

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): August 29, 2024

bluebird bio, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-35966
(Commission File Number)

13-3680878
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**455 Grand Union Boulevard,
Somerville, MA**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

02145
(Zip Code)

(339) 499-9300
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instructions A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	BLUE	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On August 29, 2024, bluebird bio, Inc. (the “Company”) entered into an amendment (the “Fourth Amendment”) to its Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of March 15, 2024, as amended on April 30, 2024, July 9, 2024 and August 13, 2024 (the “LSA”), by and among the Company, the several banks and other financial institutions or entities party thereto, as lenders (collectively, the “Lenders”), and Hercules Capital, Inc., as administrative agent and collateral agent (the “Agent”).

Pursuant to the Fourth Amendment, the Company, the Agent and the Lenders agreed to, among other things, an extension of the deadlines by which the Company must provide to the Lenders financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 and for the quarter ended March 31, 2024. Further, the Fourth Amendment provides that the Company’s late delivery and filing of its Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 and Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 shall not be deemed a violation of the Company’s covenant to maintain compliance with applicable law, so long as such documents are filed by the extended deadlines.

The foregoing description of the Fourth Amendment does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the Fourth Amendment, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Current Report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements contained in this Current Report that do not relate to matters of historical fact should be considered forward-looking statements, including without limitation statements regarding the Company’s expectations with respect to the filing of the Company’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 and Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 and its performance of obligations under the LSA. Statements using words such as “expect”, “anticipate”, “believe”, “may”, “will” and similar terms are also forward-looking statements. These statements are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause the Company’s actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, the important factors discussed under the caption “Risk Factors” in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022, as updated by its subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, risks related to the Company’s compliance with the LSA, including the risk that operating restrictions under the LSA adversely affect the Company’s ability to conduct its business, the risk that the Company will not achieve milestones required to access future tranches under the LSA, and the risk that the Company will fail to comply with covenants under the LSA, including with respect to required cash and revenue levels, which could result in an event of default. Except as required by law, the Company undertakes no obligations to make any revisions to the forward-looking statements contained in this Current Report or to update them to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this Current Report, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1	<u>Fourth Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of August 29, 2024, by and among the Company, the several banks and other financial institutions or entities party thereto, as lenders, and Hercules Capital, Inc., as administrative agent and collateral agent.</u>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: August 30, 2024

bluebird bio, Inc.

By: /s/ O. James Sterling

Name: O. James Sterling

Title: *Chief Financial Officer, Principal Financial Officer and
Principal Accounting Officer*

FOURTH AMENDMENT TO LOAN AND SECURITY AGREEMENT

THIS **FOURTH AMENDMENT TO LOAN AND SECURITY AGREEMENT** (this “**Amendment**”), dated as of August 29, 2024 (the “**Fourth Amendment Effective Date**”), is entered into by and among BLUEBIRD BIO, INC., a Delaware corporation (“**Company**”), and each other Person that has delivered a Joinder Agreement from time to time party to the Existing Loan Agreement (together with Company, individually or collectively, as the context may require, “**Borrower**”), the several banks and other financial institutions or entities from time to time parties to the Existing Loan Agreement (each, a “**Lender**”, and collectively “**Lenders**”) that are party hereto and HERCULES CAPITAL, INC., a Maryland corporation, in its capacity as administrative agent and collateral agent for itself and Lenders (in such capacities, including any successors or permitted assigns, “**Agent**”).

A. Borrower, Lenders and Agent are parties to that certain Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of March 15, 2024 (as amended, restated, amended and restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time to date, including by that certain First Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of April 30, 2024, that certain Second Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of July 9, 2024, and that certain Third Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of August 13, 2024, the “**Existing Loan Agreement**” and the Existing Loan Agreement, as amended by this Amendment, the “**Amended Loan Agreement**”). Borrower, Lenders and Agent have agreed to certain amendments to the Existing Loan Agreement upon the terms and conditions more fully set forth herein.

SECTION 1 Definitions; Interpretation.

