

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

FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

**COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Minnesota**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**41-0957999**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

10900 Red Circle Drive Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343  
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

**COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**1990 Employee Stock Purchase Plan**  
(Full title of the Plan)

**Mark D. Fandrich**  
**Group Business President and Chief Financial Officer**  
**COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**10900 Red Circle Drive**  
**Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343**  
**952-996-1674**

Copy to:  
**Thomas G. Lovett, IV**  
**Ballard Spahr LLP**  
**2000 IDS Center**  
**80 South 8th Street**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402**  
**612-371-3211**

(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

\*\*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," "smaller reporting company", and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$.05 per share	100,000	\$2.790	\$279,000	\$33.81

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h) and based upon the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on May 17, 2019.

## INTRODUCTION

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is filed by Communications Systems, Inc. a Minnesota corporation, (“CSI” or the “Company”) to register 100,000 shares of its common stock issuable under its 1990 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”).

### INCORPORATION OF CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION STATEMENT BY REFERENCE

#### PART I

Pursuant to the note to Part I of Form S-8, the information required by Items 1 and 2 of Form S-8 is not filed as a part of this Registration Statement.

#### PART II

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

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission are hereby incorporated by reference:

1. The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018;
2. The Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement dated April 10, 2019 for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 22, 2019;
3. The Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2019;
4. The Company’s Current Reports on Form 8-K dated March 26, 2019, and April 5, 2019;
5. All other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the year ended December 31, 2018; and
6. The description of the Company’s Common Stock to be offered pursuant to this Registration Statement on Form S-1 dated June 17, 1983 (Registration Statement No. 2-84100) including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating this description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 prior to the completion or termination of this offering of shares of Common Stock will be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

##### **Item 4. Description of Securities.**

The description of the Company’s Common Stock to be offered pursuant to this Registration Statement has been incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement as described in Item 3 of this Part II.

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

Not applicable.

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

Section 302A.521 of the Minnesota Statutes and Article 10 of the Company's Restated Bylaws as Amended require, among other things, the indemnification of any person made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of acts or omissions performed in the person's official capacity as an officer, director, employee or agent of the Company against judgments, penalties and fines (including attorneys' fees) if the person is not otherwise indemnified, acted in good faith, received no improper benefit, reasonably believed that such conduct was in the best interests of the Company, and, in the case of criminal proceedings, had no reason to believe the conduct was unlawful. In addition, Section 302A.521, subd. 3, of the Minnesota Statutes requires payment by the Company, upon written request, of reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition in certain instances if a decision as to required indemnification is made by a disinterested majority of the Board of Directors present at a meeting at which a disinterested quorum is present, or by a designated committee of the Board, by special legal counsel, by the shareholders or by a court. The Company also maintains insurance to assist in funding indemnification of directors and officers for certain liabilities.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

Exhibit

- [4.1](#) [Communications Systems, Inc. 1990 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended February 19, 2019, incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the definitive proxy statement dated April 10, 2019, and filed with the SEC on April 10, 2019 for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 22, 2019](#)
- [5.1](#) [Opinion of Ballard Spahr LLP](#)
- [23.1](#) [Consent of Ballard Spahr LLP \(included in Exhibit 5.1\)](#)
- [23.2](#) [Consent of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP](#)
- [24.1](#) [Power of Attorney \(included on signature page\)](#)

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

- (a) The Company hereby undertakes to:
    - (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 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;
    - (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, 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 that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
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(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 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 of 1933 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 Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the 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 connected 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 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication.

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## 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 Minnetonka, State of Minnesota, on May 22, 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.

/s/ Roger H. D. Lacey

Roger H. D. Lacey  
Chief Executive Officer

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned officers and directors of Communications Systems, Inc. hereby constitute and appoint Roger H.D. Lacey and Mark Fandrich, each acting alone, with power to act as our true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and re-substitution, for us and in our stead, in any and all capacities to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and all documents relating thereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing necessary or advisable to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each attorney-in-fact and agent, or his or her substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated on May 22, 2019.

/s/ Roger H. D. Lacey  
Roger H. D. Lacey

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman  
of the Board of Directors

/s/ Mark D. Fandrich  
Mark D. Fandrich

Group Business President and Chief Financial  
Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ Kristin A. Hlavka  
Kristin A. Hlavka

Corporate Controller (Principal Accounting  
Officer)

/s/ Curtis A. Sampson  
Curtis A. Sampson

Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors and  
Director

/s/ Randall D. Sampson  
Randall D. Sampson

Director

/s/ Richard A. Primuth  
Richard A. Primuth

Director

/s/ Steven C. Webster  
Steven C. Webster

Director

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May 22, 2019

Communications Systems, Inc.  
10900 Red Circle Drive  
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343

Re: Opinion of Counsel as to Legality of 100,000 shares of Common Stock to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This opinion is furnished in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933 on Form S-8 of 100,000 shares of Common Stock, \$.05 par value per share, of Communications Systems, Inc. (the "Company") offered to employees, officers and directors of the Company or its subsidiaries pursuant to the Communications Systems, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan").

As counsel for the Company, we advise you that it is our opinion, based on our familiarity with the affairs of the Company and upon our examination of pertinent documents, that the 100,000 shares of Common Stock to be offered to employees, officers and directors under the Plans will, when paid for and issued, be validly issued and lawfully outstanding, fully paid and non-assessable shares of Common Stock of the Company.

The undersigned hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an Exhibit to the Registration Statement with respect to said shares of Common Stock under the Securities Act of 1933.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ballard Spahr LLP

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

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**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 8, 2019, relating to the consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 of Communications Systems, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K year ended December 31, 2018.

/s/ Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
May 22, 2019

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