

HERCULES INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 10, 2004

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

**FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2004  
Commission file number 1-496

**HERCULES INCORPORATED**

A Delaware corporation  
I.R.S. Employer Identification No. 51-0023450  
Hercules Plaza  
1313 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19894-0001  
Telephone: 302-594-5000

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 for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act).

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

As of April 30, 2004, 109,962,766 shares of registrant's common stock were outstanding.

**Hercules Incorporated**

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## PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Item 1. Consolidated Financial Statements

#### HERCULES INCORPORATED

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Dollars in millions, except per share)

	(Unaudited)	
	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2004	2003
Net sales	\$ 475	\$ 447
Cost of sales (Note 6)	305	284
Selling, general and administrative expenses (Note 6)	98	91
Research and development	11	10
Intangible asset amortization (Note 4)	2	2
Other operating expense (income), net (Note 7)	13	(1)
Profit from operations	46	61
Interest and debt expense	30	34
Other (income) expense, net (Note 8)	(9)	4
Income before income taxes and equity income	25	23
(Benefit) provision for income taxes	(1)	9
Income before equity income	26	14
Equity income (loss) of affiliated companies, net of tax	-	-
Net income before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle	26	14
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle, net of tax	-	(28)
Net income (loss)	\$ 26	\$ (14)

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Basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share (Note 5)		
Continuing operations	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.13
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle	\$ -	\$ (0.26)
Net earnings (loss)	\$ 0.24	\$ (0.13)
Weighted-average number of shares - basic (millions)	107.0	106.8
Weighted-average number of shares - diluted (millions)	108.2	107.0

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

**HERCULES INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

*(Dollars in millions)*

	(Unaudited) March 31, 2004	December 31, 2003
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 67	\$ 125
Accounts and notes receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$8 million and \$5 million, respectively)	395	415
Inventories		
Finished products	101	100
Raw materials, work-in-process and supplies	91	87
Deferred income taxes	109	93
Total current assets	763	820
Property, plant, and equipment	2,009	2,039
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,352)	(1,362)
Net property, plant, and equipment	657	677
Intangible assets, net (Note 4)	185	187
Goodwill, net (Note 4)	514	518
Deferred income taxes	27	27
Other assets	524	530
Total assets	\$ 2,670	\$ 2,759
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 192	\$ 192
Accrued expenses	225	243
Current maturities of long-term debt (Note 10)	22	22
Total current liabilities	439	457
Long-term debt (Note 10)	1,287	1,326
Deferred income taxes	77	78
Pension liability (Note 12)	218	249
Other postretirement benefits (Note 12)	93	96
Deferred credits and other liabilities	478	494
Commitments and contingencies (Note 14)		
Stockholders' equity		
Series preferred stock	-	-
Common stock, \$25/48 par value (shares issued and outstanding: 2004 - 159,984,444; 2003 - 159,984,444)	83	83
Additional paid-in capital	579	603
Unearned compensation	(88)	(87)
Accumulated other comprehensive losses	(329)	(317)
Retained earnings	1,569	1,543

	1,814	1,825
Reacquired stock, at cost (shares: 2004 - 48,160,762; 2003 - 48,992,628)	1,736	1,766
Total stockholders' equity	78	59
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,670	\$ 2,759

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

## HERCULES INCORPORATED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

*(Dollars in millions)*

	(Unaudited) Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2004	2003
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net income (loss)	\$ 26	\$ (14)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash (used in) provided by operations:		
Depreciation	19	17
Amortization	7	7
Provision for deferred income taxes	5	4
Nonoperating gain on disposals	(26)	(1)
Impairment charges	7	-
Other non-cash charges and credits	2	1
Accruals and deferrals of cash receipts and payments:		
Accounts and notes receivable	15	(6)
Inventories	(7)	(7)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(9)	(40)
Income taxes payable	(25)	(6)
Pension and postretirement benefits	(35)	5
Asbestos payments	(12)	(1)
Non-current assets and liabilities	(4)	57
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	\$ (37)	\$ 16
<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities:</b>		
Capital expenditures	(10)	(8)
Proceeds from sale of minority interest in CP Kelco ApS	27	-
Proceeds of investment and fixed asset disposals	-	3
Other, net	-	1
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	17	(4)
<b>Cash Flow from Financing Activities:</b>		
Long-term debt repayments	(39)	(5)
Change in short-term debt	-	(1)
Treasury stock issued	1	1
Net cash used in financing activities	(38)	(5)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	-	2
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(58)	9
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period	125	209
Cash and cash equivalents - end of period	\$ 67	\$ 218
<b>Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information:</b>		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest and debt expense	\$ 21	\$ 20

Income taxes	19	5
Non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Incentive and other employee benefit stock plan issuances	11	5
<i>See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.</i>		

**HERCULES INCORPORATED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

*(Dollars in millions)*

	(Unaudited)	
	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2004	2003
Net income (loss)	\$ 26	\$ (14)
Foreign currency translation	12	20
Comprehensive income	\$ 38	\$ 6

*See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.*

**HERCULES INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(Unaudited)**

**1. Basis of Presentation**

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements of Hercules Incorporated ("Hercules" or the "Company") are unaudited as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, but in the opinion of management include all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair statement of Hercules' financial position and results of operations for the interim periods. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accounting policies, financial statements and notes included in Hercules' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

**2. Stock-based Compensation**

The Company has adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS 123"), as amended by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation - Transition and Disclosure" ("SFAS 148"), effective January 1, 2003. SFAS 148 amends SFAS 123 by providing alternative methods of transition for a voluntary change to the fair value based method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation and requiring enhanced disclosure regarding stock-based compensation. The Company elected to apply the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 on a prospective basis to all employee awards granted, modified or settled after January 1, 2003. Therefore, the cost related to stock-based employee compensation included in the determination of net income is less than that which would have been recognized if the fair value based method had been applied to all awards since the original effective date of SFAS 123. The Company did not grant any stock options pursuant to SFAS 123, as amended by SFAS 148, to employees in 2003 or 2004. The Company made grants of restricted stock to employees and non-employee directors in 2003 and 2004. Restricted stock awards under the Hercules Long-term Incentive Compensation Plan are valued at the quoted market price (fair value) of the Company's stock on the grant date (measurement date). Stock acquired through the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and "above target" restricted stock awarded under the Hercules Management Incentive Compensation Plan ("MICP") for awards paid prior to 2004 is discounted 15% from market

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price as permitted by IRS regulations and the provisions of the Company's incentive compensation plans. "Above target" awards under the MICP for the 2003 plan year were paid in cash and "above target" awards, if any, for the 2004 plan year will be paid in either cash or restricted stock at fair market value. The value of the award and the discount, if any, is amortized into compensation expense over the applicable vesting period. Forfeitures are recorded as incurred. The Company recognized expense of \$1 million during the three months ended March 31, 2004 in connection with restricted stock awards.

Pursuant to the disclosure requirements of SFAS 123, as amended by SFAS 148, the following table presents the pro forma effect on net income (loss) and income (loss) per share assuming the Company had applied the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS 123 to all stock-based employee compensation on a retroactive basis.

*(Dollars in millions, except per share)*

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2004	2003
Net income (loss), as reported	\$ 26	\$ (14)
Add: Total stock-based employee compensation expense recognized in reported results	1	-
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of tax	2	2
Pro forma net income (loss)	\$ 25	\$ (16)
Income (loss) per share:		
Basic - as reported	\$ 0.24	\$ (0.13)
Basic - pro forma	\$ 0.23	\$ (0.15)
Diluted - as reported	\$ 0.24	\$ (0.13)
Diluted - pro forma	\$ 0.23	\$ (0.15)

### 3. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2004, the FASB issued Staff Position FAS 106-1, "Accounting and Disclosure Requirements Related to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003" ("FSP 106-1"). FSP 106-1 permits a sponsor of a postretirement health care plan that provides a prescription drug benefit to make a one-time election to defer accounting for the effects of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the "Medicare Act"). The Medicare Act, which was signed by the President on December 8, 2003, introduces a prescription drug benefit under Medicare (Medicare Part D) as well as a federal subsidy to sponsors of retiree health care benefit plans that provide a benefit that is at least actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D.

The Company offers a drug benefit plan as part of its comprehensive health care plan and has elected to defer current recognition of the effects of the Act in the accounting for its plan pursuant to FSP 106-1 until authoritative guidance on the accounting for the federal subsidy is issued. As such, any measures of the accumulated projected benefit obligation or net periodic postretirement benefit cost in the financial statements or accompanying notes do not reflect the effects of the Medicare Act on the plan. Specific authoritative guidance on the accounting for the federal subsidy is still pending and it is possible that the guidance, when issued, could require the Company to change previously reported information.

### 4. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The following table shows changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by operating segment for the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Performance Products	Engineered Materials & Additives	Total
----------------------	----------------------------------	-------

*(Dollars in millions)*

Balance at December 31, 2003	\$	433	\$	85	\$	518
Foreign currency translation		4		-		4
Balance at March 31, 2004	\$	429	\$	85	\$	514

The following table provides information regarding the Company's other intangible assets with finite lives:

*(Dollars in millions)*

	Customer Relationships	Trademarks & Tradenames	Other Intangibles	Total
Gross Carrying Amount				
Balance, December 31, 2003	\$ 89	\$ 72	\$ 72	\$ 233
Balance, March 31, 2004	89	72	72	233
Accumulated Amortization				
Balance, December 31, 2003	\$ 12	\$ 9	\$ 25	\$ 46
Balance, March 31, 2004	12	10	26	48

Total period amortization expense for other intangible assets was \$2 million for each of the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003. Estimated amortization expense is \$8 million for 2004 and \$7 million per year for 2005 through 2008.

## 5. Earnings (Loss) Per Share

The following table shows the amounts used in computing earnings (loss) per share and the effect on net income (loss) and the weighted-average number of shares of dilutive potential common stock:

*(Dollars in millions, except per share)*

	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2004		2003	
	Income	Earnings per share	Income (loss)	Earnings (loss) per share
<b>Basic and Diluted:</b>				
Continuing operations	\$ 26	\$ 0.24	\$ 14	\$ 0.13
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (28)	\$ (0.26)
Net income (loss)	\$ 26	\$ 0.24	\$ (14)	\$ (0.13)
Weighted-average number of shares - basic (millions)	107.0		106.8	
Weighted-average number of shares - diluted (millions)	108.2		107.0	

For the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, the Company had convertible subordinated debentures, stock options and restricted stock which were convertible into approximately 1.2 million and 0.2 million shares, respectively, of common stock. The related interest on the debentures has an immaterial impact on the earnings per share calculation. Diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003 excludes 13.7 million and 18.3 million options to purchase shares of common stock, respectively, as their exercise price exceeds their current market value.