(a) **Defined Terms.** All capitalized terms used in this Amendment (including in the recitals hereof) and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Amended Loan Agreement.

(b) **Rules of Construction.** The rules of construction that appear in Section 1.3 of the Amended Loan Agreement shall be applicable to this Amendment and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2 Amendments to the Existing Loan Agreement.

(a) The Existing Loan Agreement shall be amended as follows effective as of the date hereof (except as otherwise noted):

(i) The following defined terms are hereby added, in appropriate alphabetical order, or amended and restated, as applicable, in Section 1.1 of the Existing Loan Agreement, as set forth below:

“**Fourth Amendment**” means that certain Fourth Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of the Fourth Amendment Effective Date by and among Borrower, Lenders and Agent.

“**Fourth Amendment Effective Date**” means August 29, 2024.

(ii) Section 7.1(b) and Section 7.1(c) of the Existing Loan Agreement are hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

“(b) as soon as practicable (and in any event (i) by September 13, 2024 for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2024, (ii) by September 30, 2024 for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2024 and (iii) within forty-five (45) days or, in each case of the foregoing clauses (i), (ii) and (iii), such longer period as may be agreed by Agent in its sole discretion) after the end of each of the first three fiscal quarters of each fiscal year, unaudited interim and year-to-date financial statements as of the end of such calendar quarter (prepared on a consolidated and consolidating basis, if prepared) of Company and its Subsidiaries, including balance sheet and related statements of income and cash flows accompanied by a report detailing any occurrence that could reasonably

be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect (including the commencement of any material litigation by or against Borrower), certified by a duly authorized officer of Company to the effect that they have been prepared in accordance with GAAP, except (i) for the absence of footnotes, and (ii) that they are subject to normal year-end adjustments;

(c) as soon as practicable (and in any event (i) by September 13, 2024 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and (ii) ninety (90) days for each fiscal year thereafter, or in each case of the foregoing clauses (i) and (ii), such longer period as may be agreed by Agent in its sole discretion) after the end of each fiscal year, audited financial statements as of the end of such year (prepared on a consolidated and consolidating basis, if prepared), including balance sheet and related statements of income and cash flows, and setting forth in comparative form the corresponding figures for the preceding fiscal year, certified without qualification (other than a “going concern” qualification as it relates to Borrower’s cash levels so long as no Event of Default has occurred or is continuing) by a firm of independent certified public accountants selected by Borrower and reasonably acceptable to Agent, accompanied by any management report from such accountants (it being understood that Ernst & Young LLP and any other accounting firm of national standing are reasonably acceptable to Agent);”

(iii) Section 7.20(a) of the Existing Loan Agreement is hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

“(a) Borrower (i) shall maintain, and shall cause its Subsidiaries to maintain, compliance in all material respects with all applicable laws, rules or regulations (including any law, rule or regulation with respect to the making or brokering of loans or financial accommodations and it being agreed by the parties hereto that Borrower’s late delivery and filing of its Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and its Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2024 shall be deemed not to violate this Section 7.20(a) so long as such documents are filed by September 13, 2024 and that Borrower’s late delivery and filing of its Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2024 shall be deemed not to violate this Section 7.20(a) so long as such document is filed by September 30, 2024), and (ii) shall, or cause its Subsidiaries to, obtain and maintain all material required Governmental Approvals reasonably necessary in connection with the conduct of Borrower’s business. Borrower shall not become an “investment company,” a company that would be an “investment company” except for the exclusion from the definition of “investment company” in Section 3(c) of the 1940 Act, or a company controlled by an “investment company” under the 1940 Act, or undertake as one of its important activities extending credit to purchase or carry margin stock (as defined in Regulation X, T and U of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors).”

(b) **References Within Amended Loan Agreement.** Each reference in the Amended Loan Agreement to “this Agreement” and the words “hereof,” “herein,” “hereunder,” or words of like import, shall mean and be a reference to the Amended Loan Agreement. This Amendment shall be a Loan Document. Any failure by Borrower to perform any obligation under this Amendment shall constitute an Event of Default under the Amended Loan Agreement.

