

VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC
Form 10-K
March 14, 2006

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

(Mark one)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-31429

Valmont Industries, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)
One Valmont Plaza,
Omaha, Nebraska
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

47-0351813
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

68154-5215
(Zip Code)

(402) 963-1000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class
Common Stock \$1.00 par value

Name of exchange on which registered
New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).
Yes No

At March 1, 2006 there were 24,814,399 of the Company's common shares outstanding. The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Company based on the closing sale price the common shares as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on June 24, 2005 was \$339,383,000.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Company's proxy statement for its annual meeting of shareholders to be held on April 24, 2006 (the "Proxy Statement"), to be filed within 120 days of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, are incorporated by reference in Part III.

VALMONT INDUSTRIES, INC.

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>PART I</u> | |
| <u>Item 1</u> | Business 3 |
| <u>Item 1A</u> | Risk Factors 12 |
| <u>Item 1B</u> | Unresolved Staff Comments 18 |
| <u>Item 2</u> | Properties 18 |
| <u>Item 3</u> | Legal Proceedings 20 |
| <u>Item 4</u> | Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders 20 |
| <u>PART II</u> | |
| <u>Item 5</u> | <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> 21 |
| <u>Item 6</u> | <u>Selected Financial Data</u> 22 |
| <u>Item 7</u> | <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation</u> 24 |
| <u>Item 7A</u> | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> 40 |
| <u>Item 8</u> | <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> 41 |
| <u>Item 9</u> | <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> 73 |
| <u>Item 9A</u> | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> 73 |
| <u>Item 9B</u> | <u>Other Information</u> 77 |
| <u>PART III</u> | |
| <u>Item 10</u> | <u>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</u> 77 |
| <u>Item 11</u> | <u>Executive Compensation</u> 77 |
| <u>Item 12</u> | <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u> 77 |
| <u>Item 13</u> | <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u> 77 |
| <u>Item 14</u> | <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u> 77 |
| <u>PART IV</u> | |
| <u>Item 15</u> | <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u> 78 |

PART I

Available Information

We make available, free of charge through our Internet web site at <http://www.valmont.com>, our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. We submitted the annual Chief Executive Officer certification to the NYSE for 2005, as required by Section 303A.12(a) of the NYSE Corporate Governance rules.

We have also posted on our website our (1) Corporate Governance Principles, (2) charters for the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board, (3) Code of Business Conduct, and (4) Code of Ethics for Senior Officers applicable to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Controller. Valmont shareholders may also obtain copies of these items at no charge by writing to: Investor Relations Department, Valmont Industries, Inc., One Valmont Plaza, Omaha, NE, 68154.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

(a) General Description of Business

General

We are a diversified global producer of fabricated metal products and a leading producer of metal and concrete pole and tower structures in our Engineered Support Structures and Utilities Support Structures businesses, and are a global producer of mechanized irrigation systems in our Irrigation business. We also provide metal coating services, including galvanizing, painting and anodizing in our Coatings business and manufacture specialty pipe and tubing products in our Tubing business. Our pole and tower structures are used to support outdoor lighting and traffic control fixtures, electrical transmission lines and related power distribution equipment, wireless communications equipment and highway signs. Our mechanized irrigation equipment is used to water crops and deliver chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Our tubing is used in a wide range of specialized agricultural, automotive and industrial applications, including grain augers and chutes, engine exhausts and pneumatic tubing. Customers and end-users of our products include state and federal governments, contractors, utility and telecommunications companies, manufacturers of commercial lighting fixtures and large farms as well as the general manufacturing sector. We were founded in 1946, went public in 1968 and our shares have been traded on The New York Stock Exchange (ticker: VMI) since August 2002, having previously traded on the NASDAQ National Market.

Business Strategy

Our strategy is to pursue growth opportunities that leverage our existing product portfolio, knowledge of our principal end-markets and customers and engineering capability to increase our sales, earnings and cash flow, including:

Increasing the Market Penetration of our Existing Products. Our strategy is to increase our market penetration by differentiating our products from our competitors' products through superior customer service, technological innovation and consistently high quality. For example, in 2005 we were selected as a principal supplier of pole products from a utility company that was historically a customer of one of our competitors. We believe this customer chose to purchase products from us, rather than our competitor, because we have the most complete product line offering of utility structures to meet their needs and offer superior product quality, service and reliability.

Bringing our Existing Products to New Markets. Our strategy is to expand the sales of our existing products into geographic areas where we do not currently have a strong presence as well as into applications for which end-users do not currently purchase our products. In recent years, for example, we have been expanding our geographic presence in Europe and North Africa for lighting structures.

Developing New Products for Markets that We Currently Serve. Our strategy is to grow by developing new products for markets where we have a comprehensive understanding of end-user requirements and longstanding relationships with key distributors and end-users. For example, we developed and sold structures for tramway applications in Europe in 2005. The customers for this product line include many of the state and local governments that purchase our lighting structures.

We believe we will be able to grow sales of our support structures for highway signs rapidly because we understand these customers requirements well and benefit from existing relationships with them. In addition, our acquisition of Newmark in 2004 enables us to offer concrete utility structures in addition to our current product offering to the utility industry.

Developing New Products for New Markets to Further Diversify our Business. Our strategy is to increase our sales and diversify our business by developing new products for new markets. For example, we have developed a structure for the wind energy industry that we believe can be more cost effective and easier to install than traditional structures. We believe this business venture leverages our engineering and manufacturing capabilities and will open new markets for our products.

Acquisitions

We have grown internally and by acquisition and have also divested certain businesses. Our business expansions during the past five years include:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of PiRod Holdings, Inc. and subsidiary (PiRod), a manufacturer of towers, components and poles located in Plymouth, Indiana |
| 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of Newmark International, Inc., a manufacturer of concrete and steel pole structures, headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama• Acquisition of a fiberglass pole manufacturer in Commerce City, Colorado• Acquisition of an overhead sign structure manufacturer in Selbyville, Delaware• Purchase of equipment for the manufacture of poles in El Dorado, Kansas |

There have been no significant divestitures of businesses in the past five years.

(b) Operating Segments

We aggregate our operating segments into five reportable segments. Aggregation is based on similarity of operating segments as to economic characteristics, products, production processes, types or classes of customer and the methods of distribution. Our reportable segments are as follows:

Engineered Support Structures: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered metal structures and components for the lighting and traffic and wireless communication industries, certain international utility industries and for other specialty applications

Utility Support Structures: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered steel and concrete structures for the North American utility industry

Coatings: This segment consists of galvanizing, anodizing and powder coating services

Irrigation: This segment consists of the manufacture of agricultural irrigation equipment and related parts and services

Tubing: This segment consists of the manufacture of tubular products for industrial customers

Other.

In addition to these five reportable segments, we have other businesses that individually are not more than 10% of consolidated sales. These businesses include our development of structures for the wind energy industry, machine tool accessories and industrial fasteners. Amounts of revenues, operating income and total assets attributable to each segment for each of the last three years is set forth in Note 19 of our consolidated financial statements on pages 61-64.

(c) Narrative Description of Business

Information concerning the principal products produced and services rendered, markets, competition and distribution methods for each of our five reportable segments is set forth below.

Engineered Support Structures Segment:

The Engineered Support Structures segment manufactures and markets engineered metal structures in two broad product lines:

(1) *Lighting and Traffic*

Products Produced This product line primarily includes steel and aluminum poles and structures to which lighting and traffic control fixtures are attached for a wide range of outdoor lighting applications, such as streets, highways, parking lots, sports stadiums and commercial and residential developments. The demand for these products is driven by commercial and residential construction and by consumers' desire for well-lit streets, highways, parking lots and common areas to help make these areas safer at night and to support trends toward more active lifestyles and 24-hour convenience. In addition to safety, customers want products that are visually appealing. In Europe, we believe we are a leader in decorative lighting poles, which are attractive as well as functional. We are leveraging this expertise to expand our decorative product sales in North America and China. Traffic poles are structures to which traffic signals are attached and aid the orderly flow of automobile traffic. While standard designs are available, poles are often engineered to customer specifications to ensure the proper function and safety of the structure. Product engineering takes into account factors such as weather (e.g. wind, ice) and the products loaded on the structure (e.g. lighting fixtures, traffic signals, signage) to determine the design of the pole.

Markets The key markets for our lighting and traffic products are the transportation and commercial lighting markets. The transportation market includes street and highway lighting and traffic control, much of which is driven by government spending programs. For example, the U.S. government funds highway and road improvement through the Federal highway program. This program provides funding to improve the nation's roadway system, which includes roadway lighting and traffic control enhancements. Matching funding from the various states may be required as a condition of federal funding. New federal highway program legislation was enacted in 2005, which we believe provides a solid platform for future growth of this market. In North America, governments desire to improve road and highway systems by reducing traffic congestion. In the United States, there are approximately 4 million miles of public roadways, with approximately 24% carrying over 80% of the traffic. Accordingly, the need to improve traffic flow through traffic controls and lighting is a priority for many communities. Transportation markets in other areas of the world are also heavily funded by local and national governments.

The commercial lighting market is mainly funded privately and includes lighting for applications such as parking lots, shopping centers, sports stadiums and business parks. The commercial lighting market is

driven by macro economic factors such as general economic growth rates, interest rates and the commercial construction economy.

Competition Our competitive strategy in the Lighting and Traffic product line is to provide high value to the customer at a reasonable price. We compete on the basis of product quality, high levels of customer service and reliable, timely delivery of the product. There are numerous competitors in the U.S., most of which are relatively small companies. Companies compete on the basis of price, product quality, reliable delivery and unique product features. Some competitors offer decorative products, which not all competitors are capable of manufacturing.

These competitive factors also apply to European markets. There are many competitors in the European market, as most countries have several manufacturers of lighting and traffic poles, many of which compete primarily on the basis of price and local product specifications. In the Chinese market, there are a large number of local competitors, many of which are small companies who use pricing as their main strategy, especially for standard lighting poles. In China, we are most competitive in markets where product and service quality are highly valued or in products that require significant engineering content.

Distribution Methods Transportation market sales are generally through independent, commissioned sales agents. These agents represent Valmont as well as lighting fixture companies and sell other related products. Sales are typically to electrical distributors, who provide the pole, fixtures and other equipment to the end user as a complete package. Commercial lighting sales are normally made through Valmont sales employees, who work on a salary plus incentive, although some sales are made through independent, commissioned sales agents. Sales to the commercial lighting market are primarily to lighting fixture manufacturers, who package the pole and fixture for customers.

(2) *Specialty*

Products Produced In our Specialty product line, we manufacture and sell a broad range of structures (poles and towers) and components serving the wireless communication and highway sign markets. Specialty products also include special use structures for a variety of applications.

In the wireless communication market, a wireless communication cell site will mainly consist of a steel pole or tower, shelter (enclosure where the radio equipment is located), antennas (devices that receive and transmit data and voice information to and from wireless communication devices) and components (items that are used to mount antennas to the structure and connect cabling and other parts from the antennas to the shelter).

For a given cell site, we provide poles, towers and components. We offer a wide range of structures to our customers, including solid rod, tubular and guyed towers, poles (tapered and non-tapered) and disguised products to minimize the visual impact on an area.

Structures are engineered and designed to customer specifications, which include factors such as the number of antennas on the structure and wind and soil conditions. Due to the size of these structures, design is important to ensure each structure meets performance and safety specifications. We do not provide any significant installation services on the structures we sell.

In the highway sign market, structures are either on the side of or span over a motorway and support items such as roadway directional signage and intelligent message systems. Structures sold may be either steel or aluminum and the product design may be in the form of a bent tube, tubular lattice or cantilevered. Like wireless communication structures, sign structures are engineered, with the design taking into consideration factors such as the weight and size of the signage being supported and wind, soil and other weather-related conditions.

Markets The main market for our specialty products has been the wireless telephone industry, although we also sell products to state and federal governments for two-way radio communication, radar, broadcasting and security purposes. Over the past number of years, the main market driver has been the growth of subscribers to wireless telephone services. The number of wireless phone subscribers has increased substantially worldwide. According to the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA), cell phone subscribers in the U.S grew from 6.4 million in 1991 to nearly 195 million in 2005, an annual compounded growth rate of nearly 28%. In the last five years, the annual compounded rate of subscriber growth was approximately 15%. In general, as the number of users and the usage of wireless devices by these users increase, more cell sites and, accordingly, more structures, antennas and components should be needed. While demand for structures and components in recent years was substantially lower than in the late 1990 s and 2000, we believe long-term growth should be driven by subscriber growth (although at a lower rate of growth than the past), increased usage, new technologies, such as 3G (the third generation of wireless technology) and demand for improved emergency response systems, as part of the U.S. Homeland Security initiatives.

The two broad customer groups for our specialty products are wireless carriers, (companies that provide wireless services to subscribers) and build-to-suit (BTS) companies, (organizations that own cell sites and attach antennas from multiple carriers to the pole or tower structure). BTS companies generate rental revenue from the wireless carriers who use those cell sites.

Infrastructure costs can be substantial for these customers, so access to capital is important to their ability to fund future infrastructure needs. Many of these companies have, from time to time, experienced reduced access to capital for infrastructure development, due to factors such as downturns in equity prices for telecommunication stocks and capital needs for acquisitions of competitors. Accordingly, their infrastructure spending on network development has been cyclical. We believe that infrastructure spending will grow moderately in the future, in order to improve and maintain service levels demanded by users. We also believe that increased subscriber utilization of wireless devices will lead to an increase in the number of cell sites.

The market for sign structures generally is related to highway construction and the desire for improved roadway signage and intelligent messaging for motorists to improve traffic flow. Specifications vary by state and the individual state highway departments are key contacts for the sales of these structures.

Competition There are a number of competitors in the wireless communication market in the U.S., although some have exited the business or sought protection under bankruptcy laws in recent years due to difficult market conditions. Since market conditions have been relatively weak and ample manufacturing capacity has been available, pricing has become extremely competitive in recent years and we believe it is the main strategy for most of our competitors. We compete on the basis of product quality, service quality and design capability, although we must also remain price competitive to gain orders. We also face a number of competitors when we compete for sign structure sales, most of which compete on a regional basis. Since we are relatively new in these markets, some of our competitors are more experienced in these markets than us.

Distribution Methods Sales and distribution activities are normally handled through a direct sales force. In the sale of sign structures, we work through the same commissioned sales agent organization as our Lighting and Traffic product line as well as our direct sales force. These agents generally sell to construction contractors.

In addition to these two main product lines, we also produce electrical transmission and substation structures for markets outside the U.S., mainly China.

Utility Support Structures Segment:

Products Produced The steel and concrete pole structures product lines are used for electrical transmission, substation and distribution applications. Our products help move electrical power from where it is produced to where it is used. We manufacture tapered steel and pre-stressed concrete poles for high-voltage transmission lines, substations (which transfer high-voltage electricity to low-voltage transmission) and electrical distribution (which carry electricity from the substation to the end-user). In addition, we produce hybrid structures, which are structures with a concrete base section and steel upper sections. Utility structures can be very large, so product design engineering is important to the function and safety of the structure. Our engineering process takes into account weather and loading conditions, such as wind speeds, ice loads and the power lines attached to the structure, in order to arrive at the final design.

Markets Our sales in this segment are mostly in the United States, where the key drivers in the utility business are capacity in the electrical transmission grid, industrial growth and deregulation in the utility industry. According to the Edison Electric Institute, the electrical transmission grid in the U.S. operates near capacity in many areas, due to increasing electrical consumption and lack of investment over the past 25 years. The expected increase in electrical consumption also should require substantial investment in new electricity generation capacity in the U.S. and around the world. Furthermore, deregulation and privatization of electrical utilities should require grid systems to interconnect. We believe that the passage of energy legislation in the U.S. in 2005 will encourage utility companies and independent power producers to invest in transmission and distribution infrastructure. All of these factors are expected to increase demand for electrical utility structures to transport electricity from source to user. Sales may take place on bid project basis or through strategic alliance relationships with certain customers.

Competition Our competitive strategy in this segment is to provide high value solutions to the customer at a reasonable price. We compete on the basis of product quality, high levels of customer service and reliable, timely delivery of the product. There are many competitors. Companies compete on the basis of price, quality, service and engineering expertise. Utility sales are often made through a competitive bid process, whereby the lowest bidder is awarded the contract, provided the competitor meets all other qualifying criteria. In weak markets, price is a more important criterion in the bid process. When the wireless communication pole market is weak relative to the utility structures market (as it was in 2002 and 2003), we may see these manufacturers competing in this segment.

Distribution Methods Products are normally sold through commissioned sales agents or sold directly to electrical utilities and independent power producers.

Coatings Segment:

Services Rendered We add finishes to metals that inhibit corrosion, extend service lives and enhance physical attractiveness of a wide range of materials and products. Among the services provided include:

- Hot-dipped Galvanizing
- Anodizing
- Powder Coating
- E-Coating

In our Coatings segment, we take unfinished products from our customers and return them with a galvanized, anodized or painted finish. Galvanizing is a process that protects steel with a zinc coating that is bonded to the product surface to inhibit rust and corrosion. Anodizing is a process applied to aluminum that oxidizes the surface of the aluminum in a controlled manner, which protects the aluminum from corrosion and allows the material to be dyed a variety of colors. We also paint products using powder

coating and e-coating technology (where paint is applied through an electrical charge) for a number of industries and markets.

Markets *Markets* for our products are varied and our profitability is not substantially dependent on any one industry or customer. Demand for coatings services generally follows the industrial U.S. economy, as all of our operations are in the U.S. Galvanizing is used in a wide variety of industrial applications where corrosion protection of steel is desired. While markets are varied, our markets for anodized or painted products are more directly dependent on consumer markets than industrial markets.

Competition *The* Coatings industry is very fragmented, with a large number of competitors. Most of these competitors are relatively small, privately held companies who compete on the basis of price and personal relationships with their customers. Our strategy is to compete on the basis of quality of the coating finish and timely delivery of the coated product to the customer. We also use the production capacity at our network of plants to assure that the customer receives quality service.

Distribution Methods *Due* to freight costs, a galvanizing location has an effective service area of an approximate 500-mile radius. While we believe that we are the largest custom galvanizer in North America, our sales are a small percentage of the total market. Sales and customer service are provided directly to the user by a direct sales force, generally assigned to each specific location.

Irrigation Segment:

Products Produced *In* our Irrigation segment, we manufacture and distribute mechanical irrigation equipment and related service parts under the Valley brand name. A Valmont irrigation machine is electricity-powered and propels itself over a farm field and applies water and chemicals to crops. Water and, in some instances, chemicals are applied through sprinklers attached to a pipeline that is supported by a series of towers, each of which is propelled via a drive train and tires. A standard mechanized irrigation machine (also known as a center pivot) rotates in a circle, although we also manufacture and distribute center pivot extensions that can irrigate corners of square and rectangular farm fields as well as conform to irregular field boundaries (referred to as a corner machine). Our irrigation machines can also irrigate fields by moving up and down the field as opposed to rotating in a circle (referred to as a linear machine). Irrigation machines can be configured to irrigate fields in size from 4 acres to over 500 acres, with a standard size in the U.S. configured for a 160-acre tract of ground. One of the key components of our irrigation machine is the control system. This is the part of the machine that allows the machine to be operated in the manner preferred by the grower, offering control of such factors as on/off timing, individual field sector control, rate and depth of water and chemical application. We also offer growers options to control multiple irrigation machines through centralized computer control or mobile remote control. The irrigation machine used in international markets is substantially the same as the one produced for the North American market.

There are other forms of irrigation available to farmers, two of the most prevalent being flood irrigation and drip irrigation. In flood irrigation, water is applied through a pipe or canal at the top of the field and allowed to run down the field by gravity. Drip irrigation involves plastic pipe or tape resting on the surface of the field or buried a few inches below ground level, with water being applied gradually. We estimate that center pivot and linear irrigation comprises one-third of the irrigated acreage in North America. International markets use predominantly flood irrigation, although all forms are used to some extent.

Markets *Market* drivers in North American and international markets are essentially the same. Since the purchase of an irrigation machine is a capital expenditure, the decision is based on the expected return on investment. The benefits a grower may realize through investment in mechanical irrigation include improved yields through better irrigation, cost savings through reduced labor and lower water and energy usage. The purchase decision is also affected by current and expected net farm income, commodity prices,

interest rates and the status of government support programs. In many international markets, the relative strength or weakness of local currencies as compared with the U.S. dollar may affect net farm income, since export markets are generally denominated in U.S. dollars.

The demand for mechanized irrigation comes from the following sources:

- Conversion from flood irrigation
- Replacement of existing mechanized irrigation machines
- Conversion from dryland farming

One of the key drivers in our Irrigation segment worldwide is that the usable water supply is limited. We estimate that:

- Only 2.5% of total worldwide water supply is freshwater
- Of that 2.5%, only 30% of freshwater is available to humans
- The largest user of that freshwater is agriculture

We believe these factors, along with the trend of a growing worldwide population and improving diets, reflect the need to use water more efficiently while increasing food production to feed this growing population. We believe that mechanized irrigation can improve water application efficiency by 40-90% compared with traditional irrigation methods by applying water uniformly near the root zone and reducing water runoff. Furthermore, reduced water runoff improves water quality in nearby rivers, aquifers and streams, thereby providing environmental benefits in addition to conservation of water.

Competition In North America, there are a number of entities that provide irrigation products and services to agricultural customers. We believe we are the leader of the four main participants in the mechanized irrigation business.

Participants compete for sales on the basis of price, product innovation and features, product durability and reliability, quality and service capabilities of the local dealer. Pricing can become very competitive, especially in periods where market demand is low. In international markets, our competitors are a combination of our major U.S. competitors and privately-owned local companies. Competitive factors are similar to those in North America, although pricing tends to be a more prevalent competitive strategy in international markets. Since competition in international markets is local, we believe local manufacturing capability is important to competing effectively in international markets and we have that capability in key regions.

Distribution Methods We market our irrigation machines and service parts through independent dealers. There are approximately 200 dealers in North America, with another 130 dealers serving international markets. The dealer determines the grower's requirements, designs the configuration of the machine, installs the machine (including providing ancillary products that deliver water and electrical power to the machine) and provides after-sales service. Our dealer network is supported and trained by our technical and sales teams. Our international dealers are supported through our regional headquarters in South America, South Africa, Western Europe, Australia, China and the Middle East as well as the home office in Valley, Nebraska.

