

ASHLAND INC.
Form 8-K
July 01, 2009

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): July 1, 2009

ASHLAND INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Kentucky
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-32532
(Commission File Number)

20-0865835
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, Covington, Kentucky 41011
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

P.O. Box 391, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0391
(Mailing Address) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (859) 815-3333

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

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

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

On July 1, 2009, Ashland Inc. (“Ashland”) announced in an employee communication that Peter H. Rijnveldshoek, Vice President, Ashland and President, Ashland Performance Materials, will retire from Ashland effective July 31, 2009. Effective July 1, 2009, Mr. Rijnveldshoek will no longer be an executive officer of Ashland. Ashland also announced that Theodore L. Harris, currently Vice President, Ashland and President, Global Supply Chain; Environmental, Health and Safety; and Information Technology, has been appointed the additional title of President, Ashland Performance Materials effective July 1, 2009.

Ashland is furnishing the information pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission’s (“SEC”) Regulation FD. By filing this report on Form 8-K, Ashland makes no admission as to the materiality of any information in this report.

SIGNATURES

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

ASHLAND INC.
(Registrant)

July 1, 2009

/s/ Lamar M. Chambers
Lamar M. Chambers
Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

bottom" style="padding:0pt .7pt 0pt 0pt;width:14.85pt;">

(380,920

)

Intercompany transfers (to) from subsidiaries

21,620

8,160

(29,780

)

Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities

21,620

7,250

(35,160

)

(6,290

)

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Decrease for the period

(1,340

)

(990

)

(2,330

)

At beginning of period

250

3,480

3,730

At end of period

\$

\$

(1,090

)

\$

2,490

\$

\$

1,400

31

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition contains forward-looking statements regarding industry outlook and our expectations regarding the performance of our business. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described under the heading "Forward Looking Statements," at the beginning of this report. Our actual results may differ materially from those contained in or implied by any forward-looking statements. You should read the following discussion together with the Company's reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Introduction

We are an industrial manufacturer of highly engineered products serving niche markets in a diverse range of commercial, industrial and consumer applications. We currently have five operating segments: Packaging Systems, Energy Products, Industrial Specialties, RV & Trailer Products and Recreational Accessories. In reviewing our financial results, consideration should be given to certain critical events, including acquisitions and recent consolidation, integration and restructuring efforts.

Key Factors and Risks Affecting our Reported Results. Critical factors affecting our ability to succeed include: our ability to successfully pursue organic growth through product development, cross-selling and extending product-line offerings, our ability to quickly and cost-effectively introduce new products; our ability to acquire and integrate companies or products that will supplement existing product lines, add new distribution channels, expand our geographic coverage or enable us to better absorb overhead costs; our ability to manage our cost structure more efficiently through improved supply base management, internal sourcing and/or purchasing of materials, selective outsourcing and/or purchasing of support functions, working capital management, and greater leverage of our administrative and overhead functions. If we are unable to do any of the foregoing successfully, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely impacted.

Our businesses and results of operations depend upon general economic conditions and we serve some customers in highly cyclical industries that are highly competitive and themselves adversely impacted by unfavorable economic conditions. There is some seasonality in the business of our Recreational Accessories and RV & Trailer Products operating segments as well. Sales of towing and trailering products within these business segments are generally stronger in the second and third quarters, as trailer original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), distributors and retailers acquire product for the selling season. No other operating segment experiences significant seasonal fluctuation in its business. We do not consider sales order backlog to be a material factor in our business. A growing portion of our sales may be derived from international sources, which exposes us to certain risks, including currency risks. The demand for some of our products, particularly in the Recreational Accessories and RV & Trailer Products segments, is influenced by consumer sentiment, which could be negatively impacted by increased costs to consumers as a result of higher interest rates and energy costs, among other things.

We are sensitive to price movements in our raw materials supply base. Our largest material purchases are for steel, copper, aluminum, polyethylene and other resins and energy. We have experienced increasing costs of steel and resin and have worked with our suppliers to manage cost pressures and disruptions in supply. We have also initiated pricing programs to pass increased steel, copper, aluminum and resin costs to customers. Although we have experienced delays in our ability to implement price increases, we generally recover such increased costs. Although we have not experienced disruptions in the supply of steel since 2005, we may experience disruptions in supply in the future and we may not be able to pass along higher costs associated with such disruptions to our customers in the form of price increases. We will continue to take actions as necessary to manage risks associated with increasing steel or other raw material costs however; such increased costs may adversely impact our earnings.

The Company reports shipping and handling expenses associated with Recreational Accessories sales distribution network as an element of selling, general and administrative expenses in its consolidated statement of operations. As such, gross margins for the Recreational Accessories segment may not be comparable to other companies which include all costs related to their distribution network in cost of sales.

We have substantial debt, interest and lease payment requirements that may restrict our future operations and impair our ability to meet our obligations and, in a rising interest rate environment, our performance may be adversely affected by our degree of leverage.

Key Indicators of Performance. In evaluating our business, our management considers Adjusted EBITDA as a key indicator of financial operating performance and as a measure of cash generating capability. We define Adjusted EBITDA as net income (loss) before cumulative effect of accounting change, interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, non-cash asset and goodwill impairment charges and write-offs and non-cash losses on sale-leaseback of property and equipment. In evaluating Adjusted EBITDA, our management deems it important to consider the quality of our underlying earnings by separately identifying certain costs undertaken to improve our results, such as costs related to consolidating facilities and businesses in an effort to eliminate duplicative costs or achieve efficiencies, costs related to integrating acquisitions and restructuring costs related to expense reduction efforts. Although we may undertake new consolidation, restructuring and integration efforts in the future as a result of our acquisition activity, our management separately considers these costs in evaluating underlying business performance. Caution must be exercised in considering these items as they include substantially (but not necessarily entirely) cash costs and there can be no assurance that we will ultimately realize the benefits of these efforts. Moreover, even if the anticipated benefits are realized, they may be offset by other business performance or general economic issues.

Management believes that consideration of Adjusted EBITDA together with a careful review of our results reported under GAAP is the best way to analyze our ability to service and/or incur indebtedness, as we are a highly leveraged company. We use Adjusted EBITDA as a key performance measure because we believe it facilitates operating performance comparisons from period to period and company to company by excluding potential differences caused by variations in capital structures (affecting interest expense), tax positions (such as the impact on periods or companies of changes in effective tax rates or net operating losses), and the impact of purchase accounting and FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142 (SFAS No. 142), *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* (affecting depreciation and amortization expense). Because Adjusted EBITDA facilitates internal comparisons of our historical operating performance on a more consistent basis, we also use Adjusted EBITDA for business planning purposes, to incent and compensate our management personnel, in measuring our performance relative to that of our competitors and in evaluating acquisition opportunities.

In addition, we believe Adjusted EBITDA and similar measures are widely used by investors, securities analysts, ratings agencies and other interested parties as a measure of financial performance and debt-service capabilities. Our use of Adjusted EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. Some of these limitations are:

- it does not reflect our cash expenditures for capital equipment or other contractual commitments;
- although depreciation, amortization and asset impairment charges and write-offs are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated, amortized or written off may have to be replaced in the future, and Adjusted EBITDA does not reflect cash capital expenditure requirements for such replacements;
- it does not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs;

- it does not reflect the significant interest expense or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments on our indebtedness;
- it does not reflect certain tax payments that may represent a reduction in cash available to us;
- it includes amounts resulting from matters we consider not to be indicative of underlying performance of our fundamental business operations, as discussed in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and;
- other companies, including companies in our industry, may calculate these measures differently and as the number of differences in the way two different companies calculate these measures increases, the degree of their usefulness as a comparative measure correspondingly decreases.

Because of these limitations, Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as a measure of discretionary cash available to us to invest in the growth of our business. We compensate for these limitations by relying primarily on our GAAP results and using Adjusted EBITDA only supplementally. We carefully review our operating profit margins (operating profit as a percentage of net sales) at a segment level, which are discussed in detail in our year-to-year comparison of operating results.

The following is a reconciliation of our net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA and cash flows from operating activities for the three and six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006:

	Three months ended		Six months ended	
	June 30, 2007	2006	June 30, 2007	2006
	(dollars in thousands)			
Net income (loss)	\$ (3,190)	\$ 2,510	\$ 3,860	\$ 6,100
Income tax expense (benefit)	(1,870)	440	3,110	2,620
Interest expense	18,340	20,030	37,200	39,950
Debt extinguishment costs	7,440		7,440	
Depreciation and amortization	9,620	10,230	19,460	20,140
Adjusted EBITDA, total company	\$ 30,340	\$ 33,210	\$ 71,070	\$ 68,810
Interest paid	(27,880)	(28,640)	(34,510)	(33,920)
Taxes paid	(2,750)	(1,800)	(5,010)	(6,730)
(Gain) loss on dispositions of property and equipment	(310)	3,030	70	3,130
Receivables sales and securitization, net	4,580	(7,020)	33,330	18,100
Net change in working capital	(4,980)	7,550	(39,010)	(32,050)
Cash flows provided by (used for) operating activities	\$ (1,000)	\$ 6,330	\$ 25,940	\$ 17,340

Edgar Filing: ASHLAND INC. - Form 8-K

The following details certain items relating to our consolidation, restructuring and integration efforts and the costs and expenses incurred in connection with our initial public offering and use of proceeds therefrom that are included in the determination of net income under GAAP and are not added back to net income in determining Adjusted EBITDA, but that we would consider in evaluating the quality of our Adjusted EBITDA:

	Three months ended		Six months ended	
	June 30, 2007	2006	June 30, 2007	2006
	(dollars in thousands)			
Facility and business consolidation costs(a)	\$ 260	\$ 20	\$ 370	\$ 40
Business unit restructuring costs(b)		90		180
Acquisition integration costs(c)		290		490
Advisory services agreement termination fee(d)	10,000		10,000	
Costs for early termination of operating leases(e)	4,230		4,230	
	\$ 14,490	\$ 400	\$ 14,600	\$ 710

(a) Includes employee training, severance and relocation costs, equipment move and plant rearrangement costs associated with facility and business consolidations.