SECTION 3 Conditions to Effectiveness. The effectiveness of this Amendment shall be subject to satisfaction of each of the following conditions precedent:

(a) Agent shall have received this Amendment, executed by Agent, Required Lenders, and Borrower;

(b) immediately after giving effect to this Amendment, the representations and warranties contained in Section 4 hereof shall be true and correct on and as of the Fourth Amendment Effective Date as though made on and as of such date; and

(c) immediately after giving effect to this Amendment, there exist no Events of Default or events that, with the passage of time, could result in an Event of Default.

SECTION 4 Representations and Warranties. To induce Agent and Lenders to enter into this Amendment, Borrower hereby confirms, as of the date hereof and immediately after giving effect to this Amendment, (a) that the representations and warranties made by it in Section 5 of the Amended Loan Agreement and in the other Loan Documents are true and correct in all material respects (except to the extent such representations and warranties relate to an earlier date, in which case they are true and correct in all material respects as of such date); *provided, however*, that such materiality qualifier shall not be applicable to any representations and warranties that already are qualified or modified by materiality in the text thereof; and (b) that there has not been and there does not exist a Material Adverse Effect.

SECTION 5 Miscellaneous.

(a) **Loan Documents Otherwise Not Affected; Reaffirmation.** Except as expressly amended pursuant hereto or referenced herein, the Existing Loan Agreement and the other Loan Documents shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and confirmed in all respects. Lenders' and Agent's execution and delivery of, or acceptance of, this Amendment shall not be deemed to create a course of dealing or otherwise create any express or implied duty by any of them to provide any other or further amendments, consents or waivers in the future. Borrower hereby reaffirms the security interest granted pursuant to the Loan Documents and hereby reaffirms that such grant of security in the Collateral granted as of the Closing Date continues without novation and secures all Secured Obligations under the Amended Loan Agreement and the other Loan Documents. Borrower acknowledges and agrees that it does not have any defense, set-off, counterclaim or challenge against the payment of any sums owing under the Existing Loan Agreement and the other Loan Documents, or the enforcement of any of the terms or conditions thereof.

(b) **Conditions.** For purposes of determining compliance with the conditions specified in Section 3 hereof, each Lender that has signed this Amendment shall be deemed to have consented to, approved or accepted or to be satisfied with, each document or other matter required thereunder to be consented to or approved by or acceptable or satisfactory to a Lender unless Agent shall have received notice from such Lender prior to the date hereof specifying its objection thereto.

(c) **Release.** In consideration of the agreements of Agent and Lenders contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Borrower, on behalf of itself and its successors and assigns, hereby fully, absolutely, unconditionally and irrevocably releases, remises and forever discharges Agent and each Lender, and its successors and assigns, and its present and former shareholders, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, predecessors, directors, officers, attorneys, employees, agents and other representatives (Agent, Lenders and all such other persons being hereinafter referred to collectively as the "**Releasees**" and individually as a "**Releasee**"), of and from all demands, actions, causes of action, suits, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, sums of money, accounts, bills, reckonings, damages and any and all other claims, counterclaims, defenses, rights of set-off, demands and liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, both at law and in equity, which Borrower, or any of its successors, assigns, or other legal representatives may now or hereafter own, hold, have or claim to have against the Releasees or any of them for, upon, or by reason of any circumstance, action, cause or thing whatsoever which arises at any time on or prior to the day and date of this Amendment, including, without limitation, for or on account of, or in relation to, or in any way in connection with the Existing Loan Agreement, or any of the other Loan Documents or transactions thereunder or related thereto (collectively, the "**Released Claims**"). Borrower waives the provisions of California Civil Code section 1542, which states:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Borrower understands, acknowledges and agrees that the release set forth above may be pleaded as a full and complete defense and may be used as a basis for an injunction against any action, suit or other proceeding which may be instituted, prosecuted or attempted in breach of the provisions of such release. Borrower agrees that no fact, event, circumstance, evidence or transaction which could now be asserted or which may hereafter be discovered shall affect in any manner the final, absolute and unconditional nature of the release set forth above. The provisions of this section shall survive payment in full of the Secured Obligations, full performance of all the terms of this Amendment and the other Loan Documents.

