

SENSIENT TECHNOLOGIES CORP

Form 10-K

March 02, 2009

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008

OR

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

Commission File Number 1-7626

Sensient Technologies Corporation

WISCONSIN
(State of Incorporation)

39-0561070
(IRS Employer Identification Number)

777 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53202-5304

(414) 271-6755

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

| TITLE OF EACH CLASS | NAME OF EACH EXCHANGE ON WHICH REGISTERED |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.10 par value | New York Stock Exchange, Inc. |

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

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

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

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

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller Reporting Company

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

The aggregate market value of the voting Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of June 30, 2008 was \$1,340,293,501.00. For purposes of this computation only, the Registrant's directors and executive officers were considered to be affiliates of the Registrant. Such characterization shall not be construed to be an admission or determination for any other purpose that such persons are affiliates of the Registrant.

There were 48,623,862 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of February 17, 2009.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of: (1) the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 (see Parts I, II and IV of this Form 10-K), and (2) the Company's Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement of the Company dated March 13, 2009 (see Part III of this Form 10-K).

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains forward-looking statements that reflect management's current assumptions and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, Company performance and financial results. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe harbor for such forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events to differ materially from those expressed in those statements. A variety of factors could cause the Company's actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results. These factors and assumptions include the pace and nature of new product introductions by the Company and the Company's customers; the Company's ability to successfully implement its growth strategies; the outcome of the Company's various productivity-improvement and cost-reduction efforts; changes in costs of raw materials, including energy; industry and economic factors related to the Company's domestic and international business; growth in markets for products in which the Company competes; industry and customer acceptance of price increases; actions by competitors;

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currency exchange rate fluctuations; and the matters discussed below under the heading "Risk Factors" and under Part II, including the critical accounting policies incorporated by reference from p 23 of the Company's 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders. The Company does not undertake to publicly update or revise its forward-looking statements even if experience or future changes make it clear that any projected results expressed or implied therein will not be realized.

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PART I

**Item 1. Business
General**

Sensient Technologies Corporation (the Company) was incorporated in 1882 in Wisconsin. Its principal executive offices are located at 777 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5304, telephone (414) 271-6755.

The Company is subject to the informational and reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), and, in accordance with the Act, has filed annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission). These reports and other information may be read and copied at the public reference facilities of the Commission at its principal offices at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, and can also be accessed from the website maintained by the Commission at <http://www.sec.gov>. The public may obtain information on operations of the public reference room by calling the Commission at (800) SEC-0330.

The Company's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol SXT. Information about the Company may be obtained at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The Company can also be reached at its website at www.sensient-tech.com. The Company's web address is provided as an inactive textual reference only, and the contents of that website are not incorporated in or otherwise to be regarded as part of this annual report. The Company makes available free of charge on its website its proxy statement, its annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Act as soon as reasonably practicable after such documents are electronically filed with or furnished to the Commission. Charters for the Audit, Compensation and Development, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees of the Company's Board of Directors, as well as the Company's Code of Conduct, Standards of Conduct for International Employees, Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers, and Corporate Governance Guidelines are also available on the Company's website, and are available in print to any shareholder, free of charge, upon request. If there are any amendments to the Code of Conduct, the Standards of Conduct, the Code of Ethics or the Corporate Governance Guidelines, or if waivers from any of them are granted for executive officers or directors, those amendments or waivers also will be posted on the Company's website.

Description of Business

Sensient Technologies Corporation is a global manufacturer and marketer of colors, flavors and fragrances. Sensient uses advanced technologies at facilities around the world to develop specialty food and beverage systems, cosmetic and pharmaceutical systems, inkjet and specialty inks and colors, and other specialty chemicals. The Company's customers include major international manufacturers representing some of the world's best-known brands.

The Company's principal products include:

flavors, flavor enhancers and bionutrients;

fragrances and aroma chemicals;

dehydrated vegetables and other food ingredients;

natural and synthetic food and beverage colors;

cosmetic and pharmaceutical colors and additives; and

technical colors, inkjet colors and inks, and specialty dyes and pigments.

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On July 17, 2008, the Company announced an increase in its cash dividend on its common stock from an annual rate of 72 cents per share to an annual rate of 76 cents per share, commencing with the quarterly dividend paid on September 2, 2008 to shareholders of record on August 8, 2008.

The Company's operations, except for the Asia Pacific and China Groups, are managed on a products-and-services basis. The Company's two reportable segments are the Flavors & Fragrances Group and the Color Group. Because of a segment realignment in 2008, China's color and flavor operations (except dehydrated flavors) are no longer included in the Flavors and Fragrances Group. The China Group is now included in the Corporate and Other category, along with the Asia Pacific Group and the Company's corporate expenses. Financial information regarding the Company's two reportable segments and the operations included within Corporate and Other is incorporated by reference to the information set forth on pages 39 through 41 of the Company's 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders under the heading Segment and Geographic Information.

Flavors & Fragrances Group

The Company is a global developer, manufacturer and supplier of flavor and fragrance systems for the food, beverage, pharmaceutical, personal care and household-products industries. The Company's flavor formulations are used in many of the world's best-known consumer products. Under the unified brand names of Sensient Flavors, Sensient Dehydrated Flavors and Sensient Fragrances, the Group is a supplier to multinational companies.

The Flavors & Fragrances Group produces flavor and fragrance products that impart a desired taste, texture, aroma and/or other characteristics to a broad range of consumer and other products. This Group includes the Company's dehydrated flavors business, which produces ingredients for food processors. The main products of the Group are systems products, including flavor-delivery systems, and compounded and blended products. In addition, the Group has strong positions in selected ingredient products such as essential oils, natural and synthetic flavors, and aroma chemicals. The Group serves food and non-food industries. In food industries, markets include savory, beverage, dairy, confectionery and bakery flavors. In non-food industries, the Group supplies fragrance products to the personal and home care-markets and supplies flavor products to the pharmaceuticals market.

Operating through its Sensient Dehydrated Flavors business, the Company believes it is the second largest producer (by sales) of dehydrated onion and garlic products in the United States. The Company is also one of the largest producers and distributors of chili powder, paprika, chili pepper and dehydrated vegetables such as parsley, celery and spinach. Domestically, the Company sells dehydrated products to food manufacturers for use as ingredients and also for repackaging under private labels for sale to the retail market and to the food service industry. In addition, Sensient Dehydrated Flavors is one of the leading dehydrators of specialty vegetables in Europe and it has a growing presence in China. Advanced dehydration technologies utilized by Sensient Dehydrated Flavors permit fast and effective rehydration of ingredients used in many of today's popular convenience foods.

The Flavors & Fragrances Group operates principally through the Company's subsidiaries Sensient Flavors LLC and Sensient Dehydrated Flavors LLC. The Group's principal manufacturing plants are located in California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Color Group

The Company is a developer, manufacturer and supplier of colors for businesses worldwide. The Company provides natural and synthetic color systems for use in foods, beverages and pharmaceuticals; colors and other ingredients for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals; and technical colors for industrial applications and digital imaging.