Tubing Segment:

Products Produced Our Tubing segment produces light-wall welded steel tubing for various customers and industries. We produce tubing in diameters from 3/4 to 16 inches and in wall thicknesses from 1/32 to 9/32 of an inch. Our operations are located in Valley and Waverly, Nebraska and virtually all sales are in North America.

Markets Our Tubing business specializes in products that require some additional engineering or fabrication to meet our customers' needs. Our markets and customers are varied. In addition to supplying tubing to our Irrigation segment operations in Valley, Nebraska, our tubing is used in such products as grain handling systems, pneumatic tube delivery systems used in the healthcare industry, fire protection systems for office buildings and warehouses, automotive products and exercise equipment.

Competition The industrial tubing business is large and with many competitors, some of which have a much larger share of the total market than us. Many tubing companies compete on the basis of price and specialize in standard products and long production runs. We compete in certain niches in the tubing market, on the basis of high quality and customer service. We specialize in products that require additional fabrication, shaping and cutting operations. Pricing can be very competitive and is impacted by fluctuations in hot rolled steel prices.

Distribution Methods Our products are distributed through a combination of commissioned sales agents and a direct sales force.

General

Certain information generally applicable to each of our five reportable segments is set forth below.

Suppliers and Availability of Raw Materials.

Hot rolled steel coil and plate, zinc and other carbon steel products are the primary raw materials utilized in the manufacture of finished products for all segments. These essential items are purchased from steel mills, zinc producers and steel service centers and are usually readily available. While we may experience short-term disruptions and volatility, we do not believe that key raw materials would be unavailable for extended periods. In 2004, there were shortages in hot-rolled steel supplies, due primarily to shortages of steel-producing inputs, such as scrap steel, coke and iron ore. These shortages led to sharp price increases, extended lead times and availability issues for some manufacturers. We did not experience extended or wide-spread shortages of steel during this time, due to what we believe are strong relationships with some of the major steel producers. In 2005, we experienced volatility in zinc and natural gas prices. In late 2005, prices for these commodities increased substantially, but we did not experience any disruptions to our operations due to availability.

Patents, Licenses, Franchises and Concessions.

We have a number of patents for our manufacturing machinery, poles and irrigation designs. We also have a number of registered trademarks. We do not believe the loss of any individual patent would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

Seasonal Factors in Business.

Sales can be somewhat seasonal based upon the agricultural growing season and the infrastructure construction season. Sales of mechanized irrigation equipment and tubing to farmers are traditionally higher during the spring and fall and lower in the summer. Sales of infrastructure products are traditionally higher during prime construction seasons and lower in the winter.

Customers.

We are not dependent for a material part of any segment's business upon a single customer or upon very few customers. The loss of any one customer would not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

Backlog.

The backlog of orders for the principal products manufactured and marketed was approximately \$260.1 million at the end of the 2005 fiscal year and \$223.0 million at the end of the 2004 fiscal year. We anticipate that most of the backlog of orders will be filled during fiscal year 2006. At year-end, the segments with backlog were as follows (dollar amounts in millions):

| | Dec. 31, 2005 | Dec. 25, 2004 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Engineered Support Structures | \$ 118.8 | \$ 129.1 |
| Utility Support Structures | 89.4 | 60.2 |
| Irrigation | 42.3 | 23.5 |
| Tubing | 8.2 | 7.8 |
| Other | 1.4 | 2.4 |
| | \$ 260.1 | \$ 223.0 |

Research Activities.

The information called for by this item is included in Note 14 of our consolidated financial statements on page 59 of this report.

Environmental Disclosure.

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations pertaining to environmental protection and the discharge of materials into the environment. Although we continually incur expenses and make capital expenditures related to environmental protection, we do not anticipate that future expenditures should materially impact our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity.

Number of Employees.

At December 31, 2005, we had 5,336 employees.

(d) Financial Information About Geographic Areas

Our international sales activities encompass over 100 foreign countries. The information called for by this item is included in Note 19 of our consolidated financial statements on page 61 of this report. While France accounted for 6.9% of our net sales in 2005, no other foreign country accounted for more than 5% of our net sales.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

The following risk factors describe various risks that may affect our business, financial condition and operations.

Increases in prices and reduced availability of key raw materials such as steel, aluminum and zinc will increase our operating costs and likely reduce our profitability.

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

Hot rolled steel coil and other carbon steel products have historically constituted approximately one-third of the cost of manufacturing our products. We also use large quantities of aluminum for lighting structures and zinc for the galvanization of most of our steel products. The markets for the commodities that we use in our manufacturing processes can be volatile. The following factors increase the cost and reduce the availability of steel, aluminum and zinc for us:

- increased demand, which occurs when other industries purchase greater quantities of these commodities at times when we require more steel, aluminum and zinc for manufacturing, which can result in higher prices and lengthen the time it takes to receive material from suppliers;

12

- increased freight costs, because our manufacturing sites are usually not located near the major steel, aluminum and zinc manufacturers;
- lower production levels of these commodities, due to reduced production capacities or shortages of materials needed to produce these commodities (such as coke and scrap steel for the production of steel) which could result in reduced supplies of these commodities, higher costs for us and increased lead times to acquire material;
- lower inventory levels at suppliers when major steel users, such as the automobile manufacturers, increase their orders, which can reduce available inventory for us to meet our requirements;
- increased cost of major inputs, such as scrap steel, coke, iron ore and energy;
- fluctuations in foreign exchange rates can impact the relative cost of these commodities, which may affect the cost effectiveness of imported materials and limit our options in acquiring these commodities; and
- international trade disputes, import duties and quotas, since we import some steel for our domestic and foreign manufacturing facilities.

Increases in the selling prices of our products may not fully recover additional steel, aluminum and zinc costs and generally lag increases in our costs of these commodities. Consequently, an increase in steel, aluminum and zinc prices will increase our operating costs and likely reduce our profitability. For example, rising steel prices in 2002 and 2004 put pressure on gross profit margins, especially in our Engineered Support Structures and Utility Support Structures segments. U.S. government trade and tariff actions reduced the availability and increased the cost of steel imported from outside the United States in 2002 and 2003. While these tariffs were repealed in late 2003, the weakness of the U.S. dollar made procurement of steel from outside the United States less attractive.

The 2004 fiscal year was characterized by an unprecedented and rapid increase in steel prices, which resulted from the imposition of surcharges by steel suppliers and, in some cases (in a departure from normal industry practices), modification of their contracts and commitments. We believe this situation was caused by significant increases in steel production and consumption in China, leading to shortages in key steel-making materials (such as coke, iron ore and scrap steel), which impacted the production capability of other steel producers. Under such circumstances, steel supplies may become tighter and impact our ability to acquire steel and meet customer requirements on a timely basis. The speed with which steel suppliers imposed surcharges and increased prices in 2004 prevented us from fully recovering these price increases and reduced our operating margins, particularly in our lighting and traffic and utility businesses. In addition, our Coatings segment was negatively impacted, as some of our galvanizing customers had difficulty procuring steel. In late 2005, zinc prices escalated rapidly late in the year and negatively impacted our cost of goods produced and operating income, especially in our galvanizing operations in the Coatings segment.

Increases in energy prices will increase our operating costs and likely reduce our profitability.

We use energy to manufacture our products. Our operating costs increase if energy costs rise, which occurred in 2001, 2003 and 2005 due to additional energy usage caused by severe winter weather conditions and higher oil and natural gas prices. During periods of higher energy costs, we may not be able to recover our operating cost increases through price increases without reducing demand for our products. While we may hedge our exposure to higher prices via energy futures contracts, increases in energy prices will increase our operating costs and likely reduce our profitability.

The ultimate consumers of our products operate in cyclical industries that have been subject to significant downturns which have adversely impacted our sales in the past and may again in the future.

Our sales are sensitive to the market conditions present in the industries in which the ultimate consumers of our products operate, which in some cases have been highly cyclical and subject to substantial downturns. For example, a significant portion of our sales of support structures is to the electric utility industry. Our sales to the U.S. electric utility industry were approximately \$219 million in 2005. Purchases of our products are, to a significant extent, deferrable to the extent that utilities reduce capital expenditures as a result of unfavorable regulatory environments, a slow U.S. economy or financing constraints. As a result of weakness in the industry that occurred in 2003, utility companies and independent power producers reduced or delayed spending for electrical generation and transmission projects, which resulted in decreased demand for our products and severe pricing pressure in the market.

The end users of our mechanized irrigation equipment and a substantial portion of our tubing are farmers and, as a result, sales of those products are affected by economic changes within the agriculture industry, particularly the level of farm income. Lower levels of farm income generally result in reduced demand for our mechanized irrigation and tubing products. Farm income decreases when commodity prices, acreage planted, crop yields, government subsidies and export levels decrease. In addition, weather conditions, such as extreme drought may result in reduced availability of water for irrigation, and can affect farmers' buying decisions. Farm income can also decrease as farmers' operating costs increase. In 2001 and 2005, rapid increases in natural gas prices resulted in higher costs of energy and nitrogen-based fertilizer (which uses natural gas as a major ingredient). Furthermore, uncertainty as to future government agricultural policies may cause indecision on the part of farmers. The status and trend of government farm supports, financing aids and policies regarding the ability to use water for agricultural irrigation can affect the demand for our irrigation equipment. In 2001, severe drought in Brazil resulted in water shortages for electrical generation and water available for irrigation purposes was restricted by the government. In the United States, certain parts of the country are considering policies that would restrict usage of water for irrigation. All of these factors may cause farmers to delay capital expenditures for farm equipment. Consequently, downturns in the agricultural industry, such as occurred in 2001 and throughout much of 2005, result in a slower, and possibly a negative, rate of growth in irrigation equipment and tubing sales.

We have also experienced cyclical demand for those of our products that are targeted to the wireless communications industry, which has weakened since 2000. Our sales to the wireless communications industry were approximately \$80 million in 2005. Sales of wireless structures to wireless carriers and build-to-suit companies that serve the wireless communications industry have historically been cyclical. These customers may elect to curtail spending on new structures to focus on cash flow and capital management. Weak market conditions have led to competitive pricing in recent years, putting pressure on our profit margins on sales to this industry.

As a result of this underlying cyclicity, we have experienced, and in the future we may experience, significant fluctuations in our sales and operating income with respect to a substantial portion of our total product offering, and such fluctuations could be material and adverse to our overall financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Demand for our engineered support structures, tubing products and coating services is highly dependent upon the overall level of infrastructure spending.

We manufacture and distribute engineered support structures for lighting and traffic, utility and other specialty applications. Our Tubing and Coatings segments serve many construction-related industries. Because these products are used primarily in infrastructure construction, sales in these businesses are highly correlated with the level of construction activity, which historically has been cyclical. Construction

activity by our private and government customers is impacted by and can decline because of, among other things:

- weakness in the general economy, which reduces funds available for construction;
- interest rate increases, which increase the cost of construction financing; and
- adverse weather conditions which slow construction activity.

In addition, sales in our Engineered Support Structures segment, particularly our lighting and traffic products, are highly dependent upon federal, state, local and foreign government spending on infrastructure development projects, such as the federal highway program. The level of spending on such projects may decline for a number of reasons beyond our control, including, among other things, budgetary constraints affecting government spending generally or transportation agencies in particular, decreases in tax revenues and changes in the political climate, including legislative delays, with respect to infrastructure appropriations. A substantial reduction in the level of government appropriations for infrastructure projects could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or liquidity.

We may lose some of our foreign investment or our foreign sales and profits may be reduced because of risks of doing business in foreign markets.

We are an international manufacturing company with operations around the world. At December 31, 2005, we operated over 40 manufacturing plants, located on five continents, and sold our products in more than 100 countries. In 2005, international sales accounted for approximately 22% of our total sales, and we have operations in geographic markets that have recently experienced political instability, such as the Middle East, and economic uncertainty, such as Argentina. We expect that international sales will continue to account for a significant percentage of our net sales into the foreseeable future. Accordingly, our foreign business operations and our foreign sales and profits are subject to the following potential risks:

- political and economic instability where we have foreign business operations, resulting in the reduction of the value of, or the loss of, our investment;
- recessions in economies of countries in which we have business operations, decreasing our international sales;
- difficulties and costs of staffing and managing our foreign operations, increasing our foreign operating costs and decreasing profits;
- difficulties in enforcing our rights outside the United States for patents on our manufacturing machinery, poles and irrigation designs;
- increases in tariffs, export controls, taxes and other trade barriers reducing our international sales and our profit on these sales; and
- acts of war or terrorism.

As a result, we may lose some of our foreign investment or our foreign sales and profits may be materially reduced because of risks of doing business in foreign markets.

We are subject to currency fluctuations from our international sales, which can negatively impact our reported earnings.

Our products are sold in many countries around the world. Approximately 22% of our fiscal 2005 sales are generated by export or foreign subsidiaries and are often made in foreign currencies, mainly the Brazilian real, Canadian dollar, euro and South African rand. Because our financial statements are denominated in U.S. dollars, fluctuations in currency exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and other

currencies have had and will continue to have an impact on our reported earnings. If the U.S. dollar weakens or strengthens versus the foreign currencies mentioned above, the result will be an increase or decrease in our reported sales and earnings, respectively. We do not have exchange rate hedges in place to reduce this currency translation risk. Currency fluctuations have affected our financial performance in the past and may affect our financial performance in any given period.

We also face risks arising from the imposition of foreign exchange controls and currency devaluations. Exchange controls may limit our ability to convert foreign currencies into U.S. dollars or to remit dividends and other payments by our foreign subsidiaries or businesses located in or conducted within a country imposing controls. Currency devaluations result in a diminished value of funds denominated in the currency of the country instituting the devaluation. Actions of this nature, if they occur or continue for significant periods of time, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition in any given period.

We face strong competition in our markets.

We face competitive pressures from a variety of companies in each of the markets we serve. Our competitors include companies who provide the technologies that we provide as well as companies who provide competing technologies, such as drip irrigation. Our competitors include international, national, and local manufacturers, some of whom may have greater financial, manufacturing, marketing and technical resources than we do, or greater penetration in or familiarity with a particular geographic market than we have. In addition, certain of our competitors, particularly with respect to our utility and wireless communication product lines, have sought bankruptcy protection in recent years, and may emerge with reduced debt service obligations, which could allow them to operate at pricing levels that put pressures on our margins. In our Coatings segment, we compete indirectly with international companies for sales. Some of our customers have moved manufacturing operations or product sourcing overseas, which can negatively impact our sales of galvanizing and anodizing services. To remain competitive, we will need to invest continuously in manufacturing, product development and customer service, and we may need to reduce our prices, particularly with respect to customers in industries that are experiencing downturns. We cannot provide assurance that we will be able to maintain our competitive position in each of the markets that we serve.

We could incur substantial costs as the result of violations of, or liabilities under, environmental laws.

Our facilities and operations are subject to U.S. and foreign laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing the discharge of pollutants into the air and water, the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, and the cleanup of contamination. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations, or with the permits required for our operations, could result in fines or civil or criminal sanctions, third party claims for property damage or personal injury, and investigation and cleanup costs. Potentially significant expenditures could be required in order to comply with environmental laws that may be adopted or imposed in the future.

Certain of our facilities have been in operation for many years and, over time, we and other predecessor operators of these facilities have generated, used, handled and disposed of hazardous and other regulated wastes. Contaminants have been detected at some of our present and former sites, principally in connection with historical operations. In addition, from time to time we have been named as a potentially responsible party under Superfund or similar state laws. While we are not aware of any contaminated sites, including third-party sites, at which we may have material obligations, the discovery of additional contaminants or the imposition of additional cleanup obligations at these sites could result in significant liability.

We may not realize the improved operating results that we anticipate from acquisitions we may make in the future, and we may experience difficulties in integrating the acquired businesses or may inherit significant liabilities related to such businesses.

We explore opportunities to acquire businesses that we believe are related to our core competencies from time to time, some of which may be material to us. We expect such acquisitions will produce operating results better than those historically experienced or presently expected to be experienced in the future by us in the absence of the acquisition. We cannot provide assurance that this assumption will prove correct with respect to any acquisition.

Any future acquisitions may present significant challenges for our management due to the increased time and resources required to properly integrate management, employees, information systems, accounting controls, personnel and administrative functions of the acquired business with those of Valmont and to manage the combined company on a going forward basis. We may not be able to successfully integrate and streamline overlapping functions or, if such activities are successfully accomplished, such integration may be more costly to accomplish than presently contemplated. We may also have difficulty in successfully integrating the product offerings of Valmont and acquired businesses to improve our collective product offering. Our efforts to integrate acquired businesses could be affected by a number of factors beyond our control, including general economic conditions. In addition, the process of integrating acquired businesses could cause the interruption of, or loss of momentum in, the activities of our existing business. The diversion of management's attention and any delays or difficulties encountered in connection with the integration of these businesses could adversely impact our business, results of operations and liquidity, and the benefits we anticipate may never materialize.

In addition, although we conduct reviews of businesses we acquire, we may be subject to unexpected claims or liabilities, including environmental cleanup costs, as a result of these acquisitions. Such claims or liabilities could be costly to defend or resolve and be material in amount, and thus could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations and liquidity.

We have a substantial amount of outstanding indebtedness, which could impair our ability to operate our business and react to changes in our business, remain in compliance with debt covenants and make payments on our debt.

We have a significant amount of indebtedness. As of December 31, 2005, we had approximately \$237 million of total indebtedness outstanding and our ratio of total debt to shareholders' equity was 72%. In addition, we had up to \$145 million of additional borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility. We may, as we have from time to time, increase our indebtedness to make business acquisitions (such as the Newmark acquisition in 2004) and major capital expenditures. Our level of indebtedness could have important consequences, including:

- our ability to satisfy our obligations under our debt agreements could be affected and any failure to comply with the requirements, including significant financial and other restrictive covenants, of any of our debt agreements could result in an event of default under the agreements governing our indebtedness;
- a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations will be required to make interest and principal payments and will not be available for operations, working capital, capital expenditures, expansion, or general corporate and other purposes, including possible future acquisitions that we believe would be beneficial to our business;
- our ability to obtain additional financing in the future may be impaired;
- we may be more highly leveraged than our competitors, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage;

- our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and industry may be limited; and
- our degree of leverage may make us more vulnerable in the event of a downturn in our business, our industry or the economy in general.

Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and business prospects.

The restrictions and covenants in our debt agreements could limit our ability to obtain future financings, make needed capital expenditures, withstand a future downturn in our business, or the economy in general, or otherwise conduct necessary corporate activities. We may also be prevented from taking advantage of business opportunities that arise because of the limitations that the restrictive covenants under our new senior credit agreement and the indenture governing our senior subordinated notes impose on us.

A breach of any of these covenants would result in a default under the applicable debt agreement. A default, if not waived, could result in acceleration of the debt outstanding under the agreement and in a default with respect to, and acceleration of, the debt outstanding under our other debt agreements. The accelerated debt would become immediately due and payable. If that should occur, we may not be able to pay all such debt or to borrow sufficient funds to refinance it. Even if new financing were then available, it may not be on terms that are acceptable to us.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.

The Company's corporate headquarters are located in a leased facility in Omaha, Nebraska, under a lease expiring in 2016. The headquarters of the Company's reporting segments are located in Valley, Nebraska except for the headquarters of the Company's Utility Support Structures segment, which are located in Birmingham, Alabama. The principal operating locations of the Company are listed below.

| | Owned, Leased | Principal Activities |
|--|------------------|---|
| Engineered Support Structures Segment | | |
| Berrechid, Morocco | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic |
| Brenham, Texas | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic, utility and wireless communication |
| Charneil, France | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic, utility and wireless communication |
| Elkhart, Indiana | Owned | Manufacture of steel and aluminum poles for lighting and traffic |
| Farmington, Minnesota | Owned | Manufacture of aluminum poles for lighting and traffic |
| Gelsenkirchen, Germany | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic |
| Commerce City, Colorado | Owned | Manufacture of fiberglass poles for lighting and traffic |
| Maarheeze, The Netherlands | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic |
| Rive-de-Gier, France | Owned | Manufacture of aluminum poles for lighting and traffic |
| Shanghai, China | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic, utility and wireless communication |

18

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| Siedlce, Poland | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic |
| St. Julie, Quebec, Canada | Leased | Manufacture of aluminum poles for lighting and traffic |
| Tulsa, Oklahoma | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic and utility |
| Valley, Nebraska | Owned | Segment management headquarters; manufacture of steel poles for lighting and traffic, utility and wireless communication |
| Plymouth, Indiana | Owned | Manufacture of wireless communication structures and components and specialty products |
| Salem, Oregon | Leased | Manufacture of wireless communication structures and components and specialty products |
| Selbyville, Delaware | Leased | Manufacture of steel overhead sign structures |
| Utility Support Structures Segment | | |
| Birmingham, Alabama | Leased | Segment management headquarters |
| Tuscaloosa, Alabama | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Bay Minette, Alabama | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Claxton, Georgia | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Bartow, Florida | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Barstow, California | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Bellville, Texas | Owned | Manufacture of concrete poles for utility |
| Tulsa, Oklahoma | Owned | Manufacture of steel poles for utility |
| Jasper, Tennessee | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for utility |
| Mansfield, Texas | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for utility |
| El Dorado, Kansas | Leased | Manufacture of steel poles for utility |
| Coatings Segment | | |
| Chicago, Illinois | Owned | Galvanizing services |
| Lindon, Utah | Leased | Galvanizing services |
| Long Beach, California | Leased | Galvanizing services |
| Los Angeles, California | Owned | Anodizing services |
| Minneapolis, Minnesota | Owned | Painting and anodizing services |
| Sioux City, Iowa | Owned | Galvanizing services |
| Tualatin, Oregon | Leased | Galvanizing services |
| Tulsa, Oklahoma | Owned | Galvanizing services |
| Valley, Nebraska | Owned | Segment management headquarters; galvanizing services |
| West Point, Nebraska | Owned | Galvanizing services |
| Irrigation Segment | | |
| Albany, Oregon | Leased | Water and soil management services |
| Brisbane, Australia | Leased | Distribution of irrigation equipment |
| San Antonio, Texas | Leased | Distribution of irrigation equipment |
| Dubai, United Arab Emirates | Owned | Manufacture of irrigation equipment |
| Johannesburg, South Africa | Owned | Manufacture of irrigation equipment |
| Madrid, Spain | Owned | Manufacture of irrigation equipment |
| McCook, Nebraska | Owned | Manufacture of irrigation equipment |
| Uberaba, Brazil | Owned | Manufacture of irrigation equipment |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--|
| Valley, Nebraska | Owned | Segment management headquarters; manufacture of irrigation equipment |
| Tubing Segment | | |
| Valley, Nebraska | Owned | Segment management headquarters; manufacture of steel tubing |
| Waverly, Nebraska | Owned | Manufacture of steel tubing |
| Other Locations | | |
| Creuzier-le-neuf, France | Owned | Manufacture of industrial covers and conveyors |
| Salem and Portland, Oregon | Leased | Distribution of industrial fasteners |
| Valley, Nebraska | Owned | Manufacture of wind energy equipment |

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

We are not a party to, nor are any of our properties subject to, any material legal proceedings. We are, from time to time, engaged in routine litigation incidental to the business.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

No matters were submitted to a vote of stockholders during the fourth quarter of 2005.