(b) Includes principally employee severance costs associated with business unit restructuring and other cost reduction activities.

(c) Includes equipment move and other facility closure costs, excess and obsolete inventory reserve charges related to brand rationalization, employee training, and other organization costs associated with the integration of acquired operations.

(d) Expense associated with the termination of our advisory services agreement with Heartland.

(e) Costs associated with the early termination of operating leases and purchase of underlying machinery and equipment assets.

Segment Information and Supplemental Analysis

The following table summarizes financial information of continuing operations for our five business segments for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		2006	As a Percentage of Net Sales
	2007 (dollars in thousands)	As a Percentage of Net Sales		
Net Sales:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 56,700	19.5 %	\$ 53,940	19.3 %
Energy Products	41,020	14.1 %	38,720	13.8 %
Industrial Specialties	56,010	19.3 %	47,070	16.8 %
RV & Trailer Products	53,070	18.2 %	51,480	18.4 %
Recreational Accessories	84,030	28.9 %	88,430	31.6 %
Total	\$ 290,830	100.0 %	\$ 279,640	100.0 %
Gross Profit:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 17,450	30.8 %	\$ 16,240	30.1 %
Energy Products	11,790	28.7 %	11,050	28.5 %
Industrial Specialties	17,240	30.8 %	13,820	29.4 %
RV & Trailer Products	12,010	22.6 %	11,210	21.8 %
Recreational Accessories	22,810	27.1 %	22,740	25.7 %
Total	\$ 81,300	28.0 %	\$ 75,060	26.8 %
Selling, General and Administrative:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 6,950	12.3 %	\$ 6,390	11.8 %
Energy Products	6,120	14.9 %	5,470	14.1 %
Industrial Specialties	4,620	8.2 %	3,960	8.4 %
RV & Trailer Products	5,980	11.3 %	4,820	9.4 %
Recreational Accessories	15,430	18.4 %	16,650	18.8 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	6,570	N/A	6,890	N/A
Total	\$ 45,670	15.7 %	\$ 44,180	15.8 %
Operating Profit:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 10,820	19.1 %	\$ 9,850	18.3 %
Energy Products	5,660	13.8 %	5,550	14.3 %
Industrial Specialties	12,640	22.6 %	9,860	20.9 %
RV & Trailer Products	6,010	11.3 %	6,380	12.4 %
Recreational Accessories	7,360	8.8 %	6,210	7.0 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	(20,790)	N/A	(6,890)	N/A
Total	\$ 21,700	7.5 %	\$ 30,960	11.1 %
Adjusted EBITDA:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 14,100	24.9 %	\$ 13,300	24.7 %
Energy Products	6,260	15.3 %	6,160	15.9 %
Industrial Specialties	13,810	24.7 %	11,120	23.6 %
RV & Trailer Products	7,840	14.8 %	8,310	16.1 %
Recreational Accessories	9,680	11.5 %	9,050	10.2 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	(21,350)	N/A	(7,900)	N/A
Subtotal from continuing operations	30,340	10.4 %	40,040	14.3 %
Discontinued operations		N/A	(6,830)	N/A
Total company	\$ 30,340	10.4 %	\$ 33,210	11.9 %

Edgar Filing: ASHLAND INC. - Form 8-K

The following table summarizes financial information of continuing operations for our five business segments for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006:

	Six Months Ended June 30,		2006	As a Percentage of Net Sales
	2007 (dollars in thousands)	As a Percentage of Net Sales		
Net Sales:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 110,450	19.1 %	\$ 105,040	19.0 %
Energy Products	82,600	14.3 %	78,670	14.2 %
Industrial Specialties	108,850	18.8 %	91,510	16.6 %
RV & Trailer Products	106,480	18.4 %	107,340	19.4 %
Recreational Accessories	169,140	29.3 %	170,110	30.8 %
Total	\$ 577,520	100.0 %	\$ 552,670	100.0 %
Gross Profit:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 33,690	30.5 %	\$ 30,740	29.3 %
Energy Products	24,410	29.6 %	23,240	29.5 %
Industrial Specialties	33,980	31.2 %	26,620	29.1 %
RV & Trailer Products	24,520	23.0 %	24,850	23.2 %
Recreational Accessories	43,990	26.0 %	42,950	25.2 %
Total	\$ 160,590	27.8 %	\$ 148,400	26.9 %
Selling, General and Administrative:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 14,070	12.7 %	\$ 12,730	12.1 %
Energy Products	12,320	14.9 %	11,590	14.7 %
Industrial Specialties	9,080	8.3 %	8,280	9.0 %
RV & Trailer Products	11,980	11.3 %	10,240	9.5 %
Recreational Accessories	31,490	18.6 %	32,690	19.2 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	12,510	N/A	13,150	N/A
Total	\$ 91,450	15.8 %	\$ 88,680	16.0 %
Operating Profit:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 19,820	17.9 %	\$ 18,030	17.2 %
Energy Products	12,070	14.6 %	11,470	14.6 %
Industrial Specialties	24,910	22.9 %	18,270	20.0 %
RV & Trailer Products	12,470	11.7 %	14,650	13.6 %
Recreational Accessories	12,500	7.4 %	10,350	6.1 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	(26,730)	N/A	(13,150)	N/A
Total	\$ 55,040	9.5 %	\$ 59,620	10.8 %
Adjusted EBITDA:				
Packaging Systems	\$ 26,390	23.9 %	\$ 25,030	23.8 %
Energy Products	13,360	16.2 %	12,700	16.1 %
Industrial Specialties	27,060	24.9 %	20,930	22.9 %
RV & Trailer Products	16,360	15.4 %	18,400	17.1 %
Recreational Accessories	17,420	10.3 %	15,920	9.4 %
Corporate expenses and management fees	(28,230)	N/A	(15,150)	N/A
Subtotal from continuing operations	72,360	12.5 %	77,830	14.1 %
Discontinued operations	(1,290)	N/A	(9,020)	N/A
Total company	\$ 71,070	12.3 %	\$ 68,810	12.5 %

Results of Operations

The principal factors impacting us during the three and six months ended June 30, 2007 compared with the three and six months ended June 30, 2006, were:

- continued economic expansion and a strong industrial economy which impacted end user demand across our Packaging Systems, Energy Products and Industrial Specialties business segments;
- the continued impact of soft end-market demand and significant competitive pricing pressures within certain channels of our Recreational Accessories and RV & Trailer Products segments; and
- completion of an initial public offering of our common stock (IPO) and use of proceeds to retire \$100.0 million face value of our senior subordinated notes, to effect early termination of operating leases and acquire underlying machinery and equipment assets and to terminate an advisory services agreement;

Three Months Ended June 30, 2007 Compared with Three Months Ended June 30, 2006

Overall, net sales increased \$11.2 million, or approximately 4.0%, for the three months ended June 30, 2007 as compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006. Of this increase, approximately \$3.0 million was due to currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted by stronger foreign currencies. Packaging Systems net sales increased \$2.8 million, or approximately 5.2%, primarily as a result of increases in our specialty dispensing and new product sales. Net sales within Energy Products increased \$2.3 million, or approximately 5.9%, as our specialty gasket business benefited from continued high levels of activity at petroleum refineries and petrochemical facilities. Net sales within Industrial Specialties increased \$8.9 million, or approximately 19.0%, due to continued strong demand in the majority of businesses in this segment, most notably within our aerospace fastener, industrial cylinder and defense businesses. Net sales within RV & Trailer Products increased \$1.6 million, or approximately 3.1%, primarily due to favorable currency exchange and increased sales in our electrical business, partially offset by reduced sales in our trailer products and Australian business due to weak market demand. Recreational Accessories net sales decreased \$4.4 million, or 5.0%, primarily as a result of continued soft demand in our installer, distributor and original equipment customer groups, partially offset by increased sales from new programs in our retail channel.

Gross profit margin (gross profit as a percentage of sales) approximated 28.0% and 26.8% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Packaging Systems gross profit margin increased to 30.8% for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from 30.1% for the three months ended June 30, 2006, as this segment's margin benefited primarily from higher sales volumes between years and improved material margins. Energy Products gross profit margin remained relatively flat at 28.7% for the three months ended June 30, 2007, compared to 28.5% for the three months ended June 30, 2006. Gross profit margin within Industrial Specialties increased to 30.8% for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from 29.4% in the three months ended June 30, 2006, due principally to the increase in sales levels year-over-year and a more favorable product sales mix in the second quarter of 2007. RV & Trailer Products gross profit margin increased to 22.6% for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from 21.8% for the three months ended June 30, 2006, due to the increase in sales in our electrical business, partially offset by weak demand in our trailer products and Australian businesses and inefficiencies related to our Australian operation's planned closure of one facility and start-up of new programs in Thailand. Recreational Accessories gross profit margin increased to 27.1% for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from 25.7% for the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to the continued benefit of sourcing initiatives implemented in the second half of 2006.