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The Company believes that it is one of the world's largest producers (by sales) of synthetic and natural colors, and that it is the world's largest manufacturer (by sales) of certified food colors. The Company sells its synthetic and natural colors to domestic and international producers of beverages, bakery products, processed foods, confections, pet foods, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. The Company also makes inkjet inks and other dyes and pigments used in a variety of non-food applications.

The Color Group operates principally through the Company's subsidiary Sensient Colors Inc., which has its principal manufacturing plants in Missouri, California, New Jersey, Canada, Mexico, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The Color Group operates under the following trade names:

Sensient Food Colors (food and beverage colors);

Sensient Pharmaceutical Technologies (pharmaceutical colors and coatings);

Sensient Paper Colors (paper dyes and colorants);

Sensient Cosmetic Technologies (cosmetic colors and ingredients and systems); and

Sensient Technical Colors (including paper colors; industrial colors for plastics, leather, wood stains, antifreeze and other uses; inkjet colors and inks; specialty inks; and display imaging).

The Company believes that its advanced process technology, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities and equipment, and a complete range of synthetic and natural color products constitute the basis for its market leadership position.

Asia Pacific and China Groups

The Asia Pacific Group and the China Group focus on marketing the Company's diverse product line in the Pacific Rim under the Sensient name. Through these operations, the Company offers a full range of products from its Flavors & Fragrances Group and Color Group, as well as products developed by regional technical teams to appeal to local preferences.

Sales, marketing and technical functions are managed through the Asia Pacific Group's headquarters in Australia. Manufacturing operations are located in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. The Asia Pacific Group maintains offices for research and development, as well as sales, in Indonesia, India, Singapore and Thailand. An additional sales office is located in Australia.

The China Group's operations include a manufacturing facility in China and multiple sales and technical offices.

Research and Development/Quality Assurance

The development of specialized products and services is a complex technical process calling upon the combined knowledge and talents of the Company's research, development and quality assurance personnel. The Company believes that its competitive advantage lies in its ability to work with its customers to develop and deliver high-performance products that address the distinct needs of those customers.

The Company's research, development and quality assurance personnel support the Company's efforts to improve existing products and develop new products tailored to customer needs, while providing on-going technical support and know-how to the Company's manufacturing activities. As of December 31, 2008, the Company employed approximately 436 people in research, development and quality assurance.

Expenditures for research and development related to continuing operations in calendar year 2008 were \$28.3 million, compared with \$25.7 million in the year ended December 31, 2007 and \$24.8 million in the year ended December 31, 2006. As part of its commitment to quality as a competitive advantage, the Company holds certifications under the requirements established by the International Organization for

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Standardization in Geneva, Switzerland, through its ISO 9000 series of quality standards. Certified sites include Flavors & Fragrances Group plants in the United States, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom,

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Canada, the Netherlands and France, and Color Group plants in the United States, Mexico and the United Kingdom. In December 2007, the Flavors & Fragrances Group plant in Spain received additional certification through the ISO 14001 and 18001 quality standards.

Products and Application Activities

The Company's strategic focus is on the manufacture and marketing of high-performance components that bring life to products. Accordingly, the Company devotes considerable attention and resources to the development of product applications and processing improvements to support its customers' numerous new and reformulated products. Many of the proprietary processes and formulae developed by the Company are maintained as trade secrets and under confidentiality agreements with customers.

Within the Flavors & Fragrances Group, development activity is focused on ingredients, flavors and flavor systems that are responsive to consumer trends and the processing needs of our food and beverage customers. These activities include the development of functional ingredient systems for foods and beverages, savory flavors, and ingredient systems for prepared foods and flavors and ingredients for dairy, confectionery and other applications. The Company believes that the development of yeast derivatives and other specialty ingredients also provides growth opportunities in bionutrients and biotechnology markets, such as pharmaceuticals, vitamins, vaccines and bioremediation.

Within the Color Group, development activity for food and beverage product lines is focused on value-added products derived from synthetic dyes and pigments and natural food and beverage colors and on color systems. The Company also produces a diverse line of colors and ingredients for cosmetics and pharmaceutical applications and technical colors for industrial applications and specialty chemicals for digital imaging.

Raw Materials

The Company uses a wide range of raw materials in producing its products. Chemicals used to produce certified colors are obtained from several domestic and foreign suppliers. Raw materials for natural colors, such as carmine, beta-carotene, annatto and turmeric, are purchased from overseas and U.S. sources. In the production of flavors and fragrances, the principal raw materials include essential oils, aroma chemicals, botanicals, fruits and juices, and are primarily obtained from local vendors. Flavor enhancers and secondary flavors are produced from yeast and vegetable materials such as corn and soybeans. Chili peppers, onion, garlic and other vegetables are acquired under annual contracts with numerous growers in the western United States and Europe. The Company has expanded its sources of vegetables to include growers in China and expects to add growers in other Asian countries.

The Company believes that alternate sources of materials are available to enable it to maintain its competitive position in the event of an interruption in the supply of raw materials from a single supplier.

Competition

All Company products are sold in highly competitive markets. While no single factor is determinative, the Company's competitive position is based principally on process and applications expertise, quality, technological advances resulting from its research and development, and customer service and support. Because of its highly differentiated products, the Company competes with only a few companies across multiple product lines, and is more likely to encounter competition specific to an individual product.

Flavors and Fragrances. Competition to supply the flavors and fragrances industries has taken on an increasingly global nature. Most of the Company's customers do not buy their entire flavor and/or fragrance products from a single supplier and the Company does not compete with a single supplier in all product categories. Competition for the supply of flavors and fragrances is based on the development of customized ingredients for new and reformulated customer products, as well as on quality, customer service and price. Competition to supply dehydrated vegetable products is present through several large and small domestic competitors, as well as competitors in other countries. Competition for the supply of dehydrated vegetables is based principally on product quality, customer service and price.

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Color. Competition in the color market is diverse, with the majority of the Company's competitors specializing in either synthetic dyes or natural colors. The Company believes that it gains a competitive advantage as the only major basic manufacturer of a full range of color products, including synthetic dyes and pigments as well as natural colors. Competition in the supply of inkjet inks is based principally upon price, quality and service, as well as product development and technical capabilities. The Company competes against a number of large and small suppliers of inkjet inks.

Asia Pacific and China. Because of the broad array of products available to customers of the Asia Pacific Group and the China Group, the Company believes that it is able to offer a wider product base than many of its competitors. Competition is based upon reliability in product quality, service and price as well as technical support available to customers.

Foreign Operations

The information appearing under the heading "Geographic Information" in Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company, which appears on page 41 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders, is incorporated herein by reference.