Executive Officers of the Company

Our executive officers at December 31, 2005, their ages, positions held, and the business experience of each during the past five years are, as follows:

Mogens C. Bay, age 57, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since January 1997.

Terry J. McClain, age 58, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since January 1997.

E. Robert Meaney, age 58, Senior Vice President since September 1998.

Ann F. Ashford, age 45, Vice President Human Resources since December 1999.

Steven G. Branscombe, age 50, Vice President Information Technology since October 2001. Senior Project Manager, IBM Corporation, from August 2000 to September 2001.

Mark C. Jaksich, age 48, Vice President and Controller since February 2000.

Walter P. Pasko, age 55, Vice President Procurement since May 2002. Vice President Purchasing and National Accounts, National Material Company, September 1997 to April 2002.

P. Thomas Pogge, age 57, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since May 2001. Attorney in private practice from January 2000 to April 2001.

Mark E. Treinen, age 50, Vice President Business Development & Treasurer since January 1994.

PART II**ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES.**

Our common stock, previously listed and trading on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol VALM, was approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange and began trading under the symbol VMI on August 30, 2002. We had approximately 5,700 shareholders of common stock at December 31, 2005. Other stock information required by this item is included in Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited) on page 73 of this report.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

| Period | (a) Total Number of Shares Purchased | (b) Average Price paid per share | (c) Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | (d) Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| September 25, 2005 to October 22, 2005 | 997 | 29.52 | | |
| October 23, 2005 to November 26, 2005 | 216,206 | 31.60 | | |
| November 27, 2005 to December 31, 2005 | 9,901 | 33.49 | | |
| Total | 227,104 | 31.68 | 0 | 0 |

During the fourth quarter, the shares reflected above were those delivered to the Company by employees as part of stock option exercises, either to cover the purchase price of the option or the related taxes payable by the employee as part of the option exercise. The price paid per share was the market price at the date of exercise.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA.**SELECTED FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL DATA**

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| Operating Data | | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 1,108,100 | \$ 1,031,475 | \$ 837,625 | \$ 854,898 | \$ 872,380 | |
| Operating income | 82,863 | 70,112 | 54,623 | 70,289 | 65,021 | |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change | | | (366) | (500) | | |
| Net earnings | 39,079 | 26,881 | 25,487 | 33,629 | 26,693 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 39,807 | 38,644 | 34,597 | 33,942 | 36,324 | |
| Capital expenditures | 35,119 | 17,182 | 17,679 | 13,942 | 25,652 | |
| Per Share Data | | | | | | |
| Earnings: | | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.61 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.07 | \$ 1.40 | \$ 1.10 | |
| Diluted | 1.54 | 1.10 | 1.05 | 1.37 | 1.09 | |
| Cash dividends | 0.335 | 0.320 | 0.315 | 0.290 | 0.260 | |
| Financial Position | | | | | | |
| Working capital | \$ 229,161 | \$ 277,444 | \$ 169,568 | \$ 154,112 | \$ 145,550 | |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 194,676 | 205,655 | 190,103 | 193,175 | 209,580 | |
| Total assets | 802,042 | 843,351 | 613,022 | 593,649 | 599,433 | |
| Long-term debt, including current installments | 232,340 | 322,775 | 149,662 | 166,391 | 198,008 | |
| Shareholders' equity | 328,675 | 294,655 | 265,494 | 242,020 | 225,811 | |
| Invested capital(a) | 641,392 | 697,691 | 483,764 | 451,753 | 472,230 | |
| Key Financial Measures | | | | | | |
| Return on invested capital(a) | 7.7 | % 7.6 | % 7.4 | % 9.7 | % 8.6 | % |
| EBITDA(b) | \$ 122,732 | \$ 97,725 | \$ 86,515 | \$ 100,930 | \$ 97,997 | |
| Return on beginning shareholders' equity(c) | 13.3 | % 10.1 | % 10.5 | % 14.9 | % 13.9 | % |
| Long-term debt as a percent of invested capital(d) | 36.2 | % 46.3 | % 30.9 | % 36.8 | % 41.9 | % |
| Year End Data | | | | | | |
| Shares outstanding (000) | 24,765 | 24,162 | 23,825 | 23,883 | 24,477 | |
| Approximate number of shareholders | 5,700 | 5,600 | 5,400 | 5,500 | 5,500 | |
| Number of employees | 5,336 | 5,542 | 5,074 | 5,234 | 5,342 | |

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

(a) Return on Invested Capital is calculated as Operating Income (after-tax) divided by the average of beginning and ending Invested Capital. Invested Capital represents Total Assets minus Accounts Payable, Accrued Expenses and Dividends Payable. Return on Invested Capital is one of our key operating ratios, as it allows investors to analyze our operating performance in light of the amount of investment required to generate our operating profit. Return on Invested Capital is also a measurement used to determine management incentives. Return on Invested Capital is not a measure of financial performance or liquidity under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Accordingly, Return on Invested Capital should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows from operations or other income or cash flow data prepared in accordance with GAAP or as a measure of our operating

22

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

performance or liquidity. The table below shows how Invested Capital and Return on Invested Capital are calculated from our income statement and balance sheet.

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Operating income | \$ 82,863 | \$ 70,112 | \$ 54,623 | \$ 70,289 | \$ 65,021 |
| Effective tax rate | 37.8 % | 36.0 % | 36.3 % | 36.5 % | 36.9 % |
| Tax effect on Operating Income | (31,322) | (25,240) | (19,828) | (25,655) | (23,993) |
| After-tax Operating income | 51,541 | 44,872 | 34,795 | 44,634 | 41,028 |
| Average Invested Capital | 669,542 | 590,728 | 467,759 | 461,992 | 475,920 |
| Return on invested capital | 7.7 % | 7.6 % | 7.4 % | 9.7 % | 8.6 % |
| Total Assets | \$ 802,042 | \$ 843,351 | \$ 613,022 | \$ 593,649 | \$ 599,433 |
| Less: Accounts Payable | (90,674) | (77,222) | (71,481) | (70,276) | (67,563) |
| Less: Accrued Expenses | (67,869) | (66,506) | (55,856) | (69,828) | (58,042) |
| Less: Dividends Payable | (2,107) | (1,932) | (1,921) | (1,792) | (1,598) |
| Total Invested Capital | \$ 641,392 | \$ 697,691 | \$ 483,764 | \$ 451,753 | \$ 472,230 |
| Beginning of year Invested Capital | 697,691 | 483,764 | 451,753 | 472,230 | 479,609 |
| Average Invested Capital | \$ 669,542 | \$ 590,728 | \$ 467,759 | \$ 461,992 | \$ 475,920 |

Return on invested capital, as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

(b) Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) is one of our key financial ratios in that it is the basis for determining our maximum borrowing capacity at any one time. Our bank credit agreements contain a financial covenant that our total interest-bearing debt not exceed 3.75x EBITDA for the most recent twelve month period. If this covenant is violated, we may incur additional financing costs or be required to pay the debt before its maturity date. EBITDA is not a measure of financial performance or liquidity under GAAP and, accordingly, should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows from operations or other income or cash flow data prepared in accordance with GAAP or as a measure of our operating performance or liquidity. The calculation of this ratio is as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Net earnings | \$ 39,079 | \$ 26,881 | \$ 25,487 | \$ 33,629 | \$ 26,693 |
| Plus: Interest Expense | 19,498 | 16,073 | 9,897 | 11,722 | 17,080 |
| Plus: Income tax expense | 24,348 | 16,127 | 16,534 | 21,637 | 17,900 |
| Plus: Depreciation and Amortization | 39,807 | 38,644 | 34,597 | 33,942 | 36,324 |
| EBITDA | \$ 122,732 | \$ 97,725 | \$ 86,515 | \$ 100,930 | \$ 97,997 |

EBITDA, as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

(c) Return on beginning shareholders' equity is calculated by dividing Net earnings by the prior year's ending Shareholders' equity.

(d) Long-term debt as a percent of invested capital is calculated as the sum of Current portion of long-term debt and Long-term debt divided by Total Invested Capital. This is one of our key financial ratios in that it measures the amount of financial leverage on our balance sheet at any point in time. We also have covenants under our major debt agreements that relate to the amount of debt we carry. If those covenants are violated, we may incur additional financing costs or be required to pay the debt before its maturity date. We have an internal target to maintain this ratio at or below 40%. This ratio may exceed 40% from time to time for major strategic purposes, such as acquisitions. Long-term debt as a percent of capital is not a measure of financial performance or liquidity under GAAP and, accordingly, should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows from operations or other income or cash flow data prepared in accordance with GAAP or as a measure of our operating performance or liquidity. The calculation of this ratio is as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Current portion of long-term debt | \$ 13,583 | \$ 7,962 | \$ 15,009 | \$ 10,849 | \$ 11,062 |
| Long-term debt | 218,757 | 314,813 | 134,653 | 155,542 | 186,946 |
| Total Long-term debt | \$ 232,340 | \$ 322,775 | \$ 149,662 | \$ 166,391 | \$ 198,008 |
| Total Invested Capital | \$ 641,392 | \$ 697,691 | \$ 483,764 | \$ 451,753 | \$ 472,230 |
| Long-term debt as a percent of invested capital | 36.2 % | 46.3 % | 30.9 % | 36.8 % | 41.9 % |

Long-term debt as a percent of invested capital, as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATION.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Forward-Looking Statements

Management's discussion and analysis, and other sections of this annual report, contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that management has made in light of experience in the industries in which the Company operates, as well as management's perceptions of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors believed to be appropriate under the circumstances. These statements are not guarantees of performance or results. They involve risks, uncertainties (some of which are beyond the Company's control) and assumptions. Management believes that these forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions. Many factors could affect the Company's actual financial results and cause them to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, among other things, risk factors described from time to time in the Company's reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as future economic and market circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results, operating efficiencies, availability and price of raw materials, availability and market acceptance of new products, product pricing, domestic and international competitive environments, and actions and policy changes of domestic and foreign governments.

General

The following discussion and analysis provides information which management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of our consolidated results of operations and financial position. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes.

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

| | 2005 | 2004 | Change 2005-2004 | 2003 | Change 2004-2003 |
|--|---|------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| | Dollars in millions, except per share amounts | | | | |
| Consolidated | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 1,108.1 | \$ 1,031.5 | 7.4 % | \$ 837.6 | 23.1 % |
| Gross profit | 278.3 | 245.9 | 13.2 % | 208.0 | 18.2 % |
| <i>as a percent of sales</i> | 25.1 | % 23.8 | % | 24.8 | % |
| SG&A expense | 195.4 | 175.8 | 11.1 % | 153.4 | 14.6 % |
| <i>as a percent of sales</i> | 17.6 | % 17.0 | % | 18.3 | % |
| Operating income | 82.9 | 70.1 | 18.3 % | 54.6 | 28.4 % |
| <i>as a percent of sales</i> | 7.5 | % 6.8 | % | 6.5 | % |
| Net interest expense | 17.7 | 14.7 | 20.4 % | 8.8 | 67.0 % |
| Effective tax rate | 37.8 | % 36.0 | % | 36.3 | % |
| Net earnings | 39.1 | 26.9 | 45.4 % | 25.5 | 5.5 % |
| Earnings per share | 1.54 | 1.10 | 40.0 % | 1.05 | 4.8 % |
| Engineered Support Structures Segment | | | | | |
| Net sales | 470.7 | 402.0 | 17.1 % | 330.0 | 21.8 % |
| Gross profit | 127.2 | 102.8 | 23.7 % | 94.6 | 8.7 % |
| SG&A expense | 82.6 | 71.2 | 16.0 % | 68.4 | 4.1 % |
| Operating income | 44.6 | 31.6 | 41.1 % | 26.2 | 20.6 % |
| Utility Support Structures Segment | | | | | |
| Net sales | 218.9 | 175.3 | 24.9 % | 76.8 | 128.3 % |
| Gross profit | 48.6 | 32.1 | 51.4 % | 8.8 | NM |
| SG&A expense | 27.9 | 25.0 | 11.6 % | 14.3 | 74.8 % |
| Operating income(loss) | 20.7 | 7.1 | 191.5 % | (5.5) | NM |
| Coatings Segment | | | | | |
| Net sales | 72.1 | 73.5 | (1.9)% | 91.1 | (19.3)% |
| Gross profit | 17.6 | 14.0 | 25.7 % | 16.7 | (16.2)% |
| SG&A expense | 9.2 | 9.8 | (6.1)% | 9.9 | (1.0)% |
| Operating income | 8.4 | 4.2 | 100.0 % | 6.8 | (38.2)% |
| Irrigation Segment | | | | | |
| Net sales | 260.4 | 297.8 | (12.6)% | 279.9 | 6.4 % |
| Gross profit | 61.0 | 73.8 | (17.3)% | 71.8 | 2.8 % |
| SG&A expense | 36.2 | 38.3 | (5.5)% | 37.2 | 3.0 % |
| Operating income | 24.8 | 35.5 | (30.1)% | 34.6 | 2.6 % |
| Tubing Segment | | | | | |
| Net sales | 71.9 | 68.7 | 4.7 % | 44.8 | 53.3 % |
| Gross profit | 20.6 | 20.3 | 1.5 % | 11.3 | 79.6 % |
| SG&A expense | 6.0 | 6.9 | (13.0)% | 4.8 | 43.8 % |
| Operating income | 14.6 | 13.4 | 9.0 % | 6.5 | 106.2 % |
| Other | | | | | |
| Net sales | 14.1 | 14.2 | (0.7)% | 14.9 | (4.7)% |
| Gross profit | 4.3 | 4.6 | (6.5)% | 5.2 | (11.5)% |
| SG&A expense | 8.4 | 7.4 | 13.5 % | 7.3 | 1.4 % |
| Operating loss | (4.1) | (2.8) | (46.4)% | (2.1) | (33.3)% |
| Net corporate expense | | | | | |
| Gross profit | (1.0) | (1.6) | 37.5 % | (0.4) | NM |
| SG&A expense | 25.1 | 17.3 | 45.1 % | 11.5 | 50.4 % |
| Operating loss | (26.1) | (18.9) | (38.1)% | (11.9) | (58.8)% |

NM not meaningful

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FISCAL 2005 COMPARED WITH FISCAL 2004

Overview

The fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 included 53 weeks of operations, as compared with fiscal 2004, which was 52 weeks. This was the result of our fiscal year end being on the last Saturday in December. Accordingly, all fiscal 2005 operational figures were higher than had fiscal 2005 been 52 weeks in length. The estimated impact on our net sales and net earnings due to the extra week of fiscal 2005 was approximately \$17 million and \$1 million, respectively.

In 2004, we completed the acquisitions of Newmark International, Inc. (Newmark), a manufacturer of concrete and steel pole structures mainly for the North America utility industry, W.J. Whatley, Inc. (Whatley), a manufacturer of fiberglass poles principally for outdoor lighting applications and the assets of Sigma Industries, Inc. (Sigma), a manufacturer of overhead sign structures mainly serving the eastern United States. Newmark is reported as part of the Utility Support Structures segment and Whatley and Sigma are reported as part of the Engineered Support Structures (ESS) segment. The results of these operations were included in our consolidated results starting on the closing dates of the acquisitions. The Newmark and Whatley acquisitions were completed in the second quarter of 2004 and the Sigma acquisition was completed in the third quarter of 2004.

Consolidated net sales increased as compared with 2004 due to a full year impact of acquisitions completed in 2004 (\$37.5 million) and higher selling prices associated with the rapid increase of steel costs throughout much of 2004. These net sales increases were offset somewhat by decreased sales volumes in the Irrigation segment in 2005, as compared with 2004. Gross profit as a percent of sales increased, mainly resulting from the impact of higher selling prices. In 2004, our gross profit as a percent of net sales fell in our Engineered Support Structures (ESS) and Utility Support Structures segments, as pricing actions taken in response to higher steel costs lagged steel cost increases. In 2005, gross profit percentages in these segments recovered to more historical levels, as steel costs were more stable in 2005. Selling, general and administrative expenses (SG&A) increased in 2005 over 2004 levels, mainly due to the full year impact of the acquisitions completed in 2004 (\$5.1 million), increased employee incentives of \$6.0 million due to increased profitability in 2005, increased sales commissions associated with higher sales (\$1.5 million) and additional personnel costs related to the preparation of our new ESS segment operation in China (approximately \$1.0 million). This plant is scheduled to begin production in the second quarter of 2006.

Net interest expense increased in 2005 mainly due to higher interest rates on our variable rate debt, as compared with 2004 (approximately \$2.4 million). Higher average borrowing levels in 2005 as compared to 2004, due to the \$125.4 million of debt incurred to fund the acquisitions completed in 2004 also contributed to the increase in net interest expense.

The effective tax rate increased in 2005 due to \$1.1 million in taxes due to repatriation of foreign earnings. On October 22, 2004, the American Jobs Creation Act (AJCA) was signed into law, which included a deduction of 85% of certain foreign earnings that are repatriated, as defined in the AJCA. We elected to apply this provision to qualifying earnings repatriations in fiscal 2005. The cash dividends received in 2005 (net of taxes paid) was approximately \$15.9 million. Otherwise, our effective tax rate in 2005 was essentially unchanged from 2004.

Minority interest expenses were lower in 2005 than 2004 mainly due to lower earnings in our Irrigation segment operations in Brazil and South Africa. In addition, we increased our ownership interest in the Brazil operation from 70% to 90% in 2005, which contributed to lower minority interest expenses as compared with 2004.

Net earnings increased in 2005 due in part to a \$9.9 million pre-tax expense in 2004 (approximately \$6.1 million after taxes) associated with the restructuring of our long-term debt in 2004. Earnings per share increased at a lower percentage than net earnings in 2005 from 2004 due to more fully-diluted shares outstanding.

Engineered Support Structures (ESS) Segment

General

The sales increase in 2005 as compared with 2004 was due to price increases related to 2004 steel cost increases and the full year impact in 2005 from the 2004 acquisitions (\$11.3 million). The improvement in gross profit mainly related to sales price increases. In 2004, we raised sales prices as our steel costs increased. However, the impact of sales price increases generally lagged our cost increases, resulting in lower gross profit margins in 2004. Sales prices lagged cost increases due to the backlog nature of our business and existing orders could not be re-priced. In 2005, steel costs were more stable, which enabled our gross profit margins to improve to more traditional levels. Increased SG&A spending principally resulted from the full year impact of higher employee incentives attributable to improved operating income in 2005, as compared with 2004 (\$3.2 million), the 2004 acquisitions (\$1.5 million), and increased compensation costs in China to prepare for the start-up of our second plant (approximately \$1.0 million). This plant is scheduled to begin production in the second quarter of 2006. All regions contributed to the improved operating income for the segment. In Europe, earnings improved by \$4.7 million as compared with 2004 due to increased volumes and cost structure reductions implemented in 2004. China's earnings improved \$1.3 million which was attributable to higher sales volumes and improved product pricing.

Lighting and Traffic Products

The increase in North American lighting and traffic structure sales in 2005 was partly due to the effect of a full year of activity from the 2004 acquisitions of Whatley (\$4.9 million) and the full year impact of price increases implemented in 2004 in response to higher steel costs. North American volumes were slightly down in 2005 as compared with 2004. We believe delays in the enactment of the highway bill in the U.S. resulted in postponement of lighting projects and reduced demand in the transportation market. The commercial lighting market remained stable in 2005. In Europe, lighting sales were higher than 2005 due to a combination of higher selling prices to offset higher steel costs and an approximate 8% volume increase due to improvement in economic conditions in our main market areas and sales of new products developed this year.

Specialty Products

Sales of specialty products were up from 2004, mainly due to the full year of the 2004 acquisition of Sigma (approximately \$6.4 million). Wireless communication structures and components remained fairly stable in 2005 as compared to 2004, reflecting relatively stable market conditions. Sales of wireless communication poles in China were down slightly from a very strong 2004.

Utility Products

This product line includes sales of utility structures for markets outside of North America. Sales improved in 2005 as compared with 2004 due to introduction of new utility structure products for the Chinese market and export sales of utility structures outside of China. We believe as China develops its electrical infrastructure, there will be a solid demand in the future for steel transmission, substation and distribution structures to help transport and distribute electrical power to users. Furthermore, we believe that China will continue to be a key part of our efforts to penetrate export utility structure markets.

Utility Support Structures Segment

This segment includes the operations of Newmark since its acquisition on April 16, 2004 and the North American utility structure operations that were previously part of the ESS segment. The increase in sales from 2005 to 2004 includes approximately \$26.2 million related to the full year impact of the Newmark acquisition and the effect of increased selling prices to offset higher steel costs incurred in 2004. While sales volumes were comparable to 2004, order rates were well above 2004 levels. Increased investment in the electrical transmission grid by utility companies and independent power producers resulted in higher order rates and backlogs in 2005, as compared with 2004. Gross profit improved in 2005 over 2004, as margins returned to more traditional levels through increased pricing, while volumes were comparable to 2004. Increased SG&A expense in 2005 resulted from the full year impact of Newmark (\$3.6 million), increased incentives of \$1.1 million due to increased segment earnings and increased commissions of \$1.3 million due to increased segment sales in 2005

Coatings Segment

Coatings segment sales were slightly down in 2005 from 2004 mainly due to lower volumes, but favorably offset by higher prices due in part to increased zinc and natural gas costs that were passed on to the marketplace as price increases or surcharges. Gross profit improved mainly through increased factory productivity and lower workers' compensation costs in 2005, as compared with 2004, of approximately \$1.5 million in our California operations. Improved safety procedures and changes in California workers' compensation laws contributed to decreased workers' compensation costs in 2005.