Operating profit margin (operating profit as a percentage of sales) approximated 7.5% and 11.1% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit decreased \$9.3 million, or 29.9%, to \$21.7 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2007, from \$31.0 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, primarily due to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds, including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses related to the early termination of operating leases. Packaging Systems' operating profit margin was 19.1% and 18.3% in the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$1.0 million, or approximately 10.2%, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006, due to margin earned on higher sales levels between years, improved material margin and other operational improvements. Energy Products' operating profit margin was 13.8% and 14.3% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$0.1 million, or approximately 1.8%, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to a sales mix change as a result of proportionally greater sales levels in our specialty gasket business. Industrial Specialties' operating profit margin was 22.6% and 20.9% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$2.8 million, or approximately 28.4%, for the three months ended June 30, 2007 as compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to increased margins as a result of higher sales levels between years and a more favorable product sales mix. RV & Trailer Products' operating profit margin declined to 11.3% for the quarter ended June 30, 2007, from 12.4% for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. Operating profit decreased \$0.4 million in the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to the sales volume decline between years in our trailering products business and the inefficiencies related to the planned closure of one facility in our Australian operations. Recreational Accessories' operating profit margin was 8.8% and 7.0% in the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$1.2 million in the three months ended June 30, 2007, compared with the three months ended June 30, 2006, primarily due to the continued benefit of sourcing initiatives and other cost reductions in the second half of 2006.

Adjusted EBITDA margin (Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of sales) approximated 10.4% and 14.3% for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$9.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to the three months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the decline in operating profit between years principally due to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses associated with the early termination of operating leases.

Packaging Systems. Net sales increased \$2.8 million, or 5.2%, to \$56.7 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$53.9 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. The increase in sales is primarily due to approximately \$1.4 million of higher sales of our specialty dispensing products due to market penetration and \$1.3 million of favorable currency exchange as our reported results in U.S dollars were positively impacted as a result of stronger foreign currencies. Sales of our industrial closures, rings and levers increased approximately \$0.2 million, while sales of our specialty tapes, laminates and insulation products remained essentially flat.

Packaging Systems' gross profit increased approximately \$1.2 million to \$17.4 million, or 30.8% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$16.2 million, or 30.1% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006. Of the increase in gross profit between years, approximately \$0.8 million is attributed to increased sales levels and approximately \$0.4 million is attributed to a more favorable sales mix of higher margin products and other operational improvements.

Packaging Systems' selling, general and administrative costs increased approximately \$0.6 million to \$7.0 million, or 12.3% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$6.4 million, or

11.8% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, primarily as a result of increased selling costs associated with our new product sales growth initiatives.

Packaging Systems operating profit increased \$1.0 million to \$10.8 million, or 19.1% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$9.8 million, or 18.3% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to higher sales levels between years and other operational improvements, which were partially offset by increased selling costs related to our sales growth initiatives.

Packaging Systems Adjusted EBITDA increased \$0.8 million to \$14.1 million, or 24.9% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$13.3 million, or 24.7% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

Energy Products. Net sales for the quarter ended June 30, 2007 increased \$2.3 million, or 5.9%, to \$41.0 million, compared to \$38.7 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2006. Sales of specialty gaskets and related fastening hardware increased \$4.7 million as a result of increased demand from existing customers due to continued high levels of turn-around activity at petrochemical refineries, incremental business with existing customers and increased demand for replacement parts as refineries continue to operate at capacity. Sales of slow speed and compressor engines and related products decreased \$2.4 million in the second quarter of 2007, as compared to the second quarter of 2006, primarily due to the impact of lower rig count and related drilling activity in the Canadian natural gas market.

Gross profit within Energy Products increased \$0.7 million to \$11.8 million, or 28.7% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$11.1 million, or 28.5% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006. Increase in sales levels and improved material margins between years in our specialty gasket business resulted in approximately \$1.9 million of improved gross profit. This improvement was offset by approximately \$1.2 million in margin reduction associated with the decrease in slow speed and compressor engines sales, as well as higher wage and benefit costs related to new products in our engine business.

Selling, general and administrative expenses within Energy Products increased \$0.6 million to \$6.1 million, or 14.9% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$5.5 million, or 14.1% of sales, in the second quarter of 2006. Of the increase, approximately \$0.4 million relates to increased compensation and commission expense, and \$0.2 million relates to increased asbestos litigation defense costs in our specialty gasket business relative to the second quarter of 2006.

Overall, operating profit within Energy Products increased \$0.1 million to \$5.7 million, or 13.8% of sales in the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$5.6 million, or 14.3% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006, due principally to proportionally greater sales levels in our specialty gasket business, partially offset by the decline in sales of our engine business.

Energy Products Adjusted EBITDA increased \$0.1 million to \$6.3 million, or 15.3% of sales, for the quarter ended June 30, 2007, from \$6.2 million, or 15.9% of sales, for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the change in operating profit between years.

Industrial Specialties. Net sales during the three months ended June 30, 2007 increased \$8.9 million, or approximately 19.0%, to \$56.0 million, from \$47.1 million in the three months ended June 30, 2006. Net sales in the three months ended June 30, 2007 increased 28.4% in our aerospace fastener business, as we continued to experience strong market demand, 24.4% in our industrial cylinders business, as demand for our new ISO cylinder continued to increase, 23.0% in our defense business, due to certain of our customers building their inventory of cartridge cases in advance of the base closure and relocation slated for 2009, and 13.9% in our precision cutting tools business, primarily as a result of sales of existing medical products into new markets, all as compared to the three months ended June 30, 2006. Sales within our specialty fittings business declined approximately 10.8% in the second quarter of 2007 compared to first quarter of 2006 due to continued weak demand in the domestic automotive market.

Gross profit within Industrial Specialties increased \$3.4 million to \$17.2 million, or 30.8% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$13.8 million, or 29.4% of sales, for the three

months ended June 30, 2006. Of the increase in gross profit, approximately \$2.6 million is attributed to the sales level increase between years. The remainder of the increase is due to more favorable product mix and operational cost improvements, primarily in our defense business.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.6 million to \$4.6 million, or 8.2% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$4.0 million, or 8.4% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006, as this segment was able to maintain the increase in its selling expense in line with the increase in sales without increasing its level of general and administrative expenses.

Operating profit for the three months ended June 30, 2007 increased \$2.7 million to \$12.6 million, or 22.6% of sales, as compared to \$9.9 million, or 20.9% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to higher sales levels between years, a more favorable product mix in our defense business and additional operational improvements and efficiencies gained in our aerospace business in the second quarter of 2007 as compared to the second quarter of 2006.

Industrial Specialties Adjusted EBITDA increased \$2.7 million to \$13.8 million, or 24.7% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$11.1 million, or 23.6% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

RV & Trailer Products. Net sales increased \$1.6 million to \$53.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$51.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2006. Net sales were favorably impacted by approximately \$1.4 million of currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted as a result of a stronger Australian dollar. In addition, sales within our electrical business increased by approximately \$1.5 million in the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to sales of new products. However, these increases were partially offset by continued soft demand in certain end-markets and pricing pressure across the our trailer products and Australian businesses.

RV & Trailer Products gross profit increased \$0.8 million to \$12.0 million, or 22.6% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from approximately \$11.2 million, or 21.8% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006. Of the increase in gross profit between years, \$0.5 million is attributed the aforementioned currency exchange impact. The remaining increase in gross profit is due to the impact of increased sales in our electrical business, partially offset by continued weak demand and pricing pressures in our trailering business, and inefficiencies and duplication of costs in our Australian operations associated with the planned closure of one Australian facility and a corresponding start-up of new programs in our Thailand facility. We expect the closure of our facility in Australia to be completed in the third quarter of 2007.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$1.2 million to \$6.0 million, or 11.3% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$4.8 million, or 9.4% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to increases in sales-related support activities associated with the start-up of programs at our Thailand facility during the second quarter of 2007.

RV & Trailer Products operating profit declined \$0.4 million, to approximately \$6.0 million, or 11.3% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$6.4 million, or 12.4% of net sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006. The decline in operating profit between years is primarily due to the sales volume decline in our trailer products and Australian businesses, and the aforementioned inefficiencies in our Australian operations.

RV & Trailer Products Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$0.5 million to \$7.8 million, or 14.8% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$8.3 million, or 16.1% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the decline in operating profit between years.

Recreational Accessories. Recreational Accessories net sales decreased \$4.4 million to \$84.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$88.4 million in the three months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to reduced sales in our installer, distributor and original equipment customer groups as a result of weak end-market demand. These decreases were partially offset by an approximate 9% increase in our retail business, primarily driven by new programs and market share gains in the second quarter of 2007, and by approximately \$0.3 million of favorable currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted by stronger foreign currencies.

Gross profit within Recreational Accessories increased \$0.1 million to \$22.8 million, or 27.1% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$22.7 million, or 25.7% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006. Recreational Accessories experienced a year-over-year benefit from its continued sourcing of products from Asia. This benefit was mostly offset by the loss of margin associated with the overall decline in sales.

Recreational Accessories selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$1.2 million to \$15.4 million, or 18.4% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$16.6 million, or 18.8% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006. The decrease between years was due primarily to reductions in selling and distribution expenses in our towing business as a result of further consolidation of warehouses and lower discretionary spending corresponding with the decline in sales in the installer and distributor customer groups. In addition, Recreational Accessories experienced higher distribution costs in the second quarter of 2006 due to the closure of our Sheffield operations.

Recreational Accessories operating profit increased \$1.2 million to approximately \$7.4 million, or 8.8% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$6.2 million, or 7.0% of sales, in the three months ended June 30, 2006. The improvement in operating profit between years is primarily the result of the decreased spending and reduced selling and distribution expenses in our towing business.

Recreational Accessories Adjusted EBITDA increased \$0.6 million to \$9.7 million, or 11.5% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$9.1 million, or 10.2% of sales, for the three months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

Corporate Expenses and Management Fees. Corporate expenses and management fees included in operating profit and Adjusted EBITDA consist of the following:

	Three months ended	
	June 30,	
	2007	2006
	(in millions)	
Corporate operating expenses	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.6
Employee costs and related benefits	2.2	2.3
Costs for early termination of operating leases	4.2	
Management fees and expenses	11.1	1.0
Corporate expenses and management fees operating profit	\$ 20.8	\$ 6.9
Receivables sales and securitization expenses	1.1	1.1
Depreciation	(0.1)	(0.1)
Other, net	(0.4)	
Corporate expenses and management fees Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 21.4	\$ 7.9

Corporate expenses and management fees increased approximately \$13.9 million to \$20.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$6.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2006. The increase between years is primarily attributed to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds, including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses related to the early termination of operating leases.