Patents, Formulae and Trademarks

The Company owns or controls many patents, formulae and trademarks related to its businesses. The businesses are not materially dependent upon patent or trademark protection; however, trademarks, patents and formulae are important to the business of the Company.

Employees

As of December 31, 2008, the Company employed 3,613 persons worldwide.

Regulation

Compliance with government provisions regulating discharges into the environment, or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, did not have a material adverse effect on the Company's operations for the year covered by this report. Current compliance is not expected to have a material adverse effect in the next two years. Certain legal proceedings discussed in Item 3 of this Report pertain to environmental compliance. The production, packaging, labeling and distribution of certain of the products of the Company in the U.S. are subject to the regulations of various federal, state and local governmental agencies, in particular the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. The Company is subject to similar regulations in many international markets.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

As with any business, the Company's business and operations involve risks and uncertainties. In addition to the other discussions in, and incorporated by reference in, this Report, particularly those in "Management's Discussion & Analysis of Operations & Financial Condition" incorporated by reference from pages 17 through 24 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders and "Forward Looking Statements" on page 24 of this Report, the following factors should be considered:

In some product lines, most of our sales are made to a relatively small number of customers; if we lose any of those customers, sales and operating results could decline.

In some of our product lines, our sales are concentrated to a small number of customers. While we do not currently have any single customer that we consider to be significant to us as a whole, the loss of a significant customer of a product line could substantially affect the sales and profitability of that line, which may cause us to need to re-evaluate that line. Those developments could affect our results.

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Many of our products are used in items for human consumption and contact. We may be subject to product liability claims and product recalls, which could negatively impact our profitability and corporate image.

We sell flavors and colors which are used in foods, drugs, cosmetics, and other items for human consumption or contact. These products involve risks such as product contamination or spoilage, product tampering and other adulteration. We may be subject to liability if the consumption or use of our flavors and colors, or products which incorporate ingredients we manufacture, cause injury, illness or death. In addition, we or our customers may need to recall products in the event of contamination or damage.

A significant product defect, product liability judgment or product recall may negatively impact our profitability for a period of time depending on publicity, product availability, scope, competitive reaction and consumer attitudes. Even if a product liability claim is unsuccessful or is not fully pursued, the negative publicity surrounding any assertion that our products caused illness, injury or death could adversely affect our reputation with existing and potential customers and our corporate image.

Consolidation has resulted in customers with increased buying power, which can affect our profitability.

Many of our customers have consolidated in recent years and we expect the combination trend to continue. These consolidations have often produced large, sophisticated customers with increased buying power who are more capable of resisting price increases. If the larger size or greater buying power of those customers results in additional negotiating strength, the prices we are able to charge could be negatively affected and our profitability could decline.

Intense competition may result in reduced sales and profitability.

The industries and markets in which we operate are highly competitive. That competition can reduce both our sales and the prices at which we are able to sell our products, which can in turn negatively affect our profitability.

Our sales and profitability are affected by changing consumer preferences.

Although we do not generally make or sell proprietary consumer products, many of our products are sold to companies which develop and market consumer products. Sales of these flavors, fragrances, colors and inks depend in part upon our customers' ability to identify and meet consumer preferences and their sales and marketing efforts, all of which are beyond our control. Therefore, we depend upon our customers' ability to create markets for the consumer products which incorporate many of the flavors, fragrances, colors and inks which we manufacture.

If we do not maintain an appropriate cost structure, our profitability could decrease.

Our success depends in part on our ability to maintain an efficient cost structure. We regularly initiate cost-reduction measures that could impact our manufacturing, sales, operations and information systems functions. If we do not continue to manage costs and achieve additional efficiencies, or we do not successfully implement related strategies, our competitiveness and our profits could decrease.

Commodity and energy price increases or material shortages may reduce our profits.

We use many different commodities as raw ingredients. We also use petroleum-based raw materials and other raw materials whose production is energy intensive. In addition, various energy sources are used in our production and distribution processes. Commodity and energy prices are subject to significant volatility caused by market fluctuations, supply and demand, currency fluctuation, production and transportation disruption, world events, and changes in governmental programs.

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Commodity and energy price increases will raise both our raw material costs and operating costs. We may not be able to increase our product prices enough to offset these increased costs. Increasing our prices also may reduce sales volume and related profitability.

In addition, we obtain some of the raw materials that we use from a single supplier or a limited number of suppliers, and problems with those suppliers could affect the availability of those materials. Even if there are multiple suppliers of a particular raw material, there are occasional shortages. An unavailability or shortage of a raw material could negatively affect our operations using that raw material and thus our results.

There are many laws and regulations applicable to our industries. Compliance with those requirements is costly to us and can affect our operations. Failure to comply could also be costly and disruptive.

Our facilities and products are subject to many laws and regulations relating to the processing, packaging, storage, distribution, quality and safety of food, drugs and other consumer products. These laws and regulations are administered in the United States by the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and other federal and state governmental agencies. We are subject to similar governmental regulation and oversight abroad. Compliance with these laws and regulations can be costly and affect our operations. Also, if we fail to comply with applicable laws and regulations, we could be subject to administrative penalties and injunctive relief, civil remedies, fines and recalls of our products.

Environmental compliance may be costly to us.

Our operations are subject to extensive and increasingly stringent laws and regulations which pertain to the discharge of materials into the environment and the handling and disposition of wastes. These rules operate at both the federal and state levels in the United States, and there are analogous laws at many of our overseas locations. We are currently involved in disputes relating to compliance with environmental laws. Environmental regulations, and the potential failure to comply with them, can have serious consequences, including the costs of compliance and defense, interference with our operations, civil and administrative penalties and negative publicity.

Operating in foreign countries exposes us to increased risks, including foreign currency risks.

We operate and sell our products in many foreign countries. The international aspects of our business subject us to risks that could materially impact our operating results, including: foreign exchange rate fluctuations; difficulties in staffing and managing foreign personnel in diverse cultures; transportation delays or interruptions; and the effects of international political developments and political and economic instability. In addition, changes in policies by the United States or foreign governments could negatively affect our operating results due to changes in duties, tariffs, trade regulations, taxes or limitations on currency or fund transfers.

We depend on certain key personnel, and the loss or retirement of these persons may harm our business.

Our success depends in large part on the continued service and availability of our key management and technical personnel, and on our ability to attract and retain qualified new personnel. The competition for these individuals can be significant, and the loss of key employees could harm our business. In addition, as some of these persons approach retirement age, we need to provide for smooth transitions, and our operations and results may be negatively affected if we are not able to do so.

We may not successfully complete and integrate future acquisitions, which could adversely affect our operating results.

