Accelerated filer

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM S-8 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

## COMMUNICATIONS SALES & LEASING, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

46-5230630 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10802 Executive Center Drive Benton Building, Suite 300 Little Rock, Arkansas (Address of principal executive offices)

Large accelerated filer

72211 (Zip Code)

COMMUNICATIONS SALES & LEASING, INC. 2015 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN (Full title of the plan)

Daniel L. Heard
Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc.
Senior Vice President – General Counsel and Secretary
10802 Executive Center Drive
Benton Building, Suite 300
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211
(Name and address of agent for service)

(501) 850-0820 (Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies of all correspondence to:

Geoffrey D. Neal, Esq. Kutak Rock LLP 124 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 2000 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 975-3000

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

#### **CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share(2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(2)	Amount of registration fee(3)
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value	6,000,000	\$28.52	\$171,120,000	\$19,884.14

<sup>(1)</sup> This registration statement covers, in addition to the number of shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, of the Registrant (the "CS&L Common Stock") stated above, options and other rights to purchase or acquire the shares of CS&L Common Stock covered by this registration

statement and, pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), an additional indeterminate number of shares, options and rights that may be offered or issued pursuant to the Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") as a result of one or more adjustments under the Plan to prevent dilution resulting from one or more stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

- (2) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering under Rules 457(c) and (h) of the Securities Act, based on the average of the high and low sale prices per share of CS&L Common Stock in the "when issued" trading market on April 20, 2015, as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.
- (3) Calculated in accordance with Section 6 of the Securities Act and Rule 457 under the Securities Act by multiplying 0.000116200 by the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.

#### PART I

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be sent or given to employees as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act. In accordance with the instructions to Part I of Form S-8, such documents will not be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 of the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act. Upon written or oral request, the Company will provide, without charge, the documents incorporated by reference in Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement. The Company will also provide, without charge, upon written or oral request, other documents required to be delivered to employees pursuant to Rule 428(b) of the Securities Act.

#### PART II

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

#### Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. ("we," "our," "us," the "Company" or the "Registrant") hereby incorporates by reference into this Registration Statement the following documents filed by it with the Commission:

- (a) The Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 10 (File No. 001-36708) (the "Form 10");
- (b) The Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 26, 2015 (other than Item 7.01 thereof), April 1, 2015, April 8, 2015, April 10, 2015, and April 16, 2015; and
- (c) The description of the CS&L Common Stock contained in the Registrant's information statement, filed as Exhibit 99.1 to its Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 26, 2015.

In addition, all documents and reports filed by the Registrant subsequent to the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement, which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports, provided that unless expressly incorporated into this Registration Statement, a report furnished on Form 8-K shall not be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

#### Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

#### Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

#### Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision that limits the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its shareholders for money damages, except for liability resulting from (1) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (2) active or deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment and that is material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision that will limit, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, the liability of our directors and officers to us and our shareholders for money damages.

Maryland law requires a Maryland corporation (unless otherwise provided in its charter, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in that capacity unless it is established that:

- the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
- · the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or
- in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, we may not indemnify a director or officer in a suit by us or in our right in which the director or officer was adjudged liable to us or in a suit in which the director or officer was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct or was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by the corporation or in its right, or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, will be limited to expenses.

In addition, Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon receipt of (1) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification and (2) a written undertaking by him or her, or on his or her behalf, to repay the amount paid or reimbursed if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

Our charter requires, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, that we indemnify and pay or reimburse the reasonable expenses in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding of (1) any present or former director or officer who is a party to a proceeding (or threatened to be made a party) by reason of his or her service in that capacity, and (2) any individual who, while a director or officer and, at our request, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, member, manager or trustee of another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise from and against any claim or liability to which he or she may become subject or which he or she may incur by reason of his or her service in any of the foregoing capacities.

In respect to our obligations to provide indemnification to directors and officers for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the Commission, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and it therefore unenforceable.

We will enter into indemnification agreements with each of our executive officers and directors providing for the indemnification of, and advancement of expenses to, each such person in connection with claims, suits or proceedings arising as a result of such person's service as an officer or director of ours. We also will maintain insurance on behalf of our directors and officers, insuring them against liabilities that they may incur in such capacities or arising from this status.

#### Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

#### Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	<b>Description</b>
4.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on April 10, 2015 (File No. 001-36708))
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on April 10, 2015 (File No. 001-36708))
5.1	Opinion of Kutak Rock LLP*
23.1	Consents of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm*
23.2	Consent of Kutak Rock LLP (contained in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included with signature page)
99.1	Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 10 (File No. 001-36708))

<sup>\*</sup> Filed herewith.

#### Item 9. Undertakings.

- The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:
- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
  - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) above do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-8 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- B. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Little Rock, State of Arkansas, on this 23rd day of April, 2015.