Interest Expense. Interest expense, including debt extinguishment costs of \$7.4 million, increased approximately \$5.8 million to \$25.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$20.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2006. The debt extinguishment costs were incurred in connection with the retirement of \$100.0 million face value of senior subordinated notes in the three months ended June 30, 2007, which included a call premium of approximately \$4.9 million and necessitated a write-off of deferred financing fees and accretion of unamortized discount and premium associated with the retired notes of approximately \$2.5 million. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in our weighted average interest rate on variable rate borrowings to approximately 8.1% during the second quarter of 2007 from approximately 8.5% during the second quarter of 2006.

Other Expense, Net. Other expense, net decreased approximately \$0.1 million to \$1.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2007, from \$1.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2006. The amounts in both periods primarily represent our expenses incurred in connection with the use of our receivables securitization facility and sales of receivables to fund working capital needs.

Income Taxes. The effective income tax rates for the three months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006 were 37% and 33%, respectively. The rate for the three months ended June 30, 2006 benefited approximately \$0.5 million from a change in the Texas state law in May 2006, thereby reducing the effective rate from the statutory rate. In the quarter ended June 30, 2007, the Company reported domestic and foreign pre-tax income (loss) of approximately \$(9.1) million and \$4.0 million, respectively. In the quarter ended June 30, 2006, the Company reported domestic and foreign pre-tax income of approximately \$5.4 million and \$4.4 million, respectively.

Discontinued Operations. The results of discontinued operations consists of our industrial fastening business through February 2007, when the sale of this business was completed, and our asphalt-coated paper business through June 2006, when the sale of that business was completed. Thus, there was no activity in the three months ended June 30, 2007. See Note 3, Discontinued Operations and Assets Held for Sale, to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q.

Six Months Ended June 30, 2007 Compared with Six Months Ended June 30, 2006

Overall, net sales increased \$24.9 million, or approximately 4.5%, for the six months ended June 30, 2007 as compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006. Of this increase, approximately \$5.0 million was due to currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted by stronger foreign currencies. Packaging Systems net sales increased \$5.4 million, or approximately 5.1%, primarily as a result of an increase in sales of our specialty dispensing products. Net sales within Energy Products increased \$3.9 million, or approximately 5.0%, as our specialty gasket business benefited from continued high levels of activity at petroleum refineries and petrochemical facilities. Net sales within Industrial Specialties increased \$17.3 million, or approximately 18.9%, due to continued strong demand in the majority of businesses in this segment, most notably within our aerospace fastener, industrial cylinder and defense businesses. Net sales within RV & Trailer Products decreased \$0.8 million, or approximately 0.8%, as this segment continued to experience reduced sales in its trailering market channels, due principally to soft market demand and downward market pricing pressures, partially offset by new product sales in our electrical group. Recreational Accessories net sales decreased \$1.0 million, or 0.6%, due to continued soft demand in our installer customer group, partially offset by increases in our retail business.

Gross profit margin (gross profit as a percentage of sales) approximated 27.8% and 26.9% for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Packaging Systems gross profit margin increased to 30.5% for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from 29.3% for the six months ended June 30, 2006, as this segment's margin benefited primarily from higher sales of specialty dispensing products between years. Energy Products gross profit margin remained relatively flat at 29.6% for the six months ended June 30, 2007, compared to 29.5% for the six months ended June 30, 2006, as a result of increases in sales and margins in our specialty gasket business being offset by decreases in sales and margins in our engine business. Gross profit margin within Industrial Specialties increased to 31.2% for the six months ended

June 30, 2007, from 29.1% in the six months ended June 30, 2006, due principally to the increase in sales levels year-over-year and a more favorable product sales mix in the first two quarters of 2007. RV & Trailer Products' gross profit margin decreased to 23.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from 23.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2006, due to continued weak end-market demand and inefficiencies related to our Australian operations. Recreational Accessories' gross profit margin increased to 26.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from 25.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to the continued benefits of our sourcing and other cost savings initiatives.

Operating profit margin (operating profit as a percentage of sales) approximated 9.5% and 10.8% for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit decreased \$4.6 million, or 7.7%, to \$55.0 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2007, from \$59.6 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, primarily due to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds, including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses related to the early termination of operating leases. Packaging Systems' operating profit margin was 17.9% and 17.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$1.8 million, or approximately 10.0%, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006, due to margin earned on higher sales levels between years and other operational improvements. Energy Products' operating profit margin was 14.6% for each of the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006. Operating profit increased \$0.6 million, or approximately 5.2%, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006, as a result of increased sales levels in our specialty gasket business, being partially offset by decreases in sales and higher expenses in our engine business. Industrial Specialties' operating profit margin was 22.9% and 20.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$6.6 million, or approximately 36.1%, for the six months ended June 30, 2007 as compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to increased margins due to higher sales levels between years and a more favorable product sales mix. RV & Trailer Products' operating profit margin declined to 11.7% for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from 13.6% for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Operating profit decreased \$2.2 million in the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to the sales volume decline between years and the inefficiencies in our Australian operations due to the planned closure of one facility and start-up of the new facility in Thailand. Recreational Accessories' operating profit margin was 7.4% and 6.1% in the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Operating profit increased \$2.2 million in the six months ended June 30, 2007, compared with the six months ended June 30, 2006, primarily due to the continued benefits of our sourcing and other cost savings initiatives implemented in the second half of 2006 and the consolidation of distribution facilities and lower discretionary spending in our towing business.

Adjusted EBITDA margin (Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of sales) approximated 12.5% and 14.1% for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$5.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2006, which is consistent with the decrease in operating profit between years principally due to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses associated with the early termination of operating leases.

Packaging Systems. Net sales increased \$5.4 million, or 5.1%, to \$110.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$105.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. The increase in sales is primarily due to approximately \$2.9 million of higher sales of our specialty dispensing products and new product introductions and \$2.6 million of favorable currency exchange as our reported results in U.S dollars were positively impacted as a result of stronger foreign currencies. Sales of our specialty tapes, laminates and insulation products remained essentially flat while sales of our industrial closures, rings and levers decreased approximately \$0.1 million.

Packaging Systems gross profit increased approximately \$3.0 million to \$33.7 million, or 30.5% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$30.7 million, or 29.3% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Of the increase in gross profit between years, approximately \$1.4 million is attributed to increased sales levels and approximately \$1.6 million is attributed to other operating improvements.

Packaging Systems selling, general and administrative costs increased approximately \$1.4 million to \$14.1 million, or 12.7% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$12.7 million, or 12.1% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, primarily as a result of increased selling costs associated with sales growth initiatives.

Packaging Systems operating profit increased \$1.8 million to \$19.8 million, or 17.9% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$18.0 million, or 17.2% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to higher sales levels between years and other operational improvements, which were partially offset by increased selling costs related to our sales growth initiatives.

Packaging Systems Adjusted EBITDA increased \$1.4 million to \$26.4 million, or 23.9% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$25.0 million, or 23.8% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, which is consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

Energy Products. Net sales for the six months ended June 30, 2007 increased \$3.9 million, or 5.0%, to \$82.6 million, compared to \$78.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Sales of specialty gaskets and related fastening hardware increased \$7.7 million as a result of increased demand from existing customers due to continued high levels of turn-around activity at petrochemical refineries, incremental business with existing customers and increased demand for replacement parts as refineries continue to operate at capacity. Sales of slow speed and compressor engines and related products decreased \$3.8 million in the first six months of 2007, as compared to the first six months of 2006, due to lower commodity prices at the start of the year and the impact of lower rig count activity in the Canadian natural gas market.

Gross profit within Energy Products increased \$1.2 million to \$24.4 million, or 29.6% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$23.2 million, or 29.5% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006. Our specialty gasket business experienced increased period over period gross profit of \$3.0 million, of which \$2.3 million was driven by increased sales volumes and the remainder resulting from operational improvements and increased material margins. Gross profit in our engine business decreased by \$1.8 million as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2006, of which \$1.1 million was driven by the decrease in sales volumes and the remainder due to increased labor and overhead associated with investments in developing new product infrastructure.

Selling, general and administrative expenses within Energy Products increased \$0.7 million to \$12.3 million, or 14.9% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$11.6 million, or 14.7% of sales, in the first half of 2006. The increase was primarily related to increased compensation and commission expenses in support of new product introductions within our engine business.

Overall, operating profit within Energy Products increased \$0.6 million to \$12.1 million, or 14.6% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$11.5 million, or 14.6% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006. The overall operating profit remained flat year-over-year as a percentage of sales, as the increase in operating profit in our specialty gasket business resulting from increased sales volumes and other operational improvements more than offset the decrease in our engine business due to lower commodity prices, lower rig count activity in the Canadian natural gas market and increased spending to continue to develop new products.

Energy Products Adjusted EBITDA increased \$0.7 million to \$13.4 million, or 16.2% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$12.7 million, or 16.1% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, which is consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

Industrial Specialties. Net sales during the six months ended June 30, 2007 increased \$17.3 million, or 18.9%, to \$108.8 million, from \$91.5 million in the six months ended June 30, 2006. Net sales in the six months ended June 30, 2007 increased 25.2% in our aerospace fastener business, as we continued to experience strong market demand, 26.2% in our industrial cylinders business, as demand for our new ISO cylinder continued to increase, 27.0% in our defense business, as our customers build their inventory of cartridge cases in advance of the base closure and relocation slated for 2009, and 7.7% in our precision cutting tools business, due to increased sales of medical products to new customers and markets, all as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2006. Sales within our specialty fittings business declined approximately 13.1% in the first six months of 2007 compared to first six months of 2006 due to the continued softness of domestic automotive market demand.