We have acquired many companies and operations in the past and may resume growth by acquisition in the future. Our future growth through acquisitions could involve significant risks that may have a material adverse effect on us. We may also be at risk for factors associated with acquisitions that the Company has made in the past. These risks include: inability to integrate successfully our acquired operations, businesses and personnel; the inability to realize anticipated synergies, economies of scale or other value; difficulties coordinating management of operations at new sites; the strain placed on our personnel, systems and resources; possible

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loss of an acquired business customer base; and the loss of key employees of acquired businesses. Acquired companies may also have significant latent liabilities which may not be discovered before an acquisition or fully reflected in the price we pay.

We may also need to finance future acquisitions, and the terms of any financing, and the need to ultimately repay or refinance any indebtedness, may have negative effects on us. Acquisitions also could have a dilutive effect on our financial results. Acquisitions also generally result in goodwill, which would need to be written off against earnings in the future if it becomes impaired.

Our ability to successfully maintain and upgrade our information technology systems may affect our competitiveness and our profits could decrease.

Our success depends in part on our ability to maintain a current information technology platform for our business to operate. We routinely review and upgrade our information technology systems in order to better manage and report the sales, manufacturing and other operations of our business. If we do not continue to maintain our information technology platform and successfully implement upgrades to the system, our competitiveness and profits could decrease.

World events and natural disasters are beyond our control and could affect our results.

World events, such as the attacks of September 11, 2001 and their aftermath, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the situations in North Korea and Iran, can adversely affect national, international and local economies. Economies can also be affected by natural disasters, such as the recent typhoons in the Philippines, the Southeast Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, or by epidemics such as the avian flu. Such events and conditions, as well as the current impairment of financial markets, increased unemployment and decreased consumer spending, could adversely affect our revenues and profitability, particularly if they occur in locations in which we or our customers have significant operations.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

Item 2. Properties

The following table sets forth information as to the principal properties of the Company and its subsidiaries. All properties are owned except as otherwise indicated below. All facilities are considered to be in good condition (ordinary wear and tear excepted) and suitable and adequate for the Company's requirements.

| LOCATION | GROUP/DIVISION | FUNCTION |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| UNITED STATES | | |
| California | | |
| Carlsbad | Color | Sales and R&D/inkjet products and specialty inks |
| Greenfield | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/dehydrated flavors |
| Livingston (2) | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and R&D/dehydrated flavors |
| Turlock | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, R&D and sales/dehydrated flavors |
| Illinois | | |
| Amboy | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/ingredients and flavors |
| Indiana | | |
| Indianapolis | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, sales and R&D/flavors |

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UNITED STATES

(Continued)

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Michigan | | |
| Harbor Beach | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/flavors and flavor enhancers |
| Missouri | | |
| St. Louis | Color | Production, R&D and sales/food colors |
| New Jersey | | |
| South Plainfield (2) ** | Color | Production, R&D and sales/cosmetic and pharmaceutical colors and ingredients |
| Wisconsin | | |
| Juneau | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/flavor enhancers and extracts |
| Milwaukee* | Headquarters | Administrative offices |

INTERNATIONAL

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Argentina | | |
| Buenos Aires* | Color | Sales/food colors |
| Australia | | |
| Keysborough | Asia Pacific | Production, R&D and sales/colors and flavors |
| Sydney* | Asia Pacific | Sales/food colors and flavors |
| Belgium | | |
| Brussels* | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/natural health ingredients |
| Heverlee | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/ingredients and flavors |
| Brazil | | |
| São Paulo* | Color | Production and sales/food colors and flavors |
| Canada | | |
| Cornwall, Ontario | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/flavor enhancers and extracts |
| Delta, British | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/ingredients and flavors |
| Columbia | | |
| Halton Hills, Ontario | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/ingredients and flavors |
| Kingston, Ontario | Color | Production and sales/food colors |
| Mississauga, | Flavors & Fragrances | R&D and sales/flavors |
| Ontario (2) | | |
| Rexdale, Ontario * | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/ingredients and flavors |
| Tara, Ontario | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/ingredients and flavors |
| China | | |
| Beijing* | China | Sales/colors and flavors |
| Guangzhou* | China | Production, R&D and sales/flavors and food and pharmaceutical colors |
| Hong Kong* | China | Sales/colors and flavors |
| Qingdao* | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/dehydrated flavors |
| Shanghai* | China | R&D and sales/colors and flavors |

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INTERNATIONAL

(Continued)

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Costa Rica | | |
| San Jose* | Flavors & Fragrances | Sales/flavors |
| Czech Republic | | |
| Prague* | Color | Sales/food colors |
| England | | |
| Kings Lynn * | Color | Production/food colors and dyes |
| Milton Keynes | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/flavors and extracts |
| France | | |
| Marchais | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/dehydrated flavors |
| Saint-Denis* | Color | Sales/food colors |
| Saint Ouen | Color | Production, R&D and sales/cosmetic colors and ingredients |
| L. Aumone* | | |
| Strasbourg | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/flavor enhancers and extracts |
| Germany | | |
| Bremen * | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/flavors, flavored products and essential oils |
| Geesthacht | Color | Production, R&D and sales/food colors |
| Wolfen | Color | Production, R&D and sales/specialty dyes and chemicals |
| Guatemala | | |
| Guatemala City* | Flavors & Fragrances | Sales/fragrances |
| Hungary | | |
| Budapest | Color | Production/food colors |
| India | | |
| Mumbai* | Asia Pacific | R&D and sales/colors and flavors |
| Indonesia | | |
| Jakarta* | Asia Pacific | R&D and sales/fragrances and cosmetic colors |
| Italy | | |
| Milan | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, R&D and sales/flavors |
| Reggio Emilia (2) | Color | Production and sales/natural colors |
| Japan | | |
| Hitachi | Asia Pacific | Production/flavors and colors |
| Tokyo* | Asia Pacific | R&D and sales/flavors and colors |
| Korea | | |
| Seoul* | Asia Pacific | Sales/flavors, colors and display-imaging chemicals |
| Mexico | | |
| Celaya | Flavors & Fragrances | Production and sales/flavor enhancers and extracts |
| Lerma | Color | Production, R&D and sales/food and cosmetic colors |
| Tijuana* | Color | Production/inkjet inks |

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INTERNATIONAL

(Continued)

Mexico (continued)

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tlalnepantla (2)* | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, R&D, distribution and sales/ingredients, flavors and fragrances |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The Netherlands

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Elburg | Flavors & Fragrances | Production/dehydrated flavors |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Naarden | Flavors & Fragrances | Sales/food colors and dehydrated and other flavors |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|

New Zealand

| | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Auckland | Asia Pacific | Production, R&D and sales/flavors |
|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|

Philippines

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manila* | Asia Pacific | Production, R&D and sales/flavors, fragrances cosmetic ingredients and color blending |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Poland

| | | |
|---------|-------|-------------------|
| Warsaw* | Color | Sales/food colors |
|---------|-------|-------------------|

Romania

| | | |
|----------|-------|-------------------|
| Morazia* | Color | Sales/food colors |
|----------|-------|-------------------|

Serbia

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Zenta | Color | Sales/food colors |
|-------|-------|-------------------|

Singapore

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Singapore* | Asia Pacific | R&D and sales/food colors and flavors |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|

South Africa

| | | |
|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Johannesburg* | Color | Production and sales/food colors |
|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|

Spain

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Barcelona* | Flavors & Fragrances | Sales/flavors |
|------------|----------------------|---------------|

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Granada | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, R&D and sales/fragrances and aromatic chemicals |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|

Sweden

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Kristianstad* | Flavors & Fragrances | Sales/flavors |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|

Switzerland

| | | |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| Morges* | Color | Production, R&D and sales/ technical colors |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------------------|

Thailand

| | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Bangkok* | Asia Pacific | R&D and sales/colors and flavors |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------------|

Wales

| | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Ceredigion | Flavors & Fragrances | Production, R&D and sales/flavors and flavor enhancers |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

() Indicates number of properties at the locations, if more than one.