Irrigation Segment

Sales were down in 2005 as compared to 2004 due to lower sales volumes in both domestic and international markets, partially offset by higher sales prices. In North America, irrigation machine sales volumes were down approximately 20% in 2005, as compared with 2004. We believe relatively low farm commodity prices and higher input costs (energy, fuel and fertilizer) contributed to reduced demand for irrigation machines in most of our key markets around the world. Additionally, a weak U.S. dollar also contributed to reduced sales demand in our international markets. On a regional basis, sales decreases in South America and South Africa were somewhat offset by improved sales in the Asia Pacific region. Gross profit decreased more than sales in 2005, as compared with 2004, due to decreased factory productivity associated with the decreased sales volumes. The impact of lower factory productivity on gross profit was approximately \$4.0 million in 2005.

In 2005, SG&A expenses decreased from 2004 due to reduced employee incentives associated with decreased operating income (approximately \$0.7 million) and to a bad debt reversal of \$0.8 million for a receivable that was recovered in 2005.

Tubing Segment

Tubing segment sales increased in 2005 due to improved demand, partially offset by lower pricing, in certain markets. Gross profit was comparable to 2005, despite the increase in sales volume. Gross profit margins were hampered in 2005, as compared with 2004, due to lower pricing and an unfavorable sales mix, partially offset by improved factory performance (approximately \$2.2 million). SG&A expense was down in 2005, due to decreased employee incentives resulting from lower growth in segment earnings.

Other

Our Other businesses include our machine tool accessory business in France, our industrial fastener business in the U.S., and wind energy development. Operating income decreased mainly due to increased research and development spending to develop a structure for the wind energy industry. Our spending on the wind energy initiative was \$3.2 million in 2005, as compared with \$2.4 million in 2004.

Net corporate expense

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

The most significant items that resulted in the increase in net corporate expense in 2005 as compared with 2004 were increased employee incentives of \$3.4 million related to improved net earnings in 2005 and approximately \$1.5 million related to the acquisition of a new corporate aircraft and the sale of our existing aircraft in 2005.

FISCAL 2004 COMPARED WITH FISCAL 2003

Overview

In 2004, we completed three acquisitions. On April 16, 2004, we completed the purchase of Newmark International, Inc. (Newmark), a manufacturer of concrete and steel pole structures mainly for the electrical utility industry. The purchase price was approximately \$110.2 million in cash (including transaction costs), plus the assumption of approximately \$11.5 million of interest-bearing debt. On May 24, 2004, we completed the purchase of W.J. Whatley, Inc. (Whatley), a manufacturer of fiberglass poles principally for outdoor lighting applications. The purchase price for the Whatley shares was approximately \$9.3 million in cash (including transaction costs), plus the assumption of approximately \$0.7 million of interest-bearing debt. On August 2, 2004, we completed the purchase of the net assets of Sigma Industries, Inc. (Sigma), a manufacturer of overhead sign structures mainly serving the eastern United States. The purchase price for the net assets of this business was approximately \$6.3 million, plus the assumption of approximately \$0.4 million of interest-bearing debt. The results of Newmark are reported in the Utility Support Structures Segment and the results of Whatley and Sigma are reported in the Engineered Support Structures Segment. The results of these operations are included in our consolidated results starting on the closing dates of the acquisitions. The funds used for these acquisitions were borrowed through our existing credit facilities. See also [Liquidity and Capital Resources](#).

Steel is a significant cost component of the products we manufacture. In 2004, we experienced substantial cost increases for rolled sheet, plate and other products made from steel. Significant increases of steel production in China drove up prices and created shortages of key steel-producing inputs (such as coke, iron ore and scrap steel), which led to restricted steel supplies. This situation in turn caused rapid, unprecedented increases in what we paid for steel and created availability issues. In some cases, suppliers broke pricing agreements on or added surcharges to existing contracts. Firm pricing and consignment programs from the steel mills were no longer available, which, along with uncertain availability and extended lead times, led us to increase our steel inventories above historical norms to ensure our ability to meet customer commitments. Where possible, we increased our sales prices to mitigate the impact of higher steel costs on operating income. The negative impact on 2004 operating income as a result of higher steel costs that could not be passed on in the marketplace was approximately \$7.0 million.

The increase in sales as compared with 2003 was due to the impact of acquisitions completed in 2004 (\$79.8 million), sales volume increases in the Engineered Support Structures (ESS) and Tubing segments and sales price increases resulting from steel cost increases. Gross profit as a percentage of sales was down as compared with 2003, due mainly to the impact of steel cost increases not covered by sales price increases. SG&A spending increased mainly due to the impact from acquisitions (\$10.4 million), increased employee incentives due to improved operating profit (\$6.2 million), currency translation effects (\$2.9 million) and increased commissions related to higher sales volumes (\$1.6 million).

The increase in interest expense in 2004 as compared with 2003 was due to higher average borrowing levels in 2004. These higher borrowing levels were due to acquisitions funded by borrowings (\$125.4 million) and higher working capital levels resulting from higher sales levels and increased inventories due to steel industry conditions mentioned above. The \$9.9 million in Debt prepayment expenses in 2004 relates to a charge we recorded in the second quarter of 2004 mainly related to the prepayment of our promissory notes as part of the refinancing of our long-term debt. The decrease in the effective tax rate relates primarily to a reduction of \$0.4 million in deferred tax asset valuation allowances associated with net operating loss carryforwards in a European subsidiary due to improved profitability in that entity.

In 2004, we recognized a profit in our share of the earnings of non-consolidated subsidiaries, as compared with a loss in 2003. This improvement was the result of improved business conditions and operating performance of our non-consolidated joint ventures in an irrigation distributor in Argentina and a steel pole manufacturing facility in Mexico. Minority interest in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries was comparable to 2003, as lower net earnings in our Irrigation segment operations in Brazil and South Africa were offset by improved earnings in our irrigation segment retail store operation in California. Our ownership percentages in these locations are less than 100%.

Due to our 2004 acquisition activity and lower operating cash flows in 2004 as compared with 2003, we have higher interest-bearing debt than at the end of fiscal 2003. Accordingly, our long-term debt to invested capital ratio increased from 30.9% in 2003 to 46.3% in 2004. While this ratio is in excess of our internal goal of 40%, we believe that, with continued improvements in earnings and working capital management, we will be able to reduce this ratio to below our internal goal over the next 18 to 24 months.

Engineered Support Structures (ESS) Segment

General

The sales increase in the ESS segment was related to the acquisition of Whatley and Sigma (\$12.6 million), currency translation effects (\$9.4 million), sales volume increases and sales price increases implemented to offset rising steel costs. Gross profit grew at a lower rate than sales, as sales price increases did not completely cover the increased cost of steel and the sales mix was unfavorable. These factors were offset to a degree by improved gross margins in Europe resulting from improved factory performance. SG&A spending was up mainly due to fiscal 2004 acquisitions (\$2.3 million) and currency translation effects (\$2.0 million). Operating income improved in all regions, mainly as a result of sales volume increases in all regions, the impact of 2004 acquisitions (\$1.1 million), and operational improvements in Europe, where operating income improved by \$2.6 million in 2004 as compared with 2003. During 2004, we reduced our cost structure in Europe to position ourselves for better profitability. While the impact of cost reductions was somewhat offset by severance costs, we believe that our current operating structure and management team are appropriate to allow us to build on 2004 for continued operating improvements. Operating profits in China grew by \$1.4 million in 2004 as compared with 2003, due to continued sales growth.

Lighting and Traffic Products

In North America, lighting and traffic structure sales increased in 2004 as compared with 2003 due to a combination of a sales volume increase of approximately 6% and sales price increases in response to higher steel prices. Market demand continues to be driven by government spending programs and the need for improved street and highway lighting and traffic control. The current U.S. federal highway program was extended throughout 2004 by a series of short-term extensions and is currently extended through May 2005. We believe that a new six-year spending program will be enacted in 2005, which, if enacted, should provide for stability in the funding of projects that include street and area lighting and traffic

structures. Commercial lighting sales in North America were down slightly in 2004, as compared with 2003. Competitive pricing in this market resulted in slightly lower orders from lighting fixture manufacturers, as some competitors did not increase sales prices as much as we did when steel prices escalated. In Europe, sales volumes increased modestly in local currency terms, as demand for lighting and traffic structures reflected slightly better economic conditions in our major market areas. In China, sales were comparable to 2003.

Specialty Products

In North America, sales of specialty products were up approximately 38% as compared with 2003. The most significant source of growth was from overhead sign structures. In 2003, we entered this market and 2004 was our first full year of operation. Sign structure sales of \$11 million in 2004 included those of Sigma Industries since its acquisition in August 2004. Sales of wireless communication structures and components were up from a weak 2003, as wireless carriers increased spending on new structures and antennas to improve coverage and service. Sales of wireless communication poles in China increased by approximately 15% in 2004 as compared with 2003, due to continued development of its wireless networks. Our sales of wireless structures in China have steadily grown over the years as we believe we have built a good reputation with the wireless carriers and benefited from the strong demand in wireless communication services in China. While we expect relatively strong demand to continue in the future, growth rates may moderate from past growth rates.

Utility Products

This product line includes sales of utility structures for markets outside of North America. Sales improved over 2003, mainly due to sales growth in China of approximately \$5.2 million. We continue to believe that as China grows its electrical generation and distribution capacity, we should see good demand for steel poles for electrical transmission, substation and distribution applications.

Utility Support Structures Segment

The sharp increase in sales in 2004 as compared with 2003 was due to the acquisition of Newmark in April 2004 (\$67.2 million), improved sales volumes in our existing utility structures product line and increased sales prices. While sales volumes of steel utility structures increased approximately 15% in 2004 as compared with 2003, our sales were particularly low in the second and third quarters of 2003, when our order rates fell as we attempted to maintain pricing when market prices were falling. Newmark's sales volumes of concrete utility poles since its acquisition in April 2004 were approximately 10% higher than the same period in 2003. In 2004, demand for steel and concrete transmission, substation and distribution structures was stronger than in 2003, as electrical utility companies increased spending for structures to improve the electrical grid system, despite the lack of U.S. energy policy legislation. Gross profit improved at a higher rate than sales because the difficult pricing environment in 2003 improved somewhat in 2004. Approximately \$7.8 million of the operating income improvement from 2003 to 2004 was due to the acquisition of Newmark.

Coatings Segment

Coatings segment sales and profitability decreased in 2004 as compared with 2003 mainly due to lower anodizing service sales to a major customer. While we still expect future sales to this customer, we do not expect such sales to return to historical levels. In light of these lower sales volumes, we are making efforts to expand our anodizing customer base and strengthen our relationships with current customers. We have also reduced our cost structure to further position ourselves for improved profitability in the future. Aside from the lower volumes, gross profit in this segment was also negatively impacted by approximately \$0.7 million of increased workers compensation costs in California. We believe workers compensation

reform legislation passed in California this year will help us better control workers compensation costs in the future. Galvanizing volumes were comparable to 2003, with a modest improvement in profitability. SG&A spending in 2004 was comparable to 2003.

Irrigation Segment

The increase in irrigation segment sales was due to price increases associated with increased steel costs. In North America, sales volumes of irrigation machines and related service parts were down approximately 4% in 2004, as compared with 2003. While the agricultural economy in general was favorable throughout most of 2004, weakness in commodity prices and higher energy and other farm input costs have contributed to weakness in demand in the latter part of 2004. Profitability in North America was up by \$1.6 million in 2004 as compared with 2003, due to improved retail operations, good expense control and disciplined product pricing in light of rising steel costs.

In markets outside of North America, sales were similar to 2003, after consideration of currency translation effects. Sales in Brazil and South Africa were slightly lower than strong 2003 sales levels, reflecting somewhat weaker farm commodity prices. The strong South African currency versus the U.S. dollar has negatively impacted the competitiveness of farm exports in that region. Sales decreases in these regions were offset by stronger sales in other regions. International profitability in 2004 was down by \$0.8 million from a strong 2003, mostly related to lower operating income in Brazil and South Africa.

Tubing Segment

Tubing segment sales increased mainly through sales price increases to pass along increased steel costs, although sales volume was up approximately 5% as well. We believe that sales demand was driven to some extent by rapidly rising steel prices and our availability of steel. The increase in gross profit was due to an improved pricing environment for our commodity-type products, our ability to pass along increased steel costs to the market and an unfavorable inventory adjustment that was recorded in 2003. SG&A expense was up in 2004 as compared to 2003 due to employee incentives (\$1.5 million) related to increased operating income and sales commissions (\$0.6 million) due to increased sales.

Other

Our Other businesses include our machine tool accessory business in France, our industrial fastener business in the U.S. and wind energy development. Sales and profitability were down in 2004, as compared with 2003, due to approximately 17% lower demand for machine tool accessories in Europe. Our spending to develop a structure for the wind energy industry was \$2.4 million in 2004 as compared with \$2.8 million in 2003. We continue to make progress on this new product development initiative and we remain optimistic as to our future in this business.

Net corporate expense

The increase in net corporate expenses in 2004 as compared with 2003 mainly related to increased employee incentives associated with improved operating income (approximately \$4.5 million), and approximately \$1.0 million in incremental costs related to compliance with the internal controls over financial reporting provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash Flows

Working Capital and Operating Cash Flows Net working capital was \$229.2 million at fiscal year-end 2005, as compared with \$277.4 million at fiscal year-end 2004. The ratio of current assets to current

liabilities was 2.28:1 as of December 31, 2005, as compared with 2.75:1 at December 25, 2004. The decrease in working capital mainly resulted from our use of operating cash flows to reduce our long-term debt. Operating cash flow was \$133.8 million in 2005, as compared with \$5.2 million in 2004 and \$52.9 million in 2003. The increase in operating cash flow in 2005 as compared with 2004 related mainly to increased net income, lower inventory and accounts receivable and higher accounts payable levels as compared with 2004. In 2004, availability issues, extended lead times and lack of firm pricing for steel resulted in higher inventory levels in 2004 and compared with historical levels. These conditions eased in 2005, which allowed us to decrease our inventory levels throughout 2005.

Investing Cash Flows Capital spending was \$35.1 million in 2005, as compared with \$17.2 million in 2004, and \$17.7 million in 2003. The most significant capital expenditure in 2005 was the purchase of a corporate aircraft for \$16.5 million, which replaced an aircraft that was sold for approximately \$7.8 million in cash. Our depreciation and amortization expenses for 2005, 2004 and 2003 were \$39.8 million, \$38.6 million and \$34.6 million, respectively. Throughout much of the 1990's our capital spending was relatively high as we added manufacturing capacity in a number of areas, most notably our Irrigation segment factory in McCook, Nebraska and our Utility Support Structures factory in Jasper, Tennessee. We have not made any substantial capacity additions in the past three years, except for a new ESS segment manufacturing facility in southern China. The total capital cost for the facility is expected to be approximately \$5.0 million (\$1.5 million was expended in 2005) and is planned to start production in the second quarter of 2006. In addition, we made a number of acquisitions from 1998 through 2004 that added capacity and allowed us to expand our market coverage. We do not anticipate a substantial increase in capital spending in the near future. Fiscal 2006 capital expenditures are estimated to be between \$25 and \$30 million. The most significant investing cash flow item in 2004 was the \$125.4 million expended (net of cash acquired) related to the Newmark, Whatley and Sigma acquisitions.

Financing Cash Flows Total interest-bearing debt decreased from \$327.5 million in 2004 to \$237.3 million as of December 31, 2005, a decrease of \$90.2 million. Most of this decrease occurred in our revolving credit facility and bank term loan. In December 2005, we prepaid approximately \$13 million of our bank term loan. The increase in interest-bearing debt in 2004 was due to our 2004 acquisitions, which totaled \$138 million (including \$12.6 million in debt that was assumed as part of the acquisitions).

Sources of Financing and Capital

We have historically funded our growth, capital spending and acquisitions through a combination of operating cash flows and debt financing. We have an internal long-term objective to maintain long-term debt as a percent of capital at or below 40%. At December 31, 2005, our long-term debt to invested capital ratio was 36.2%, as compared with 46.3% at the end of fiscal 2004. This internal objective is exceeded from time to time in order to take advantage of opportunities to grow and improve our businesses. We believe the acquisitions described above were appropriate opportunities to expand our market coverage and product offerings and generate earnings growth. While our long-term debt to capital ratio exceeded our 40% objective as a result of the Newmark acquisition in April 2004, our cash flows enabled us to reduce our long-term debt levels to under 40% of invested capital by September 2005. Dependent on our level of acquisition activity and steel industry availability and pricing issues, we expect our long-term debt to invested capital ratio to remain below 40% in 2006.

Our priorities in use of future cash flows are as follows:

- Fund internal growth initiatives in core businesses
- Pay down interest-bearing debt
- Invest in acquisitions clearly connected to our core businesses or an existing competency

- Return money to our shareholders through increased dividends or common stock repurchases at appropriate share prices

Our debt financing at December 31, 2005 consisted mainly of long-term debt. We also maintain certain short-term bank lines of credit totaling \$22.9 million, \$19.9 million of which was unused at December 31, 2005. Our long-term debt principally consists of:

- \$150 million of senior subordinated notes that bear interest at 6.875% per annum and are due in May 2014. We may repurchase the notes starting in May 2009 at specified prepayment premiums. These notes are guaranteed by certain of our U.S. subsidiaries.
- \$150 million revolving credit agreement with a group of banks that accrues interest at our option at (a) the higher of the prime lending rate and the Federal Funds rate plus 50 basis points or (b) an interest rate spread over the LIBOR of 62.5 to 137.5 basis points (inclusive of facility fees), depending on our ratio of debt to earnings before taxes, interest, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA). In addition, this agreement provides that another \$50 million may be added to the total credit agreement at our request at any time prior to May 31, 2007, subject to the group of banks increasing their current commitment. At December 31, 2005, we had no outstanding borrowings under the revolving credit agreement. The revolving credit agreement has a termination date of May 4, 2009 and contains certain financial covenants that limit our additional borrowing capability under the agreement. At December 31, 2005, we had the ability to borrow an additional \$145 million under this facility.
- Term loan with a group of banks that accrues interest at our option at (a) the higher of the prime lending rate and the Federal Funds rate plus 50 basis points or (b) LIBOR plus a spread of 62.5 to 137.5 basis points, depending on our debt to EBITDA ratio and had an outstanding balance of \$58.1 million at December 31, 2005. This loan requires quarterly principal payments through 2009. The annualized principal payments beginning in 2006 in millions are: \$10.4, \$10.4, \$19.4, and \$17.9. The effective interest rate on this loan was 5.1875% per annum at December 31, 2005.

Under these debt agreements, we are obligated by covenants that require us to maintain certain coverage ratios and may limit us with respect to certain business activities. Our key debts covenants are that interest-bearing debt is not to exceed 3.75x EBITDA of the prior four quarters and that our EBITDA over our prior four quarters must be at least 2.50x our interest expense over the same period. At December 31, 2005 we were in compliance with all covenants related to these debt agreements. Based on our available credit facilities and our history of positive cash flows from operations, we believe that we have adequate liquidity to meet our short-term cash needs.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

We have future financial obligations related to (1) payment of principal and interest on interest-bearing debt, including capital lease obligations, (2) various operating leases and (3) purchase obligations. These obligations as of December 31, 2005 are summarized as follows, in millions of dollars:

| Contractual Obligations | Total | 2006 | 2007-2008 | 2009-2010 | After 2010 |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Long-term debt | \$ 223.3 | \$ 13.0 | \$ 31.1 | \$ 19.5 | \$ 159.7 |
| Capital leases | 9.0 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 7.2 | |
| Unconditional purchase obligations | 35.0 | 35.0 | | | |
| Operating leases | 38.2 | 8.1 | 11.3 | 5.0 | 13.8 |
| Total contractual cash obligations | \$305.5 | \$ 56.7 | \$ 43.6 | \$ 31.7 | \$ 173.5 |

Long-term debt principally consists of the \$150 million of senior subordinated notes and the bank term loan (\$58.1 million was outstanding at December 31, 2005). We had no outstanding balance on our

revolving credit agreement at December 31, 2005. Obligations under these agreements could be accelerated in event of non-compliance with covenants. At December 31, 2005, we were in compliance with all debt covenants.

Capital leases relate principally to a production facility in France and transportation and office equipment. Operating leases relate mainly to various production and office facilities and are in the normal course of business.

As of December 31, 2005, our interest obligations associated with our long-term debt and capital leases were as follows (in millions of dollars):

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 2006 | \$ 14.2 |
| 2007-2008 | 25.9 |
| 2009-2010 | 22.5 |
| After 2010 | 40.8 |

Unconditional purchase obligations relate to purchase orders for zinc, aluminum and steel for periods up to one year. We believe the quantities under contract are reasonable in light of normal fluctuations in business levels and we expect to use the commodities under contract during the contract period.

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We have operating lease obligations to unaffiliated parties on leases of certain production and office facilities and equipment. These leases are in the normal course of business and generally contain no substantial obligations for us at the end of the lease contracts. The most significant operating lease is the lease of our corporate headquarters office building in Omaha, Nebraska. Through 2005, we leased the entire office complex and sublet other office space in the complex to outside parties. The lease payments were based on the London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR), plus a spread that varies depending on our financial leverage. This lease also contained certain covenants that are similar to those in our revolving credit agreement, including covenants related to financial leverage and coverage of certain fixed charges. The estimated fair value of the residual value guarantee at December 31, 2005 was approximately \$1.0 million, which was classified on the balance sheet in Other noncurrent liabilities. This lease was reviewed under the provisions of FAS Interpretation 46R (Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities), and we determined that we were not required to consolidate the lessor entity because we were not the primary beneficiary. Subsequent to December 31, 2005, the office complex was sold and we executed a 10-year operating lease for the office space in the complex that we occupy. In addition, our residual value guarantee to the former lessor was terminated.