Gross profit within Industrial Specialties increased \$7.4 million to \$34.0 million, or 31.2% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$26.6 million, or 29.1% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Of the increase in gross profit, approximately \$5.0 million is attributed to the sales level increase between years. The remainder of the increase is attributable to more favorable product mix and operational improvements in our aerospace fasteners and defense businesses.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.8 million to \$9.1 million, or 8.3% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$8.3 million, or 9.0% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006, as this segment was able to maintain its lower discretionary spending in its selling, general and administrative expenses even with increases in sales.

Operating profit for the six months ended June 30, 2007 increased \$6.6 million to \$24.9 million, or 22.9% of sales, as compared to \$18.3 million, or 20.0% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to higher sales levels between years, an increasingly favorable product mix and operational improvements in our aerospace fasteners and defense businesses in the first two quarters of 2007 compared to the first two quarters of 2006.

Industrial Specialties Adjusted EBITDA increased \$6.2 million to \$27.1 million, or 24.9% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$20.9 million, or 22.9% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

RV & Trailer Products. Net sales decreased \$0.8 million to \$106.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$107.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Net sales in our electrical business increased by approximately \$2.5 million in the first half of 2007 as compared to the first half of 2006, mainly due to sales of new products. In addition, net sales were favorably impacted by approximately \$2.1 million of currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted as a result of a stronger Australian dollar. However, these increases were more than offset by declines in the first two quarters of 2007 in our trailering and Australian businesses due to continued soft demand in certain end-markets, especially in the livestock channel, and pricing pressure across all market channels.

RV & Trailer Products gross profit decreased \$0.3 million to \$24.5 million, or 23.0% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from approximately \$24.8 million, or 23.2% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006. The decline in gross profit is primarily related to the decline in sales.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$1.8 million to \$12.0 million, or 11.3% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$10.2 million, or 9.5% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to increases in sales-related support activities associated with the start-up of our new Thailand facility and increased promotional expenses to garner sales volumes.

RV & Trailer Products operating profit declined \$2.2 million, to approximately \$12.5 million, or 11.7% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$14.7 million, or 13.6% of net sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006. The decline in operating profit between years is primarily due to the sales volume decline, additional promotional expenses and the inefficiencies in our Australian operations as a result of moving certain products to our Thailand facility.

RV & Trailer Products Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$2.0 million to \$16.4 million, or 15.4% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$18.4 million, or 17.1% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the decline in operating profit between years.

Recreational Accessories. Recreational Accessories net sales decreased \$1.0 million to \$169.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$170.1 million in the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to an approximate 11% reduction in sales in our installer customer group as a result of the continued softening of the end-customer market. This decrease was partially offset by an approximate 14% increase in our retail business, primarily driven by new programs and customers in the first half of 2007, and by approximately \$0.1 million of favorable currency exchange, as our reported results in U.S. dollars were positively impacted as a result of stronger currencies.

Gross profit within Recreational Accessories increased \$1.0 million to \$44.0 million, or 26.0% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$43.0 million, or 25.2% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006. Recreational Accessories experienced a year-over-year benefit of approximately \$1.3 million in the first half of 2007 related to its continued sourcing of products from Asia and the related cost savings associated with such sourcing initiatives. This benefit was offset by approximately \$0.3 million of reduced gross profit associated with the overall decline in sales volumes.

Recreational Accessories selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by \$1.2 million to \$31.5 million, or 18.6% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$32.7 million, or 19.2% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, due primarily to reductions in selling and distribution expenses in our towing business as a result of further consolidation of warehouses and lower discretionary spending corresponding with the decline in sales in the installer customer group. This reduction in expense was partially offset by additional selling and promotional spending in our retail business in connection with the new business during 2007.

Recreational Accessories operating profit increased \$2.2 million to approximately \$12.5 million, or 7.4% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$10.3 million, or 6.1% of sales, in the six months ended June 30, 2006. The improvement in operating profit between years is primarily the result of its sourcing and other cost savings initiatives as well as reductions in selling expenses due to the continued consolidation and low discretionary spending in our towing business.

Recreational Accessories Adjusted EBITDA increased \$1.5 million to \$17.4 million, or 10.3% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$15.9 million, or 9.4% of sales, for the six months ended June 30, 2006, consistent with the improvement in operating profit between years.

Corporate Expenses and Management Fees. Corporate expenses and management fees included in operating profit and Adjusted EBITDA consist of the following:

	Six months ended June 30,	
	2007	2006
	(in millions)	
Corporate operating expenses	\$ 5.9	\$ 6.4
Employee costs and related benefits	4.5	4.7
Costs for early termination of operating leases	4.2	
Management fees and expenses	12.1	2.1
Corporate expenses and management fees operating profit	\$ 26.7	\$ 13.2
Receivables sales and securitization expenses	1.9	2.0
Depreciation	(0.1)	(0.1)
Other, net	(0.3)	0.1
Corporate expenses and management fees Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 28.2	\$ 15.2

Corporate expenses and management fees increased approximately \$13.5 million to \$26.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$13.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. The increase between years is primarily attributed to the impact of the use of IPO proceeds, including payment of a \$10.0 million fee to Heartland for agreeing to a contractual settlement of its right to receive a \$4.0 million annual fee under its advisory services agreement termination fee and \$4.2 million of costs and expenses related to the early termination of operating leases.

Interest Expense. Interest expense, including debt extinguishment costs of approximately \$7.4 million, increased approximately \$4.6 million to \$44.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to \$40.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. The increase in expense was due to our retirement of \$100.0 million face value senior subordinated notes in the second quarter of 2007. In connection with the retirement of the notes, we incurred a call premium of approximately \$4.9 million and necessitated a write-off of deferred financing fees and accretion of unamortized discount and premium associated with the retired notes of approximately \$2.5 million. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in our weighted average interest rate on variable rate borrowings to approximately 8.1% at June 30, 2007, from approximately 8.3% during the first half of 2006.

Other Expense, Net. Other expense, net increased approximately \$0.2 million to \$2.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, from \$1.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. In the first six months of 2007, we incurred approximately \$1.9 million of expenses in connection with the use of our receivables securitization facility and sales of receivables to fund working capital needs, and experienced no significant currency gains or losses on transactions denominated in foreign currencies. In the first six months of 2006, we incurred approximately \$2.0 million of expenses in connection with the use of our receivables securitization facility and sales of receivables to fund working capital needs, which were partially offset by gains on transactions denominated in foreign currencies of approximately \$0.3 million.

Income Taxes. The effective income tax rates for the six months ended June 30, 2007 and 2006 were 37% and 35%, respectively. The rate for the six months ended June 30, 2006 benefited approximately \$0.5 million from a change in the Texas state law in May 2006, thereby reducing the effective rate from the statutory rate. In the six months ended June 30, 2007, the Company reported domestic and foreign pre-tax income (loss) of approximately \$(0.1) million and \$8.4 million, respectively. In the six months ended June 30, 2006, the Company reported domestic and foreign pre-tax income of approximately \$10.5 million and \$7.2 million, respectively.

Discontinued Operations. The results of discontinued operations consists of our industrial fastening business through February 2007, when the sale of this business was completed, and our asphalt-coated paper business through June 2006, when the sale of that business was completed. Thus, there was no activity in the three months ended June 30, 2007. See Note 3, *Discontinued Operations and Assets Held for Sale*, to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash Flows

Cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended June 30, 2007 was approximately \$25.9 million as compared to \$17.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. The improvement between years is primarily the result of improved working capital management during the first half of 2007 as compared to the first half of 2006, principally higher levels of accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Net cash used for investing activities for the six months ended June 30, 2007 was approximately \$39.0 million as compared to \$13.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. In the second quarter of 2007, using proceeds from our initial public offering, we purchased approximately \$17.1 million of machinery and equipment subject to operating leases. In addition, in the first quarter of 2007, we paid approximately \$12.9 million for certain machinery and equipment subject to operating leases in connection with the disposition of our Frankfort, Indiana industrial fastening business, which was sold in February 2007. We also generated cash proceeds of \$4.0 million associated with the sale of the Frankfort, Indiana industrial fastening business in February 2007.

Net cash provided by financing activities was approximately \$12.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2007, as compared to net cash used for financing activities of approximately \$6.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2006. During the second quarter of 2007, we received net proceeds from the initial public offering of our common stock of approximately \$126.5 million. We used these net proceeds, along with cash on hand and revolving credit borrowings, to retire \$100.0 million face value of senior subordinated notes and fund the related \$4.9 million call premium, to fund the \$10 million advisory services agreement termination fee and for the payment to early terminate operating leases and acquire the underlying machinery and equipment. In addition, we reduced our net borrowings on our credit facilities by \$8.0 million in the first two quarters of 2007 as compared to the first six months of 2006.

Our Debt and Other Commitments

Our credit facility is comprised of a \$90.0 million revolving credit facility, a \$60.0 million deposit-linked supplemental revolving credit facility and a \$260.0 million term loan facility. At June 30, 2007, approximately \$258.1 million was outstanding on the term loan and \$3.9 million was outstanding on the revolving credit facility. Under the credit facility, up to \$90.0 million in the aggregate of our revolving credit facility is available to be used for one or more permitted acquisitions subject to certain conditions and other outstanding borrowings and issued letters of credit. Our credit facility also provides for an uncommitted \$100.0 million incremental term loan facility that, subject to certain conditions, is available to fund one or more permitted acquisitions or to repay a portion of our senior subordinated notes.

