

TRANSATLANTIC HOLDINGS INC
Form DFAN14A
September 12, 2011

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant o

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

TRANSATLANTIC HOLDINGS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

**VALIDUS HOLDINGS, LTD.
TV HOLDINGS, LLC
TV MERGER SUB, LLC**

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

TRANSATLANTIC STOCKHOLDERS

DON'T BE FOOLED BY TRANSATLANTIC'S AND ALLIED WORLD'S MISLEADING STATEMENTS

ISS RECOMMENDS STOCKHOLDERS VOTE THE BLUE PROXY CARD "AGAINST" THE INFERIOR ALLIED WORLD TAKEOVER

VALIDUS' PROPOSAL OFFERS SUPERIOR VALUE TO TRANSATLANTIC STOCKHOLDERS

PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER VALUE FOR YOUR TRANSATLANTIC SHARES

Dear Fellow Transatlantic Stockholder,

As we have previously said, we believe that Validus has made a Superior Proposal that is a better alternative for Transatlantic stockholders than Allied World's proposed takeover. Our Superior Proposal has consistently provided Transatlantic stockholders with greater market value and we believe greater potential for future upside than the inferior Allied World takeover. We are not alone in our view that the Allied World takeover proposal is not the best option for Transatlantic stockholders. Institutional Shareholder Services ("ISS"), the nation's leading independent proxy voting and corporate governance advisory firm, recently recommended that Transatlantic stockholders vote against the Allied World transaction.

As a Transatlantic stockholder, we believe that your interests are best served by preserving your right to receive greater value for your shares. We urge you to vote AGAINST the Allied World takeover proposal by using the BLUE proxy card that has been mailed to you by Validus, either by signing, dating and returning it in the postage-paid envelope provided or voting by telephone or Internet.

Leading proxy advisory service recommends that Transatlantic stockholders VOTE AGAINST the inferior Allied World takeover proposal

We have expressed concern to you several times that the Allied World inferior proposal offers you lower market value for your shares than the value available under Validus' Superior Proposal. You must vote down Allied World's inferior proposal to retain your right to obtain greater value for your shares. Among other things, ISS reflected this view in its report, saying:

"Upon review of the negotiation process and the premia offered by the competing bidders, there is compelling reason to believe that for TRH shareholders, there is better chance of maximizing the value of their investment by voting down the AWH transaction."

Additionally, Validus' Superior Proposal provides you with potential for future upside. ISS supported this view, saying:

"An equity-based transaction with VR would still provide the merged company with a strong management team and allow shareholders to participate in potential upside of a strong combined company."

We believe the Transatlantic board has failed to maximize value for you by continuing to pursue Allied World's inferior proposal. In its report, ISS said that the Transatlantic board's reliance on a market check from 2009 *"is clearly an inadequate substitute for a market check at the time the AWH transaction was being negotiated."* ISS added:

"We note that it is especially significant that VR, unaware of the TRH negotiations, made an unsolicited but friendly approach to acquire the company, which should have signalled that there [was] some need to evaluate potential market interest in other transactions which might bring even higher value for TRH shareholders."

We agree with ISS that: *"Given the broad spectrum of choices available, the deal with AWH is not an obvious choice."*

Validus' Proposal Offers Superior Value to Transatlantic Stockholders

We believe that Validus' Proposal is clearly superior to the inferior Allied World takeover proposal:

1. Validus has consistently provided greater market value than the inferior Allied World takeover.
2. Validus' common shares represent what we believe is a superior currency to Allied World's common shares.
3. We believe that a combination of Validus and Transatlantic would be a superior company to a combination of Allied World and Transatlantic on the important metrics of strategic fit, market position, structural flexibility and leadership in reinsurance, including in the property catastrophe market.
4. A combined Validus and Transatlantic would have significant capital availability that would be actively managed to the benefit of the combined company's shareholders.
5. The combination of Validus and Transatlantic would yield significant synergies.
6. Validus offers Transatlantic a highly experienced, first-class management team.

Protect your right to obtain greater value for your shares

In order to preserve your right to obtain greater value for your Transatlantic shares, Transatlantic stockholders must vote down the inferior Allied World takeover.

We urge you to vote AGAINST the Allied World inferior proposal by using the enclosed BLUE proxy card to vote AGAINST ALL proposals by signing, dating and returning the BLUE proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided or voting by telephone or Internet. Only by voting AGAINST the Allied World inferior proposal will you preserve your opportunity to obtain the superior value offered by Validus' proposal.

REJECT THE PROPOSED ALLIED WORLD TAKEOVER!

PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER VALUE FOR YOUR SHARES!

**VOTE YOUR BLUE PROXY CARD TODAY "AGAINST"
THE ALLIED WORLD TAKEOVER!**

Your vote is extremely important, regardless of how many or how few Transatlantic shares you own. To ensure your vote is counted, please use the enclosed **BLUE** proxy card by signing, dating and returning it in the postage-paid envelope provided or vote by telephone or Internet.

We urge you not to sign or return any proxy card you may receive from Transatlantic.

All materials related to Validus' offer for Transatlantic can be found at www.transactioninfo.com/validus or on the "Investor Relations" section of Validus' website, located at www.validusholdings.com.

Innisfree M&A Incorporated is assisting Validus with its solicitation of proxies. If you have any questions about voting your shares of Transatlantic common stock, please call Innisfree M&A Incorporated toll-free at (877) 717-3929 (banks and brokers may call collect at (212) 750-5833).

We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

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Edward J. Noonan
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Validus Holdings, Ltd.