#### COMMUNICATIONS SALES & LEASING, INC.

By: /s/ Daniel L. Heard
Daniel L. Heard

Senior Vice President – General Counsel and Secretary

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, the undersigned hereby constitute and appoint Daniel L. Heard and Mark A. Wallace, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, each with full power of substitution and resubstitution, and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, or any related registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do so and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each of said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. This Power of Attorney may be signed in several counterparts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney as of the date indicated.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
/s/ Kenneth Gunderman Kenneth Gunderman	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	April 23, 2015
/s/ Mark A. Wallace Mark A. Wallace	Senior Vice President – Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	April 23, 2015
/s/ Francis X. Frantz Francis X. Frantz	Chairman of the Board of Directors	April 23, 2015

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

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<sup>\*</sup> Filed herewith.

Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. 10802 Executive Center Drive Benton Building, Suite 300 Little Rock, Arkansas 72211

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special counsel to Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), in connection with certain matters of Maryland law arising out of the registration of 6,000,000 shares (the "Shares") of Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, of the Company (the "Common Stock"), issuable pursuant to the Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). The Shares are covered by the above-referenced Registration Statement, and all amendments thereto (the "Registration Statement"), filed by the Company with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act").

In connection with our representation of the Company, and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter set forth, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

- 1. The Registration Statement;
- 2. The charter of the Company (the "Charter"), certified by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland (the "SDAT");
- 3. The Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
- 4. A certificate of the SDAT as to the good standing of the Company, dated as of a recent date;
- 5. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company relating to, among other matters, the approval of the Plan and the issuance of the Shares (the "Resolutions"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
  - 6. A certificate executed by an officer of the Company, dated as of the date hereof; and
- 7. Such other documents and matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate to express the opinion set forth below, subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein.

In expressing the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the following:

- 1. Each individual executing any of the Documents, whether on behalf of such individual or another person, is legally competent to do so.
- 2. All Documents submitted to us as originals are authentic. The form and content of all Documents submitted to us as unexecuted drafts do not differ in any respect relevant to this opinion from the form and content of such Documents as executed and delivered. All Documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies conform to the original documents. All signatures on all Documents are genuine. All public records reviewed or relied upon by us or on our behalf are true and complete. All representations, warranties, statements and information contained in the Documents are true and complete. There has been no oral or written modification of or amendment to any of the Documents, and there has been no waiver of any provision of any of the Documents, by action or omission of the parties or otherwise.

- 3. The Shares will not be issued or transferred in violation of any restriction or limitation contained in Article VII of the Charter or in the Plan.
- 4. Upon the issuance of any of the Shares, the total number of shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding will not exceed the total number of shares of Common Stock that the Company is then authorized to issue under the Charter.
- 5. Each Option Right, Performance Share, Performance Unit, Restricted Share, Restricted Stock Unit, Appreciation Right, Free-Standing Appreciation Right, Incentive Stock Option, and all other rights or other securities exercisable or exchangeable for a Share pursuant to the Plan (each, an "Option") will be duly authorized and validly granted in accordance with the Plan and exercised or exchanged in accordance with the terms of the Plan, including any stock option agreement, restricted stock agreement or other form of award agreement entered into in connection therewith, at the time of any exercise or exchange of such Option.

Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, it is our opinion that:

- 1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland and is in good standing with the SDAT.
- 2. The issuance of the Shares has been duly authorized and, when and to the extent issued in accordance with the Registration Statement, the Resolutions, the Plan and any other form of agreement, certificate, resolution, or other type or form of writing or other evidence setting forth the terms and conditions of an Option utilized under the Plan, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Maryland and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any other law. We express no opinion as to compliance with any federal or state securities laws, including the securities laws of the State of Maryland, or as to federal or state laws regarding fraudulent transfers. To the extent that any matter as to which our opinion is expressed herein would be governed by the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Maryland, we do not express any opinion on such matter. The opinion expressed herein is subject to the effect of judicial decisions which may permit the introduction of parol evidence to modify the terms or the interpretation of agreements.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the matters specifically set forth herein and no other opinion shall be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated. We assume no obligation to supplement this opinion if any applicable law changes after the date hereof or if we become aware of any fact that might change the opinion expressed herein after the date hereof.

This opinion is being furnished to you for submission to the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of the name of our firm therein. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the 1933 Act, or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission promulgated thereunder or Item 509 of Regulation S-K.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Kutak Rock LLP

#### CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our reports dated March 12, 2015, relating to the special purpose statement of assets contributed and liabilities assumed and special purpose statements of revenues and direct expenses of the Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Business of Windstream Holdings, Inc. and the combined balance sheet and financial statement schedule of the Windstream Holdings, Inc. Distribution Systems which appear in Communications Sales & Leasing, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form 10 (File No. 001-36708).

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Little Rock, Arkansas April 23, 2015