* Indicates one leased property at the location.

** Indicates two leased properties at the location.

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Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Environmental Matters

The Company is involved in various significant environmental matters, which are described below. The Company is also involved in other site closure and related environmental remediation and compliance activities at a manufacturing site related to a 2001 acquisition by the Company for which reserves for environmental matters were established as of the date of purchase. Actions that are legally required are substantially complete.

Superfund Claim

In July 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified the Company's subsidiary Sensient Colors Inc. (Sensient Colors) that it may be a potentially responsible party (PRP) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for activities at the General Color Company Superfund Site in Camden, New Jersey (the Site). The EPA requested reimbursement of \$10.9 million in clean-up costs, plus interest. Sensient Colors advised the EPA that the Site had been expressly excluded from the Company's 1988 stock purchase of H. Kohnstamm & Company, Inc. (now Sensient Colors). The selling shareholders had retained ownership of and liability for the Site, and some became owners of General Color Company, which continued to operate there until the mid-1990s. In a letter to the EPA in January 2005, the Company outlined legal challenges to the recoverability of certain costs and urged the EPA to pursue General Color Company and related parties. The EPA informed Sensient Colors that it was unwilling to discuss these legal challenges without prior conditions. In 2006, a private developer, Westfield Acres Urban Renewal Association II, LP, pursuant to an agreement with the EPA, began redevelopment efforts at the Site (construction of affordable housing) by demolishing buildings thereon. Thereafter, the EPA removed allegedly contaminated soil from the locations where the buildings once stood.

In March 2007, the United States filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court in New Jersey against Sensient Colors claiming over \$16 million in response costs allegedly incurred and to be incurred by the EPA pursuant to CERCLA. Sensient Colors moved to dismiss the United States complaint, which motion was denied by the Court in October 2007. Sensient Colors timely filed its answer and affirmative defenses to the United States' complaint, as well as a third-party complaint against current and former owners and/or operators of the Site. The United States moved to strike Sensient Colors' affirmative defenses. In an August 12, 2008 Opinion and Order, following briefs and oral argument, the Court partly granted and partly denied the United States' motion, effectively preserving most of Sensient Colors' affirmative defenses, either as originally pled or with changes outlined by the Court. Sensient Colors promptly filed an amended pleading incorporating the revised affirmative defenses. On July 29, 2008, Sensient Colors filed a third-party complaint adding Kohnstamm Inc. (a Canadian affiliate of General Color Company) and its president Avtar Singh as defendants.

In late August 2008, in the course of reviewing documents produced by the EPA, Sensient Colors discovered an e-mail exchange between EPA officials that Sensient Colors believes supports many of the legal theories and affirmative defenses advanced by Sensient Colors in the litigation and undermines key United States cost recovery claims. By letter dated August 26, 2008, based on the above document and other evidence adduced in the case, Sensient Colors demanded that the United States dismiss its case with prejudice and reimburse Sensient Colors for attorneys fees and costs incurred. In response to the August 26, 2008 letter, the United States withdrew, without prejudice, its then-pending motion to limit the scope of review to EPA's administrative record and told the Court that it would respond to Sensient's letter by September 10, 2008. The United States then sought additional time for its review of Sensient Colors' demand. In an October 3, 2008 Letter Order, the Court directed the United States to provide Sensient with notice of its decision with respect to the demand for dismissal by October 31, 2008. In a letter to Sensient Colors dated October 31, 2008, the United States declined to voluntarily dismiss the case but agreed, with certain conditions, not to oppose depositions of current and former EPA employees on the issues raised in Sensient Colors' letter of August 26, 2008. The United States reserved its rights to seek limitations on discovery and to seek to limit review of EPA's choice of response action to the administrative record.

Using the evidence that supports its demand for dismissal, Sensient Colors moved for leave to amend its responsive pleading to include a new affirmative defense, a counterclaim against the United States and the EPA, and third-party claims against certain EPA

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employees or agents. After briefing, the motion for leave to amend was argued before the magistrate judge on November 18, 2008. On February 13, 2009, the magistrate issued an opinion and order denying Sensient Colors' motion for leave to amend. Sensient Colors has until March 2, 2009 to appeal the magistrate's decision to the district court judge and intends to do so.

Sensient Colors also issued subpoenas or deposition notices to numerous current or former EPA officials. Motions were filed to block the depositions of former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, former EPA Regional Administrator Jane Kenny, and EPA On-Scene Coordinator David Rosoff. Those motions have been fully briefed. On January 28, 2009, the magistrate judge issued an opinion and order denying or delaying Sensient Colors' ability to conduct the foregoing depositions. Sensient Colors has exercised its right to appeal the magistrate's decision to the district court judge.

Sensient Colors intends to vigorously defend its interests in the litigation. It is evaluating, among other things, the pursuit of additional PRPs and additional challenges to the EPA's right to recover its claimed response costs. A portion of Sensient Colors' legal defense costs is being paid by insurers with a reservation of coverage rights. Litigation to resolve coverage issues is pending.

Pleasant Gardens Realty Corp. v. H. Kohnstamm & Co., et al.