In addition to the release contained above, and not in limitation thereof, Borrower hereby agrees that it will never prosecute, nor voluntarily aid in the prosecution of, any action or proceeding relating to the Released Claims, whether by claim, counterclaim or otherwise. If, and to the extent that, any of the Released Claims are, for any reason whatsoever, not fully, finally and forever released and discharged pursuant to the terms above, Borrower hereby absolutely and unconditionally grants, sells, bargains, transfers, assigns and conveys to Agent all of the Released Claims and any proceeds, settlements and distributions relating thereto.

(d) **No Reliance.** Borrower hereby acknowledges and confirms to Agent and Lenders that Borrower is executing this Amendment on the basis of its own investigation and for its own reasons without reliance upon any agreement, representation, understanding or communication by or on behalf of any other Person.

(e) **Binding Effect.** This Amendment binds and is for the benefit of the successors and permitted assigns of each party.

(f) **Governing Law.** This Amendment and the other Loan Documents shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of California, excluding conflict of laws principles that would cause the application of laws of any other jurisdiction.

(g) **Complete Agreement; Amendments.** This Amendment and the Loan Documents represent the entire agreement about this subject matter and supersede prior negotiations or agreements with respect to such subject matter. All prior agreements, understandings, representations, warranties, and negotiations between the parties about the subject matter of this Amendment and the Loan Documents merge into this Amendment and the Loan Documents.

(h) **Severability of Provisions.** Each provision of this Amendment is severable from every other provision in determining the enforceability of any provision.

(i) **Counterparts.** This Amendment may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties on separate counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, is an original, and all taken together, constitute one Amendment. Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page of this Amendment by facsimile, portable document format (.pdf) or other electronic transmission will be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart hereof.

(j) **Electronic Execution of Certain Other Documents.** The words "execution," "execute," "signed," "signature," and words of like import in or related to any document to be signed in connection with this Amendment and the transactions contemplated hereby (including without limitation assignments, assumptions, amendments, waivers and consents) shall be deemed to include electronic signatures, the electronic matching of assignment terms and contract formations on electronic platforms approved by Agent, or the keeping of records in electronic form, each of which shall be of the same legal effect, validity or enforceability as a manually executed signature or the use of a paper-based recordkeeping system, as the case may be, to the extent and as provided for in any applicable law, including the Federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, the California Uniform Electronic Transaction Act, or any other similar state laws based on the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

(k) **Inconsistencies.** To the extent of any inconsistency between the terms and conditions of this Amendment and the terms and conditions of the Existing Loan Agreement and the other Loan Documents, the terms and conditions of this Amendment shall prevail.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed this Amendment, as of the date first above written.

BORROWER:

BLUEBIRD BIO, INC.

Signature: /s/ James Sterling

Print Name: James Sterling

Title: CFO

[Signature Page to Fourth Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement]

AGENT:

HERCULES CAPITAL, INC.

Signature: /s/ Seth H. Meyer
Print Name: Seth Meyer
Title: Chief Financial Officer

LENDERS:

HERCULES CAPITAL, INC.

Signature: /s/ Seth H. Meyer
Print Name: Seth Meyer
Title: Chief Financial Officer

HERCULES PRIVATE CREDIT FUND 1 L.P.

By: Hercules Private Global Venture Growth Fund GP I LLC, its general partner
By: Hercules Partner Holdings LLC, its sole member

Signature: /s/ Seth H. Meyer
Print Name: Seth Meyer
Title: Authorized Signatory

HERCULES PRIVATE GLOBAL VENTURE GROWTH FUND I L.P.

By: Hercules Private Global Venture Growth Fund GP I LLC, its general partner
By: Hercules Partner Holdings LLC, its sole member

Signature: /s/ Seth H. Meyer
Print Name: Seth Meyer
Title: Authorized Signatory

[Signature Page to Fourth Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement]