of Proxy. A shareholder may revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise by (a) delivering to Net 1's secretary a written notice of revocation of proxy prior to the special meeting, (b) delivering prior to the special meeting a duly executed proxy bearing a later date than the initial proxy (using a new proxy card) or (c) attending the special meeting and voting in person. The presence of a shareholder at the special meeting will not in itself automatically revoke such shareholder's proxy. If not revoked, the proxy will be voted in accordance with the instructions indicated on the proxy.

Recommendation of the Net 1 Board of Directors (page 46)

On January 30, 2004, the Net 1 board of directors determined that the proposed transactions are fair, advisable and in the best interests of Net 1 and its shareholders, and it voted to approve the proposed transactions and related agreements. Net 1's board recommends a vote **FOR** approval of the proposed transactions.

Opinion of Stenton Leigh Capital Corp. (page 48)

On January 30, 2004, the Net 1 board of directors received a fairness opinion from Stenton Leigh Capital Corp. with regard to the proposed issuance of shares of Net 1 common stock to the Brait Consortium. Among other things, Stenton Leigh concluded in its fairness opinion that the fair value per share of Net 1 common stock was approximately \$0.004 as of January 30, 2004 without giving effect to the proposed transactions, notwithstanding that the shares of common stock traded at \$7.35, as of that same date, on the OTC Bulletin Board. A copy of this opinion is attached as Annex C to this proxy statement/ prospectus. In addition to the opinion described above, in connection with the preparation of the pro forma financial statements included in this proxy statement/ prospectus, Stenton Leigh also prepared for Net 1 a valuation of certain identifiable intangible assets which ascribed value to such assets. See "The Proposed Transactions - Accounting Treatment."

Table of Contents

Interests of Certain Persons in the Proposed Transactions (page 59)

When considering the recommendation by the Net 1 board of directors to vote **FOR** the proposed transactions, you should be aware that certain persons have interests in the transactions that are different from, and may conflict with, your interests:

Dr. Serge Belamant, a director and the chairman of Net 1's board of directors, the chief executive officer of Aplitec and the chief executive of Net 1 Holdings, has the right to vote 53.75% of Net 1's outstanding shares that are beneficially owned by Net 1 Holdings.

Dr. Belamant, along with Herman Kotze, Brenda Stewart and Nitin Soma, will enter into employment agreements in connection with the proposed transactions. These agreements will be finalized before the completion of the proposed transactions.

The Brait Consortium has the right to nominate three designees to the Net 1 board of directors. To date, the Brait Consortium has only identified two designees: Anthony Ball and Chad Smart. Even if the Brait Consortium nominates a third designee to the Net 1 board of directors, it will not exercise control of the board immediately following the proposed transactions. See Management of Net 1 After the Proposed Transactions. The Brait Consortium also will have the right to designate three nominees to the slate of directors that Net 1's management recommends to shareholders in Net 1's annual proxy statement. Finally, affiliates of the Brait Group are providing advisory services to Net 1 in connection with the proposed transactions and will receive a capital raising fee of \$3.7 million and a further corporate finance fee of ZAR 1.15 million (\$168,498). The Brait Group has the option of applying up to \$2.5 million of its capital raising fee to purchase up to 5 million shares of Net 1 common stock, at a purchase price of \$0.50 per share.

In September 1998, Serge Belamant, as Chief Executive of Net 1 Holdings, agreed verbally to grant to Claude Guerard 608,511 shares of Net 1 common stock owned by Net 1 Holdings with the condition precedent that the shares would only be transferred from Net 1 Holdings to Mr. Guerard if Net 1 raised sufficient funds to be in a position to implement its business plan. On consummation of the proposed transactions, Mr. Guerard will have the right to receive these shares of Net 1 common stock.

The table appearing under the heading The Proposed Transactions Contribution by the Brait Consortium presents the ownership and voting interests of the Brait Consortium and the Brait Group after the completion of the proposed transactions described in this proxy statement/prospectus, based on various scenarios.

The Net 1 board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them in approving the transactions.

Conditions to the Transactions (page 63)

Net 1's obligation to issue shares of common stock to the Brait Consortium and New Aplitec's obligation to complete the Aplitec acquisition are conditioned upon each other and neither will close unless the other transaction is approved pursuant to the terms set forth in their respective transaction documents. In addition, the closing of the Aplitec acquisition is conditioned upon the following:

the registration statement, of which this proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, being declared effective and no stop order having been issued by the SEC; and

the shareholders of Net 1 approving:

• the amendment to the Net 1 articles of incorporation to:

• increase the number of authorized shares of common stock to 500,000,000 from the current 100,000,000 shares authorized;

Table of Contents

- s increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock to 300,000,000 from the current 3,000,000 shares authorized;
 - s modify the par value of the shares of preferred stock that Net 1 is authorized to issue from \$0.10 per share to \$0.001 per share; and
 - s authorize the terms of the special convertible preferred stock, and
- ¢ the Aplitec acquisition and the issuance of 192,967,138 shares of special convertible preferred stock in connection with such acquisition; and
- ¢ the issuance of shares 105,661,428 of common stock to the Brait Consortium in exchange for a \$52.8 million capital contribution; and
- ¢ the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.

In addition to the conditions described above, none of the proposed transactions will be completed if the holders of a majority of the outstanding Aplitec ordinary shares accept the rescission offer which would result in the failure of conditions to which the Aplitec acquisition is subject.

The Transaction Agreements

The principal agreements that have been entered into in connection with the proposed transactions are (i) the Sale Agreement between Aplitec and New Aplitec, (ii) the Common Stock Purchase Agreement between Net 1 and SAPEF III International G.P. Limited (as representative of the Brait Consortium), and (iii) the Asset Purchase Agreement between Net 1 and Net 1 Holdings.

Sale Agreement (page 60)

The Sale Agreement provides that New Aplitec, which is to become a subsidiary of Net 1, will acquire substantially all of the assets, and assume all of the liabilities, of Aplitec. Each party's obligation to complete the transaction is subject to satisfaction or waiver of certain conditions by June 8, 2004, including the following:

receipt of approvals required under the Competition Act of South Africa;

receipt of approvals of the Exchange Control Department of the South African Reserve Bank;

approval of the transaction by Aplitec's current shareholders;

receipt of all required third party consents;

entering into of employment agreements between New Aplitec or Net 1 and senior executives and employees of Aplitec, which will include the issuance of shares of Net 1 common stock pursuant to the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan;

absence of material adverse changes with respect to Aplitec from the date of execution through to the closing date set with respect to the proposed transactions; and

approval by Net 1's shareholders of the amendment to Net 1's articles of incorporation.

In addition, the Aplitec acquisition will not be completed if the holders of a majority of the outstanding Aplitec ordinary shares accept the rescission offer.

Common Stock Purchase Agreement (page 63)