Amounts drawn under our revolving credit facilities fluctuate daily based upon our working capital and other ordinary course needs. Availability under our revolving credit facilities depends upon, among other things, compliance with our credit agreement's financial covenants. Our credit facilities contain negative and affirmative covenants and other requirements affecting us and our subsidiaries, including among others: restrictions on incurrence of debt (except for permitted acquisitions and subordinated indebtedness), liens, mergers, investments, loans, advances, guarantee obligations, acquisitions, asset dispositions, sale-leaseback transactions, hedging agreements, dividends and other restricted junior payments, stock repurchases, transactions with affiliates, restrictive agreements and amendments to

Edgar Filing: ASHLAND INC. - Form 8-K

charters, by-laws, and other material documents. The terms of our credit agreement require us and our subsidiaries to meet certain restrictive financial covenants and ratios computed quarterly, including a leverage ratio (total consolidated indebtedness plus outstanding amounts under the accounts receivable securitization facility over consolidated EBITDA, as defined), interest expense ratio (consolidated EBITDA, as defined, over cash interest expense, as defined) and a capital expenditures covenant. The most restrictive of these financial covenants and ratios is the leverage ratio. Our permitted leverage ratio under our amended and restated credit agreement is 5.65 to 1.00 for April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007, 5.50 to 1.00 for July 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007, 5.25 to 1.00 for October 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, 5.00 to 1.00 for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, 4.75 to 1.00 for July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, 4.50 to 1.00 for October 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, 4.25 to 1.00 for July 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011 and 4.00 to 1.00 from October 1, 2011 and thereafter. Our actual leverage ratio was 4.21 to 1.00 at June 30, 2007 and we were in compliance with our covenants as of that date.

The following is the reconciliation of net income (loss), which is a GAAP measure of our operating results, to Consolidated Bank EBITDA, as defined in our credit agreement as in effect on June 30, 2007, for the twelve month period ended June 30, 2007.

	Year Ended December 31, 2006 (dollars in thousands)	Less: Six Months Ended June 30, 2006	Add: Six Months Ended June 30, 2007	Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2007
Net income (loss), as reported	\$ (128,910)	\$ 6,100	\$ 3,860	\$ (131,150)
Bank stipulated adjustments:				
Interest expense, net (as defined)	79,060	39,950	37,200	76,310
Income tax expense (benefit)(1)	(6,520)	2,620	3,110	(6,030)
Depreciation and amortization	38,740	20,140	19,460	38,060
Extraordinary non-cash charges(2)	132,260			132,260
Heartland monitoring fee and expenses(3)	4,050	2,050	12,000	14,000
Interest equivalent costs(4)	4,760	2,620	2,060	4,200
Non-cash expenses related to stock option grants(5)	1,350	830	120	640
Non-recurring expenses in connection with acquisition integration(6)	970	490		480
Other non-cash expenses or losses	2,510	1,500	1,040	2,050
Losses on early termination of operating leases from net proceeds of an IPO			4,230	4,230
Non-recurring expenses or costs for cost savings projects(7)	880	420	370	830
Discontinued operations(8)	10,000	4,390	1,750	7,360
Debt extinguishment costs(9)	8,610		7,440	16,050
Consolidated Bank EBITDA, as defined	\$ 147,760	\$ 81,110	\$ 92,640	\$ 159,290

	June 30, 2007 (dollars in thousands)	
Total long-term debt	\$	621,970
Aggregate funding under the receivables securitization facility		48,770
Total Consolidated Indebtedness, as defined	\$	670,740
Consolidated Bank EBITDA, as defined	\$	159,290
Actual leverage ratio		4.21 x
Covenant requirement		5.65 x

- (1) Amount includes tax benefits associated with discontinued operations and cumulative effect of accounting change.
- (2) Non-cash charges associated with asset impairments.
- (3) Represents management fees and expenses paid pursuant to the Heartland Advisory Agreement.
- (4) Interest-equivalent costs associated with the use of Company's receivables securitization facility.
- (5) Non-cash expenses resulting from the grant of stock options.
- (6) Non-recurring costs and expenses due to the integration of any business acquired not to exceed \$15,000,000 in aggregate.
- (7) Non-recurring costs and expenses relating to cost savings projects, including restructuring and severance expenses, not to exceed \$25,000,000 in the aggregate; and non-recurring expenses or similar costs incurred relating to the completion of cost savings initiatives, including production sourcing initiatives, not to exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate.
- (8) EBITDA from discontinued operations, not to exceed \$10,000,000 in any twelve month period.
- (9) Includes approximately \$8.6 million write-off of debt issue costs in connection with refinancing of our senior credit facilities in the third quarter of 2006. Also includes approximately \$4.9 million call premium, \$2.3 million write-off of debt issue costs and \$0.3 million accretion of net discount, all incurred in connection with the retirement of \$100.0 million face value of our senior subordinated notes in the second quarter of 2007.

Three of our international businesses are also parties to loan agreements with banks, denominated in their local currencies. In the United Kingdom, we are party to a revolving debt agreement with a bank in the amount of £3.9 million (approximately \$0.6 million outstanding at June 30, 2007) which is secured by a letter of credit under our credit facilities. In Italy, we are party to a 5.0 million note agreement with a bank (approximately \$5.5 million outstanding at June 30, 2007) with a term of seven years, which expires December 12, 2012 and is secured by land and buildings of our local business unit. In Australia, we are party to a debt agreement with a bank in the amount of \$25 million Australian dollars (approximately \$17.0 million outstanding at June 30, 2007) for a term of five years which expires December 31, 2010. Borrowings under this arrangement are secured by substantially all the assets of the local business which is also subject to financial ratio and reporting covenants. Financial ratio covenants include: capital adequacy ratio (tangible net worth over total tangible assets), interest coverage ratio (EBIT over gross interest cost). In addition to the financial ratio covenants there are other financial restrictions such as restrictions on dividend payments, U.S. parent loan repayments, negative pledge and undertakings with respect to related entities. As of June 30, 2007, total borrowings in the amount of \$23.1 million were outstanding under these arrangements.

Another important source of liquidity is our \$125.0 million accounts receivable securitization facility, under which we have the ability to sell eligible accounts receivable to a third-party multi-seller receivables funding company. At June 30, 2007, we had \$48.8 million utilized under our accounts receivable facility and \$8.1 million of available funding based on eligible receivables and after consideration of leverage restrictions. At June 30, 2007, we also had \$3.9 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility and had an additional \$110.3 million potentially available after giving effect to approximately \$35.8 million of letters of credit issued to support our ordinary course needs and after consideration of leverage restrictions. At June 30, 2007, we had aggregate available funding under our accounts receivable facility and our revolving credit facilities of \$118.4 million after consideration of the aforementioned leverage restrictions. The letters of credit are used for a variety of purposes, including to support certain operating lease agreements, vendor payment terms and other subsidiary operating activities, and to meet various states' requirements to self-insure workers' compensation claims, including incurred but not reported claims.

We also have \$337.8 million (face value) 9⁷/₈% senior subordinated notes outstanding at June 30, 2007, which are due in 2012, following our \$100.0 million retirement effective in the second quarter of 2007.

Principal payments required under our amended and restated credit facility term loan are: \$0.7 million due each calendar quarter beginning December 31, 2006 through June 30, 2013, and \$242.5 million due on August 2, 2013.

Our credit facility is guaranteed on a senior secured basis by us and all of our domestic subsidiaries, other than our special purpose receivables subsidiary, on a joint and several basis. In addition, our obligations and the guarantees thereof are secured by substantially all the assets of us and the guarantors.

Our exposure to interest rate risk results from the variable rates under our credit facility. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest, at various rates, as more fully described in Note 9, Long-term Debt, to the accompanying consolidated financial statements as of June 30, 2007. Based on amounts outstanding at June 30, 2007, a 1% increase or decrease in the per annum interest rate for borrowings under our revolving credit facilities would change our interest expense by approximately \$2.9 million annually.

We have other cash commitments related to leases which we account for as operating leases. During 2007, we early terminated certain operating leases with 2006 lease expense of \$8.0 million and purchased the underlying machinery and equipment. Annual rent expense related to the remaining operating leases is approximately \$14.6 million. We expect to continue to utilize leasing as a financing strategy in the future to meet capital expenditure needs and to reduce debt levels.

We conduct business in several locations throughout the world and are subject to market risk due to changes in the value of foreign currencies. We do not currently use derivative financial instruments to manage these risks. The functional currencies of our foreign subsidiaries are the local currency in the country of domicile. We manage these operating activities at the local level and revenues and costs are generally denominated in local currencies; however, results of operations and assets and liabilities reported in U.S. dollars will fluctuate with changes in exchange rates between such local currencies and the U.S. dollar.

As a result of the financing transactions entered into on June 6, 2002, the additional issuance of \$85.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated notes, and acquisitions, we are highly leveraged. In addition to normal capital expenditures, we may incur significant amounts of additional debt and further burden cash flow in pursuit of our internal growth and acquisition strategies.

We believe that our liquidity and capital resources, including anticipated cash flows from operations, will be sufficient to meet our debt service, capital expenditure and other short-term and long-term obligation needs for the foreseeable future, but we are subject to unforeseeable events and risks.