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

We also have certain commercial commitments related to contingent events that could create a financial obligation for us. Except as noted below, these commitments at December 31, 2005 were as follows (in millions of dollars):

| Other Commercial Commitments | Commitment Expiration Period | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Total Amounts Committed | 2006 | 2007-2008 | 2009-2010 | Thereafter |
| Standby Letters of Credit | \$ 2.7 | \$ 1.8 | | 0.9 | |
| Guarantees | 4.1 | 2.3 | | 1.8 | |
| Total commercial commitments | \$ 6.8 | \$ 4.1 | \$ | 2.7 | \$ |

The above commitments include \$6.7 million in loan guarantees of non-consolidated subsidiaries in Argentina and Mexico and are in proportion to our ownership percentage of these companies or are accompanied by a guarantee from the majority owner to us. As prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation 45, Guarantors Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others (FIN 45), the fair value of the guarantees was \$1.1 million and is recorded in Other noncurrent liabilities on our December 31, 2005 balance sheet. We also maintain standby letters of credit for contract performance on certain sales contracts.

MARKET RISK

Changes in Prices

Certain key materials we use are commodities traded in worldwide markets and are subject to fluctuations in price. The most significant materials are steel, aluminum, zinc and natural gas. Over the last several years, hot-rolled steel prices have been volatile. In 2002, prices rose sharply early in the year before falling later in the year. In 2004, prices rose dramatically throughout much of the year. The volatility in price over time was due to such factors as fluctuations in supply, government tariffs and the costs of steel-making inputs. We have also experienced volatility in natural gas prices in the past several years, including 2005. In 2005, zinc prices rose rapidly throughout the year, reaching near-record high prices in late 2005. Our main strategies in managing these risks are a combination of fixed price purchase contracts with our vendors to minimize the impact of volatility in prices and sales price increases where possible. We use natural gas swap contracts to mitigate the impact of rising gas prices on our operating income. In 2004, our strategies as they pertain to steel were not as effective as in the past, as suppliers discontinued fixed price contracts and consignment programs.

Risk Management

Market Risk The principal market risks affecting us are exposure to interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and natural gas. We normally do not use derivative financial instruments to hedge these exposures (except as described below), nor do we use derivatives for trading purposes.

Interest Rates Our interest-bearing debt is a mix of fixed and variable rate debt. Assuming average interest rates and borrowings on variable rate debt, a hypothetical 10% change in interest rates would have an impact on interest expense of approximately \$0.5 million in 2005 and \$0.8 million in 2004.

Foreign Exchange Exposures to transactions denominated in a currency other than the entity's functional currency are not material, and therefore the potential exchange losses in future earnings, fair value and cash flows from these transactions are immaterial. Much of our cash in non-U.S. entities is denominated in foreign currencies, where fluctuations in exchange rates will impact cash balances in

U.S. dollar terms. A hypothetical 10% change in the value of the U.S. dollar would impact our reported cash balance by approximately \$2.2 million in 2005 and \$2.1 million in 2004.

We manage our investment risk in foreign operations by borrowing in the functional currencies of the foreign entities where appropriate. The following table indicates the change in the recorded value of our investments at year-end assuming a hypothetical 10% change in the value of the U.S. Dollar.

| | 2005 (in millions) | 2004 |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Europe | \$ 3.9 | \$ 5.0 |
| South America | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Asia | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| South Africa | 0.4 | 0.5 |

Commodity risk Natural gas is a significant commodity used in our factories, especially in our Coatings segment galvanizing operations, where natural gas is used to heat tanks that enable the hot-dipped galvanizing process. Natural gas prices are volatile and we mitigate some of this volatility through the use of derivative commodity instruments. Our current policy is to manage this commodity price risk for 25-50% of our U.S. natural gas requirements for the upcoming 6-12 months through the purchase of natural gas swaps based on NYMEX futures prices for delivery in the month being hedged. The objective of this policy is to mitigate the impact on our earnings of sudden, significant increases in the price of natural gas. Annual U.S. gas requirements are approximately 700,000 MMBtu. We have purchased swaps totaling approximately 50% of our expected 2006 U.S. requirements through April 2006. The fair value of these instruments is based on quoted market prices from the NYMEX. Market risk is estimated as the potential loss in fair value resulting from a hypothetical 10% adverse change in price. As of December 31, 2005 our market risk exposure related to future natural gas requirements being hedged was approximately \$0.1 million based on a sensitivity analysis. Changes in the market value of these derivative instruments have a high correlation to changes in the spot price of natural gas. Since we forward price only a portion of our natural gas requirements, this hypothetical adverse impact on natural gas derivative instruments would be more than offset by lower costs for all natural gas we purchase.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies involve judgments and estimates used in preparation of the consolidated financial statements. There is a substantial amount of management judgment used in preparing financial statements. We must make estimates on a number of items, such as provisions for bad debts, warranties, contingencies, impairments of long-lived assets, and inventory obsolescence. We base our estimates on our experience and on other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. Further, we re-evaluate our estimates from time to time and as circumstances change. Actual results may differ under different assumptions or conditions. The selection and application of our critical accounting policies are discussed periodically with our audit committee.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

In determining an allowance for accounts receivable that will not ultimately be collected in full, we consider:

- age of the accounts receivable
- customer credit history
- customer financial information
- reasons for non-payment (product, service or billing issues).

If our customer's financial condition were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment in their ability to make payment, additional allowances may be required.

Warranties

All of our businesses must meet certain product quality and performance criteria. We rely on historical product claims data to estimate the cost of product warranties at the time revenue is recognized. In determining the accrual for the estimated cost of warranty claims, we consider our experience with:

- costs to correct the product problem in the field, including labor costs
- costs for replacement parts
- other direct costs associated with warranty claims
- the number of product units subject to warranty claims

In addition to known claims or warranty issues, we estimate future claims on recent sales. The key assumption in our estimate is the rate we apply to those recent sales, which is based on historical claims experience. If this estimated rate changed by 50%, the impact on operating income would be approximately \$1.3 million. If our cost to repair a product or the number of products subject to warranty claims is greater than we estimated, then we would have to increase our accrued cost for warranty claims.

Inventories

We use the last-in first-out (LIFO) method to determine the value of the majority of our inventory. The remainder of our inventory is valued on a first-in first-out (FIFO) basis. In periods of rising costs to produce inventory, the LIFO method will result in lower profits than FIFO, because higher more recent costs are recorded to cost of goods sold than under the FIFO method. Conversely, in periods of falling costs to produce inventory, the LIFO method will result in higher profits than the FIFO method.

In 2004, we experienced substantially higher costs to produce inventory than in 2003, due mainly to higher costs for steel and steel-related products. This resulted in higher cost of goods sold (and lower operating income) of approximately \$20.9 million than had all our inventory been valued on the FIFO method. The 2005, prices decreased modestly and operating income would have decreased by approximately \$1.6 million had all of our inventory been valued on the FIFO method.

We write down slow-moving and obsolete inventory by the difference between the value of the inventory and our estimate of the reduced value based on potential future uses, the likelihood that overstocked inventory will be sold and the expected selling prices of the inventory. If our ability to realize value on slow-moving or obsolete inventory is less favorable than assumed, additional write-downs of the inventory may be required.

Depreciation, Amortization and Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

Our long-lived assets consist primarily of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets that were acquired in business acquisitions. We have assigned useful lives to our property, plant and equipment and certain intangible assets ranging from 3 to 40 years.

We annually evaluate our reporting units for goodwill impairment during the third fiscal quarter, which coincides with our strategic planning process. We value our reporting units using after-tax cash flows from operations (less capital expenditures) discounted to present value. The key assumptions are the discount rate and the annual free cash flow. We also use sensitivity analysis to determine the impact of changes in discount rates and cash flow forecasts on the valuation of the reporting units. As allowed for under SFAS 142, we rely on our previous valuations for the annual impairment testing provided that the

following criteria for each reporting unit are met: (1) the assets and liabilities that make up the reporting unit have not changed significantly since the most recent fair value determination and (2) the most recent fair value determination resulted in an amount that exceeded the carrying amount of the reporting unit by a substantial margin.

In the case of most of our reporting units, the above criteria have been met and no further evaluation was required. If our assumptions about intangible assets change as a result of events or circumstances, and we believe the assets may have declined in value, then we may record impairment charges, resulting in lower profits.

Our indefinite-lived intangible assets consist of trade names and their values are separately assessed from goodwill as part of the annual impairment testing. This assessment is made using the relief-from-royalty method, under which the value of a trade name is determined based on a royalty that could be charged to a third party for using the trade name in question. The royalty, which is based on a reasonable rate applied against forecasted sales, is tax-effected and discounted to present value. The most significant assumptions in this evaluation include estimated future sales, the royalty rate and the after-tax discount rate. For our evaluation purposes, the royalty rates used vary between 1% and 2% of sales and the after-tax discount rate of 8.5%, which we estimate to be our after-tax cost of capital.

Stock Options

Our employees are periodically granted stock options by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. As allowed under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), we do not record any compensation expense on the income statement with respect to options granted to employees and directors. Alternatively, under GAAP, we could have recorded a compensation expense based on the fair value of employee stock options. As described in Note 1 in the Consolidated Financial Statements, had we recorded a fair value-based compensation expense for stock options, earnings per share would have been \$0.02 to \$0.10 less than what was reported for each of the 2003, 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. On December 16, 2004, the FASB issued Statement No. 123 (revised 2004) (SFAS No. 123R), *Share-Based Payment*. SFAS No. 123R will require us to measure the cost of all employee stock-based compensation awards based on the grant date fair value of those awards and to record that cost as compensation expense over the period during which the employee is required to perform service in exchange for the award (generally over the vesting period of the award). SFAS No. 123R is effective beginning in the company's first quarter of fiscal 2006. We expect that the adoption of this standard will reduce our operating income by approximately \$1.6 million in 2006 and will not have a material effect on our cash flows.

Income Taxes

We record a valuation allowance to reduce our deferred tax assets to an amount that is more likely than not to be realized. While future taxable income and tax-planning strategies are considered in assessing the need for the valuation allowance, if a deferred tax asset is estimated to be not fully realizable in the future, a valuation allowance to decrease the amount of the deferred tax asset would decrease net income in the period the determination was made. Likewise, should we subsequently determine that we would be able to realize all or part of a net deferred tax asset in the future, an adjustment reducing the valuation allowance would increase net earnings in the period such determination was made. At December 31, 2005, we had approximately \$6.3 million in deferred tax assets related mainly to operating and tax credit carryforwards, with a valuation allowance of \$4.8 million. In 2004, we removed \$0.4 million of prior valuation allowances (and, accordingly, reduced our income tax expense), because we determined that, based on facts and circumstances, the realization of these deferred tax assets was more likely than not. If these circumstances change in the future, we may be required to increase or decrease the valuation allowance on these assets, resulting in an increase or decrease in income tax expense and a reduction or increase in net income. At December 31, 2005, we had deferred tax assets of \$2.1 million related to

nonconsolidated subsidiaries. These deferred tax assets relate to operating loss carryforwards and we do not believe that it is more likely than not that future earnings will be adequate to utilize these carryforwards before they expire. Accordingly, these deferred tax assets have been fully offset by a valuation adjustment.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

SFAS 123(R)

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS 123(R), which requires us to recognize compensation expense for stock options granted to employees based on the estimated fair value of the equity instrument at the time of grant. Such expense will be recognized over the requisite service period of the stock option award, which is normally the vesting period. The expense for awards granted after implementation of SFAS 123(R) will be based on the estimated number of awards that are expected to vest. That estimate will be revised if subsequent information indicates that the actual number of awards to vest will differ from the estimate. The estimate of forfeitures does not materially impact our calculation of compensation expense.

Currently, we disclose the pro forma net income and earnings per share as if we had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 as amended by SFAS 148. The requirements of SFAS 123(R) are effective for us at the beginning in the first quarter of fiscal 2006. The expense that we will recognize in 2006 consists of grants made subsequent to December 31, 2005 and the unvested portion of options granted prior to December 31, 2005. For options granted prior to December 31, 2005, the expense that will be recognized will correspond to that which was calculated as part of our pro forma disclosures.

We plan to use the modified prospective method of adoption of this standard and we expect to record expense of approximately \$1.6 million in fiscal 2006 related to the unvested portion of options that were granted as of December 31, 2005. SFAS 123(R) also requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost to be reported as a financing cash flow, rather than as an operating cash flow as currently required. This requirement will reduce net operating cash flows and increase net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. Beginning with the options that are granted in 2006, we plan to use a binomial model in calculating estimated fair value of stock options and recognizing that expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the award. The binomial model uses more inputs than the Black-Scholes model, and we believe the use of the binomial model will result in a better estimate of fair value than was previously used for purposes of determining the pro-forma impact of SFAS 123.

SFAS 151

In November 2004, the FASB issued Statement No. 151, *Inventory Costs*. SFAS No. 151 clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs and wasted material. Under this pronouncement, abnormal amounts of these costs are required to be charged against earnings rather than included in the cost of inventory on the balance sheet. SFAS No. 151 will be effective at the beginning of the company's 2006 fiscal year. We do not believe this pronouncement will have a significant effect on our financial statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

The information required is included under the captioned paragraph, Risk Management on page 36-37 of this report.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA.

The following consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries are included herein as listed below:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Consolidated Financial Statements | |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | 42 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 43 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004</u> | 44 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 45 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders Equity Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 46 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 47-72 |

41

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Valmont Industries, Inc.
Omaha, Nebraska

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Valmont Industries, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, and the related consolidated statement of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended December 31, 2005. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15. These financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Valmont Industries, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended December 31, 2005, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 9, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Omaha, Nebraska

March 9, 2006

Valmont Industries, Inc. and Subsidiaries
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
Three-year period ended December 31, 2005
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Product sales | \$ 1,023,526 | \$ 946,912 | \$ 741,229 |
| Services sales | 84,574 | 84,563 | 96,396 |
| Net sales | 1,108,100 | 1,031,475 | 837,625 |
| Product cost of sales | 766,917 | 720,251 | 554,564 |
| Services cost of sales | 62,888 | 65,302 | 75,071 |
| Total cost of sales | 829,805 | 785,553 | 629,635 |
| Gross profit | 278,295 | 245,922 | 207,990 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 195,432 | 175,810 | 153,367 |
| Operating income | 82,863 | 70,112 | 54,623 |
| Other income (deductions): | | | |
| Interest expense | (19,498) | (16,073) | (9,897) |
| Interest income | 1,810 | 1,333 | 1,095 |
| Debt prepayment expenses | | (9,860) | |
| Miscellaneous | (802) | (679) | (276) |
| | (18,490) | (25,279) | (9,078) |
| Earnings before income taxes, minority interest, equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | 64,373 | 44,833 | 45,545 |
| Income tax expense (benefit): | | | |
| Current | 26,294 | 20,828 | 11,684 |
| Deferred | (1,946) | (4,701) | 4,850 |
| | 24,348 | 16,127 | 16,534 |
| Earnings before minority interest, equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | 40,025 | 28,706 | 29,011 |
| Minority interest | (1,052) | (2,397) | (2,222) |
| Equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 106 | 572 | (936) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | (366) |
| Net earnings | \$ 39,079 | \$ 26,881 | \$ 25,487 |
| Earnings per share: | | | |
| Basic: | | | |
| Income from continuing operations before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | \$ 1.61 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.09 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | (0.02) |
| Net earnings | \$ 1.61 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.07 |
| Diluted: | | | |
| Income from continuing operations before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | \$ 1.54 | \$ 1.10 | \$ 1.06 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | (0.01) |
| Net earnings | \$ 1.54 | \$ 1.10 | \$ 1.05 |
| Cash dividends per share | \$ 0.335 | \$ 0.320 | \$ 0.315 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Valmont Industries, Inc. and Subsidiaries
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 46,867 | \$ 37,453 |
| Receivables, less allowance for doubtful receivables of \$5,323 in 2005 and \$5,372 in 2004 | 180,969 | 188,512 |
| Inventories | 158,327 | 186,988 |
| Prepaid expenses | 7,643 | 8,408 |
| Refundable and deferred income taxes | 14,506 | 14,387 |
| Total current assets | 408,312 | 435,748 |
| Property, plant and equipment, at cost | 489,660 | 493,997 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | 294,984 | 288,342 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 194,676 | 205,655 |
| Goodwill | 106,695 | 106,022 |
| Other intangible assets | 60,140 | 63,337 |
| Other assets | 32,219 | 32,589 |
| Total assets | \$ 802,042 | \$ 843,351 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Current installments of long-term debt | \$ 13,583 | \$ 7,962 |
| Notes payable to banks | 4,918 | 4,682 |
| Accounts payable | 90,674 | 77,222 |
| Accrued expenses | 67,869 | 66,506 |
| Dividends payable | 2,107 | 1,932 |
| Total current liabilities | 179,151 | 158,304 |
| Deferred income taxes | 43,199 | 42,639 |
| Long-term debt, excluding current installments | 218,757 | 314,813 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 24,889 | 22,833 |
| Minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries | 7,371 | 10,107 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock of \$1 par value | | |
| Authorized 500,000 shares; none issued | | |
| Common stock of \$1 par value. | | |
| Authorized 75,000,000 shares; issued 27,900,000 shares | 27,900 | 27,900 |
| Additional paid-in capital | | |
| Retained earnings | 357,025 | 324,748 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income | (2,521) | 3,499 |
| | 382,404 | 356,147 |
| Less: | | |
| Cost of common shares in treasury-3,135,338 shares in 2005 (3,737,773 shares in 2004) | 50,067 | 59,200 |
| Unearned restricted stock-154,666 shares in 2005 (102,666 shares in 2004) | 3,662 | 2,292 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 328,675 | 294,655 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 802,042 | \$ 843,351 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Valmont Industries, Inc. and Subsidiaries
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
Three-year period ended December 31, 2005
(Dollars in thousands)

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operations: | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 39,079 | \$ 26,881 | \$ 25,487 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows from operations: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 39,807 | 38,644 | 34,597 |
| Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment | 827 | 1,127 | 802 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | 366 |
| Equity in (earnings)/losses in nonconsolidated subsidiaries | (106) | (572) | 936 |
| Minority interest in net earnings of consolidated subsidiaries | 1,052 | 2,397 | 2,222 |
| Deferred income taxes | (1,946) | (4,701) | 4,850 |
| Other adjustments | 2,186 | 2,131 | 881 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, before acquisitions: | | | |
| Receivables | 4,058 | (13,253) | (10,515) |
| Inventories | 24,892 | (48,889) | 8,999 |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,831 | 1,758 | (3,249) |
| Accounts payable | 8,397 | (4,470) | (4,650) |
| Accrued expenses | 2,527 | 5,987 | (16,026) |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 234 | 718 | 1,170 |
| Income taxes payable/refundable | 10,939 | (2,593) | 7,058 |
| Net cash flows from operations | 133,777 | 5,165 | 52,928 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (35,119) | (17,182) | (17,679) |
| Investment in nonconsolidated subsidiary | | (2,450) | (1,715) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | | (125,446) | |
| Dividends to minority interests | (2,066) | (1,796) | (1,220) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 8,549 | 2,333 | 645 |
| Other, net | (1,718) | (6,132) | (1,147) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | (30,354) | (150,673) | (21,116) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Net borrowings (repayments) under short-term agreements | 450 | (22,495) | 10,367 |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings | 16,681 | 263,171 | 767 |
| Principal payments on long-term obligations | (107,107) | (91,365) | (27,388) |
| Dividends paid | (8,040) | (7,654) | (7,414) |
| Proceeds from exercises under stock plans | 14,099 | 6,305 | 1,192 |
| Fees paid to issue debt | | (5,520) | |
| Purchase of common treasury shares: | | | |
| Stock repurchases | | | (3,351) |
| Stock plan exercises | (9,912) | (2,701) | (615) |
| Net cash flows from financing activities | (93,829) | 139,741 | (26,442) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (180) | 1,650 | 1,608 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | 9,414 | (4,117) | 6,978 |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of year | 37,453 | 41,570 | 34,592 |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of year | \$ 46,867 | \$ 37,453 | \$ 41,570 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Valmont Industries, Inc. and Subsidiaries
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY
Three-year period ended December 31, 2005
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Common stock | Additional paid-in capital | Retained earnings | Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | Treasury stock | Unearned restricted stock | Total shareholders equity |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Balance at December 28, 2002 | \$ 27,900 | \$ | \$ 289,105 | \$ (10,049) | \$ (64,936) | \$ | \$ 242,020 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings | | | 25,487 | | | | 25,487 |
| Currency translation adjustment | | | | 7,902 | | | 7,902 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | 33,389 |
| Cash dividends (\$0.315 per share) | | | (7,543) | | | | (7,543) |
| Purchase of treasury shares: | | | | | | | |
| Stock repurchases, 175,959 shares | | | | | (3,351) | | (3,351) |
| Stock plan exercises, 29,224 shares | | | | | (615) | | (615) |
| Stock options exercised; 75,876 shares issued | | (141) | (129) | | 1,462 | | 1,192 |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options | | 146 | | | | | 146 |
| Stock awards; 70,975 shares issued | | (5) | | | 1,465 | (1,204) | 256 |
| Balance at December 27, 2003 | 27,900 | | 306,920 | (2,147) | (65,975) | (1,204) | 265,494 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings | | | 26,881 | | | | 26,881 |
| Net derivative adjustment | | | | (112) | | | (112) |
| Currency translation adjustment | | | | 5,758 | | | 5,758 |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | 32,527 |
| Cash dividends (\$0.32 per share) | | | (7,665) | | | | (7,665) |
| Purchase of treasury shares: | | | | | | | |
| Stock plan exercises, 123,497 shares | | | | | (2,701) | | (2,701) |
| Stock options exercised; 397,238 shares issued | | (1,344) | (1,388) | | 9,037 | | 6,305 |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options | | 1,091 | | | | | 1,091 |
| Stock awards; 63,333 shares issued | | 253 | | | 439 | (1,088) | (396) |
| Balance at December 25, 2004 | 27,900 | | 324,748 | 3,499 | (59,200) | (2,292) | 294,655 |
| Comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net earnings | | | 39,079 | | | | 39,079 |
| Net derivative adjustment | | | | 112 | | | 112 |
| Currency translation adjustment | | | | (6,132) | | | (6,132) |
| Total comprehensive income | | | | | | | 33,059 |
| Cash dividends (\$0.335 per share) | | | (8,215) | | | | (8,215) |
| Purchase of treasury shares: | | | | | | | |
| Stock plan exercises, 337,545 shares | | | | | (9,912) | | (9,912) |
| Stock options exercised; 858,588 shares issued | | (6,584) | 1,413 | | 19,270 | | 14,099 |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options | | 4,037 | | | | | 4,037 |
| Stock awards; 71,595 shares issued | | 2,547 | | | (225) | (1,370) | 952 |
| Balance at December 31, 2005 | \$ 27,900 | \$ | \$ 357,025 | \$ (2,521) | \$ (50,067) | \$ (3,662) | \$ 328,675 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Valmont Industries, Inc. and Subsidiaries
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Three-year period ended December 31, 2005
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Valmont Industries, Inc. and its wholly and majority-owned subsidiaries (the Company). Investments in 20% to 50% owned affiliates are accounted for by the equity method and investments in less than 20% owned affiliates are accounted for by the cost method. All significant intercompany items have been eliminated. Certain 2004 and 2003 items have been reclassified to conform with 2005 presentation. Cash overdrafts of \$7,243 have been reclassified from cash to accounts payable on the December 25, 2004 consolidated balance sheet.