The owner of Pleasant Gardens (Property), an apartment complex adjacent to the General Color Superfund Site, filed a complaint in New Jersey state court in November 2003 against H. Kohnstamm & Co. (now Sensient Colors), the Company, General Color Company, and unknown defendants. Plaintiff seeks to hold defendants liable, in an unspecified amount, for damages related to the alleged contamination of the Property. Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the Company without prejudice. Sensient Colors filed an answer denying liability and asserting affirmative defenses. Limited discovery has occurred. In November 2006, the Camden Redevelopment Agency (Agency) filed condemnation litigation against plaintiff (and other purported interested parties) to take the Property. Sensient Colors is not a party to the condemnation litigation. In advance of its filing, the Agency notified plaintiff that its appraiser had assessed the fair market value of the Property at \$7.7 million and that its environmental consultant had estimated the costs for environmental cleanup, purportedly to meet requirements of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), at \$7.5 million. Sensient Colors and plaintiff have pursued a reduction in the scope and cost of the Agency's proposed environmental cleanup in meetings with the DEP, the Agency and another party involved in the condemnation, the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (NJSCC). To the extent that there is a reduction in the condemnation value of the Property due to the Agency's remediation of contamination for which Sensient Colors is allegedly responsible, such reduction may become a part of the damages claimed by plaintiff. In March 2007, plaintiff filed an amended complaint naming the Agency, the NJSCC and the DEP as additional defendants in furtherance of this effort. In April 2007, Sensient Colors filed its answer to the amended complaint, including cross claims against these newly added parties. The Agency, the DEP and the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) (which replaced the NJSCC as a state agency effective August 7, 2007) each filed answers, cross-claims and counter-claims; Sensient Colors has responded to all three cross-claims. Document discovery was completed in July 2008, and expert and rebuttal expert reports have been exchanged. Depositions of fact and expert witnesses are on-going.

Sensient Colors advised the Court and the other parties in this litigation of the developments in the Superfund Claim as described above. Sensient Colors took supplemental depositions of several DEP officials and served subpoenas upon five current or former EPA officials. The United States, though not a party to the Pleasant Gardens case, initially sought to quash those subpoenas before the Pleasant Gardens court. On November 17, 2008, the United States removed the subpoenas and related proceedings to federal court. At an initial court conference on the removed proceedings on February 19, 2009, the federal magistrate judge asked for additional briefing on the issue of the government's standing to seek to quash the state court subpoenas, which the court has indicated an intent to consider before considering the merits of the motions to quash.

On December 3, 2008, Sensient Colors moved for a 120-day stay of the trial date and commensurate adjustment of case schedule. There has as yet been no ruling on that motion.

On January 8, 2009, the judge recused himself from the Pleasant Gardens case (as well as the related insurance-coverage case) because of a conflict of interest and the Pleasant Gardens case has been reassigned to another judge. In light of the recusal and reassignment, the new judge has re-scheduled the trial to commence no earlier than June 1, 2009 and, depending on how certain outstanding discovery issues are resolved, the trial may be deferred further.

Table of ContentsCommercial Litigation

The following is a significant commercial case involving the Company.

Smead et al. v. Sensient Flavors Inc. et al.

On April 14, 2008, the Company's subsidiary Sensient Flavors Inc., now known as Sensient Flavors LLC (Sensient Flavors), certain other flavor manufacturers, a flavor industry trade association and its management company were sued in Milwaukee County Circuit Court in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by a former employee of International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc. (IFF), Richard Smead, and his spouse, Kathy Smead. Mr. Smead claims that while working in various positions at IFF he was exposed to butter flavors and/or their constituents allegedly sold by Sensient Flavors and the other manufacturer defendants, which caused him to suffer severe and permanent injury to his respiratory system and other damages. Mrs. Smead's claim is for loss of consortium. The allegations of this complaint are virtually identical to those contained in other complaints that have been filed against Sensient Flavors in other jurisdictions over the presence of diacetyl in butter flavoring for use in microwave popcorn production.

The Company believed that plaintiffs' claims were without merit and vigorously defended this case. The Company responded to the Complaint, denying all liability and joining numerous motions to dismiss that were filed by some of the other flavor manufacturers. An analysis of Sensient Flavors' sales records indicated that it never sold any butter flavoring to IFF. On January 6, 2009, the Court entered an Order dismissing Sensient Flavors from this case, without prejudice and without costs.

The Company is involved in various other claims and litigation arising in the normal course of business. In the judgment of management, which relies in part on information from Company counsel, the ultimate resolution of these actions will not materially affect the consolidated financial statements of the Company except as described above.

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

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of the year ended December 31, 2008.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The executive officers of the Company and their ages as of March 2, 2009 are as follows:

| Name | Age | Position |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Kenneth P. Manning | 67 | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer |
| Peter G. Bradley | 49 | President - Color Group |
| John F. Collopy | 39 | Vice President and Treasurer |
| Neil G. Cracknell | 47 | President - Flavors & Fragrances Group |
| Robert J. Edmonds | 52 | President and Chief Operating Officer |
| John L. Hammond | 62 | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary |
| Richard F. Hobbs | 61 | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Richard J. Malin | 42 | Assistant Controller |
| Douglas S. Pepper | 56 | Vice President - Administration |
| Stephen J. Rolfs | 44 | Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer |

The Company has employed all of the individuals named above, in their current positions, for at least the past five years except as follows. Mr. Edmonds is expected to leave the Company in the near future to pursue other opportunities, and will not be re-elected as an executive officer by the Board at its annual meeting in April. Since February 2009, Mr. Manning has assumed the duties of Chief

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Operating Officer. Mr. Bradley has held his present office since July 2005 and previously served as President-Asia Pacific Group (2004-2005) and General Manager-Food Colors UK (2003-2004). Mr. Collopy has held his present office since October 2006, and previously served as Assistant Treasurer (February 2006 - October 2006), Director, Treasury Operations (2004-2006), and Manager, Corporate Development (1999-2004). Mr. Cracknell has held his present office since December 20, 2007 and previously served as Vice President and Deputy Group Executive of the Flavors & Fragrances Group (October 18 - December 19, 2007) and as President - Dehydrated Flavors (February 2002 - October 2007). Mr. Edmonds has held his present position since August 2007 and previously served as General Manager - Food Colors North America (July 2005 - August 2007) and as a consultant to Sensient Colors Inc. (September 2004 - July 2005) and as a Vice President for Marketing and Process Technologies of Engelhard Corporation (January 2003 - September 2004). Mr. Hammond and Mr. Hobbs were Vice Presidents before being named Senior Vice Presidents in December 2008. Mr. Malin has held his present office since April 2005 and previously served as Assistant Treasurer (2001-2005). Mr. Pepper has held his current position since February 2008 and previously served as Vice President - Human Resources (September 2007 - January 2008), Chief Financial Officer - Color Group (December 2005 - September 2007), and as regional Chief Financial Officer for Omnicare, Inc. (January 2000 - December 2005).

PART II

Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The only market in which the common stock of the Company is traded is the New York Stock Exchange. The range of the high and low sales prices as quoted in the New York Stock Exchange - Composite Transaction tape for the common stock of the Company and the amount of dividends declared for the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 appearing under Common Stock Prices and Dividends on page 47 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders are incorporated by reference. In 2008, common stock dividends were paid on a quarterly basis, and it is expected that quarterly dividends will continue to be paid in the future.

On February 10, 2000, the Board of Directors established a share-repurchase program that authorized the Company to repurchase up to five million shares of the Company's common stock, all of which have been repurchased. On April 27, 2001, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of an additional five million shares. As of February 15, 2009, 2,012,990 shares had been repurchased under the latter authorization. The Company did not repurchase any shares during the fourth quarter of 2008.

The number of shareholders of record on February 17, 2009 was 3,158.

On July 17, 2008, the Company announced an increase in its cash dividend on its common stock from an annual rate of 72 cents per share to an annual rate of 76 cents per share, commencing with the quarterly dividend paid on September 2, 2008 to shareholders of record on August 8, 2008.

Information regarding the Company's equity compensation plans is incorporated by reference into Item 11 of Part III of this annual report.

The graph found on page 47 of the Company's 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders comparing the cumulative five year total return on the Company's common stock to the appropriate Standard and Poor's indices is incorporated by reference.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected financial data required by this item is incorporated by reference from the Five Year Review and the notes thereto on pages 48 and 49 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The information required by this item is set forth under Management's Discussion & Analysis of Operations & Financial Condition on pages 17 through 24 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders and is incorporated by reference.

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Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The information required by this item is set forth under Market Risk Factors on pages 22 and 23 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders and is incorporated by reference.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The financial statements and supplementary data required by this item are set forth on pages 25 through 44 and page 47 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders and are incorporated by reference.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and its Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness, as of December 31, 2008, of the design and operation of the disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act. Based upon that evaluation, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and its Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2008.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Management has assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008. In making its assessment of internal control over financial reporting, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework*. Based on that assessment, management has concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2008. Management's report on internal control over financial reporting, which appears on page 45 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders, is incorporated by reference.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. Their opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting, set forth on page 46 of the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders, is incorporated by reference.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting. There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2008 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

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PART III

Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant

Information regarding directors and officers appearing under Election of Directors and Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance in the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company dated March 13, 2009 (Proxy Statement), is incorporated by reference. Additional information regarding executive officers appears at the end of Part I above, and information regarding codes of conduct and ethics for officers appears at the beginning of Part I above.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

Information relating to compensation of directors and officers is incorporated by reference from the Director Compensation and Benefits, Executive Compensation, Equity Compensation Plan Information and Employment Agreements portions of the Proxy Statement. Information relating to the Compensation and Development Committee of the Company's Board of Directors is incorporated by reference from the fifth paragraph under the heading Committees of the Board of Directors in the Proxy Statement.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The discussion of security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management and related stockholder matters appearing under Principal Shareholders in the Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference. The discussion appearing under Equity Compensation Plan Information in the Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

There are no family relationships between any of the directors or director nominees and the officers of the Company, nor any arrangement or understanding between any director or officer or any other person pursuant to which any of the nominees has been nominated. No director, nominee for director or officer had any material interest, direct or indirect, in any material business transaction of the Company or any subsidiary during the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, or in any such proposed transaction. In the ordinary course of business, the Company may engage in business transactions with companies whose officers or directors are also directors of the Company. These transactions are routine in nature and are conducted on an arm's-length basis. The terms of any such transactions are comparable at all times to those obtainable in business transactions with unrelated persons.

The discussion appearing under Transactions with Related Persons in the Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The disclosure regarding principal accountant fees and services appearing under Audit Committee Report in the Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedule

Documents filed:

Edgar Filing: SENSIENT TECHNOLOGIES CORP - Form 10-K

1 and 2: Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule. See below for List of Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule.

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- 3: See Exhibit Index following this report. With the exceptions of Exhibits 4.2 and 4.3, no other instruments defining the rights of holders of long-term debt of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries are exhibits hereto because no other debt instrument authorizes securities exceeding 10% of the total consolidated assets of the Company. The Company agrees to furnish a copy of any such instrument to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.

List of Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule

| | Page Reference in 2008 Annual Report To Shareholders |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Financial Statements | |
| The following consolidated financial statements of Sensient Technologies Corporation and subsidiaries are incorporated by reference from the Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2008: | |
| Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 45-46 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets - December 31, 2008 and 2007 | 26 |
| Consolidated Statements of Earnings - Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | 25 |
| Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity - Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | 28-29 |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows - Years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 | 27 |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | 30-44 |
| 2. Financial Statement Schedule | |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | 21 |
| <u>Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u> | 22 |
| All other schedules are omitted because they are inapplicable, not required by the instructions or the information is included in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto. | |

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of

Sensient Technologies Corporation

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Sensient Technologies Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 and for the three years in the period ended December 31, 2008, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008, and have issued our reports thereon dated February 16, 2009. Such consolidated financial statements and reports are included in your 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders and are incorporated herein by reference. Our audits also included the consolidated financial statement schedule of the Company listed in Item 15. That consolidated financial statement schedule is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our audits.

In our opinion, that consolidated financial statement schedule referred to above, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

February 16, 2009

Table of Contents**Schedule II****Valuation and Qualifying Accounts (in thousands); Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006****Valuation Accounts Deducted in the****Balance Sheet From the Assets To**

| Which They Apply | Balance at Beginning of Period | Additions Charged to Costs and Expenses | Additions Recorded During Acquisitions | Deductions (A) | Balance At End of Period |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2006 | | | | | |
| Allowance for losses: | \$ 7,327 | \$ 1,901 | \$ 0 | \$ 1,557 | \$ 7,671 |
| Trade accounts receivable | | | | | |
| 2007 | | | | | |
| Allowance for losses: | \$ 7,671 | \$ 646 | \$ 0 | \$ 4,075 | \$ 4,242 |
| Trade accounts receivable | | | | | |
| 2008 | | | | | |
| Allowance for losses: | \$ 4,242 | \$ 725 | \$ 0 | \$ 672 | \$ 4,295 |
| Trade accounts receivable | | | | | |

(A) Accounts written off, net of recoveries.

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SIGNATURES

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

SENSIENT TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

/s/ John L. Hammond
John L. Hammond
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Dated: March 2, 2009

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below as of March 2, 2009, by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated.

/s/ Kenneth P. Manning
Kenneth P. Manning
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ James A.D. Croft
James A.D. Croft
Director

/s/ Richard F. Hobbs
Richard F. Hobbs
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

/s/ Robert J. Edmonds
Robert J. Edmonds
Director, President and Chief Operating Officer

/s/ Stephen J. Rolfs
Stephen J. Rolfs
Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer

/s/ William V. Hickey
William V. Hickey
Director

/s/ Hank Brown
Hank Brown
Director

/s/ Peter M. Salmon
Peter M. Salmon
Director

/s/ Fergus M. Clydesdale
Fergus M. Clydesdale
Director

/s/ Elaine R. Wedral
Elaine R. Wedral
Director

/s/ Essie Whitelaw
Essie Whitelaw
Director

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| Exhibit Number | Description | Incorporated by Reference From | Filed Herewith |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation adopted January 21, 1999 as amended as of April 21, 2005 | Exhibit 3.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2005 (Commission File No.1-7626) | |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated By-Laws of Sensient Technologies Corporation as amended as of December 4, 2008 | | X |
| 4.2 | Indenture dated as of November 9, 1998 between Registrant and The First National Bank of Chicago, as Trustee | Exhibit 4.1 to Registration Statement on Form S-3 dated November 9, 1998 (Commission File No. 333-67015) | |
| 4.3 | Note Purchase Agreement dated as of November 29, 2001, between the Registrant and Various Lenders | Exhibit 4.3 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 4.4 | Note Purchase Agreement dated as of June 27, 2006 | Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 27, 2006 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10 | Material Contracts | | |
| 10.1 | Management Contracts or Compensatory Plans | | |
| 10.1(a)(1) | Amended and Restated Executive Employment Contract dated August 17, 2007 between Registrant and Kenneth P. Manning (superseded) | Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 17, 2007 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(a)(2) | Amended and Restated Executive Employment Contract dated as of October 27, 2008 between the Company and Kenneth P. Manning (superseded) | Exhibit 10.2 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(a)(3) | Amended and Restated Executive Employment Contract dated as of February 5, 2009 between the Company and Kenneth P. Manning | Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 5, 2009 (Commission File Number 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(b) | Form of Amended and Restated Change of Control Employment and Severance Agreement for Executive Officers (Executive Change in Control Agreement) | Exhibit 10.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(c) | Sensient Technologies Corporation 2002 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan | Appendix C to Definitive Proxy Statement filed on Schedule 14A on March 15, 2004 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(d) | Universal Foods Corporation 1994 Employee Stock Plan, as amended September 10, 1998 | Exhibit 10.2(f) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1998 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(d)(1) | Amendment of 1994 Employee Stock Plan dated as of November 6, 2000 | Exhibit 10.1(e)(1) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |

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| 10.1(e) | Universal Foods Corporation 1998 Stock Option Plan, as amended September 10, 1998 | Exhibit 10.2(h) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1998 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(e)(1) | Amendment of 1998 Stock Option Plan dated as of November 6, 2000 | Exhibit 10.1(f)(1) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(f) | 1999 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan | Appendix A to Definitive Proxy Statement filed on Schedule 14A on December 17, 1999. (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(f)(1) | Amendment of 1999 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan dated as of November 6, 2000 | Exhibit 10.1(g)(1) to Annual Report of Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(g) | Sensient Technologies Corporation 2002 Stock Option Plan | Appendix B to Definitive Proxy Statement filed on Schedule 14A on March 22, 2002 | |
| 10.1(g)(1) | Amendment of No. 1 to the Sensient Technologies Corporation 2002 Stock Option Plan | Exhibit 10.11 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(g)(2) | Form of Restricted Stock Agreement thereunder | Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 1, 2005 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(h) | Sensient Technologies Corporation 2007 Restricted Stock Plan | Appendix B to the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company dated March 15, 2007 | |
| 10.1(h)(1) | Amendment No. 1 to the Sensient Technologies Corporation 2007 Restricted Stock Plan | Exhibit 10.12 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(i) | Directors Deferred Compensation Plan, as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 | Exhibit 10.3 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(j)(1) | Management Income Deferral Plan, as amended and restated effective as of December 31, 2004 (frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.5(a) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(j)(2) | Management Income Deferral Plan, as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 (non-frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.5(b) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |

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| 10.1(k)(1) | Executive Income Deferral Plan, as amended and restated effective as of December 31, 2004 (frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.4(a) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(k)(2) | Executive Income Deferral Plan, as Amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 (non-frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.4(b) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(l)(1) | Amended and Restated Sensient Technologies Corporation Rabbi Trust A Agreement dated March 1, 2002 between the Registrant and Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company | Exhibit 10.1(k) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 | |
| 10.1(l)(2) | Amendment No. 1 to Rabbi Trust A dated December 18, 2008 between Registrant and Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company | | X |
| 10.1(m)(1) | Trust Agreement, including Changes upon Appointment of Successor Trustee February 1, 1998 between Registrant and Firststar Bank, Milwaukee, N.A. (Rabbi Trust B) | Exhibit 10.2(p) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1998 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(m)(2) | Amendment No. 1 to Rabbi Trust B dated January 1, 2000 between Registrant and Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company | Exhibit 10.1(m)(1) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(m)(3) | Changes upon Appointment of Successor Trustee for Rabbi Trust B dated as of January 1, 2000 | Exhibit 10.1(m)(2) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(m)(4) | Amendment No. 2 to Rabbi Trust B dated December 18, 2008 between Registrant and Marshall and Ilsley Trust Company | | X |
| 10.1(n) | Trust Agreement, including Changes upon Appointment of Successor Trustee, dated as of February 1, 1998 between Registrant and Firststar Bank, Milwaukee N.A. (Rabbi Trust C) | Exhibit 10.2(q) to Annual Report of Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1998 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(n)(1) | Amendment No. 1 to Rabbi Trust C dated as of January 1, 2001 between Registrant and Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company | Exhibit 10.1(n)(1) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(n)(2) | Changes upon Appointment of Successor Trustee for Rabbi Trust C dated as of January 1, 2001 | Exhibit 10.1(n)(2) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 10.1(n)(3) | Amendment No. 2 to Rabbi Trust C dated December 18, 2008 between Registrant and Marshall & Ilsley Trust Company | | X |

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| | | Reference From | | |
| 10.1(o) | Incentive Compensation Plan for Elected Corporate Officers | Exhibit 10.10 to Quarterly Report on Form 10Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(p) | Management Incentive Plan for Group Presidents | Exhibit 10.9 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(q) | Management Incentive Plan for Corporate Management | Exhibit 10.7 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008(Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(r) | Management Incentive Plan for Group/Division Management | Exhibit 10.8 to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(s) | Form of Agreement for Executive Officers (Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan A), as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 | | | X |
| 10.1(t) | Form of Agreement for Executive Officers (Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan B), as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 | | | X |
| 10.1(u)(1) | Supplemental Benefit Plan, as amended and restated effective as of December 31, 2004 (frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.6(a) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(u)(2) | Supplemental Benefit Plan, as amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2005 (non-frozen portion) | Exhibit 10.6(b) to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(v) | Letter Agreement dated December 18, 2007 between Registrant and Ralph G. Pickles | Exhibit 10.1(y) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.1(w) | Retirement Agreement and Release dated January 14, 2008 between Registrant and Richard Carney | Exhibit 10.1(z) to Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.2 | Credit Agreement dated as of June 15, 2007 | Exhibit 10.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 15, 2007 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |
| 10.3 | Credit Agreement dated as of October 7, 2008 | Exhibit 10.1 to Quarterly Report on Form 8-K dated October 7, 2008 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | | |

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2008 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 13.1 | Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2008 | | X |
| 14 | Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers | Exhibit 14 to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (Commission File No. 1-7626) | |
| 21 | Subsidiaries of the Registrant | | X |
| 23.1 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP | | X |
| 31 | Certifications of Sensient's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Exchange Act | | X |
| 32 | Certifications of Sensient's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 United States Code § 1350 | | X |