Credit Rating

We and certain of our outstanding debt obligations are rated by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. As of June 30, 2006, Standard & Poor's assigned our credit facilities, corporate credit and senior subordinated notes ratings of B+, B and CCC+ respectively, each with a stable outlook. As of June 30, 2006, Moody's assigned our credit facilities, corporate credit and senior subordinated notes ratings of B1, B2 and Caa1 respectively, each with a stable outlook. On September 27, 2006, Moody's upgraded the ratings on our credit facilities and senior subordinated notes from B1 to Ba2 and Caa1 to B3, respectively. This upgrade occurred in connection with Moody's changing the ratings on a number of high yield issues in the industrials and aerospace/defense sectors, as a result of the introduction of new rating methodology. In addition, in connection with the retirement of \$100.0 million face value of our subordinated notes with proceeds from our initial public offering of common stock, given the ratings assigned to our credit facilities by Standard & Poor's remained at B+(stable) or better and the ratings assigned to our credit facilities by Moody's remained at B1 (stable) or better, the applicable margins on all loans under our amended and restated credit agreement were reduced by 0.5% per annum. If our credit ratings were to decline, our ability to access certain financial markets may become limited, the perception of us in the view of our customers, suppliers and security holders may worsen and as a result, we may be adversely affected.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We are party to an agreement to sell, on an ongoing basis, the trade accounts receivable of certain business operations to a wholly-owned, bankruptcy-remote, special purpose subsidiary, TSPC, Inc. ("TSPC"). TSPC, subject to certain conditions, may from time to time sell an undivided fractional ownership interest in the pool of domestic receivables, up to approximately \$125.0 million, to a third party multi-seller receivables funding company, or conduit. The proceeds of the sale are less than the face amount of accounts receivable sold by an amount that approximates the purchaser's financing costs. Upon sale of receivables, our subsidiaries that originated the receivables retain a subordinated interest. Under the terms of the agreement, new receivables can be added to the pool as collections reduce receivables previously sold. The facility is an important source of liquidity. At June 30, 2007, we had \$48.8 million utilized and \$8.1 million available under this facility based on eligible receivables and after consideration of leverage restrictions.

The facility is subject to customary termination events, including, but not limited to, breach of representations or warranties, the existence of any event that materially adversely affects the collectibility of receivables or performance by a seller and certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency. The facility expires on December 31, 2007. In future periods, if we are unable to renew or replace this facility, it could materially and adversely affect our available liquidity capacity.

Critical Accounting Policies

The following discussion of accounting policies is intended to supplement the accounting policies presented in Note 3 to our 2006 audited financial statements included in our annual report filed on Form 10-K. Certain of our accounting policies require the application of significant judgment by management in selecting the appropriate assumptions for calculating financial estimates. By their nature, these judgments are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty. These judgments are based on our historical experience, our evaluation of business and macroeconomic trends, and information from other outside sources, as appropriate.

Accounting Basis for Transactions. Prior to June 6, 2002, we were owned by Metaldyne. On November 28, 2000, Metaldyne was acquired by an investor group led by Heartland. On June 6, 2002, Metaldyne issued approximately 66% of our fully diluted common stock to an investor group led by Heartland. As a result of the transactions, we did not establish a new basis of accounting as Heartland was

the controlling shareholder for both us and Metaldyne at the time and the transactions were accounted for as a reorganization of entities under common control.

Receivables. Receivables are presented net of allowances for doubtful accounts of approximately \$5.7 million at June 30, 2007. We monitor our exposure for credit losses and maintain adequate allowances for doubtful accounts. We determine these allowances based on historical write-off experience and/or specific customer circumstances and provide such allowances when amounts are reasonably estimable and it is probable a loss has been incurred. We do not have concentrations of accounts receivable with a single customer or group of customers and do not believe that significant credit risk exists due to our diverse customer base. Trade accounts receivable of substantially all domestic business operations may be sold, on an ongoing basis, to TSPC.

Depreciation and Amortization. Depreciation is computed principally using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Annual depreciation rates are as follows: buildings and buildings/land improvements, 10 to 40 years, and machinery and equipment, 3 to 15 years. Capitalized debt issuance costs are amortized over the underlying terms of the related debt securities. Customer relationship intangibles are amortized over periods ranging from 6 to 25 years, while technology and other intangibles are amortized over periods ranging from 1 to 30 years. See further discussion under *Goodwill and Other Intangibles* below.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets. In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, (SFAS No. 144), *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets*, the Company reviews, on a quarterly basis, the financial performance of each business unit for indicators of impairment. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying value of an asset group exceeds the future net undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by that asset group. The impairment loss recognized is the amount by which the carrying value of the asset group exceeds its fair value.

Goodwill and Other Intangibles. We test goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment on an annual basis, unless a change in business condition occurs which requires a more frequent evaluation. In assessing the recoverability of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets, we estimate the fair value of each reporting unit using the present value of expected future cash flows and other valuation measures. We then compare this estimated fair value with the net asset carrying value. If carrying value exceeds fair value, then a possible impairment of goodwill exists and further evaluation is performed. Goodwill is evaluated for impairment annually as of December 31 using management's operating budget and five-year forecast to estimate expected future cash flows. However, projecting discounted future cash flows requires us to make significant estimates regarding future revenues and expenses, projected capital expenditures, changes in working capital and the appropriate discount rate. At December 31, 2006, fair values of our reporting units were determined based upon the expected future cash flows discounted at our weighted average costs of capital ranging from 10.5% to 11.6% and estimated residual growth rates ranging from 3% to 5%. Our estimates of expected future cash flows are affected by future operating performance, as well as general economic conditions, costs of raw materials and other factors which are beyond the Company's control.

In connection with our review of other long-lived assets, we review definite-lived intangible assets on a quarterly basis, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. The factors considered by management in performing these assessments include current operating results, business prospects, customer retention, market trends, potential product obsolescence, competitive activities and other economic factors. Customer relationship intangibles are amortized over periods ranging from 6 to 25 years, while technology and other intangibles are amortized over periods ranging from 1 to 30 years. Future changes in our business or the markets for our products could result in reductions in remaining useful lives for customer relationship intangibles and other definite

lived intangible assets, or in impairments of other intangible assets that might be required to be recorded in future periods.

Pension and Postretirement Benefits Other than Pensions. We account for pension benefits and postretirement benefits other than pensions in accordance with the requirements of FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87 (SFAS No. 87), *Employer's Accounting for Pensions*, No. 88 (SFAS No. 88), *Employer's Accounting for Settlements and Curtailments of Defined Benefit Plans and for Terminated Benefits*, No. 106 (SFAS No. 106), *Employer's Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pension*, No. 132 (SFAS No. 132), *Employer's Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits an amendment of FASB Statements Nos. 87, 88, and 106* and No. 158, *Employers Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106 and 132(R)*. Annual net periodic expense and accrued benefit obligations recorded with respect to our defined benefit plans are determined on an actuarial basis. We, together with our third-party actuaries, determine assumptions used in the actuarial calculations which impact reported plan obligations and expense. Annually, we and our actuaries review the actual experience compared to the most significant assumptions used and make adjustments to the assumptions, if warranted. The healthcare trend rates are reviewed with the actuaries based upon the results of their review of claims experience. Discount rates are based upon an expected benefit payments duration analysis and the equivalent average yield rate for high-quality fixed-income investments. Pension benefits are funded through deposits with trustees and the expected long-term rate of return on fund assets is based upon actual historical returns modified for known changes in the market and any expected change in investment policy. Postretirement benefits are not funded and our policy is to pay these benefits as they become due. Certain accounting guidance, including the guidance applicable to pensions, does not require immediate recognition in the income statement of the effects of a deviation between actual and assumed experience or the revision of an estimate. This approach allows the favorable and unfavorable effects that fall within an acceptable range to be netted.

Income Taxes. Income taxes are accounted for using the provisions of FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, (SFAS No. 109), *Accounting for Income Taxes*, and FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*. Deferred income taxes are provided at currently enacted income tax rates for the difference between the financial statement and income tax basis of assets and liabilities and carry-forward items. The effective tax rate and the tax bases of assets and liabilities reflect management's estimates based on then-current facts. On an ongoing basis, we review the need for and adequacy of valuation allowances if it is more likely than not that the benefit from a deferred tax asset will not be realized. We believe the current assumptions and other considerations used to estimate the current year effective tax rate and deferred tax positions are appropriate. However, actual outcomes may differ from our current estimates and assumptions.

Other Loss Reserves. We have other loss exposures related to environmental claims, asbestos claims and litigation. Establishing loss reserves for these matters requires the use of estimates and judgment in regard to risk exposure and ultimate liability. We are generally self-insured for losses and liabilities related principally to workers' compensation, health and welfare claims and comprehensive general, product and vehicle liability. Generally, we are responsible for up to \$0.5 million per occurrence under our retention program for workers' compensation, between \$0.3 million and \$2.0 million per occurrence under our retention programs for comprehensive general, product and vehicle liability, and have a \$0.3 million per occurrence stop-loss limit with respect to our self-insured group medical plan. We accrue loss reserves up to our retention amounts based upon our estimates of the ultimate liability for claims incurred, including an estimate of related litigation defense costs, and an estimate of claims incurred but not reported using actuarial assumptions about future events. We accrue for such items in accordance with FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, (SFAS No. 5), *Accounting for Contingencies* when such amounts are reasonably estimable and probable. We utilize known facts and historical trends, as well as

actuarial valuations in determining estimated required reserves. Changes in assumptions for factors such as medical costs and actual experience could cause these estimates to change significantly.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

In the normal course of business, we are exposed to market risk associated with fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We are also subject to interest risk as it relates to long-term debt. See Item 2, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* for details about our primary market risks, and the objectives and strategies used to manage these risks. Also see Note 9, *Long-term Debt*, in the notes to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

As of June 30, 2007, an evaluation was carried out by management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and Rule 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, (the Exchange Act)) pursuant to Rule 13a-15 of the Exchange Act. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed only to provide reasonable assurance that they will meet their objectives. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that as of June 30, 2007, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide reasonable assurance that they would meet their objectives.