About Validus Holdings, Ltd.

Validus Holdings, Ltd. is a provider of reinsurance and insurance, conducting its operations worldwide through two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Validus Reinsurance, Ltd. and Talbot Holdings Ltd. Validus Re is a Bermuda based reinsurer focused on short-tail lines of reinsurance. Talbot is the Bermuda parent of the specialty insurance group primarily operating within the Lloyd's insurance market through Syndicate 1183.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This letter may include forward-looking statements, both with respect to Validus and its industry, that reflect Validus' current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Statements that include the words "expect," "intend," "plan," "believe," "project," "anticipate," "will," "may," "would" and similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature are often used to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond Validus' control. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in such statements and, therefore, you should not place undue reliance on any such statements. Validus believes that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) uncertainty as to whether Validus will be able to enter into or consummate the proposed transaction on the terms set forth in Validus' proposal;
- 2) uncertainty as to the actual premium that will be realized by Transatlantic stockholders in connection with the proposed transaction;
- 3) failure to realize the anticipated benefits (including combination synergies) of the proposed transaction, including as a result of delay in completing the transaction or integrating the businesses of Validus and Transatlantic;
- 4) uncertainty as to the long-term value of Validus voting common shares;
- 5) unpredictability and severity of catastrophic events;
- 6) rating agency actions;
- 7) adequacy of Validus' or Transatlantic's risk management and loss limitation methods;
- 8) cyclical nature of demand and pricing in the insurance and reinsurance markets;
- 9) Validus' ability to implement its business strategy during "soft" as well as "hard" markets;
- 10) adequacy of Validus' or Transatlantic's loss reserves;
- 11) continued availability of capital and financing;
- 12) retention of key personnel;
- 13) competition in the insurance and reinsurance markets;
- 14) potential loss of business from one or more major reinsurance or insurance brokers;
- 15) the credit risk Validus assumes through its dealings with its reinsurance and insurance brokers;
- 16) Validus' or Transatlantic's ability to implement, successfully and on a timely basis, complex infrastructure, distribution capabilities, systems, procedures and internal controls, and to develop accurate actuarial data to support the business and regulatory and reporting requirements;
- 17) general economic and market conditions (including inflation, volatility in the credit and capital markets, interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates);
- 18) the integration of businesses Validus may acquire or new business ventures Validus may start;
- 19) the legal, regulatory and tax regimes under which Validus operates;
- 20) the effect on Validus' or Transatlantic's investment portfolios of changing financial market conditions, including inflation, interest rates, liquidity and the recent downgrade of U.S. securities by Standard & Poor's and the possible effect on the value of securities in Validus' and Transatlantic's investment portfolios, as well as other factors;
- 21) acts of terrorism or outbreak of war or hostilities;
- 22) availability of reinsurance and retrocessional coverage; and
- 23) the outcome of transaction related litigation, as well as management's response to any of the aforementioned factors.

The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included herein and elsewhere, including the Risk Factors included in Validus' and Transatlantic's most recent reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q and other documents of Validus and Transatlantic on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statements made in this letter are qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements, and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by Validus will be realized or, even if substantially realized, that they will have the expected

consequences to, or effects on, Validus or its business, operations or financial condition. Except to the extent required by applicable law, Validus undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

No rating agency (A.M. Best, Moody's, or Standard & Poor's) has specifically approved or disapproved or otherwise taken definitive action on the potential transaction.

The contents of any websites referenced in this letter are not incorporated by reference herein.

The value of Validus' offer will change as the market prices of Validus common shares and shares of Transatlantic common stock fluctuate during the exchange offer period and thereafter, and may therefore be different from the prices set forth above. Transatlantic stockholders are encouraged to obtain current market quotations for Validus common shares, Allied World shares and shares of Transatlantic common stock prior to making any investment decision.

Additional Information about the Proposed Transaction and Where to Find It:

Validus has commenced an exchange offer to acquire all of the outstanding shares of common stock of Transatlantic for 1.5564 Validus voting common shares and \$8.00 cash per Transatlantic share. This letter are for informational purposes only and do not constitute an offer to exchange, or a solicitation of an offer to exchange, shares of Transatlantic common stock, nor are they a substitute for the Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO or the prospectus/offer to exchange included in the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (including the letter of transmittal and related documents and as amended and supplemented from time to time, the "Exchange Offer Documents") filed by Validus with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Registration Statement on Form S-4 has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Exchange Offer will be made only through the Exchange Offer Documents. Investors and security holders are urged to read the Exchange Offer Documents and all other relevant documents that Validus has filed or may file with the Securities and Exchange Commission if and when they become available because they contain or will contain important information about the proposed transaction. All such documents, if filed will be available free of charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission's website (www.sec.gov) or by directing a request to Innisfree M&A Incorporated at (877) 717-3929 (banks and brokers may call collect at (212) 750-5833).

Third Party-Sourced Information:

Permission to quote third party sources neither sought nor obtained.

Investors:

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QuickLinks

TRANSATLANTIC STOCKHOLDERS DON'T BE FOOLED BY TRANSATLANTIC'S AND ALLIED WORLD'S MISLEADING STATEMENTS ISS RECOMMENDS STOCKHOLDERS VOTE THE BLUE PROXY CARD "AGAINST" THE INFERIOR ALLIED WORLD TAKEOVER VALIDUS' PROPOSAL OFFERS SUPERIOR VALUE TO TRANSATLANTIC STOCKHOLDERS PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER VALUE FOR YOUR TRANSATLANTIC SHARES