Operating Segments

The Company aggregates its operating segments into five reportable segments. Aggregation is based on similarity of operating segments as to economic characteristics, products, production processes, types or classes of customer and the methods of distribution. Reportable segments are as follows:

ENGINEERED SUPPORT STRUCTURES: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered metal structures and components for the lighting and traffic and wireless communication industries, certain international utility industries and for other specialty applications;

UTILITY SUPPORT STRUCTURES: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered steel and concrete structures primarily for the North American utility industry;

COATINGS: This segment consists of galvanizing, anodizing and powder coating services;

IRRIGATION: This segment consists of the manufacture of agricultural irrigation equipment and related parts and services; and

TUBING: This segment consists of the manufacture of tubular products for industrial customers.

In addition to these five reportable segments, there are other businesses that individually are not more than 10% of consolidated sales. These businesses include our development of structures for the wind energy industry, machine tool accessories and industrial fasteners.

Fiscal Year

The Company operates on a 52 or 53 week fiscal year with each year ending on the last Saturday in December. Accordingly, the Company's fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 consisted of 53 weeks. The Company's fiscal years ended December 25, 2004 and December 27, 2003, consisted of 52 weeks. The estimated impact on the Company's results of operations due to the extra week in fiscal 2005 was additional net sales of approximately \$17 million and additional net earnings of approximately \$1 million.

Long-Lived Assets

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at historical cost. The Company uses the straight-line method in computing depreciation and amortization for financial reporting purposes and generally uses accelerated methods for income tax purposes. The annual provisions for depreciation and amortization

have been computed principally in accordance with the following ranges of asset lives: buildings and improvements 15 to 40 years, machinery and equipment 3 to 12 years, transportation equipment 3 to 24 years, office furniture and equipment 3 to 7 years and intangible assets 5 to 20 years.

An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable and exceeds estimated future undiscounted cash flows of the asset. A recognized impairment loss reduces the carrying amount of the asset to its fair value.

Change in Accounting

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FAS) Interpretation No. 46R, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities (FIN 46R), was revised in December 2003 and is applicable to public entities that have interests in variable interest entities for periods ending after December 15, 2003. Under FIN 46R, the assets, liabilities and results of operations of variable interest entities are required to be reported in the consolidated financial statements of their primary beneficiaries. The Company assessed its relationships with variable interest entities and determined that it is the primary beneficiary in a variable interest entity related to the Company's lease of transportation equipment. In the fourth quarter of 2003, the Company recorded a cumulative effect of a change in accounting of \$366 (net of related tax effects of \$210).

Income Taxes

The Company uses the asset and liability method to calculate deferred income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized on temporary differences between financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates. The effect of tax rate changes on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income during the period that includes the enactment date.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Results of operations for foreign subsidiaries are translated using the average exchange rates during the period. Assets and liabilities are translated at the exchange rates in effect on the balance sheet dates. Cumulative translation adjustments are included as a separate component of Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) consisted of the following as of December 31, 2005, December 25, 2004 and December 27, 2003:

| | 2005 (in thousands) | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | \$ (2,521) | \$ 3,611 | \$ (2,147) |
| Net derivative adjustment | | (112) | |
| Balance, end of period | \$ (2,521) | \$ 3,499 | \$ (2,147) |

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized upon shipment of the product or delivery of the service to the customer, which coincides with passage of title and risk of loss to the customer. Customer acceptance provisions exist only in the design stage of our products. No general rights of return exist for customers once the product has been delivered.

Use of Estimates

Management of the Company has made a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities to prepare these

financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Stock Options

The Company accounts for its stock plans under the recognition and measurement principles of APB Opinion 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related Interpretations. No compensation cost related to stock options is reflected in net income, as all options granted under these plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. The Company also grants restricted stock awards and restricted stock units to certain employees and its Board of Directors. These awards can only be settled in Company stock and are valued at the market price of the stock at the date of the grant. Expense is recognized over the vesting period of the award. Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements provides a detailed discussion of the Company's stock option plans.

The following table illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share if the company had applied the fair value recognition provision of FASB Statement No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, to stock-based employee compensation.

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net earnings as reported | \$ 39,079 | \$ 26,881 | \$ 25,487 |
| Add: Stock-based employee compensation expense included in reported net income, net of related tax effects | 457 | 330 | 181 |
| Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects | 1,393 | 1,969 | 2,475 |
| Pro forma | \$ 38,143 | \$ 25,242 | \$ 23,193 |
| Earnings per share as reported: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.61 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.07 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.54 | \$ 1.10 | \$ 1.05 |
| Pro forma: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.57 | \$ 1.06 | \$ 0.97 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.50 | \$ 1.03 | \$ 0.95 |

The fair value of each option grant commencing with grants made in 1996 was estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions used for grants in 2005, 2004 and 2003:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Expected volatility | 27 % | 29 % | 35 % |
| Risk-free interest rate | 4.40 % | 3.01 % | 1.97 % |
| Expected life from vesting date | 2.7 yrs. | 2.3 yrs. | 2.3 yrs. |
| Dividend yield | 1.51 % | 1.51 % | 1.53 % |

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

SFAS 123(R)

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS 123(R), which requires the Company to recognize compensation expense for stock options granted to employees based on the estimated fair value of the equity instrument at the time of grant. Such expense will be recognized over the requisite service period of

the stock option award, which is normally the vesting period. The expense for awards granted after implementation of FAS123R will be based on the estimated number of awards that are expected to vest. That estimate will be revised if subsequent information indicates that the actual number of awards to vest will differ from the estimate. The estimate of forfeitures does not materially impact the Company's calculation of compensation expense.

The requirements of SFAS 123(R) are effective at the beginning of the first quarter of fiscal 2006. The expense that the Company will recognize in 2006 consists of grants made subsequent to December 31, 2005 and the unvested portion of options granted prior to December 31, 2005. For options granted prior to December 31, 2005, the expense that will be recognized will correspond to that which was calculated as part of our pro forma disclosures.

The Company plans to use the modified prospective method of adoption of this standard and expects to record expense of approximately \$1.6 million in fiscal 2006 related to the unvested portion of options that were granted as of December 31, 2005. SFAS 123(R) also requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost to be reported as a financing cash flow, rather than as an operating cash flow as currently required. This requirement will reduce net operating cash flows and increase net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. Beginning with the options that are granted in 2006, the Company plans to use a binomial model in calculating estimated fair value of stock options and recognizing that expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the award. The binomial model uses more inputs than the Black-Scholes model, and the Company believes the use of the binomial model will result in a better estimate of fair value than was previously used for purposes of determining the pro-forma impact of SFAS 123.

SFAS 151

In November 2004, the FASB issued Statement No. 151, *Inventory Costs*. SFAS No. 151 clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs and wasted material. Under this pronouncement, abnormal amounts of these costs are required to be charged against earnings rather than included in the cost of inventory on the balance sheet. SFAS No. 151 will be effective at the beginning of the Company's 2006 fiscal year. The Company believes this pronouncement will not have a significant effect on our financial statements.

(2) ACQUISITIONS

On April 16, 2004, the Company acquired all the outstanding shares of Newmark International, Inc. (Newmark), a manufacturer of concrete and steel pole structures serving primarily the electrical utility industry. The results of Newmark are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Company since that date. The Company finalized the purchase price allocation of this acquisition in 2004. The total cost of the acquisition (including transaction costs) was \$110,147 in cash, plus the assumption of \$11,506 of interest-bearing debt, which was repaid after the acquisition. Of the \$48,107 of intangible assets recognized as part of the purchase price allocation, \$11,111 was assigned to trademarks and trade names that are not subject to amortization. The assets that make up the remainder of the acquired intangible assets are customer relationships of \$34,068 (20-year useful life), patents and proprietary technology of \$1,969 (weighted average useful life of 14.7 years), and computer software of \$959 (7-year useful life). The goodwill related to the acquisition was \$42,628 and was assigned to the Utility Support Structures segment. The reasons for the acquisition included broadening the Company's product line to include concrete support structures and combinations of steel and concrete structures to better meet customer needs, acquiring a trained workforce and experienced management team, and providing certain synergies to help the Company compete more effectively in the utility transmission and distribution structures industry.

On May 24, 2004, the Company acquired all the outstanding shares of W.J. Whatley, Inc. (Whatley), a manufacturer of fiberglass poles primarily serving street and area lighting customers. Whatley's operations are included in the Company's consolidated financial statements since the acquisition date. The total purchase price amounted to \$9,327 in cash (including transaction costs). Goodwill of \$6,831 was recognized as part of the purchase price allocation and was assigned to the Engineered Support Structures segment. The Company acquired Whatley to broaden its product line in lighting structures to include fiberglass poles, to acquire a trained workforce, and to gain leverage from combining the respective sales distribution groups.

On August 2, 2004, the Company acquired substantially all the net assets of Sigma Industries, Inc. (Sigma), a manufacturer of overhead sign structures mainly serving the eastern United States. Sigma's operations are included in the Company's consolidated financial statements since the acquisition date. The purchase price for the net assets of this business was \$6,285 in cash. Goodwill of \$395 was recognized as part of the purchase price allocation and was assigned to the Engineered Support Structures segment. The Company acquired Sigma to broaden its expertise in and coverage of the sign structures industry.

Effective March 31, 2005, the Company increased its ownership percentage in its Brazilian Irrigation segment joint venture from 70% to 90%. The additional ownership percentage was purchased from its minority shareholder at a cost of \$5,000, with the payment of the purchase price expected to be made in 2006. Goodwill of \$1,270 was recognized as part of the purchase price allocation and was assigned to the Irrigation segment. The acquisition was made pursuant to a put option exercise by the other venturer.

The Company's summary proforma results of operations for the fiscal years ended December 25, 2004 and December 27, 2003, assuming that the transactions occurred at the beginning of the periods presented are as follows:

| | Fiscal Years Ended December 25, 2004 | December 27, 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Net sales | \$ 1,065,398 | \$ 938,740 |
| Net earnings | 28,509 | 26,148 |
| Proforma earnings per share - diluted | \$ 1.16 | \$ 1.07 |

(3) CASH FLOW SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The Company considers all highly liquid temporary cash investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents. Cash payments for interest and income taxes (net of refunds) were as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Interest | \$ 19,303 | \$ 14,995 | \$ 9,947 |
| Income taxes | 15,506 | 21,533 | 4,294 |

(4) INVENTORIES

Approximately 51% and approximately 56% of inventory is valued at the lower of cost, determined on the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method, or market as of December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, respectively. All other inventory is valued at the lower of cost, determined on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method or market. Finished goods and manufactured goods inventories include the costs of acquired raw materials and related factory labor and overhead charges required to convert raw materials to manufactured and finished goods. The excess of replacement cost of inventories over the LIFO value is approximately \$29,100 and \$30,700 at December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, respectively.

Inventories consisted of the following:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Raw materials and purchased parts | \$ 97,606 | \$ 121,484 |
| Work-in-process | 19,419 | 20,696 |
| Finished goods and manufactured goods | 70,377 | 75,526 |
| Subtotal | 187,402 | 217,706 |
| Less: LIFO reserve | 29,075 | 30,718 |
| Net inventory | \$ 158,327 | \$ 186,988 |

(5) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment, at cost, consists of the following:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Land and improvements | \$ 22,288 | \$ 22,448 |
| Buildings and improvements | 130,965 | 133,311 |
| Machinery and equipment | 254,935 | 259,861 |
| Transportation equipment | 23,743 | 18,470 |
| Office furniture and equipment | 50,783 | 55,371 |
| Construction in progress | 6,946 | 4,536 |
| | \$ 489,660 | \$ 493,997 |

The Company leases certain facilities, machinery, computer equipment and transportation equipment under operating leases with unexpired terms ranging from one to fifteen years. Rental expense for operating leases amounted to \$11,863, \$10,208 and \$9,202 for fiscal 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Minimum lease payments under operating leases expiring subsequent to December 31, 2005 are:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Fiscal year ending | |
| 2006 | \$ 8,103 |
| 2007 | 6,662 |
| 2008 | 4,668 |
| 2009 | 2,849 |
| 2010 | 2,190 |
| Subsequent | 13,735 |
| Total minimum lease payments | \$ 38,207 |

(6) GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Company's annual impairment testing of goodwill and other intangible assets was performed during the third quarter of 2005. As a result of that testing, it was determined the goodwill and other intangible assets on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheet were not impaired.

Amortized Intangible Assets

The components of amortized intangible assets at December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004 were as follows:

| | As of December 31, 2005 | | Weighted Average Life |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | |
| Customer Relationships | \$ 48,133 | \$ 7,819 | 18 years |
| Proprietary Software & Database | 2,609 | 1,802 | 6 years |
| Patents & Proprietary Technology | 2,839 | 319 | 14 years |
| Non-compete Agreements | 331 | 98 | 5 years |
| | \$ 53,912 | \$ 10,038 | |

| | As of December 25, 2004 | | Weighted Average Life |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | |
| Customer Relationships | \$ 47,691 | \$ 4,911 | 18 years |
| Proprietary Software & Database | 2,609 | 1,335 | 6 years |
| Patents & Proprietary Technology | 2,839 | 120 | 14 years |
| Non-compete Agreements | 331 | 33 | 5 years |
| | \$ 53,470 | \$ 6,399 | |

Amortization expense for intangible assets was \$3,639, \$2,856 and \$1,288 for the fifty-three week period ended December 31, 2005 and the fifty-two week periods ended December 25, 2004 and December 27, 2003, respectively. Estimated annual amortization expense related to amortized intangible assets is as follows:

| | Estimated Amortization Expense |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2006 | \$ 3,404 |
| 2007 | 3,321 |
| 2008 | 3,321 |
| 2009 | 3,289 |
| 2010 | 3,255 |

Non-amortized intangible assets

Under the provisions of SFAS 142, intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized. The carrying value of the PiRod, Newmark and Sigma trade names are \$4,750, \$11,111 and \$405, respectively. The Newmark and Sigma trade names arose from 2004 acquisitions, and the PiRod trade name (which arose from a 2001 acquisition) have not changed in the fifty-three weeks ended December 31, 2005.

The indefinite lived intangible assets were tested for impairment separately from goodwill in the third quarter of 2005. The values of the trade names were determined using the relief-from-royalty method. Based on this evaluation, the Company determined that its trade names as reported on its Consolidated Balance Sheet were not impaired.

Goodwill

The carrying amount of goodwill by segment as of December 31, 2005 was as follows:

| | Engineered Support Structures Segment | Utility Support Structures Segment | Coatings Segment | Irrigation Segment | Tubing Segment | Total |
|------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Balance December 25, 2004 | \$ 19,959 | \$ 42,628 | \$ 42,192 | \$ 981 | \$ 262 | \$ 106,022 |
| Divestiture | | | | (398) | | (398) |
| Acquisitions | | | | 1,270 | | 1,270 |
| Foreign Currency Translation | (199) | | | | | (199) |
| Balance December 31, 2005 | \$ 19,760 | \$ 42,628 | \$ 42,192 | \$ 1,853 | \$ 262 | \$ 106,695 |

In June 2005, the Company divested its ownership in a retail operation located in Greeley, Colorado, resulting in a \$398 reduction of goodwill in the Irrigation Segment.

The carrying amount of goodwill by segment as of December 25, 2004 was as follows:

| | Engineered Support Structures Segment | Utility Support Structures Segment | Coatings Segment | Irrigation Segment | Tubing Segment | Total |
|------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Balance December 27, 2003 | \$ 12,587 | \$ | \$ 42,192 | \$ 981 | \$ 262 | \$ 56,022 |
| Acquisitions | 7,226 | 42,628 | | | | 49,854 |
| Foreign Currency Translation | 146 | | | | | 146 |
| Balance December 25, 2004 | \$ 19,959 | \$ 42,628 | \$ 42,192 | \$ 981 | \$ 262 | \$ 106,022 |

(7) BANK CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Company maintains various lines of credit for short-term borrowings totaling \$22,913. As of December 31, 2005, none were outstanding. The interest rates charged on these lines of credit vary in relation to the banks' costs of funds. The unused borrowings under the lines of credit were \$19,899 at December 31, 2005. The lines of credit can be modified at any time at the option of the banks. The Company pays no fees in connection with these lines of credit. In addition to the lines of credit, the Company also maintains other short-term bank loans. The weighted average interest rate on short-term borrowings was 2.875% at December 31, 2005 and 2.64% at December 25, 2004.

(8) INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense (benefit) consists of:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 17,205 | \$ 12,725 | \$ 5,299 |
| State | 1,702 | 1,206 | 738 |
| Foreign | 7,387 | 6,897 | 5,647 |
| | \$ 26,294 | \$ 20,828 | \$ 11,684 |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | \$ (593) | \$ (3,994) | \$ 4,402 |
| State | (349) | (199) | 170 |
| Foreign | (1,004) | (508) | 278 |
| | (1,946) | (4,701) | 4,850 |
| | \$ 24,348 | \$ 16,127 | \$ 16,534 |

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

The reconciliations of the statutory Federal income tax rate and the effective tax rate follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Statutory federal income tax rate | 35.0 % | 35.0 % | 35.0 % |
| State income taxes, net of federal benefit | 2.5 % | 2.7 % | 1.6 % |
| Carryforwards, credits and changes in valuation allowances | (0.5)% | (2.0)% | (1.0)% |
| Dividend repatriation | 1.7 % | % | % |
| Other | (0.9)% | 0.3 % | 0.7 % |
| | 37.8 % | 36.0 % | 36.3 % |

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of (a) temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes, and (b) operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. The tax effects of significant items comprising the Company's net deferred income tax liabilities are as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Deferred income tax assets: | | |
| Accrued expenses and allowances | \$ 4,789 | \$ 1,025 |
| Accrued insurance | 2,478 | 2,413 |
| Tax credit and net operating loss carryforwards | 6,335 | 5,834 |
| Inventory allowances | 3,992 | 7,501 |
| Accrued warranty | 1,318 | 1,533 |
| Deferred compensation | 11,152 | 9,101 |
| Nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 2,075 | 2,115 |
| Gross deferred income tax assets | 32,139 | 29,522 |
| Valuation allowance | (6,901) | (5,525) |
| Net deferred income tax assets | \$ 25,238 | \$ 23,997 |
| Deferred income tax liabilities: | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | \$ 22,958 | \$ 23,445 |
| Intangible assets | 22,016 | 22,164 |
| Lease transactions | 2,498 | 2,622 |
| Other liabilities | 6,459 | 6,447 |
| Total deferred income tax liabilities | 53,931 | 54,678 |
| Net deferred income tax liabilities | \$ 28,693 | \$ 30,681 |

At December 31, 2005 and at December 25, 2004, management of the Company reviewed recent operating results and projected future operating results. The Company's belief that realization of its net deferred tax assets is more likely than not is based on, among other factors, changes in operations that have occurred in recent years and available tax planning strategies. Valuation allowances have been established for certain operating losses that reduce deferred tax assets to an amount that will, more likely than not, be realized. The currency translation adjustments in Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are not adjusted for income taxes as they relate to indefinite investments in non-US subsidiaries.

Provision has not been made for United States income taxes on a portion of the undistributed earnings of the Company's foreign subsidiaries (approximately \$17,669 and \$25,620 at December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, respectively) because the Company intends to reinvest those earnings. Such earnings would become taxable upon the sale or liquidation of these foreign subsidiaries or upon remittance of dividends.

On October 22, 2004, the American Jobs Creation Act (AJCA) was signed into law. The AJCA includes a deduction of 85% of certain foreign earnings that are repatriated, as defined in the AJCA. The company elected to apply the provision to qualifying earnings repatriations in fiscal 2005. The Company estimated the range of possible amounts considered for repatriation under this provision to be between

zero and \$57,501, with the range of associated income tax between zero and \$20,126. The actual repatriation and related income tax expense was \$17,027 and \$1,113, respectively.

The Company is subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service, by states in which the Company has significant business operations, and by other taxing authorities. The tax years subject to examination vary by jurisdiction. The Company regularly assesses the likelihood of additional tax deficiencies in each of the taxing jurisdictions resulting from ongoing and subsequent years' examinations. Included in current income tax expense are changes to accruals for expected tax deficiencies in accordance with SFAS No. 5.

(9) LONG-TERM DEBT

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6.875% Senior Subordinated Notes(a) | \$ 150,000 | \$ 150,000 |
| Term Loan(b) | 58,125 | 75,000 |
| Revolving credit agreement(c) | | 71,100 |
| 6.91% secured loan(d) | 9,004 | 9,496 |
| IDR Bonds(e) | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| 2.18% to 6.70% notes | 6,711 | 8,679 |
| Total long-term debt | 232,340 | 322,775 |
| Less current installments of long-term debt | 13,583 | 7,962 |
| Long-term debt, excluding current installments | \$ 218,757 | \$ 314,813 |

(a) The \$150 million of senior subordinated notes bear interest at 6.875% per annum and are due in May 2014. The notes may be repurchased starting in May 2009 at specified prepayment premiums and are guaranteed by certain U.S. subsidiaries of the Company.

(b) The term loan is with a group of banks and is unsecured. Quarterly principal payments are due beginning in 2005 through 2009. The term loan interest accrues at the Company's option at (i) the higher of the prime lending rate and the Federal Funds rate plus 50 basis points or (ii) LIBOR plus a spread of 62.5-137.5 basis points depending on the Company's ratio of total debt to earnings before taxes, interest, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA). This loan may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The effective interest rate at December 31, 2005 was 5.1875%.

(c) The revolving credit agreement is an unsecured facility with a group of banks for a maximum of \$150,000. The facility has a termination date of May 4, 2009. The funds borrowed may be repaid at any time without penalty, or additional funds may be borrowed up to the facility limit. The revolving credit agreement interest accrues at the Company's option at (i) the higher of the prime lending rate and the Federal Funds rate plus 50 basis points or (ii) LIBOR plus a spread of 62.5-137.5 basis points (inclusive of facility fees), depending on the Company's ratio of total debt to EBITDA. Another \$50 million may be added to the total credit agreement at the Company's request any time prior to May 31, 2007 subject to the group of banks increasing their current commitment.

(d) The secured loan is through a finance company and is related to transportation equipment. The loan payments are required until November 2010, with a payment of \$5.9 million due at the end of the loan. The loan may be prepaid at any time without penalty.

(e) The Industrial Development Revenue Bonds were issued to finance the construction of a manufacturing facility in Jasper, Tennessee. Variable interest is payable until final maturity June 1, 2025. The effective interest rate at December 31, 2005 was 3.57%.

The lending agreements place certain restrictions on working capital, capital expenditures, payment of dividends, purchase of Company stock and additional borrowings. The Company is in compliance with all debt covenants at December 31, 2005.

The minimum aggregate maturities of long-term debt for each of the four years following 2006 are: \$11,756, \$20,538, \$19,136, and \$7,596.

(10) STOCK PLANS

The Company maintains stock-based compensation plans approved by the shareholders, which provide that the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors may grant incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards and bonuses of common stock. At December 31, 2005, 998,701 shares of common stock remained available for issuance under the plans. Shares and options issued and available are subject to changes in capitalization.

Under the plans, the exercise price of each option equals the market price at the time of the grant. Options vest beginning on the first anniversary of the grant in equal amounts over three to six years or on the fifth anniversary of the grant. Expiration of grants is from six to ten years from the date of grant.

Following is a summary of the activity of the stock plans during 2003, 2004 and 2005:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Outstanding at December 28, 2002 | 3,369,788 | \$ 17.74 |
| Granted | 260,967 | 22.85 |
| Exercised | (75,876) | (15.81) |
| Forfeited | (15,032) | (18.44) |
| Outstanding at December 27, 2003 | 3,539,847 | \$ 18.15 |
| Options exercisable at December 27, 2003 | 2,656,056 | \$ 17.75 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted during 2003 | | \$ 6.62 |

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Outstanding at December 27, 2003 | 3,539,847 | \$ 18.15 |
| Granted | 336,004 | 24.11 |
| Exercised | (397,238) | (16.04) |
| Forfeited | (70,863) | (23.98) |
| Outstanding at December 25, 2004 | 3,407,750 | \$ 18.86 |
| Options exercisable at December 25, 2004 | 2,740,247 | \$ 17.86 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted during 2004 | | \$ 5.98 |

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Outstanding at December 25, 2004 | 3,407,750 | \$ 18.86 |
| Granted | 256,150 | 32.26 |
| Exercised | (858,588) | (16.42) |
| Forfeited | (135,218) | (22.22) |
| Outstanding at December 31, 2005 | 2,670,094 | \$ 20.76 |
| Options exercisable at December 31, 2005 | 2,191,635 | \$ 19.12 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted during 2005 | | \$ 8.20 |

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

Following is a summary of the status of stock options outstanding at December 31, 2005:

**Outstanding and Exercisable By Price Range
Options Outstanding**

| Exercise Price Range | Number | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life | Options Exercisable | | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Number | |
| \$13.91-17.58 | 963,198 | 4.20 years | \$ 15.85 | 963,198 | \$ 15.98 |
| 19.00-22.17 | 934,778 | 4.42 years | 20.58 | 878,112 | 20.53 |
| 22.31-34.33 | 772,118 | 9.36 years | 26.84 | 350,325 | 23.94 |
| | 2,670,094 | | | 2,191,635 | |

In accordance with shareholder-approved plans, the Company grants stock under various stock-based compensation arrangements, including restricted stock and stock issued in lieu of cash bonuses. Under such arrangements, stock is issued without direct cost to the employee. In addition, the Company grants restricted stock units. The restricted stock units are settled in Company stock when the restriction period ends. During fiscal 2005, 2004 and 2003, the Company granted restricted stock and restricted stock units to directors and certain management employees as follows (which are included in the above stock plan activity tables):

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Shares issued | 70,700 | 66,883 | 68,913 |
| Weighted-average per share price on grant date | \$ 32.08 | \$ 24.02 | \$ 22.71 |
| Compensation expense | \$ 729 | \$ 532 | \$ 286 |

At December 31, 2005, the amount of deferred stock-based compensation granted, to be recognized over future periods, was approximately \$4,523.

(11) EARNINGS PER SHARE

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

The following table provides a reconciliation between Basic and Diluted earnings per share (EPS).

| | Basic EPS | Dilutive Effect of Stock Options | Diluted EPS |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2005: | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 39,079 | \$ | \$ 39,079 |
| Shares outstanding (000 s) | 24,287 | 1,080 | 25,367 |
| Per share amount | \$ 1.61 | \$ 0.07 | \$ 1.54 |
| 2004: | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 26,881 | \$ | \$ 26,881 |
| Shares outstanding (000 s) | 23,889 | 631 | 24,520 |
| Per share amount | \$ 1.13 | \$.03 | \$ 1.10 |
| 2003: | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 25,487 | \$ | \$ 25,487 |
| Shares outstanding (000 s) | 23,805 | 553 | 24,358 |
| Per share amount | \$ 1.07 | \$.02 | \$ 1.05 |

At the end of fiscal years 2005, 2004, and 2003, there were 0.3 million, 0.1 million, and 0.1 million options outstanding, respectively, with exercise prices exceeding the market value of common stock that were therefore excluded from the computation of shares contingently issuable upon exercise of the options.

(12) TREASURY STOCK

Repurchased shares are recorded as Treasury Stock and result in a reduction of Shareholders Equity. When treasury shares are reissued, the Company uses the last-in, first-out method, and the difference between the repurchase cost and reissuance price is charged or credited to Additional Paid-In Capital.

(13) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Established under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k), the Valmont Employee Retirement Savings Plan (VERSP) is a defined contribution plan available to all eligible employees. Participants can elect to contribute up to 15% of annual pay, on a pretax and/or after-tax basis. The Company also makes contributions to the Plan. The 2005, 2004 and 2003 Company contributions to these plans amounted to approximately \$5,400, \$4,700 and \$5,200, respectively.

The Company also offers a fully-funded, non-qualified deferred contribution plan for certain Company executives who otherwise would be limited in making pretax contributions into VERSP under Internal Revenue Service regulations. The invested assets and related liabilities to these participants were approximately \$16.4 million and \$14.5 million at December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004, respectively. Such amounts are included in Other assets and Other noncurrent liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(14) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research and development costs are charged to operations in the year incurred. These costs are a component of Selling, general and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Research and development expenses were approximately \$6,400 in 2005, \$5,500 in 2004, and \$6,000 in 2003.

(15) DISCLOSURES ABOUT THE FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable, notes payable to banks and accrued expenses approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. The fair values of each of the Company's long-term debt instruments are based on the amount of future cash flows associated with each instrument discounted using the Company's current borrowing rate for similar debt instruments of comparable maturity. The fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time and the underlying assumptions are subject to change based on market conditions. At December 31, 2005, the carrying amount of the Company's long-term debt was \$232,340 with an estimated fair value of approximately \$233,881. At December 25, 2004, the carrying amount of the Company's long-term debt was \$322,775 with an estimated fair value of approximately \$329,538.

(16) DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company manages risk using derivative financial instruments to partially hedge the risk of increased natural gas supply prices on the Company's earnings. Derivative financial instruments have credit risk and market risk. To manage credit risk, the Company only enters into derivative transactions with counterparties who are recognized, stable multinational banks.

Natural Gas Prices: Natural gas supplies to meet production requirements of production facilities are purchased at market prices. Natural gas market prices are volatile and the Company effectively fixes prices for a portion of its natural gas usage requirements of certain of its U.S. facilities through the use of swaps. These contracts reference physical natural gas prices or appropriate NYMEX futures contract prices. While there is a strong correlation between the NYMEX futures contract prices and the Company's

delivered cost of natural gas, the use of financial derivatives may not exactly offset the change in the price of physical gas. The contracts are traded in months forward and settlement dates are scheduled to coincide with gas purchases during that future period.

Annual consolidated purchase requirements are approximately 700,000 MMBtu. Derivative contracts and firm purchase commitments were in place at December 31, 2005 to cover approximately 50% of estimated natural gas requirements through April 2006.

A swap is a contract between the Company and a third party to exchange cash based on a designated price. Basis swap contracts require payments to or from the Company for the amount that monthly published gas prices from the source specified in the contract differ from prices of NYMEX natural gas futures during a specified period. There are no initial cash requirements related to swap and basis swap agreements. At December 31, 2005, the Company had open swaps totaling 90,000 MMBtu with a total unrealized gain of \$29. At December 25, 2004, the Company had open swaps totally 160,000 MMBtu with a total unrealized loss of \$114. These swaps are marked to market and recorded in the Company's statement of operations for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.

The risk and reward of outstanding natural gas positions are directly related to increases or decreases in natural gas prices in relation to the underlying NYMEX natural gas contract prices. Cash flows related to natural gas hedging are reported as cash flows from operating activities.

(17) GUARANTEES

The Company has guaranteed the repayment of two bank loans of certain nonconsolidated equity investees. The guarantees continue until the loans, including accrued interest and fees, have been paid in full. The maximum amount of the guarantees may vary, but are limited to the sum of the total due and unpaid principal amounts, accrued and unpaid interest and any other related expenses. As of December 31, 2005, the maximum amount of the guarantees was approximately \$6.7 million. These loan guarantees are in proportion to our ownership percentage of these companies or are accompanied by a guarantee from the majority owner to the Company. In accordance with FIN 45, the Company recorded the fair value of these guarantees of \$1.1 million in Other noncurrent liabilities at December 25, 2004 and the fair value was unchanged at December 31, 2005. In September 2003, the Company refinanced the synthetic lease on its corporate headquarters building. The lease has an initial term of 5 years and the Company could, at any time, elect to exercise a purchase option. If the Company elected not to purchase the building or renew the lease, the building would be returned to the lessor for remarketing. As part of the new lease, the Company issued a residual value guarantee of \$30.1 million. In accordance with FIN 45, the Company recorded the fair value of that guarantee of \$1.7 million at the time the lease was consummated. The value of that guarantee was \$1.3 million at December 25, 2004 and \$1.0 million at December 31, 2005. Subsequent to December 31, 2005, the building was sold and the Company's residual value guarantee was released.

The Company's product warranty accrual reflects management's best estimate of probable liability under its product warranties. Historical product claims data is used to estimate the cost of product warranties at the time revenue is recognized.

Changes in the product warranty accrual for the years ended December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004 were as follows:

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Balance, beginning of period | \$ 6,285 | \$ 6,961 |
| Payments made | (8,330) | (7,971) |
| Change in liability for warranties issued during the period | 8,328 | 7,278 |
| Change in liability for pre-existing warranties | 363 | 17 |
| Balance, end of period | \$ 6,646 | \$ 6,285 |

(18) STOCKHOLDERS RIGHT PLAN

Valmont adopted a Stockholder Rights Plan in 1995 under which each share of Valmont common stock carried with it certain preferred stock purchase rights. The rights were subject to the terms and conditions of the Rights Agreement dated December 19, 1995, as amended. The Valmont board of directors determined to allow the preferred stock purchase rights to expire December 19, 2005 pursuant to the Rights Agreement, effectively terminating the Stockholder Rights Plan.

(19) BUSINESS SEGMENTS

The Company aggregates its operating segments into five reportable segments. Aggregation is based on similarity of operating segments as to economic characteristics, products, production processes, types or classes of customer and the methods of distribution. Net corporate expense is net of certain service-related expenses that are allocated to business units generally on the basis of employee headcounts and sales dollars. Figures for 2004 and 2003 have been reclassified to conform to the 2005 presentation.

Reportable segments are as follows:

ENGINEERED SUPPORT STRUCTURES: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered metal structures and components for the lighting and traffic and wireless communication industries, certain international utility industries and for other specialty applications;

UTILITY SUPPORT STRUCTURES: This segment consists of the manufacture of engineered steel and concrete structures primarily for the North American utility industry;

COATINGS: This segment consists of galvanizing, anodizing and powder coating services;

IRRIGATION: This segment consists of the manufacture of agricultural irrigation equipment and related parts and services; and

TUBING: This segment consists of the manufacture of tubular products for industrial customers.

In addition to these five reportable segments, the Company has other businesses that individually are not more than 10% of consolidated sales. These businesses, which include wind energy development, machine tool accessories and industrial fasteners, are reported in the Other category. Prior period information is presented in accordance with the current reportable segment structure.

The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as those described in Note 1. The Company evaluates the performance of its business segments based upon operating income and invested capital. The Company does not allocate interest expense, non-operating income and deductions, or income taxes to its business segments.

Summary by Business Segments

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|
| SALES: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures segment: | | | |
| Lighting & Traffic | \$ 367,846 | \$ 341,421 | \$ 285,753 |
| Specialty | 99,991 | 92,281 | 69,986 |
| Utility | 24,278 | 14,891 | 10,634 |
| Engineered Support Structures segment | 492,115 | 448,593 | 366,373 |
| Utility Support Structures segment: | | | |
| Steel | 156,502 | 136,313 | 82,007 |
| Concrete | 65,971 | 48,695 | |
| Utility Support Structures segment | 222,473 | 185,008 | 82,007 |
| Coatings segment | 87,110 | 88,080 | 103,692 |
| Irrigation segment | 260,359 | 297,985 | 280,780 |
| Tubing segment | 86,891 | 83,398 | 57,783 |
| Other | 18,400 | 17,976 | 17,675 |
| Total | 1,167,348 | 1,121,040 | 908,310 |
| INTERSEGMENT SALES: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures | 21,451 | 46,567 | 34,879 |
| Utility Support Structures | 3,573 | 9,733 | 6,660 |
| Coatings | 14,968 | 14,569 | 12,553 |
| Irrigation | 17 | 175 | 872 |
| Tubing | 14,948 | 14,765 | 12,950 |
| Other | 4,291 | 3,756 | 2,771 |
| Total | 59,248 | 89,565 | 70,685 |
| NET SALES: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures segment | 470,664 | 402,026 | 331,494 |
| Utility Support Structures segment | 218,900 | 175,275 | 75,347 |
| Coatings segment | 72,142 | 73,511 | 91,139 |
| Irrigation segment | 260,342 | 297,810 | 279,908 |
| Tubing segment | 71,943 | 68,633 | 44,833 |
| Other | 14,109 | 14,220 | 14,904 |
| Total | \$ 1,108,100 | \$ 1,031,475 | \$ 837,625 |

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| OPERATING INCOME (LOSS): | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures segment | \$ 44,588 | \$ 31,607 | \$ 26,258 |
| Utility Support Structures segment | 20,632 | 7,145 | (5,557) |
| Coatings segment | 8,452 | 4,231 | 6,798 |
| Irrigation segment | 24,830 | 35,442 | 34,574 |
| Tubing segment | 14,543 | 13,408 | 6,506 |
| Other. | (4,062) | (2,837) | (2,133) |
| Corporate | (26,120) | (18,884) | (11,823) |
| Total | 82,863 | 70,112 | 54,623 |
| Interest expense, net | (17,688) | (14,740) | (8,802) |
| Debt prepayment expense | | (9,860) | |
| Miscellaneous | (802) | (679) | (276) |
| Earnings before income taxes, minority interest, and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | \$ 64,373 | \$ 44,833 | \$ 45,545 |
| TOTAL ASSETS: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures | \$ 285,639 | \$ 296,729 | \$ 256,785 |
| Utility Support Structures | 215,539 | 225,314 | 39,436 |
| Coatings | 83,486 | 83,195 | 93,140 |
| Irrigation | 118,914 | 143,927 | 140,833 |
| Tubing | 23,146 | 31,606 | 24,060 |
| Other | 9,864 | 9,023 | 5,633 |
| Corporate | 65,454 | 53,557 | 44,910 |
| Total | \$ 802,042 | \$ 843,351 | \$ 604,797 |

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures | \$ 11,038 | \$ 6,288 | \$ 9,317 |
| Utility Support Structures | 2,329 | 4,061 | 860 |
| Coatings | 2,792 | 1,484 | 1,919 |
| Irrigation | 1,349 | 2,922 | 4,072 |
| Tubing | 728 | 1,211 | 593 |
| Other | 360 | 415 | 298 |
| Corporate | 16,523 | 801 | 620 |
| Total | \$ 35,119 | \$ 17,182 | \$ 17,679 |
| DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION: | | | |
| Engineered Support Structures | \$ 13,518 | \$ 13,445 | \$ 15,800 |
| Utility Support Structures | 8,024 | 6,733 | 697 |
| Coatings | 3,919 | 4,690 | 5,168 |
| Irrigation | 7,471 | 7,729 | 8,235 |
| Tubing | 2,043 | 1,968 | 2,076 |
| Other | 466 | 670 | 479 |
| Corporate | 4,366 | 3,409 | 2,142 |
| Total | \$ 39,807 | \$ 38,644 | \$ 34,597 |

Summary by Geographical Area by Location of Valmont Facilities:

| | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| NET SALES: | | | |
| United States | \$ 865,871 | \$ 800,015 | \$ 630,479 |
| France | 76,180 | 67,323 | 61,663 |
| Other | 166,049 | 164,137 | 145,483 |
| Total | \$ 1,108,100 | \$ 1,031,475 | \$ 837,625 |
| OPERATING INCOME: | | | |
| United States | \$ 60,513 | \$ 49,222 | \$ 35,795 |
| France | 4,268 | 1,338 | 888 |
| Other | 18,082 | 19,552 | 17,940 |
| Total | \$ 82,863 | \$ 70,112 | \$ 54,623 |
| LONG-LIVED ASSETS: | | | |
| United States | \$ 363,220 | \$ 372,246 | \$ 248,746 |
| France | 9,838 | 12,451 | 13,417 |
| Other | 20,672 | 22,906 | 21,524 |
| Total | \$ 393,730 | \$ 407,603 | \$ 283,687 |

No single customer accounted for more than 10% of net sales in 2005, 2004, or 2003. Net sales by geographical area are based on the location of the facility producing the sales. No foreign country other than that disclosed herein accounted for more than 5% of the Company's net sales.

Operating income by business segment and geographical areas are based on net sales less identifiable operating expenses and allocations.

Long-lived assets consist of property, plant and equipment, net of depreciation, goodwill, other intangible assets and other assets. Long-lived assets by geographical area are based on location of facilities.

(20) GUARANTOR/NON-GUARANTOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

On May 4, 2004, the Company completed a \$150,000 offering of 6⁷/₈% Senior Subordinated Notes. The Notes are guaranteed, jointly, severally, fully and unconditionally, on a senior subordinated basis by certain of the Company's current and future direct and indirect domestic subsidiaries (collectively the Guarantors), excluding its other current domestic and foreign subsidiaries which do not guarantee the debt (collectively referred to as the Non-Guarantors). All Guarantors are 100% owned by the parent company.

Edgar Filing: VALMONT INDUSTRIES INC - Form 10-K

Condensed consolidated financial information for the Company (Parent), the Guarantor subsidiaries and the Non-Guarantor subsidiaries is as follows:

**Consolidated Statements of Operations
For the Year ended December 31, 2005**

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Product sales | \$ 634,446 | \$ 193,419 | \$ 252,102 | \$ (56,441) | \$ 1,023,526 |
| Services sales | 33,194. | 11,803 | 54,545 | (14,968) | 84,574 |
| Net sales | 667,640 | 205,222 | 306,647 | (71,409) | 1,108,100 |
| Product cost of sales | 483,312 | 155,200 | 185,170 | (56,765) | 766,917 |
| Services cost of sales | 26,697 | 8,515 | 42,644 | (14,968) | 62,888 |
| Total cost of sales | 510,009 | 163,715 | 227,814 | (71,733) | 829,805 |
| Gross profit | 157,631 | 41,507 | 78,833 | 324 | 278,295 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 109,148 | 31,231 | 55,053 | | 195,432 |
| Operating income | 48,483 | 10,276 | 23,780 | 324 | 82,863 |
| Other income (deductions): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (18,592) | (22) | (941) | 57 | (19,498) |
| Interest income | 121 | 20 | 1,726 | (57) | 1,810 |
| Miscellaneous | (213) | 40 | (629) | | (802) |
| | (18,684) | 38 | 156 | | (18,490) |
| Earnings before income taxes, minority interest and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 29,799 | 10,314 | 23,936 | 324 | 64,373 |
| Income tax expense: | | | | | |
| Current | 13,519 | 4,060 | 8,715 | | 26,294 |
| Deferred | (599) | 92 | (1,439) | | (1,946) |
| | 12,920 | 4,152 | 7,276 | | 24,348 |
| Earnings before minority interest, and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 16,879 | 6,162 | 16,660 | 324 | 40,025 |
| Minority interest | | | (1,052) | | (1,052) |
| Equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 21,876 | | 13 | (21,783) | 106 |
| Net earnings | \$ 38,755 | \$ 6,162 | \$ 15,621 | \$ (21,459) | \$ 39,079 |

Consolidated Statements of Operations
For the Year ended December 25, 2004

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Product sales | \$ 588,679 | \$ 133,731 | \$ 282,338 | \$ (57,836) | \$ 946,912 |
| Services sales | 50,123 | 34,288 | 14,721 | (14,569) | 84,563 |
| Net sales | 638,802 | 168,019 | 297,059 | (72,405) | 1,031,475 |
| Product cost of sales | 458,024 | 106,905 | 212,501 | (57,179) | 720,251 |
| Services cost of sales | 39,295 | 30,122 | 10,454 | (14,569) | 65,302 |
| Total cost of sales | 497,319 | 137,027 | 222,955 | (71,748) | 785,553 |
| Gross profit | 141,483 | 30,992 | 74,104 | (657) | 245,922 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 100,374 | 25,003 | 50,433 | | 175,810 |
| Operating income | 41,109 | 5,989 | 23,671 | (657) | 70,112 |
| Other income (deductions): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (15,048) | (19) | (1,132) | 126 | (16,073) |
| Interest income | 159 | 4 | 1,296 | (126) | 1,333 |
| Debt prepayment expenses | (9,860) | | | | (9,860) |
| Miscellaneous | 7 | (1,919) | 1,233 | | (679) |
| | (24,742) | (1,934) | 1,397 | | (25,279) |
| Earnings before income taxes, minority interest and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 16,367 | 4,055 | 25,068 | (657) | 44,833 |
| Income tax expense: | | | | | |
| Current | 9,345 | 2,188 | 9,295 | | 20,828 |
| Deferred | (3,036) | (544) | (1,121) | | (4,701) |
| | 6,309 | 1,644 | 8,174 | | 16,127 |
| Earnings before minority interest, and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 10,058 | 2,411 | 16,894 | (657) | 28,706 |
| Minority interest | | | (2,397) | | (2,397) |
| Equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 17,480 | | 30 | (16,938) | 572 |
| Net earnings | \$ 27,538 | \$ 2,411 | \$ 14,527 | \$ (17,595) | \$ 26,881 |

**Consolidated Statements of Operations
For the Year Ended December 27, 2003**

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|---|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Product sales | \$ 483,725 | \$ 58,503 | \$ 239,988 | \$ (40,987) | \$ 741,229 |
| Services sales | 47,909 | 46,271 | 14,769 | (12,553) | 96,396 |
| Net sales | 531,634 | 104,774 | 254,757 | (53,540) | 837,625 |
| Product cost of sales | 366,883 | 48,722 | 180,450 | (41,491) | 554,564 |
| Services cost of sales | 37,910 | 39,036 | 10,678 | (12,553) | 75,071 |
| Total cost of sales | 404,793 | 87,758 | 191,128 | (54,044) | 629,635 |
| Gross profit | 126,841 | 17,016 | 63,629 | 504 | 207,990 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 90,064 | 18,554 | 44,749 | | 153,367 |
| Operating income | 36,777 | (1,538) | 18,880 | 504 | 54,623 |
| Other income (deductions): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (9,010) | (26) | (1,129) | 268 | (9,897) |
| Interest income | 289 | | 1,074 | (268) | 1,095 |
| Miscellaneous | (410) | 14 | 120 | | (276) |
| | (9,131) | (12) | 65 | | (9,078) |
| Earnings before income taxes, minority interest and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 27,646 | (1,550) | 18,945 | 504 | 45,545 |
| Income tax expense: | | | | | |
| Current | 8,328 | (2,422) | 5,778 | | 11,684 |
| Deferred | 2,807 | 1,637 | 406 | | 4,850 |
| | 11,135 | (785) | 6,184 | | 16,534 |
| Earnings before minority interest, and equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 16,511 | (765) | 12,761 | 504 | 29,011 |
| Minority interest | | | (2,222) | | (2,222) |
| Equity in earnings/(losses) of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 8,838 | | | (9,774) | (936) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | (366) | | | | (366) |
| Net earnings | \$ 24,983 | \$ (765) | \$ 10,539 | \$ (9,270) | \$ 25,487 |

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2005

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 16,875 | \$ 1,898 | \$ 28,094 | \$ | \$ 46,867 |
| Receivables, net | 74,397 | 36,496 | 70,094 | (18) | 180,969 |
| Inventories | 66,111 | 42,540 | 49,676 | | 158,327 |
| Prepaid expenses | 3,008 | 1,690 | 2,945 | | 7,643 |
| Refundable and deferred income taxes | 8,931 | 3,406 | 2,169 | | 14,506 |
| Total current assets | 169,322 | 86,030 | 152,978 | (18) | 408,312 |
| Property, plant and equipment, at cost | 325,620 | 66,218 | 97,822 | | 489,660 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | | | | | |
| | 208,862 | 23,207 | 62,915 | | 294,984 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 116,758 | 43,011 | 34,907 | | 194,676 |
| Goodwill | 20,370 | 73,375 | 12,950 | | 106,695 |
| Other intangible assets | 778 | 56,498 | 2,864 | | 60,140 |
| Investment in subsidiaries and intercompany accounts | 319,473 | 41,560 | (10,471) | (350,562) | |
| Other assets | 31,305 | | 1,514 | (600) | 32,219 |
| Total assets | \$ 658,006 | \$ 300,474 | \$ 194,742 | \$ (351,180) | \$ 802,042 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Current installments of long-term debt | \$ 11,624 | \$ 26 | \$ 1,933 | \$ | \$ 13,583 |
| Notes payable to banks | | | 4,918 | | 4,918 |
| Accounts payable | 38,109 | 11,281 | 41,284 | | 90,674 |
| Accrued expenses | 42,608 | 7,357 | 17,922 | (18) | 67,869 |
| Dividends payable | 2,107 | | | | 2,107 |
| Total current liabilities | 94,448 | 18,664 | 66,057 | (18) | 179,151 |
| Deferred income taxes | 18,224 | 22,066 | 2,909 | | 43,199 |
| Long-term debt, excluding current installments | 217,592 | 68 | 1,697 | (600) | 218,757 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 23,807 | | 1,082 | | 24,889 |
| Minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries | | | 7,371 | | 7,371 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | | | | |
| Shareholders' equity: | | | | | |
| Common stock of \$1 par value | 27,900 | 14,249 | 10,343 | (24,592) | 27,900 |
| Additional paid-in capital | | 159,082 | 71,885 | (230,967) | |
| Retained earnings | 329,764 | 86,345 | 35,919 | (95,003) | 357,025 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | | | (2,521) | | (2,521) |
| Treasury stock | (50,067) | | | | (50,067) |
| Unearned restricted stock | (3,662) | | | | (3,662) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 303,935 | 259,676 | 115,626 | (350,562) | 328,675 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 658,006 | \$ 300,474 | \$ 194,742 | \$ (351,180) | \$ 802,042 |

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
December 25, 2004

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 8,209 | \$ 3,694 | \$ 25,550 | \$ | \$ 37,453 |
| Receivables, net | 79,280 | 28,310 | 80,975 | (53) | 188,512 |
| Inventories | 95,922 | 38,488 | 53,802 | (1,224) | 186,988 |
| Prepaid expenses | 2,382 | 915 | 5,111 | | 8,408 |
| Refundable and deferred income taxes | 9,389 | 3,042 | 1,956 | | 14,387 |
| Total current assets | 195,182 | 74,449 | 167,394 | (1,277) | 435,748 |
| Property, plant and equipment, at cost | 321,074 | 72,727 | 100,196 | | 493,997 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | 201,559 | 24,403 | 62,380 | | 288,342 |
| Net property, plant and equipment | 119,515 | 48,324 | 37,816 | | 205,655 |
| Goodwill | 20,370 | 73,375 | 12,277 | | 106,022 |
| Other intangible assets | 832 | 59,771 | 2,734 | | 63,337 |
| Investment in subsidiaries and intercompany accounts | 352,291 | 35,367 | (8,566) | (379,092) | |
| Other assets | 32,554 | 41 | 1,894 | (1,900) | 32,589 |
| Total assets | \$ 720,744 | \$ 291,327 | \$ 213,549 | \$ (382,269) | \$ 843,351 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Current installments of long-term debt | \$ 4,860 | \$ 26 | \$ 3,076 | \$ | \$ 7,962 |
| Notes payable to banks | | | 4,682 | | 4,682 |
| Accounts payable | 28,625 | 10,312 | 38,285 | | 77,222 |
| Accrued expenses | 41,692 | 5,771 | 19,096 | (53) | 66,506 |
| Dividends payable | 1,932 | | | | 1,932 |
| Total current liabilities | 77,109 | 16,109 | 65,139 | (53) | 158,304 |
| Deferred income taxes | 16,854 | 21,610 | 4,175 | | 42,639 |
| Long-term debt, excluding current installments | 313,368 | 94 | 3,251 | (1,900) | 314,813 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 21,600 | | 1,233 | | 22,833 |
| Minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries | | | 10,107 | | 10,107 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | | | | |
| Shareholders' equity: | | | | | |
| Common stock of \$1 par value | 27,900 | 14,249 | 14,448 | (28,697) | 27,900 |
| Additional paid-in capital | | 159,081 | 67,721 | (226,802) | |
| Retained earnings | 325,405 | 80,184 | 43,976 | (124,817) | 324,748 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | | | 3,499 | | 3,499 |
| Treasury stock | (59,200) | | | | (59,200) |
| Unearned restricted stock | (2,292) | | | | (2,292) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 291,813 | 253,514 | 129,644 | (380,316) | 294,655 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 720,744 | \$ 291,327 | \$ 213,549 | \$ (382,269) | \$ 843,351 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2005

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 38,755 | \$ 6,162 | \$ 15,621 | \$ (21,459) | \$ 39,079 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 22,020 | 10,377 | 7,410 | | 39,807 |
| (Gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment | 318 | 106 | 403 | | 827 |
| Equity in (earnings)/losses of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | (93) | | (13) | | (106) |
| Minority interest | | | 1,052 | | 1,052 |
| Deferred income taxes | (600) | 92 | (1,438) | | (1,946) |
| Other adjustments | 640 | (2) | 1,548 | | 2,186 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | | | |
| Receivables | 4,883 | (8,187) | 7,362 | | 4,058 |
| Inventories | 29,810 | (4,052) | (535) | (331) | 24,892 |
| Prepaid expenses | (626) | 112 | 2,345 | | 1,831 |
| Accounts payable | 5,290 | 968 | 2,139 | | 8,397 |
| Accrued expenses | 915 | 1,587 | 25 | | 2,527 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 385 | | (151) | | 234 |
| Income taxes payable | 10,660 | | 279 | | 10,939 |
| Net cash flows from operations | 112,357 | 7,163 | 36,047 | (21,790) | 133,777 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (25,565) | (2,796) | (6,758) | | (35,119) |
| Dividends to minority interests | | | (2,066) | | (2,066) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 7,822 | 12 | 715 | | 8,549 |
| Other, net | 6,916 | (6,149) | (22,975) | 20,490 | (1,718) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | (10,827) | (8,933) | (31,084) | 20,490 | (30,354) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | |
| Net repayments under short-term agreements | | | 450 | | 450 |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings | 16,500 | | 181 | | 16,681 |
| Principal payments on long-term obligations | (105,511) | (26) | (2,870) | 1,300 | (107,107) |
| Dividends paid | (8,040) | | | | (8,040) |
| Proceeds from exercises under stock plans | 14,099 | | | | 14,099 |
| Purchase of common treasury shares: | | | | | |
| Stock plan exercises | (9,912) | | | | (9,912) |
| Net cash flows from financing activities | (92,864) | (26) | (2,239) | 1,300 | (93,829) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | | | (180) | | (180) |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | 8,666 | (1,796) | 2,544 | | 9,414 |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of year | 8,209 | 3,694 | 25,550 | | 37,453 |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of year | \$ 16,875 | \$ 1,898 | \$ 28,094 | \$ | \$ 46,867 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 25, 2004

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 27,538 | \$ 2,411 | \$ 14,527 | \$ (17,595) | \$ 26,881 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 22,484 | 8,803 | 7,357 | | 38,644 |
| (Gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment | 517 | 9 | 601 | | 1,127 |
| Equity in (earnings)/losses of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | (542) | | (30) | | (572) |
| Minority interest | | | 2,397 | | 2,397 |
| Deferred income taxes | (3,036) | (544) | (1,121) | | (4,701) |
| Other adjustments | 869 | | 1,262 | | 2,131 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | | | |
| Receivables | (17,684) | 2,444 | 1,941 | 46 | (13,253) |
| Inventories | (33,665) | (8,043) | (6,531) | (650) | (48,889) |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,033 | 259 | 466 | | 1,758 |
| Accounts payable | 519 | (278) | (4,711) | | (4,470) |
| Accrued expenses | 7,442 | (1,591) | 182 | (46) | 5,987 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 2,076 | | (1,358) | | 718 |
| Income taxes payable | (2,442) | 1,240 | (1,391) | | (2,593) |
| Net cash flows from operations | 5,109 | 4,710 | 13,591 | (18,245) | 5,165 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (11,249) | (1,921) | (4,012) | | (17,182) |
| Investment in nonconsolidated subsidiary | (2,450) | | | | (2,450) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (125,446) | | | | (125,446) |
| Dividends to minority interests | | | (1,796) | | (1,796) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 65 | 12 | 2,256 | | 2,333 |
| Other, net | (33,652) | 11,849 | (1,074) | 16,745 | (6,132) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | (172,732) | 9,940 | (4,626) | 16,745 | (150,673) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | |
| Net repayments under short-term agreements | | (11,388) | (11,107) | | (22,495) |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings | 263,100 | | 71 | | 263,171 |
| Principal payments on long-term obligations | (87,905) | (180) | (4,780) | 1,500 | (91,365) |
| Dividends paid | (7,654) | | | | (7,654) |
| Proceeds from exercises under stock plans | 6,305 | | | | 6,305 |
| Debt issuance costs | (5,520) | | | | (5,520) |
| Purchase of common treasury shares: | | | | | |
| Stock plan exercises | (2,701) | | | | (2,701) |
| Net cash flows from financing activities | 165,625 | (11,568) | (15,816) | 1,500 | 139,741 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | | | | | |
| | | | 1,650 | | 1,650 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | (1,998) | 3,082 | (5,201) | | (4,117) |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of year | 10,207 | 612 | 30,751 | | 41,570 |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of year | \$ 8,209 | \$ 3,694 | \$ 25,550 | \$ | \$ 37,453 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 27, 2003

| | Parent | Guarantors | Non-Guarantors | Eliminations | Total |
|--|-----------|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Net earnings | \$ 24,983 | \$ (765) | \$ 10,539 | \$ (9,270) | \$ 25,487 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows from operations: | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 22,656 | 4,945 | 6,996 | | 34,597 |
| (Gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment | 151 | 102 | 549 | | 802 |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting Principle | 366 | | | | 366 |
| Equity in (earnings)/losses of nonconsolidated subsidiaries | 936 | | | | 936 |
| Minority interest | | | 2,222 | | 2,222 |
| Deferred income taxes | 2,807 | 1,637 | 406 | | 4,850 |
| Other adjustments | 384 | | 497 | | 881 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | | | |
| Receivables | (7,543) | (1,599) | (1,140) | (233) | (10,515) |
| Inventories | 6,957 | 1,383 | 811 | (152) | 8,999 |
| Prepaid expenses | (714) | (14) | (2,521) | | (3,249) |
| Accounts payable | (2,747) | (3,962) | 2,059 | | (4,650) |
| Accrued expenses | (14,678) | (3,200) | 1,619 | 233 | (16,026) |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 703 | | 467 | | 1,170 |
| Income taxes payable | 6,368 | (685) | 1,375 | | 7,058 |
| Net cash flows from operations | 40,629 | (2,158) | 23,879 | (9,422) | 52,928 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (10,874) | (983) | (5,822) | | (17,679) |
| Investment in nonconsolidated subsidiary | (2,001) | | 286 | | (1,715) |
| Dividends to minority interests | | | (1,220) | | (1,220) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 190 | 26 | 429 | | 645 |
| Other, net | (4,127) | 3,170 | (8,512) | 8,322 | (1,147) |
| Net cash flows from investing activities | (16,812) | 2,213 | (14,839) | 8,322 | (21,116) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | |
| Net borrowings under short-term agreements | | | 10,367 | | 10,367 |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings | 101 | | 666 | | 767 |
| Principal payments on long-term obligations | (26,767) | (134) | (1,587) | 1,100 | (27,388) |
| Dividends paid | (7,414) | | | | (7,414) |
| Proceeds from exercises under stock plans | 1,192 | | | | 1,192 |
| Purchase of common treasury shares: | | | | | |
| Stock repurchase program | (3,351) | | | | (3,351) |
| Stock plan exercises | (615) | | | | (615) |
| Net cash flows from financing activities | (36,854) | (134) | 9,446 | 1,100 | (26,442) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | | | | | |
| | | | 1,608 | | 1,608 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | (13,037) | (79) | 20,094 | | 6,978 |
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of year | 23,244 | 691 | 10,657 | | 34,592 |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of year | \$ 10,207 | \$ 612 | \$ 30,751 | \$ | \$ 41,570 |

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (Unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Net Sales | Gross Profit | Net Earnings | | Stock Price | | Dividends Declared | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| | | | Amount | Per Share Basic | Diluted | High | | Low |
| 2005 | | | | | | | | |
| First | \$ 265,741 | \$ 61,661 | \$ 6,810 | \$ 0.28 | \$ 0.27 | \$ 26.42 | \$ 21.98 | \$ 0.080 |
| Second | 265,134 | 67,593 | 10,443 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 25.80 | 21.37 | 0.085 |
| Third | 265,942 | 69,610 | 10,206 | 0.42 | 0.40 | 30.09 | 24.50 | 0.085 |
| Fourth | 311,283 | 79,431 | 11,620 | 0.48 | 0.45 | 35.25 | 27.30 | 0.085 |
| Year | \$ 1,108,100 | \$ 278,295 | \$ 39,079 | \$ 1.61 | \$ 1.54 | \$ 35.25 | \$ 21.37 | \$ 0.335 |
| 2004 | | | | | | | | |
| First | \$ 215,897 | \$ 51,280 | \$ 5,501 | \$ 0.23 | \$ 0.22 | \$ 23.66 | \$ 19.35 | \$ 0.080 |
| Second | 266,013 | 66,080 | 2,812 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 23.03 | 19.67 | 0.080 |
| Third | 262,890 | 61,100 | 7,104 | 0.30 | 0.29 | 22.97 | 19.40 | 0.080 |
| Fourth | 286,675 | 67,462 | 11,464 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 25.97 | 20.53 | 0.080 |
| Year | \$ 1,031,475 | \$ 245,922 | \$ 26,881 | \$ 1.13 | \$ 1.10 | \$ 25.97 | \$ 19.35 | \$ 0.320 |
| 2003 | | | | | | | | |
| First | \$ 207,294 | \$ 52,853 | \$ 7,293 | \$ 0.31 | \$ 0.30 | \$ 21.88 | \$ 18.48 | \$ 0.075 |
| Second | 200,666 | 51,488 | 6,367 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 22.85 | 18.30 | 0.080 |
| Third | 202,498 | 47,806 | 4,093 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 21.88 | 17.65 | 0.080 |
| Fourth | 227,167 | 55,843 | 7,734 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 24.22 | 18.96 | 0.080 |
| Year | \$ 837,625 | \$ 207,990 | \$ 25,487 | \$ 1.07 | \$ 1.05 | \$ 24.22 | \$ 17.65 | \$ 0.315 |

Earnings per share are computed independently for each of the quarters. Therefore, the sum of the quarterly earnings per share may not equal the total for the year.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

The Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that such disclosure controls and procedures are effective in timely providing them with material information relating to the Company (including its consolidated subsidiaries) required to be included in the Company's periodic Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Commencing in the third quarter of fiscal 2005, the Company began implementing various process and information systems enhancements, principally related to the implementation of IFS software and related business improvements in the Specialty Structures unit of the Engineered Support Structures segment. These process and information system enhancements resulted in modifications to internal controls over sales, customer service, inventory management, accounts receivable, and accounts payable processes. Aside from such change, there were no significant changes to the

company's internal control over financial reporting during the fourth quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company's internal control over financial reporting.

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as such term is defined in Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). The Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Company's management used the framework in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) to perform this evaluation. Based on that evaluation, the Company's management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2005.

Management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005 has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, a copy of which is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of
Valmont Industries, Inc.
Omaha, Nebraska

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying *Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting* that Valmont Industries, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2005 of the Company and our report dated March 9, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements and financial statement schedule.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Omaha, Nebraska

March 9, 2006

76

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION.

None.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT.

Except for the information relating to the executive officers of the Company set forth in Part I of this 10-K Report, the information called for by items 10, 11, 12 and 13 is incorporated by reference to the sections entitled Corporate Governance , Certain Shareholders , Election of Directors , Director Compensation , Summary Compensation Table , Stock Option Grants in Fiscal Year 2005 , Options Exercised in Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year End Values , Equity Compensation Plan Information , Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation , and Long-Term Incentive Plans-Awards in Fiscal Year 2005 in the Proxy Statement.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

See Item 10.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS.

See item 10.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS.

See Item 10.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

The information called for by Item 14 is incorporated by reference to the sections titled Ratification of Appointment of Independent Auditors in the Proxy Statement.

77

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

(a)(1)(2) *Financial Statements and Schedules.*

The following consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries are included herein as listed below:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Consolidated Financial Statements | |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | 42 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations-Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 43 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets-December 31, 2005 and December 25, 2004</u> | 44 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows-Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 45 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity-Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 46 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements-Three-Year Period Ended December 31, 2005</u> | 47-72 |

The following financial statement schedule of the Company is included herein:

| | |
|--|----|
| <u>SCHEDULE II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u> | 79 |
|--|----|

All other schedules have been omitted as the required information is inapplicable or the information is included in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

Separate financial statements of the registrant have been omitted because the registrant meets the requirements which permit omission.

(a)(3) *Exhibits.*

Index to Exhibits, Page 81

VALMONT INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**Valuation and Qualifying Accounts****(Dollars in thousands)**

| | Balance at beginning of period | Charged to profit and loss | Deductions from reserves* | Balance at close of period |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fifty-three weeks ended December 31, 2005 | | | | |
| Reserve deducted in balance sheet from the asset to which it applies | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful receivables | \$ 5,372 | 1,006 | 1,055 | \$ 5,323 |
| Fifty-two weeks ended December 25, 2004 | | | | |
| Reserve deducted in balance sheet from the asset to which it applies | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful receivables | \$ 4,363 | 1,443 | 434 | \$ 5,372 |
| Fifty-two weeks ended December 27, 2003 | | | | |
| Reserve deducted in balance sheet from the asset to which it applies | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful receivables | \$ 3,957 | 1,531 | 1,125 | \$ 4,363 |

* The deductions from reserves are net of recoveries.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on the 9th day of March, 2006.

VALMONT INDUSTRIES, INC.

By:

/s/ MOGENS C. BAY
Mogens C. Bay
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated and on the dates indicated.

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| <i>/s/ MOGENS C. BAY</i> Mogens C. Bay | Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | 3/09/06 Date |
| <i>/s/ TERRY J. MCCLAIN</i> Terry J. McClain | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | 3/09/06 Date |