Changes in disclosure controls and procedures

There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended June 30, 2007 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**TRIMAS CORPORATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

A civil suit was filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in December 1988 by the United States of America and the State of California against more than 180 defendants, including us, for alleged release into the environment of hazardous substances disposed of at the Operating Industries, Inc. site in California. This site served for many years as a depository for municipal and industrial waste. The plaintiffs have requested, among other things, that the defendants clean up the contamination at that site. Consent decrees have been entered into by the plaintiffs and a group of the defendants, including us, providing that the consenting parties perform certain remedial work at the site and reimburse the plaintiffs for certain past costs incurred by the plaintiffs at the site. We estimate that our share of the clean-up costs will not exceed \$500,000, for which we have insurance proceeds. Plaintiffs had sought other relief such as damages arising out of claims for negligence, trespass, public and private nuisance, and other causes of action, but the consent decree governs the remedy. Based upon our present knowledge and subject to future legal and factual developments, we do not believe that this matter will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

As of June 30, 2007, we were a party to approximately 1,648 pending cases involving an aggregate of approximately 9,810 claimants alleging personal injury from exposure to asbestos containing materials formerly used in gaskets (both encapsulated and otherwise) manufactured or distributed by certain of our subsidiaries for use primarily in the petrochemical refining and exploration industries. The following chart summarizes the number of claimants, number of claims filed, number of claims dismissed, number of claims settled, the average settlement amount per claim and the total defense costs, exclusive of amounts reimbursed under our primary insurance, at the applicable date and for the applicable periods:

	Claims pending at beginning of period	Claims filed during period	Claims dismissed during period	Claims settled during period	Average settlement amount per claim during period	Total defense costs during period
Fiscal year ended December 31, 2006	19,416	3,766	12,508	123	\$ 5,613	\$ 4,895,104
Six months ended June 30, 2007	10,551	287	951	77	\$ 10,396	\$2,649,341

In addition, we acquired various companies to distribute our products that had distributed gaskets of other manufacturers prior to acquisition. We believe that many of our pending cases relate to locations at which none of our gaskets were distributed or used.

We may be subjected to significant additional asbestos-related claims in the future, the cost of settling cases in which product identification can be made may increase, and we may be subjected to further claims in respect of the former activities of our acquired gasket distributors. We note that we are unable to make a meaningful statement concerning the monetary claims made in the asbestos cases given that, among other things, claims may be initially made in some jurisdictions without specifying the amount sought or by simply stating the requisite or maximum permissible monetary relief, and may be amended to alter the amount sought. The large majority of claims do not specify the amount sought. Of the 9,810 claims pending at June 30, 2007, 172 set forth specific amounts of damages (other than those stating the statutory minimum or maximum). 148 of the 172 claims sought between \$1.0 million and \$5.0 million in total damages (which includes compensatory and punitive damages) and 24 sought between \$5.0 million and \$10.0 million in total damages (which includes compensatory and punitive damages). Solely with respect to compensatory damages, 153 of the 172 claims sought between \$50,000 and \$600,000 and 19 sought between \$1.0 million and \$5.0 million. Solely with respect to punitive damages, 148 of the 172 claims sought

between \$1.0 million and \$2.5 million and 24 sought \$5.0 million. In addition, relatively few of the claims have reached the discovery stage and even fewer claims have gone past the discovery stage.

Total settlement costs (exclusive of defense costs) for all such cases, some of which were filed over 20 years ago, have been approximately \$4.6 million. All relief sought in the asbestos cases is monetary in nature. To date, approximately 50% of our costs related to settlement and defense of asbestos litigation have been covered by our primary insurance. Effective February 14, 2006, we entered into a coverage-in-place agreement with our first level excess carriers regarding the coverage to be provided to us for asbestos-related claims when the primary insurance is exhausted. The coverage-in-place agreement makes coverage available to us that might otherwise be disputed by the carriers and provides a methodology for the administration of asbestos litigation defense and indemnity payments. The coverage in place agreement allocates payment responsibility among the primary carrier, excess carriers and the Company's subsidiary.

Based on the settlements made to date and the number of claims dismissed or withdrawn for lack of product identification, we believe that the relief sought (when specified) does not bear a reasonable relationship to our potential liability. Based upon our experience to date and other available information (including the availability of excess insurance), we do not believe that these cases will have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations or cash flows.

We are subject to other claims and litigation in the ordinary course of our business, but do not believe that any such claim or litigation will have a material adverse effect on our financial position and results of operations or cash flows.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part 1, Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K are not the only risks facing our Company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deemed to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial position and results of operations or cash flows.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

None of our securities, which are not registered under the Securities Act, have been issued or sold by us during the period covered by this report.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

Not applicable.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information

Not applicable.

Item 6. Exhibits.

(a) Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Fourth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of TriMas Corporation.
3.2	Second Amended and Restated TriMas Bylaws.
4.1(b)	Indenture relating to the 97/8% senior subordinated notes, dated as of June 6, 2002, by and among TriMas Corporation, each of the Guarantors named therein and The Bank of New York as trustee.
4.2(b)	Form of note (included as Exhibit A1 in Exhibit 4.1).
4.3(b)	Registration Rights Agreement relating to the 97/8% senior subordinated notes issued June 6, 2002 dated as of June 6, 2002 by and among TriMas Corporation and the parties named therein.
4.4(b)*	Registration Rights Agreement relating to the 97/8% senior subordinated notes issued December 10, 2002 dated as of December 10, 2002 by and among TriMas Corporation and the parties named therein.
4.5(d)	Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 4, 2003.
4.6(e)	Supplemental Indenture No. 2 dated as of May 9, 2003.
4.7(f)	Supplemental Indenture No. 3 dated as of August 6, 2003.
10.1(b)	Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of May 17, 2002 by and among Heartland Industrial Partners, L.P., TriMas Corporation and Metaldyne Corporation.
10.2(b)	Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement, dated as of July 19, 2002 by and among TriMas Corporation and Metaldyne Corporation.
10.3 (o)	Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement dated as of August 31, 2006.
10.4(m)	Credit Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2002, as amended and restated as of August 2, 2006, among TriMas Company LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent, and Comerica Bank, as Syndication Agent.
10.5(b)	Receivables Purchase Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2002, by and among TriMas Corporation, the Sellers party thereto and TSPC, Inc., as Purchaser.
10.6(b)	Receivables Transfer Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2002, by and among TSPC, Inc., as Transferor, TriMas Corporation, individually, as Collection Agent, TriMas Company LLC, individually as Guarantor, the CP Conduit Purchasers, Committed Purchasers and Funding Agents party thereto, and JPMorgan Chase Bank as Administrative Agent.
10.7(p)	Amendment dated as of June 3, 2005, to Receivables Transfer Agreement.
10.8(j)	Amendment dated as of July 5, 2005, to Receivables Transfer Agreement.
10.9(j)	TriMas Receivables Facility Amended and Restated Fee Letter dated July 1, 2005.
10.10(b)	Corporate Services Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2002, between Metaldyne Corporation and TriMas Corporation.
10.11 (a)	Amendment No. 1 to Corporate Services Agreement dated January 1, 2003.
10.12(b)	Lease Assignment and Assumption Agreement, dated as of June 21, 2002, by and among Heartland Industrial Group, L.L.C., TriMas Company LLC and the Guarantors named therein.
10.13(b)	TriMas Corporation 2002 Long Term Equity Incentive Plan.

59

10.14(b)**	Stock Purchase Agreement by and among 2000 Riverside Capital Appreciation Fund, L.P., the other Stockholders of HammerBlow Acquisition Corp. listed on Exhibit A thereto and TriMas Company LLC dated as of January 27, 2003.
10.15(c)	Stock Purchase Agreement by and Among TriMas Company LLC and The Shareholders and Option Holders of Highland Group Corporation and FNL Management Corporation dated February 21, 2003.
10.16(e)	Asset Purchase Agreement among TriMas Corporation, Metaldyne Corporation and Metaldyne Company LLC dated May 9, 2003.
10.17(e)	Form of Sublease Agreement (included as Exhibit A in Exhibit 10.20).
10.18(g)	Form of Stock Option Agreement.
10.19(l)*	Annual Value Creation Plan.
10.20(l)*	Form of Indemnification Agreement.
10.21(n)	Separation and Consulting Agreement dated as of May 20, 2005.
10.22(o)	Amendment No. 1 to Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2006 by and among Heartland Industrial Partners, L.P., TriMas Corporation and Metaldyne Corporation.
10.23(o)	Advisory Agreement, dated June 6, 2002 between Heartland Industrial Group, LLC and TriMas Corporation.
10.24 (p)	First Amendment to Advisory Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2006 between Heartland Industrial Group, LLC and TriMas Corporation.
10.25 (p)	Second Amendment to Advisory Agreement, dated as of November 1, 2006 between Heartland Industrial Group, LLC and TriMas Corporation.
10.26 (p)	Management Rights Agreement.
10.27(k)	Executive Severance/Change of Control Policy.
31.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(a) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 10-Q Quarterly Report, filed on May 14, 2003.

(b) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Registration Statement on Form S-4, filed on October 4, 2002 (File No. 333-100351).

(b)* Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with Amendment No. 2 to our Registration Statement on Form S-4, filed on January 28, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).

(b)** Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with Amendment No. 3 to our Registration Statement or Form S-4, filed on January 29, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).

(c) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on February 25, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).

- (d) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed March 31, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).
- (e) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Registration Statement on Form S-4, filed June 9, 2003 (File No. 333-105950).
- (f) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 10-Q filed on August 14, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).
- (g) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 10-Q filed on November 12, 2003 (File No. 333-100351).
- (h) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on December 27, 2004 (File No. 333-100351).
- (i) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on October 3, 2005 (File No. 333-100351).
- (j) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on July 6, 2005 (File No. 333-100351).
- (k) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on November 22, 2006 (File No. 333-100351).
- (l) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on March 24, 2004 (File No. 333-113917).
- (l)* Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with Amendment No. 3 to our Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on June 29, 2004 (File No. 333-113917).
- (m) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 8-K filed on August 3, 2006 (File No. 333-100351).
- (n) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with our Form 10-Q filed on August 15, 2005 (File No. 333-100351).
- (o) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with Amendment No. 1 to our Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on September 19, 2006 (File No. 333-136263).
- (p) Incorporated by reference to the Exhibits filed with Amendment No. 3 to our Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed on January 18, 2007 (File No. 333-136263).

Signature

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

Date: August 3, 2007

TRIMAS CORPORATION (Registrant)

By:

/s/ E.R. AUTRY

E.R. Autry

Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer

62