## 6. Depreciation Expense

Cost of sales and selling, general and administrative expenses include depreciation expense related to continuing operations totaling \$19 million and \$17 million for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

**7. Other Operating Expense (Income), Net**

Other operating expense (income), net, for the three months ended March 31, 2004 includes \$7 million for impairment charges associated with two production facilities, \$2 million in shutdown costs related to the Company's former nitrocellulose facility, \$2 million in severance charges, \$1 million for special executive pension adjustments, and \$1 million of costs associated with efforts made to acquire Meraklon S.p.A.

Other operating expense (income), net, for the three months ended March 31, 2003 includes a \$3 million gain related to a favorable legal settlement, partially offset by \$2 million of severance costs.

**8. Other (Income) Expense, Net**

Other (income) expense, net, for the three months ended March 31, 2004 includes a \$26 million gain on the Company's sale of its minority interest in CP Kelco ApS. The gain was partially offset by a \$6 million legal settlement, \$2 million of asbestos-related litigation costs, \$1 million of legal and other costs associated with previously divested businesses, a \$7 million loss recognized on the repurchase of debt, and a \$1 million write-off of related unamortized debt issuance costs.

Other (income) expense, net, for the three months ended March 31, 2003 includes \$1 million in net charges for asbestos-related litigation costs, \$1 million in bank charges, \$1 million of interest income and \$3 million of other charges.

**9. Severance and Other Exit Costs**

The consolidated balance sheets reflect liabilities for employee severance benefits and other costs of \$6 million at both March 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003. During 2001 and continuing through March 31, 2003, management authorized and committed to various plans to reduce the workforce as part of a comprehensive cost reduction and work process redesign program. During that period, the Company incurred \$78 million in employee severance benefits, exit costs and contract terminations. During 2003, the Company recognized an additional \$5 million for employee termination benefits in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 112, "Employer's Accounting for Post-Employment Benefits" ("SFAS 112") under its Dismissal Salary and Dismissal Wage Plans ("Dismissal Plans").

During the three months ended March 31, 2004, the Company recognized an additional \$2 million charge for employee termination benefits under the Dismissal Plans in accordance with SFAS 112, identifying an additional 47 employees to receive these benefits upon leaving the Company. As of March 31, 2004, under all plans, approximately 1,446 employees have left or will leave the Company by September 30, 2004, of which 1,397 employees were terminated pursuant to these plans through March 31, 2004. Approximately 10 employees were terminated during the three months ended March 31, 2004.

Cash payments during the three months ended March 31, 2004 were \$2 million, including \$1 million for severance under the 2001 plan and \$1 million for severance liabilities recognized under the Dismissal Plans.

A reconciliation of activity with respect to the liabilities for these plans is as follows:

*(Dollars in millions)*

Balance at December 31, 2003	\$	6
Additional termination costs		2
Cash payments		(2)
Balance at March 31, 2004	\$	6



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The balance at March 31, 2004 represents severance benefits and other exit costs of which \$2 million pertains to the continuing benefit payment streams under the 2001 restructuring plan and \$4 million pertains to other severance benefits accounted for under the Company's Dismissal Plans.

Effective January 1, 2003, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 146, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities" ("SFAS 146"). The Company did not recognize any costs associated with exit or disposal activities pursuant to SFAS 146.

### 10. Debt

*(Dollars in millions)*

	March 31, 2004	December 31, 2003
<b>Long-term:</b>		
6.60% notes due 2027	\$ 100	\$ 100
11.125% senior notes due 2007	343	376
8% convertible subordinated debentures due 2010	3	3
Term notes at various rates from 2.97% to 7.90% due in varying amounts through 2006	40	42
Term B loan due 2007	198	198
9.42% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures due 2029	363	363
6.5% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures due 2029	262	262
Other	-	4
	1,309	1,348
Less: Current maturities of long-term debt	22	22
Net long-term debt	\$ 1,287	\$ 1,326

On April 8, 2004, the Company completed the refinancing of its old Senior Credit Facility with a new \$400 million term loan (the "Term Loan Facility") and a new \$150 million committed revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Facility"). The Company also has the ability under this facility, subject to lender approval, to borrow an additional \$250 million in the form of an incremental term note. The Term Loan Facility matures October 8, 2010 and the Revolving Facility matures April 9, 2009. Borrowings under the Term Loan Facility initially will bear interest at LIBOR + 2.25% (initially 3.48%) with the Company holding the option to reset interest rates for one, two, three or six month periods. The new Senior Credit Facility is secured by liens on the Company's assets (including real, personal and intellectual properties) and is guaranteed by substantially all of the Company's current and future wholly owned domestic subsidiaries. The Company also completed the private offering of \$250 million aggregate principal amount of 6 3/4% senior subordinated notes due 2029.

Proceeds from the refinancing were used in part to fully repay the outstanding Term B loan. The Company has dissolved Hercules Trust I (the "Trust") and caused the Company's 9.42% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures due 2029 to be distributed to the holders of the Trust's 9.42% trust preferred securities. The Company also caused a notice to be issued that the redemption of the debentures would be on May 10, 2004. Proceeds of \$363 million from the refinancing have been placed in an escrow account to fully redeem the debentures. As a result of the redemption, the Company will recognize approximately \$14 million of non-cash expense during the second quarter 2004 for the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs.

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company, from time to time, subject to market conditions and provisions of the Company's credit agreement, to repurchase up to \$200 million of its outstanding indebtedness. During the first quarter 2004, the Company repurchased \$33 million (book value) of the 11.125% senior notes for \$40 million recording a loss on the repurchase of \$7 million, which is included in Other (income) expense, net. During April 2004, the Company repurchased an additional \$15 million (book value) of the 11.125% senior notes for \$18 million.

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As of March 31, 2004, \$48 million of the \$125 million revolver under the old Senior Credit Facility was available for use. The Company had \$77 million of outstanding letters of credit associated with the old Senior Credit Facility at March 31, 2004.

The Company's new Senior Credit Facility requires quarterly compliance with certain financial covenants, including a debt/EBITDA ratio ("leverage ratio") and an interest coverage ratio and established limitations on the permitted amount of annual capital expenditures.

### 11. Company-obligated Preferred Securities of Subsidiary Trusts

The Company has determined that (i) Hercules Trust I and Hercules Trust II (the "Trusts") are variable interest entities and (ii) the Company is not the primary beneficiary of the Trusts pursuant to the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 46 (revised December 2003), "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities" ("FIN 46R"). Accordingly, the Company has de-consolidated the Trusts effective December 31, 2003. Summarized below is the condensed financial information of the Trusts.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	March 31, 2004		December 31, 2003	
	Hercules Trust I	Hercules Trust II	Hercules Trust I	Hercules Trust II
Non-current assets	\$ 363	\$ 262	\$ 363	\$ 262
Non-current liabilities	363	262	363	262

The non-current assets for Hercules Trust I represent its investment in the 9.42% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures of Hercules due March 31, 2029. The non-current assets for Hercules Trust II represents its investment in the 6.50% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures of Hercules due June 30, 2029. As discussed in Note 10, the Company dissolved Hercules Trust I and caused a redemption notice to be issued to the holders of the debentures. The funds required for redemption have been placed into an escrow account with a redemption date of May 10, 2004.

### 12. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits

The following table sets forth the consolidated net periodic pension and other postretirement benefit costs recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003.

	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
<b>Net periodic benefit cost:</b>				
Service cost	\$ 5	\$ 4	\$ -	\$ -
Interest cost	24	25	3	3
Expected return on plan assets	(27)	(28)	-	-
Amortization and deferrals	1	1	(2)	(2)
Special benefits	1	-	-	-
Actuarial losses recognized	8	5	2	2
	\$ 12	\$ 7	\$ 3	\$ 3

The total expected contributions to be paid in 2004 to all plans globally is \$45 million, including \$40 million in voluntary contributions made to the U.S. defined benefit plan in January 2004.

### 13. Asset Retirement Obligations

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The following table provides a reconciliation of the changes in the asset retirement obligations during the period.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	Balance January 1, 2004	Liabilities (Incurred) Settled	Accretion	Balance March 31, 2004
Environmental Remediation Liabilities:				
SFAS 143 ARO sites	\$ (103)	\$ 2	\$ (1)	\$ (102)
Non-SFAS 143 sites	(3)	-	-	(3)
	\$ (106)	\$ 2	\$ (1)	\$ (105)

### 14. Commitments and Contingencies

#### Guarantees

In accordance with FASB Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others" ("FIN 45"), disclosure about each group of guarantees is provided below:

#### Indemnifications

In connection with the sale of Company assets and businesses, the Company has indemnified respective buyers against certain liabilities that may arise in connection with the sale transactions and business activities prior to the ultimate closing of the sale. The terms of these indemnifications typically pertain to environmental, tax, employee and/or product related matters. If the indemnified party were to incur a liability or have a liability increase as a result of a successful claim, pursuant to the terms of the indemnification, the Company would be required to protect, defend, and/or indemnify the buyer. These indemnifications are generally subject to threshold amounts, specified claim periods and/or other restrictions. The carrying amount recorded for all indemnifications as of March 31, 2004 was \$77 million.

In addition, in connection with these transactions, the Company has generally provided indemnifications on general corporate matters such as ownership of the relevant assets, the power and corporate authority to enter into transactions and the satisfaction of liabilities not assumed by the buyer. These indemnifications generally have indefinite terms.

Although it is reasonably possible that future payments may exceed amounts accrued, due to the nature of indemnified items, it is not possible to make a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential loss or range of loss. Generally, there are no specific recourse provisions. At March 31, 2004, the Company had approximately \$1 million in cash held in escrow or collateral.

In addition, the Company provides certain indemnifications in the ordinary course of business such as product, patent and performance warranties in connection with the manufacture, distribution and sale of its products and services. Due to the nature of these indemnities, it is not possible to make a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential loss or range of loss.

#### Debt Obligations

The Company has directly guaranteed various debt obligations under agreements with third parties related to subsidiaries and affiliates, and/or other unaffiliated companies. At March 31, 2004, the Company had directly guaranteed \$18 million of such obligations. This represents the maximum principal amount of potential future payments that the Company could be required to make under the guarantees. Any applicable interest and expenses would generally be added to the amount of the obligations.

The Company's Consolidated Financial Statements include \$7 million of directly guaranteed obligations, including \$2 million recorded as debt and \$5 million recorded as a pension liability. The Company has also provided approximately \$3 million in collateral through a mortgage security related to the pension liability.

The Company guarantees the obligations of Hercules Trust I and Hercules Trust II on the preferred securities (see Note 11).

### **Intercompany Guarantees**

The Company and its subsidiaries have intercompany guarantees between and among themselves which aggregate approximately \$154 million as of March 31, 2004. These guarantees relate to intercompany loans used to facilitate normal business operations. All of the \$154 million has been eliminated from the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

### **Environmental**

In the ordinary course of its business, the Company is subject to numerous environmental laws and regulations covering compliance matters or imposing liability for the costs of, and damages resulting from, cleaning up sites, past spills, disposals and other releases of hazardous substances. Changes in these laws and regulations may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position and results of operations. Any failure by the Company to adequately comply with such laws and regulations could subject the Company to significant future liabilities.

Hercules has been identified as a potentially responsible party ("PRP") by U.S. federal and state authorities, or by private parties seeking contribution, for the cost of environmental investigation and/or cleanup at numerous sites. The range of the reasonably possible share of costs for the investigation and cleanup of current and former operating sites, and other locations where the Company may have a known liability is between \$105 million and \$214 million. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the Company has accrued a liability of \$105 million at March 31, 2004 representing the low end of the range, since no amount within the range is a better estimate than any other amount. The actual costs will depend upon numerous factors, including the number of parties found responsible at each environmental site and their ability to pay; the actual methods of remediation required or agreed to; outcomes of negotiations with regulatory authorities; outcomes of litigation; changes in environmental laws and regulations; technological developments; and the years of remedial activity required, which could range from 0 to 30 years.

Hercules becomes aware of sites in which it may be named a PRP in investigatory and/or remedial activities through correspondence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or other government agencies or from previously named PRPs, who either request information or notify the Company of its potential liability. The Company has established procedures for identifying environmental issues at its plant sites. In addition to environmental audit programs, the Company has environmental coordinators who are familiar with environmental laws and regulations and act as a resource for identifying environmental issues.

United States, et al. v. Vertac Corporation, et al., USDC No. LR-C-80-109 and LR-C-80-110 (E.D. Ark.)

This case, a cost-recovery action based upon the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA", or the Superfund statute), as well as other statutes, has been pending since 1980, and involves liability for costs in connection with the investigation and remediation of the Vertac Chemical Company ("Vertac") site in Jacksonville, Arkansas. Hercules owned and operated the site from December 1961 until 1971. The site was used for the manufacture of certain herbicides and, at the order of the United States, Agent Orange. In 1971, the site was leased to Vertac's predecessor. In 1976, Hercules sold the site to Vertac. The site was abandoned by Vertac in 1987, and Vertac was subsequently placed into receivership. Both prior to and following the abandonment of the site, the EPA and the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology ("ADPC&E") were involved in the investigation and remediation of contamination at and around the site. Pursuant to several orders issued under

CERCLA, Hercules actively participated in many of these activities. The cleanup is essentially complete, except for certain on-going maintenance and monitoring activities. This litigation primarily concerns the responsibility and allocation of liability for the costs incurred in connection with the activities undertaken by the EPA and the ADPC&E.

Although the case initially involved many parties, as a result of various United States District Court rulings and decisions, as well as a trial, Hercules and Uniroyal were held jointly and severally liable for the approximately \$100 million in costs allegedly incurred by the EPA and ADPC&E, as well as costs to be incurred in the future. That decision was made final by the District Court on September 13, 1999. Both Hercules and Uniroyal timely appealed that judgment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

On February 8, 2000, the District Court issued a final judgment on the allocation between Hercules and Uniroyal finding Uniroyal liable for 2.6 percent and Hercules liable for 97.4 percent of the costs at issue. Hercules timely appealed that judgment. Oral argument on both appeals was held before the Eighth Circuit on June 12, 2000. On April 10, 2001, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued an opinion in the consolidated appeals described above. In that opinion, the Appeals Court reversed the District Court's decision which had held Hercules jointly and severally liable for costs incurred and to be incurred at the Jacksonville site, and remanded the case back to the District Court for several determinations, including a determination of whether the harms at the site giving rise to the government's claims were divisible. The Appeals Court also vacated the District Court's allocation decision holding Hercules liable for 97.4 percent of the costs at issue, ordering that these issues be revisited following further proceedings with respect to divisibility. Finally, the Appeals Court affirmed the judgment of liability against Uniroyal.

The trial on remand commenced on October 8, 2001, continued through October 19, 2001, resumed on December 11, 2001 and concluded on December 14, 2001. At the trial, the Company presented both facts and law to the District Court in support of its belief that the Company should not be liable under CERCLA for some or all of the costs incurred by the government in connection with the site because those harms are divisible. The District Court has not yet rendered its decision. Should the Company prevail on remand, any liability to the government will be either eliminated or reduced from the prior judgment.

#### Alleghany Ballistics Laboratory

The Alleghany Ballistics Laboratory ("ABL") is a government-owned facility, which was operated by Hercules from 1945 to 1995 under contract with the United States Department of the Navy. The Navy has notified Hercules that it would like to negotiate with Hercules with respect to certain environmental liabilities which, the Navy alleges, are attributable to Hercules' past operations at ABL. In recent discussions, the Navy has stated that, pursuant to CERCLA, it has spent a total of \$24.8 million and expects to spend an additional \$44 million over the next 10 years. The Company is currently investigating the Navy's allegations, including the basis of the Navy's claims, and whether the contracts with the government pursuant to which the Company operated ABL may provide to the Company a defense from some or all of the amounts sought. At this time, however, the Company cannot reasonably estimate its liability, if any, with respect to ABL and, accordingly, has not included this site in the range of its environmental liabilities reported above.

#### Kim Stan Landfill

Hercules is one of a limited number of industrial companies that have been identified by the EPA as a potentially responsible party (a "PRP") at the Kim Stan Landfill, near Covington, Virginia. The EPA seeks to have the PRPs undertake the remediation of the site at a currently estimated cost of \$12 million (including EPA oversight charges). Based on the investigation conducted to date, Hercules believes that parties not named by the EPA as PRPs may be responsible for the majority of the costs that have been and will be incurred at the site, and Hercules intends to seek contribution from those parties to the extent it is required to pay any monies in connection with the site. Hercules is continuing to evaluate the EPA's allegations and, pending further factual investigation, does not admit any liability

with respect to this site.

At March 31, 2004, the Company's accrued liability for environmental remediation was \$105 million. The extent of liability is evaluated quarterly based on currently available information, including the progress of remedial investigations at each site and the current status of negotiations with regulatory authorities regarding the method and extent of apportionment of costs among other PRPs. While it is not feasible to predict the outcome of all pending suits and claims, the ultimate resolution of these environmental matters could have a material effect upon the results of operations and the financial position of Hercules, and the resolution of any of these matters during a specific period could have a material effect on the quarterly or annual results of that period.

## **Litigation**

The Company is a defendant in numerous asbestos-related personal injury lawsuits and claims which typically arise from alleged exposure to asbestos fibers from resin encapsulated pipe and tank products which were sold by one of the Company's former subsidiaries to a limited industrial market ("products claims"). The Company is also a defendant in lawsuits alleging exposure to asbestos at facilities formerly or presently owned or operated by the Company ("premises claims"). Claims are received and settled or otherwise resolved on an on-going basis. In late December 1999, the Company entered into a settlement agreement to resolve the majority of the claims then pending. In connection with that settlement, the Company also entered into an agreement with several of the insurance carriers, which sold primary and first level excess insurance policies insuring that former subsidiary. Under the terms of that agreement, the majority of the amounts paid to resolve those products claims were insured, subject to the limits of the insurance coverage provided by those policies. The terms of both settlement agreements are confidential.

Since entering into the agreements referenced in the above paragraph, the Company has continued to receive and settle or otherwise resolve claims on an on-going basis. Between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, the Company received approximately 18,330 new claims, over half of which were included in "consolidated" complaints naming anywhere from one hundred to thousands of plaintiffs and a large number of defendants, but providing little information connecting any specific plaintiff's alleged injuries to any specific defendant's products or premises (this number is 1,445 claims higher than previously reported as a result of the reconciliation of prior data). It is the Company's belief that a significant majority of these "consolidated" claims will be dismissed for no payment. During that same time period, the Company also received approximately 3,175 other new claims, all of which were included in "consolidated" complaints and which have either been dismissed without payment or are in the process of being dismissed without payment, but with plaintiffs retaining the right to re-file should they be able to establish exposure to an asbestos-containing product for which the Company bears liability. Between January 1, 2004 and March 31, 2004, the Company received approximately 1,415 new claims, of which approximately 355 were in "consolidated" complaints.

With respect to total claims pending, as of March 31, 2004, there were approximately 32,700 unresolved claims, of which approximately 1,000 were premises claims and the rest were products claims. There were also approximately 1,545 unpaid claims which have been settled or are subject to the terms of a settlement agreement. In addition, as of March 31, 2004, there were approximately 11,912 claims (an amount that includes the 3,175 claims noted above) which have either been dismissed without payment or are in the process of being dismissed without payment, but with plaintiffs retaining the right to re-file should they be able to establish exposure to an asbestos-containing product for which the Company bears liability.

In June and July 2003, the Company entered into several settlement agreements which will permanently resolve approximately 12,500 claims. Of those claims, approximately 3,000 are categorized as "unresolved" in the above paragraph, and approximately 8,900 are among those claims that have been dismissed without payment or are in the process of being dismissed without payment. The balance of those claims have been resolved. The terms of these settlement agreements are confidential. The Company believes that the vast majority of these claims will be permanently dismissed without payment.

The Company's primary and first level excess insurance policies that provided coverage for these asbestos-related matters have exhausted their limits. The Company has not yet reached agreement with its other insurance carriers to fund the cost of defending and resolving its asbestos-related matters. As a result, until the Company's other insurance carriers begin to fund the cost of defending and resolving these matters, the Company will have to fully fund the cost of defending and resolving these matters. The Company spent \$12 million on these matters during the quarter ended March 31, 2004. Nonetheless, based on the current number of claims pending, the amounts the Company anticipates paying to resolve those claims which are not dismissed or otherwise resolved without payment and anticipated future claims, the Company believes that it and its former subsidiary together have sufficient additional insurance to cover the majority of its current and estimated future asbestos-related liabilities. However, there can be no assurance that such liabilities will be sufficiently covered.

The foregoing is based on the Company's assumption that the number of future claims filed per year and claim resolution payments will vary considerably from year-to-year and by plaintiff, disease, venue and other circumstances, but will, when taken as a whole, remain relatively consistent with the Company's experience to date and will decline as the population of potential future claimants expires due to non-asbestos-related causes. It is also based on the results of the study discussed below, the Company's evaluation of potentially available insurance coverage and its review of the relevant case law. However, the Company recognizes that the number of future claims filed per year and claim resolution payments could greatly exceed those reflected by its past experience and contemplated by the study referenced below, that the Company's belief of the range of its reasonably possible financial exposure could change as the study referenced below is periodically updated, that its evaluation of potentially available insurance coverage may change depending upon numerous variables including risks inherent in litigation, potential legislation, and the risk that one or more insurance carriers may refuse or be unable to meet its obligations to the Company, and that conclusions resulting from its review of relevant case law may be impacted by future court decisions or legislative or other changes in the law.

The Company is seeking defense and indemnity payments or an agreement to pay from those carriers responsible for excess coverage whose levels of coverage have been or will soon be reached. Although those excess carriers have not yet agreed to defend or indemnify the Company, the Company believes that it is likely that they will ultimately agree to do so, and that the majority of its estimated future asbestos-related costs will ultimately be paid or reimbursed by those carriers. However, since the Company has not yet reached satisfactory agreements with those excess carriers, the Company will be required to completely fund these matters while it seeks reimbursement from those carriers. In order to maximize the likelihood of obtaining insurance payments for these asbestos-related costs, on November 27, 2002, the Company initiated litigation against its excess insurance carriers in a matter captioned Hercules Incorporated v. OneBeacon, et al., Civil Action No. 02C-11-237 (SCD), Superior Court of Delaware, New Castle County. That litigation is proceeding through discovery and motion practice, and trial is currently scheduled in October 2004. Notwithstanding the filing of this litigation, the Company is continuing settlement discussions with several of its key insurers.

The Company commissioned a study of its asbestos-related liabilities by Professor Eric Stallard, who is a Research Professor of Demographic Studies at a major national university and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. Professor Stallard is a consultant with broad experience in estimating such liabilities. Based on the results of the study undertaken by Professor Stallard, the Company estimated that its reasonably possible financial exposure for these matters (excluding approximately \$1 million for previously settled but unpaid claims) ranged from \$220 million to \$675 million. Due to inherent uncertainties in estimating the timing and amounts of future payments, this range does not include the effects of inflation and has not been discounted for the time value of money. In addition, the range of financial exposures set forth above does not include estimates for future legal costs. It is the Company's policy to expense these costs as incurred. As stated above, the Company presently believes that the majority of this range of financial exposures will ultimately be funded by insurance proceeds. Cash payments related to this exposure are expected to be made over an extended number of years and actual payments, when made, could be for amounts in excess of the range due to potential future changes in estimates as well as the effects of inflation.

Due to the dynamic nature of asbestos litigation and the present uncertainty concerning the participation of its excess insurance carriers, the Company's estimates are inherently uncertain, and these matters may present significantly greater financial exposures than presently anticipated. In addition, the Company intends to periodically update the asbestos study referenced in the above paragraph, and further analysis combined with new data received in the future could result in a material modification of the range of reasonably possible financial exposure set forth above. As a result of all of the foregoing, the Company's liability with respect to asbestos-related matters could exceed present estimates and may require a material change in the accrued liability for these matters within the next 12 months. If the Company's liability does exceed amounts recorded in the balance sheet, the Company presently believes that the majority of any additional liability it may reasonably anticipate will be paid or reimbursed by its insurance carriers. However, there can be no assurance that such liabilities will be reimbursed.

The findings of the study referenced above identify a range of the Company's reasonably possible financial exposure for these asbestos-related matters. The Company increased its accrual for present and future potential asbestos claims before anticipated insurance recoveries at December 31, 2003 to \$221 million, reflecting the low end of the range noted above in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (since no amount within the range is a better estimate than any other amount) and \$1 million for previously settled but unpaid asbestos cases, resulting in a charge of \$55 million in the period related to these matters. At March 31, 2004, the Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects a current liability of \$44 million and a long-term liability of \$165 million. The Company believes that it is probable that \$169 million of the \$209 million accrual will be funded by or recovered from insurance carriers. That belief, which is subject to the various assumptions set forth herein, is based on many factors that have been evaluated by the Company, along with its outside insurance coverage counsel, including the indemnity and defense payments that have been made by its now exhausted insurers and by some of its other insurers, the limits of remaining potentially available insurance coverage, and the range of possible outcomes in the Company's insurance coverage litigation taking into account, among other considerations, the facts and status of that litigation and the relevant case law. At March 31, 2004, the Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects a current insurance receivable of \$7 million and a long-term insurance receivable of \$162 million. The Company does not offset estimated insurance receivables against its estimated liability.

The Company, in conjunction with outside advisors, will continue to study its asbestos-related matters, insurance recovery expectations and reserves on an on-going basis, and make adjustments as appropriate.

In August 1999, the Company was sued in an action styled as Cape Composites, Inc. v. Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd., Case No. 99-08260 (U.S. District Court, Central District of California), one of a series of similar purported class action lawsuits brought on behalf of purchasers (excluding government purchasers) of carbon fiber and carbon prepreg in the United States from the named defendants from January 1, 1993 through January 31, 1999. The lawsuits were brought following published reports of a Los Angeles federal grand jury investigation of the carbon fiber and carbon prepreg industries. In these lawsuits, plaintiffs allege violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act for alleged price fixing. In September 1999, these lawsuits were consolidated by the Court into a case captioned Thomas & Thomas Rodmakers v. Newport Adhesives and Composites, Case No. CV-99-07796-GHK (CTx) (U.S. District Court, Central District of California), with all related cases ordered dismissed. This lawsuit is proceeding through discovery and motion practice. On May 2, 2002, the Court granted plaintiffs' Motion to Certify Class. The Company is named in connection with its former Composites Products Division, which was sold to Hexcel Corporation in 1996, denies liability and will vigorously defend this action.

Since September 2001, the Company, along with the other defendants in the Thomas & Thomas Rodmakers action referred to above, has been sued in nine California state court purported class actions brought on behalf of indirect purchasers of carbon fiber. In January 2002, these were consolidated into a case captioned Carbon Fiber Cases I, II, and III, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding Nos. 4212, 4216 and 4222, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. These actions all allege violations of the California Business and Professions Code relating to alleged price fixing of carbon fiber and unfair competition. The Company denies liability and will vigorously defend each of these actions.



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In June 2002, a purported class action was filed in Massachusetts under the caption Saul M. Ostroff, et al. v. Newport Adhesives, et al., Civil Action No. 02-2385, Superior Court of Middlesex County. This matter is a purported class action brought on behalf of consumers who purchased merchandise manufactured with carbon fiber, and alleges the same types of price fixing activities alleged in the actions described in the above two paragraphs. In October 2002, the Company was notified that Horizon Sports Technologies had "opted out" of the federal antitrust class action described above (Thomas & Thomas Rodmakers) and filed its own suit against Hercules and the other defendants in that action (Horizon Sports Technologies, Inc. v. Newport Adhesives and Composites, Inc., et al., Case No. CV02-8126 FMC (RNEX), U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Western Division).

Further, in April 2002, a related "Qui Tam" action was unsealed by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. That action is captioned Randall M. Beck, et al. v. Boeing Defense and Space Group, Inc., et al., (Civil Action No. 99 CV 1557 JM JAH), was filed under seal in 1999, and is a "False Claims" action brought pursuant to the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. Section 729 et seq.). In that action, the relators, in the name of the U.S. Government, allege the same price fixing activities which are the subject of the above-described actions. The relators then allege that those alleged price fixing activities resulted in inflated prices being charged by the defendant carbon fiber manufacturers to defense contractors, who, in turn, submitted claims for payment to the U.S. Government under various government contracts. It is alleged that those claims for payment were "false claims" because the prices charged for the carbon fiber and carbon prepreg were "fixed" contrary to the laws of the United States. By Order dated November 14, 2002, the Court dismissed the relators' complaint without prejudice because the complaint did not meet certain pleading requirements under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The relators filed a First Amended Complaint on January 3, 2003. By Order dated July 29, 2003, the Court dismissed the First Amended Complaint without prejudice for similar reasons and provided the relators thirty days to re-file their complaint; that time period was subsequently extended by sixty days. The relators filed a Second Amended Complaint on or about October 30, 2003. The defendants have filed a motion to have that complaint dismissed, but no decision has yet been issued by the Court. The Company denies liability and will vigorously defend each of these actions.

In connection with the grand jury investigation noted above in the paragraph describing the Cape Composites litigation, in January 2000, the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ"), Antitrust Division, served a grand jury subpoena duces tecum upon Hercules. The Company has been advised that it is one of several manufacturers of carbon fiber and carbon prepreg that have been served with such a subpoena. In December 2003, the Company was advised that the grand jury investigation had been closed.

In November 2002, an action for declaratory judgment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware under the caption of Atofina Chemicals, Inc. and Atofina v. Hercules Incorporated (Civil Action No. 02-1613). In this action, Atofina seeks a declaratory judgment that Hercules cannot recover antitrust damages for purchases of monochloroacetic acid ("MCAA") that Hercules made outside of the United States or for purchases from producers of MCAA not alleged to have participated in any conspiracy to fix prices and allocate the market for MCAA. In response, Hercules has filed a counter-claim, seeking damages from and injunctive relief against Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Atofina Chemicals, Hoechst AG, Hoechst Celanese, Clariant and others related to the fixing of prices of MCAA and sodium monochloroacetate from approximately 1995 through 2000. The lawsuit is in pre-trial proceedings. Hercules has settled with some of the parties. The terms of the settlements are confidential.

By Order dated May 6, 2003, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana remanded to the 18th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Iberville, Louisiana, a total of nine consolidated lawsuits, including two lawsuits in which the Company is a defendant. These two lawsuits, Jerry Oldham, et al. v. The State of Louisiana, et al., Civil Action No. 55,160, 18th Judicial District Court, Parish of Iberville, Louisiana, and John Capone, et al. v. The State of Louisiana, et al., Civil Action No. 56,048C, 18th Judicial District Court, Parish of Iberville, Louisiana, were served on the Company in September 2002 and October 2002, respectively. The Oldham case is a purported class action comprised of as many as 4,000 plaintiffs, and the Capone case is a consolidated action by approximately 50 plaintiffs. Both actions assert claims against the State of Louisiana, the Company, American PetroFina, Inc., Hercofina, Ashland Oil, International Minerals and Chemicals, Allemania Chemical, Ashland Chemical and the Parish

of Iberville. The purported class members and plaintiffs, who claim to have worked or lived at or around the Georgia Gulf plant in Iberville Parish, allege injury and fear of future illness from the consumption of contaminated water and, specifically, elevated levels of arsenic in that water. As to the Company, plaintiffs allege that the Company itself and as part of a joint venture operated a nearby plant and, as part of those operations, used a groundwater injection well to dispose of various wastes, and that those wastes contaminated the potable water supply at Georgia Gulf. On October 17, 2002, the Company removed these matters to federal court. In January 2003, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana consolidated the Capone and Oldham matters with other lawsuits in which the Company is not a party. Plaintiffs sought remand which, as noted above, was granted by Order dated May 6, 2003. In March 2004, Atofina, successor to American PetroFina, Inc. was dismissed without prejudice. Discovery is continuing. The Company denies any liability and intends to vigorously defend these matters.

On January 31, 2003, the Court granted a Motion for Class Certification in a lawsuit captioned Douglas C. Smith, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated v. Hercules Incorporated and Thomas Gossage, CA No. 01C-08-291 WCC, Superior Court of Delaware, New Castle County. This lawsuit, which was filed on August 31, 2001, on behalf of Mr. Smith and a class of approximately 130 present and former Hercules employees, seeks payments under the "Integration Synergies Incentive Compensation Plan" (the "Plan"), a program put into place by the Company following its acquisition of BetzDearborn Inc. in October 1998. The goal of the Plan was to provide certain financial incentives to specific employees who were deemed to have significant impact on the integration of BetzDearborn Inc. into Hercules Incorporated. The amount to be paid under the Plan was tied to the successful achievement of "synergies," which were defined as the annualized reduction of expenses or improvement of profits realized as a result of the integration of BetzDearborn Inc. into Hercules. The lawsuit essentially alleges that the payments made under the Plan were not adequate and that the Company breached the terms of the Plan. The lawsuit originally sought payments of between \$25 million and \$30 million. In February 2003, plaintiffs agreed to dismiss Thomas Gossage from the lawsuit. In June 2003, potential members who had previously signed releases in favor of the Company were provided an opportunity to "opt in" to the class, and the remaining class members were provided an opportunity to "opt out" of the class. As a result of this process, the size of the class was reduced to approximately 87 members. In April 2004, the Company reached a tentative agreement to settle this matter for \$5.855 million. The tentative settlement is subject to court approval and written agreements on the settlement terms. Under the settlement, individuals who previously opted-out of the litigation will have the opportunity to share in the agreed-upon settlement amount by opting-in to the class for purposes of settlement, and there is a cap on the amount payable to any individual class member. The settlement was agreed to by Hercules without any admission of liability to avoid the risks and uncertainties of litigation.

Agent Orange is a defoliant that was manufactured by several companies, including Hercules, at the direction of the U.S. Government, and used by the U.S. Government in military operations in both Korea and Vietnam from 1965 to 1970. In 1984, as part of a class action settlement, the Company and other defendants settled the claims of persons who were in the U.S., New Zealand and Australian Armed Forces who alleged injury due to exposure to Agent Orange. In Re "Agent Orange" Prod. Liab. Litig., 597 F. Supp. 740 (E.D.N.Y. 1984). Following that settlement, all claims for alleged injuries due to exposure to Agent Orange by persons who had served in the Armed Forces of those countries were treated as covered by that class action settlement.

On June 9, 2003, the United States Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a case captioned Dow Chemical Company, et al. v. Daniel Raymond Stephenson, et al., 123 S. Ct. 2161 (2003), where plaintiffs Stephenson and Isaacson (in a separate but consolidated case) alleged that they were injured from exposure to Agent Orange and that such injury did not manifest until after exhaustion of the settlement fund created through the 1984 class action settlement. As a result of that decision, the claims of persons who allege injuries due to exposure to Agent Orange and whose injuries first manifest themselves after exhaustion of the settlement fund created through the 1984 class action settlement may no longer be barred by the 1984 class action settlement, and such persons may now be able to pursue claims against the Company and the other former manufacturers of Agent Orange.

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At this time, the Company is a defendant in twenty lawsuits (including two purported class actions) where plaintiffs allege that exposure to Agent Orange caused them to sustain various personal injuries. In addition, in January 2004, the Company was sued in a class action filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York by The Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin and several individuals who claim to represent between two and four million Vietnamese who allege that Agent Orange used by the United States during the Vietnam War caused them or their families to sustain personal injuries. That complaint alleges violations of international law and war crimes, as well as violations of the common law for products liability, negligence and international torts.

On February 9, 2004, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York issued a series of rulings granting several motions filed by defendants in the two cases that had been remanded to the U.S. District Court by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on remand from the U.S. Supreme Court (In re: "Agent Orange" Product Liability Litigation: Joe Isaacson, et al v. Dow Chemical Company, et al. and Daniel Ray Stephenson, et al. v. Dow Chemical Company, et al. (MDL 381, CV 98-6383 (JBW), CV 99-3056 (JBW))). In relevant part, those rulings held that plaintiffs' claims against the defendant manufacturers of Agent Orange are properly removable to federal court under the "federal officer removal statute" and that such claims are subject to dismissal by application of the "government contractor defense." The Court then dismissed plaintiffs' claims, but stayed its decision until October 12, 2004, to permit plaintiffs time to pursue additional discovery to support their position that the government contractor defense should not apply to their claims, and to seek reconsideration of the Court's dismissal order.

The Company believes that it has substantial meritorious defenses to all of the Agent Orange-related claims described above and those that may yet be brought. To that end, the Company denies any liability to plaintiffs, and will vigorously defend all actions now pending or that may be brought in the future.

On October 6, 2003, the Company received a Notice of Deficiency with respect to the Company's 1996 through 1997 federal income tax returns wherein, among other issues, the IRS is disallowing a capital loss that the Company carried back to 1996 and 1997. The IRS has indicated that it will not settle that issue prior to a final decision after trial on the merits. The IRS has indicated that it is willing to address the other issues included in the Notice of Deficiency through standard IRS administrative appeals procedures without litigation. On December 23, 2003, the Company filed a Petition asking the U.S. Tax Court for a re-determination of the deficiency set forth in the October 6, 2003 Notice of Deficiency. The Company believes that it is remote that the ultimate disposition of these issues will have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial position in light of existing tax reserves and amounts already on deposit with the IRS.

On May 7, 2004, Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation ("Ciba") filed a Complaint against Hercules Incorporated and Cytec Industries, Inc. ("Cytec") in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware alleging infringement of two patents owned by Ciba. The two patents in question are U.S. Patent 5,167,766 (issued on December 1, 1992) entitled "Charged Organic Polymer Microbeads in Paper Making Process" and U.S. Patent 5,171,808 (issued on December 15, 1992) entitled "Cross-linked Anionic and Amphoteric Polymeric Microparticles." The alleged conduct relates to the manufacture, use, sale and offer to sell of certain products of the Company's Pulp and Paper business. Ciba seeks to enjoin alleged continued infringement, obtain a judgment that the defendants have infringed the patents, and obtain an award of damages and reasonable attorneys fees. The Company believes that there are substantial meritorious defenses to this action, and expects to deny any liability to Ciba and vigorously defend against this action. The Company has agreed to indemnify Cytec in this action.

At March 31, 2004, the consolidated balance sheet reflects a current liability of approximately \$49 million and a long-term liability of approximately \$165 million for litigation and claims, including asbestos-related claims. These amounts represent management's best estimate of the probable and reasonably estimable losses related to litigation or claims, including asbestos claims. The extent of the liability and recovery is evaluated quarterly. While it is not feasible to predict the outcome of all pending suits and claims, the ultimate resolution of these matters could have a material effect upon the financial position of Hercules, and the resolution of any of the matters during a specific

period could have a material effect on the quarterly or annual operating results for that period.

## 15. Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities

In accordance with the provisions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's ("FASB") Interpretation No. 46 "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities" ("FIN 46") ("VIEs"), the financial statements of the Company reflect the consolidation of two joint venture VIEs, ES FiberVision Holdings A/S and ES FiberVisions L.P. These entities serve as global marketers of the Company's bicomponent fibers. As of March 31, 2004, the fair value of the assets in these joint ventures was approximately \$8 million and the fair value of the associated liabilities and non-controlling interests was approximately \$5 million. There are no assets of the Company that serve as collateral for the VIEs and the creditors of the VIEs have no recourse to the general credit of the Company.

## 16. Segment Information

The table below reflects Net sales and Profit from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2003.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	2004	2003
Net sales:		
Performance Products	\$ 386	\$ 356
Engineered Materials and Additives	89	91
Consolidated	\$ 475	\$ 447
Profit from operations:		
Performance Products	\$ 51	\$ 58
Engineered Materials and Additives	(2)	2
Corporate (a)	(3)	1
Consolidated	\$ 46	\$ 61

(a) For the three months ended March 31, 2004, Corporate includes charges related to previously divested businesses and other adjustments for executive pension. For the three months ended March 31, 2003 it includes income recognized as a result of a favorable legal settlement partially offset by severance charges.

## 17. Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the first quarter 2004 was (6.8 %), reflecting the nominal net taxes on the gain from the Company's sale of its minority interest in CP Kelco ApS. This compares to a 38% effective tax rate in the first quarter 2003. The full year 2004 effective tax rate, including the CP Kelco ApS gain, is anticipated to be approximately 40%.

The 2004 estimated effective tax rate is higher than the U.S. statutory rate of 35% primarily due to a 7% increase for U.S. taxes on current year repatriations of foreign earnings in excess of amounts for which taxes had previously been provided and a 5% increase for one-time costs associated with tax planning initiatives.

## 18. Investment in CP Kelco ApS

On February 12, 2004, a subsidiary of the Company completed the sale of its minority ownership in CP Kelco ApS to a subsidiary of J. M. Huber Corporation for \$27 million. Summarized unaudited financial information for CP Kelco ApS is as follows:

Three Months Ended March 31, 2003

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	January 2004	
Net sales	\$ 37	\$ 105
Gross profit	11	34
Profit from operations	5	16
Net (loss) income	(2)	3

## 19. Subsequent Event

On April 30, 2004, a division of a French customer filed for bankruptcy protection. As a result, the Company recorded a charge of approximately \$3 million in selling, general and administrative expenses in the first quarter 2004 to reserve for potentially uncollectible accounts receivable as of March 31, 2004 relating to this customer.

## 20. Financial Information of Guarantor Subsidiaries

The following condensed consolidating financial information for the Company presents the financial information of Hercules, the guarantor subsidiaries and the non-guarantor subsidiaries based on the Company's understanding of the Securities and Exchange Commission's interpretation and application of Rule 3-10 under the Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulation S-X. The financial information may not necessarily be indicative of results of operations or financial position had the guarantor subsidiaries or non-guarantor subsidiaries operated as independent entities.

In this presentation, Hercules consists of the parent company's operations. Guarantor subsidiaries and non-guarantor subsidiaries of Hercules are reported on an equity basis. For companies acquired during 1998, the goodwill and fair values of the assets and liabilities acquired have been presented on a "push-down" accounting basis. Additionally, prior year information has been restated to conform to the current period presentation.

### Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations Three Months Ended March 31, 2004

	(Unaudited) (Dollars in millions)				
	Unconsolidated				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations & Adjustments	Consolidated
Net sales	\$ 131	\$ 110	\$ 264	\$ (30)	\$ 475
Cost of sales	88	79	169	(31)	367
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	27	32	39	-	108
Research and development	5	4	2	-	11
Intangible asset amortization	2	-	-	-	2
Other operating expense, net	3	8	2	-	13
Profit from operations	6	(13)	52	1	46
Interest and debt expense (income), net	46	(14)	(2)	-	30

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Other (income) expense, net	18	-	(27)	-
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity income	(58)	1	81	1
(Benefit) provision for income taxes	(19)	(2)	19	1
Income (loss) before equity income	(39)	3	62	-
Equity income from consolidated subsidiaries	65	2	1	(68)
Net income (loss)	\$ 26	\$ 5	\$ 63	\$ (68)

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations  
Three Months Ended March 31, 2003

	(Unaudited) (Dollars in millions)				
	Unconsolidated		Eliminations		
	Parent	Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Guarantor & Adjustments	Consolidated
Net sales	\$ 135	\$ 107	\$ 234	(29)	\$ 447
Cost of sales	86	76	149	(27)	284
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	29	15	47	-	91
Research and development	5	4	1	-	10
Intangible asset amortization	2	-	-	-	2
Other operating (income) expense, net	(2)	-	1	-	(1)
Profit from operations	15	12	36	(2)	61
Interest and debt expense (income), net	45	(15)	4	-	34
Other expense, net	1	2	1	-	4
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity income	(31)	25	31	(2)	23
(Benefit) provision for income taxes	(10)	9	10	-	9
Income (loss) before equity income	(21)	16	21	(2)	14
Equity income from consolidated subsidiaries	35	2	1	(38)	-
Net income before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle	14	18	22	(40)	14
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principle, net of tax	(28)	-	-	-	(28)
			\$		
Net (loss) income	\$ (14)	\$ 18	22	(40)	\$ (14)

Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet  
March 31, 2004

	(Unaudited) (Dollars in millions)				
	Unconsolidated		Eliminations &		
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Adjustments	Consolidated
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5	\$ 2	\$ 60	\$ -	\$
Accounts and notes receivable, net	110	64	221	-	
Intercompany receivables	73	19	21	(113)	
Inventories	48	58	98	(12)	
Deferred income taxes	117	(17)	9	-	
Total current assets	353	126	409	(125)	
Property, plant, and equipment, net	164	161	332	-	
Investments in subsidiaries	2,331	90	51	(2,472)	

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Goodwill and other intangible assets, net	222	89	388	-
Deferred income taxes	131	-	13	(117)
Other assets	447	10	67	-
Total assets	\$ 3,648	\$ 476	\$ 1,260	\$ (2,714)
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>				
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$ 56	\$ 20	\$ 116	\$ -
Accrued expenses	129	24	72	-
Intercompany payables	8	64	41	(113)
Current maturities of long-term debt	2	-	20	-
Total current liabilities	195	108	249	(113)
Long-term debt	1,266	-	21	-
Deferred income taxes	-	117	77	(117)
Postretirement benefits and other liabilities	653	66	70	-
Intercompany notes payable/(receivable)	1,456	(1,101)	(355)	-
Stockholders' equity	78	1,286	1,198	(2,484)
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 3,648	\$ 476	\$ 1,260	\$ (2,714)

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows  
Three Months Ended March 31, 2004

(Unaudited)					
(Dollars in millions)					
	Unconsolidated				
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
<b>Net Cash (Used In) Provided By Operations</b>	\$ (23)	\$ (12)	\$ 25	\$ (27)	\$ (35)
<b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities:</b>					
Capital expenditures	(3)	(2)	(5)	-	(10)
Proceeds from sale of minority interest in CP Kelco	27	-	-	-	27
Contributions paid to affiliates	(1)	-	-	1	-
Contributions received from affiliates	-	-	1	(1)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	23	(2)	(4)	-	17
<b>Cash Flow From Financing Activities:</b>					
Long-term debt repayments	(34)	(5)	-	-	(39)
Change in current maturities of long-term debt	-	-	-	-	-
Change in intercompany, noncurrent	29	18	(62)	15	0
Dividends paid	-	-	(12)	12	-
Treasury stock issued	1	-	-	-	1
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(4)	13	(74)	27	(38)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	-	-	-	-	-
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(4)	(1)	(53)	-	(58)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	9	2	114	-	125
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 5	\$ 1	\$ 61	\$ -	\$ 67

Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows  
Three Months Ended March 31, 2003

(Unaudited)				
(Dollars in millions)				
	Unconsolidated			
	Parent	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations

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<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operations</b>	\$	(32)	\$	15	\$	33	\$	-	\$
<b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities:</b>									
Capital expenditures		(2)		(2)		(4)		-	
Proceeds of investment and fixed asset disposals		-		-		3		-	
Other, net		-		-		1		-	
Net cash used in investing activities		(2)		(2)		-		-	
<b>Cash Flow From Financing Activities:</b>									
Long-term debt repayments		(1)		-		(4)		-	
Change in current maturities of long-term debt		-		-		(1)		-	
Change in intercompany, noncurrent		9		(14)		5		-	
Treasury stock issued		1		-		-		-	
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities		9		(14)		-		-	
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash		-		-		2		-	
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(25)		(1)		35		-	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		131		7		71		-	2
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$	106	\$	6	\$	106	\$	-	\$ 2

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

*The following discussion should be read in connection with the information contained in the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto. All references to individual Notes refer to Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Within the following discussion, unless otherwise stated, "quarter" and "three-month period" refer to the first quarter of 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2004. All comparisons are with the corresponding period in the previous year, unless otherwise stated.*

**Overview**

Hercules is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of specialty chemicals and related services for a broad range of business, consumer and industrial applications. The Company's principal products are chemicals used by the paper industry to increase product performance and enhance the manufacturing process; water-soluble polymers; polypropylene and polyethylene fibers; and specialty resins. Key markets for the Company's products include Pulp and Paper; Paints and Adhesives; Construction Materials; Food, Pharmaceutical and Personal Care; and Industrial Specialties including Oilfield, Textiles and General Industrial. Over 50% of the Company's revenues are generated outside of North America. Net sales by region in the first quarter 2004 were: North America – 47%, Europe – 38%, Asia Pacific – 10% and Latin America – 5%. The Company operates through two reportable segments and four divisions: Performance Products (Pulp and Paper and Aqualon) and Engineered Materials and Additives (FiberVisions and Pinova). Net sales for the first quarter 2004 as a percent of total sales, by division, were: Pulp and Paper - 47%; Aqualon - 34%; FiberVisions - 14%; and Pinova - 5%.

Performance in the first quarter 2004 was positively impacted by a strong Euro and volume gains in Aqualon, Pulp and Paper and Pinova, offset by higher costs, especially for energy and energy-related raw materials, pension benefits, freight and an increase in our allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable as a result of a paper customer bankruptcy filing subsequent to the quarter end. The Euro has appreciated approximately 17% against the U.S. dollar from first quarter 2003 levels. Costs were also impacted by asset impairment charges in both Pulp and Paper and Aqualon. The Company will be closing its Kalamazoo, Michigan, Pulp and Paper manufacturing site and consolidating its production into other U.S. facilities during 2004. The Company will also be closing a unit operation in Aqualon this year that was providing raw material for the production of one of the water-soluble polymers product lines.

Higher cost energy and natural gas/crude oil (as feedstock) are impacting many raw materials, particularly for chlor-alkali, ethylene, benzene and propylene and their downstream derivatives. Strong demand from China for many basic materials and the strengthening global economy are also exerting upward price pressure on raw materials. The



Company has instituted a number of initiatives to mitigate these negative effects, including product substitution, exploring new sourcing opportunities and entering into forward contracts for a portion of its natural gas requirements.

In Pulp and Paper, production of paper and paperboard in North America appears to be improving, with little change noted in Europe. The containerboard market, often a leading indicator, saw better demand in the first quarter 2004 while other segments remain mixed. Sales in emerging markets remained strong in the quarter. First quarter 2004 net sales were up 53% in China, 31% in Brazil and 23% in Russia.

Market conditions affecting Aqualon remain healthy. Volume growth was fueled by strength in the personal care, paint, oil field and synthetic lubes markets. Volumes and revenues also benefited from the Jiangmen, China CMC acquisition which the Company completed in December 2003.

In FiberVisions, margins were under pressure due to continued competitive activity and higher raw material prices. Sales are being adversely impacted by substitution in the baby diaper coverstock market and a lag in growth of the disposable wipes market segment.

In the Pinova business, sales volumes are stronger as compared to the first quarter of 2003, but higher raw material costs and pension expense negatively impacted profits. The business has been successful in regaining lost volume through increased sales to existing customers and the addition of new customers.

In addition to these factors, first quarter 2004 results were influenced by a number of other events, as discussed below.

On February 12, 2004, the Company completed the sale of its minority interest in CP Kelco, realizing a pre-tax gain of \$26 million. The Company, as discussed below in "Financial Condition," also continued to repurchase its 11.125% senior notes due 2007, resulting in a loss on the repurchase of \$7 million. In April 2004, the Company reached a tentative settlement agreement in the lawsuit captioned Douglas C. Smith, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated v. Hercules Incorporated and Thomas Gossage, resulting in the recognition of an approximately \$6 million charge in the first quarter. All of these items are included in Other (income) expense, net.

On April 30, 2004, a division of a French customer filed for bankruptcy protection. As a result of this subsequent event, the Company recorded a charge of approximately \$3 million in selling, general and administrative expenses in the first quarter 2004 to reserve for potentially uncollectible accounts receivable as of March 31, 2004 relating to this customer.

### **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The Company's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations is based on its consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires Hercules to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Hercules evaluates its estimates on a regular basis, including those related to sales returns and allowances, bad debts, inventories, impairments of long-lived assets, income taxes, restructuring, contingencies, including litigation and environmental and pension and other benefit obligations. Hercules bases its estimates on various factors including historical experience, consultation and advice from third party subject matter experts and various assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Hercules believes that the following accounting estimates are critical due to the significant subjectivity and judgment necessary to account for the matters or the susceptibility of such matters to change and the effect of the

estimates and assumptions on its consolidated financial statements.

The Company maintains allowances for doubtful accounts for estimated losses resulting from the inability of its customers to make required payments. Allowances for doubtful accounts are based on historical experience and known factors regarding specific customers and industries in which the customers operate. If the financial condition of the Company's customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances would be required.

Aside from goodwill and intangible assets, which are tested for impairment under the guidance provided in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" ("SFAS 142"), the Company has adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-lived Assets" ("SFAS 144") and tests other long-lived assets for impairment based on the guidance provided therein. If the Company determines that an impairment loss has occurred, the loss is recognized in the income statement. Deterioration in future economic conditions, poor operating results in a business or the determination that the long-lived asset is unsuitable for one reason or another, new or stronger competitors, or changes in technology could result in losses or the inability to recover the carrying value of the asset, thereby possibly requiring an impairment in the future.

Hercules adopted the provisions of SFAS 142 effective January 1, 2002. Hercules identified the following reporting units: BetzDearborn, Pulp and Paper, Aqualon, FiberVisions and Pinova. Pursuant to SFAS 142, the Company is required to perform an annual assessment of its reporting units for impairment. To assess impairment, the Company compares the reporting unit's book value of net assets, including goodwill, to its fair value. Fair value is estimated using a combination of valuation approaches including the market value and income approaches. In the event that the book value exceeds the fair value, the Company recognizes an impairment to the extent the book value of goodwill exceeds the implied fair value of goodwill for any reporting unit, calculated by determining the fair value of the assets and liabilities for the reporting unit. Deterioration in future economic conditions, poor operating results in the reporting units, new or stronger competitors, or changes in technology could result in an inability to recover the carrying value of the goodwill and intangible assets, thereby requiring an impairment in the future.

Hercules records a valuation allowance to reduce its deferred tax assets to an amount that is more likely than not to be realized after consideration of future taxable income and reasonable tax planning strategies. In the event that Hercules were to determine that it would not be able to realize all or part of its deferred tax assets, for which a valuation allowance had not been established, or is able to utilize capital and/or operating loss carryforwards for which a valuation allowance has been established, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset will be reflected in income in the period such determination is made.

Hercules has and will continue to record charges for the estimated costs of employee severance and other exit costs pursuant to the Company's strategy to continuously improve return on capital, streamline organizational structure, improve work processes and consolidate manufacturing and non-manufacturing resources. In the event that it is determined that additional employees must be involuntarily terminated, or that additional manufacturing or non-manufacturing facilities must be closed pursuant to work process redesign or other cost reduction initiatives, supplemental reserves would be required, which would result in an incremental charge against earnings.

Hercules establishes reserves for environmental matters, litigation and other contingencies when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the liability is reasonably estimable. At March 31, 2004, the Company had accrued \$105 million for contingencies and asset retirement obligations in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies" ("SFAS 5") and Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations" ("SFAS 143"). The actual costs will depend upon numerous factors, including the number of parties found responsible at each environmental site and their ability to pay, the actual methods of remediation required or agreed to, outcomes of negotiations with regulatory authorities, outcomes of litigation, changes in environmental laws and regulations, technological developments, the

years of remedial activity required and changes in the number or financial exposures of claims, lawsuits, settlements or judgments, or in the ability to reduce such financial exposures by collecting indemnity payments from insurers. If the contingency is resolved for an amount greater or less than has been accrued, Hercules' share of the contingency increases or decreases, or other assumptions relevant to the development of the estimate were to change, Hercules would recognize an additional expense or benefit in income in the period such determination was made.

Hercules has established reserves for asbestos-related personal injury lawsuits and claims. The Company's estimates are based on a number of assumptions including the number of future claims, the timing and amount of future payments, disease, venue, the dynamic nature of asbestos litigation and the present uncertainty concerning the participation of its excess insurance carriers and other circumstances. At March 31, 2004, the Company had recorded a gross accrued liability of \$209 million, after recognizing cash settlement payments of \$12 million during the quarter, for present and future potential asbestos claims before anticipated insurance recoveries. The Company believes that it is probable that \$169 million of the \$209 million accrual will be funded by or recovered from insurance carriers. That belief, which is subject to the various assumptions set forth herein, is based on many factors that have been evaluated by the Company, along with outside insurance counsel, including the indemnity and defense payments that have been made by its now exhausted insurance carriers, and by some of its other carriers, and the limits of remaining potentially available insurance coverage, as well as the range of possible outcomes in the Company's insurance coverage litigation, taking into account, among other considerations, the facts and status of that litigation and the relevant case law.

The Company provides defined benefit pension and postretirement welfare benefit plans to employees in the United States who meet eligibility requirements. Similar plans are provided outside the United States in accordance with local practice. Pension and other postretirement benefit obligations and the related expense (income) are determined based upon actuarial assumptions regarding mortality, medical inflation rates, discount rates, long-term return on assets, salary increases, Medicare availability and other factors. Changes in these assumptions can result in changes to the recognized pension expense and recorded liability. As a result of past unfavorable investment performance and the lower discount rate, the accumulated benefit obligation ("ABO") exceeded the fair value of plan assets. The Company is required to recognize an additional liability equal to the sum of such excess plus the prepaid pension asset balance, with a corresponding after-tax charge to other comprehensive income in stockholders' equity. At March 31, 2004, the consolidated balance sheet reflects an additional minimum liability of \$554 million (pre-tax) and an after-tax charge to accumulated other comprehensive income of \$339 million.

## Results of Operations

The table below reflects Net sales and Profit from operations for the quarters ended March 31, 2004 and 2003. Substantially all reconciling items have been allocated to the segments.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	Three Months Ended		Change	% Change
	2004	2003		
<b>Net sales:</b>				
Performance Products	\$ 386	356	\$ 30	8%
Engineered Materials and Additives	89	91	(2)	(2%)
Consolidated	\$ 475	447	\$ 28	6%
<b>Profit from operations:</b>				
Performance Products	\$ 51	58	\$ (7)	(12%)
Engineered Materials and Additives	(2)	2	(4)	(200%)
Corporate Reconciling Items	(3)	1	(4)	(400%)
Consolidated	\$ 46	\$ 61	\$ (15)	(25%)

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The table below reflects Net sales percentage changes from the same quarter in 2003.

	Net Sales Percentage Increase (Decrease) from prior year due to				
	Volume	Product Mix	Price	Rates of Exchange	Total
Pulp and Paper	3%	(4%)	0%	7%	6%
Aqualon	11%	(6%)	0%	7%	12%
Performance Products	6%	(5%)	0%	7%	8%
Fibervisions	(14%)	0%	2%	6%	(6%)
Pinova	19%	(7%)	(3%)	0%	9%
Engineered Materials and Additives	95%)	(2%)	0%	5%	(2%)
Consolidated	4%	(5%)	0%	7%	6%

The table below reflects Net sales per region and percentage change from the same quarter in 2003.

Region	Quarter ended March		Quarter ended March		% Increase (Decrease) Net of Rate of Exchange Benefit	
	31, 2004		31, 2003			
					% Change	
North America	\$	220	\$	226	(3%)	(4%)
Latin America		24		20	20%	10%
Asia Pacific		49		40	23%	23%
Europe		182		161	13%	(3%)
All regions	\$	475	\$	447	6%	(1%)

Consolidated net sales were \$475 million for the quarter, an increase of \$28 million, or 6%. Compared to the first quarter 2003, volumes generated a 4% improvement, product mix had a negative impact of 5%, prices were flat and rate of exchange had a 7% positive effect. Regionally, net sales were lower in North America by 3%, whereas all other regions improved: 20% in Latin America, 23% in Asia Pacific and 13% in Europe. The decrease in North America sales reflects a challenging but improving Pulp and Paper market and volume losses in the FiberVisions diaper coverstock market due to substitution of competing products. European sales were higher primarily due to the positive impact of the weaker dollar versus the Euro. Excluding the impact from rates of exchange, all of our businesses in Europe had lower sales, reflecting poor economic conditions. Sales in Asia Pacific have increased as a result of the acquisition of Jiangmen Quantum Hi-Tech Biochemical Engineering ("Quantum") in China and stronger economic conditions.

Profit from operations decreased \$15 million, or 25%, in the quarter. The \$6 million positive contribution of the weaker dollar versus the Euro was more than offset by higher pension, raw material, energy, freight and insurance costs, non-cash asset impairment charges and an increase to the reserve for potentially uncollectible receivables in the Pulp and Paper division. Profit from operations in 2003 benefited from income recognized as a result of a favorable legal settlement.

In the Performance Products segment, net sales grew \$30 million, or 8%, and profit from operations declined \$7 million, or 12%.

In the Pulp and Paper Division, net sales grew 6%, with 3% resulting from higher volumes and a 7% benefit from favorable rates of exchange, partially offset by a 4% impact from an unfavorable product mix. The higher

volumes are primarily a result of increased sales under our supply agreement with G.E. Water Technologies as well as improved process chemicals sales. Functional product sales were flat. Profit from operations was 27% lower than the prior year. Improved rates of exchange were offset by higher energy and raw material costs, higher pension expenses and a charge for uncollectible accounts receivable. In addition, asset impairment and severance charges totaling approximately \$4 million were incurred for closure of our Kalamazoo production facility. The facilities consolidation, scheduled for later this year, will result in annual cost savings of approximately \$1-2 million. Subsequent to the quarter end, a division of a French customer filed for bankruptcy protection, requiring a charge of approximately \$3 million to increase our provision for potentially uncollectible accounts receivable for this customer as of March 31, 2004.

Aqualon experienced 12% net sales growth driven by 11% higher volumes and a 7% benefit from higher rates of exchange, partially offset by negative product mix of 6%. Pricing on average across all product lines was flat. Volume improvements were made in the personal care, paint, oilfield and synthetic lubes markets. Approximately 2% of the sales growth was related to our Quantum acquisition completed in the fourth quarter of 2003. The negative product mix reflects higher sales of lower priced products, regional and industry mix, and is partly related to the additional contribution made by our Quantum acquisition. Profit from operations was lower by \$1 million, or 3%, as the effect of favorable rates of exchange and higher plant utilization rates were offset by higher pension and freight expenses. In addition, an asset impairment charge of \$4 million was incurred for closure of a raw material production line. The raw material requirements will be sourced pursuant to a long-term third-party supply agreement that should yield an estimated annual savings of \$1 million.

In the Engineered Materials and Additives segment, net sales declined \$2 million, or 2%, and profit from operations declined \$4 million.

FiberVisions net sales declined 6% as the 14% impact of lower volumes was only partially offset by the 2% effect of higher prices and rates of exchange improvements of 6%. The lower volumes reflect a faster decline in sales of fibers used to make diaper coverstock versus the anticipated increase in fibers used in the disposable wipes markets. Higher prices reflect the contractual customer pass through of higher polymer costs. Profit from operations was lower by \$2 million in the quarter. Improved rates of exchange and lower management fees charged by our ES FiberVisions joint venture partner were more than offset by higher polymer costs and lower plant utilization. In addition, legal costs associated with the now terminated Meraklon S.p.A. acquisition were recognized.

Net sales in Pinova increased 9% as a result of the 19% impact of higher volumes, offset by a 3% effect from lower pricing and negative product mix of 7%. The increase in volumes is related to recapturing lost market share in the highly competitive chewing gum and adhesives markets. The lower pricing and unfavorable product mix is related to these efforts to regain lost business. A loss from operations of \$2 million was recorded in 2004 versus breakeven in 2003. The decrease was attributable to higher pension and raw material costs and lower tolling fees compared to first quarter 2003.

Other (income) expense was \$9 million of income in 2004, an increase of \$13 million versus the \$4 million of expense in 2003. The Company sold its minority interest in CP Kelco ApS in the quarter, recognizing a pre-tax gain of \$26 million. The gain on the sale of CP Kelco ApS was offset by losses on debt repurchases, a legal settlement, asbestos legal expenses and costs associated with formerly divested businesses.

Interest and debt expense of \$30 million was lower by \$4 million reflecting lower debt balances outstanding and lower interest rates on our bank debt facilities. The lower debt balances resulted from repurchase of our 11 1/8% senior notes during the fourth quarter of 2003 and first quarter 2004, coupled with lower interest rates pursuant to the December 2003 amendment to our senior credit facility.

The effective tax rate for the first quarter 2004 was (6.8%), reflecting the nominal net taxes on the gain from the Company's sale of its minority interest in CP Kelco. This compares to a 38% effective tax rate in the first quarter

2003. The full year 2004 effective tax rate, including the CP Kelco gain, is anticipated to be approximately 40%. The 2004 estimated effective tax rate is higher than the U.S. statutory rate of 35% due to a 7% increase for U.S. taxes on current year repatriations of foreign earnings in excess of amounts for which taxes had previously been provided and a 5% increase for one-time costs associated with tax planning initiatives.

### Financial Condition

Liquidity and financial resources: Net cash flow (used in) operations was \$(37) million in the quarter compared to \$16 million provided by operations in the first quarter 2003. The Company contributed \$40 million to the U.S. defined benefit pension plan in the first quarter 2004. In addition, first quarter 2004 uses of cash included asbestos payments of \$12 million, tax payments of \$19 million and a \$7 million loss associated with the Company's repurchase of the 11.125% senior notes. As previously disclosed, the Company has exhausted its primary and first level excess insurance policies that provided coverage for the asbestos-related matters. The Company has not yet reached agreement with its other insurance carriers to fund the cost of defending and resolving its asbestos-related matters. As a result, until the Company's other insurance carriers begin to fund the cost of defending and resolving these matters, the Company will have to fully fund the cost of defending and resolving these matters. The Company presently projects asbestos-related payments of approximately \$40 to \$45 million in 2004 before consideration of any insurance coverage or reimbursement, if any, and any potential legislative resolution to this matter.

Net cash provided by investing activities was \$17 million in the first quarter 2004 compared to \$(4) million used in investing activities in 2003. First quarter 2004 cash from investing includes \$27 million of gross proceeds on the sale of the Company's minority interest in CP Kelco ApS. Capital expenditures were \$10 million in the quarter. Capital expenditures are estimated to be \$70 million for the year 2004.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$38 million and \$5 million, respectively, in 2004 and 2003. The Board of Directors has authorized the Company, from time to time, subject to market conditions and provisions of the Company's credit agreement, to repurchase up to \$200 million of its outstanding indebtedness. During the first quarter 2004, the Company repurchased \$33 million (book value) of the 11.125% senior notes for \$40 million, recording a loss of \$7 million. Subsequently, in April 2004, the Company repurchased an additional \$15 million (book value) of the 11.125% senior notes at a cost of \$18 million.

On April 8, 2004, the Company completed the refinancing of its Senior Credit Facility with a new \$400 million term loan (the "Term Loan Facility") and a new \$150 million committed revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Facility"). The Company also has the ability under this facility, subject to lender approval, to borrow an additional \$250 million in the form of an incremental term note. The Term Loan Facility matures October 8, 2010 and the Revolving Facility matures April 9, 2009. Borrowings under the Term Loan Facility initially will bear interest at LIBOR + 2.25% (initially 3.48%) with the Company holding the option to reset interest rates for one, two, three or six month periods. The new Senior Credit Facility is secured by liens on the Company's assets (including real, personal and intellectual properties) and is guaranteed by substantially all of the Company's current and future wholly owned domestic subsidiaries. The Company also completed the private offering of \$250 million aggregate principal amount of 6 3/4% senior subordinated notes due 2029.

Proceeds from the refinancing were used in part to fully repay the outstanding Term B loan. The Company has dissolved Hercules Trust I (the "Trust") and caused the Company's 9.42% junior subordinated deferrable interest debentures due 2029 to be distributed to the holders of the Trust's 9.42% trust preferred securities. The Company also caused a notice to be issued that the redemption of the debentures would be on May 10, 2004. Proceeds of \$363 million from the refinancing have been placed in an escrow account to fully redeem the debentures. As a result of the redemption, the Company will recognize approximately \$14 million of non-cash expense during the second quarter 2004 for the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs.

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As of March 31, 2004, \$48 million of the \$125 million revolver under the Company's old Senior Credit Facility was available for use. The Company had \$77 million of outstanding letters of credit associated with its old Senior Credit Facility at March 31, 2004.

### Commitments

The Company's contractual commitments as of March 31, 2004 are summarized as follows:

*(Dollars in millions)*

(Dollars in millions)	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	4 - 5 years	After 5 years
Long-term Debt Obligations	\$ 1,309	\$ 22	\$ 21	\$ 538	\$ 728
Operating Lease Obligations	129	19	30	25	55
Purchase Obligations	11	9	2	-	-
Other Long-term Liabilities Reflected on the Registrant's Balance Sheet under GAAP <sup>(1)</sup>	323	61	33	29	200
Total Contractual Cash Obligations	\$ 1,772	\$ 111	\$ 86	\$ 592	\$ 983

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes amounts related to asbestos-related matters, asset retirement obligations, and workers compensation claims. Due to the dynamic nature of asbestos litigation and the present uncertainty concerning the participation of the Company's excess insurance carriers, it is impractical to determine the anticipated payments in any given year. Therefore, the non-current asbestos-related liability of \$165 million has been reflected in the "after five years" column.

The Company projects cash flow from operations will be sufficient to meet its investing and financing requirements in the next several years. After giving effect to the April 8, 2004 refinancing of the Senior Credit Facility, long-term debt obligations and total contractual obligations due in "less than 1 year" will increase by \$2 million, in "1-3 years" will increase by \$4 million, in "4-5 years" will decrease by \$184 million and "after 5 years" will increase by \$268 million.

### **Risk Factors**

#### Indebtedness

As of March 31, 2004, the Company's total debt was approximately \$1,309 million, of which 83% was fixed rate indebtedness. The Company's indebtedness has significant consequences. For example, it could: increase the Company's vulnerability to economic downturns and competitive pressures; require the Company to dedicate a substantial portion of its cash flow from operations to payments on its indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of its cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, research and development efforts and other general corporate purposes; limit the Company's flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in its business and the industries in which it operates or in pursuing attractive business opportunities requiring debt financing; place the Company at a disadvantage to its competitors that have less debt; and limit the Company's ability to borrow additional funds due to restrictive covenants.

The Senior Credit Facility and the indentures governing the senior notes and senior subordinated notes, which together account for a large portion of the Company's debt, contain numerous restrictive covenants, including, among other things, covenants that limit the Company's ability to: borrow money and incur contingent liabilities; make dividend or other restricted payments; use assets as security in other transactions; enter into transactions with affiliates; enter into new lines of business; issue and sell stock of restricted subsidiaries; sell assets or merge with or into other companies and make capital expenditures. In addition, the senior credit facility requires the Company to meet financial ratios and tests, including maximum leverage and interest coverage levels. These restrictions could limit the Company's ability to plan for or react to market conditions or meet extraordinary capital needs and could otherwise restrict corporate activities.

The Company's ability to comply with the covenants and other terms of the new Senior Credit Facility and the indentures governing the senior notes and senior subordinated notes and to satisfy these and other debt obligations will depend upon the Company's current and future performance. The Company's performance is affected by general economic conditions and by financial, competitive, political, business and other factors, many of which are beyond the Company's control. The Company believes that the cash generated from its business will be sufficient to enable the Company to comply with the covenants and other terms of the new Senior Credit Facility and the indentures governing the Company's senior notes and senior subordinated notes and to make debt payments as they become due.

The Company and its subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness in the future. As of March 31, 2004, the Company had a \$325 million senior credit facility with a syndicate of banks. Under the old Senior Credit Facility, the Company had a \$125 million revolving credit agreement, which permitted certain additional borrowings. In addition, the Company had the option to borrow an additional \$50 million to \$150 million under the old Senior Credit Facility.

As a result of its April 8, 2004 refinancing, the Company has a \$550 million Senior Credit Facility with a syndicate of banks. Under the new Senior Credit Facility, the Company has a \$150 million revolving credit agreement and a \$400 million term loan which permits certain additional borrowings. The Company also has the ability under this facility, subject to lender approval, to borrow an additional \$250 million in the form of an incremental loan. If new indebtedness is added to the Company's current indebtedness levels, the risks described above could increase.

#### Market Risk

Fluctuations in interest and foreign currency exchange rates affect the Company's financial position and results of operations. The Company has used several strategies to actively hedge interest rate and foreign currency exposure and minimize the effect of such fluctuations on reported earnings and cash flow. Sensitivity of the Company's financial instruments to selected changes in market rates and prices, which are reasonably possible over a one-year period, are described below. The market values for interest rate risk are calculated by the Company utilizing a third-party software model that employs standard pricing models to determine the present value of the instruments based on the market conditions as of the valuation date.

The Company's derivative and other financial instruments subject to interest rate risk consist substantially of debt instruments and trust preferred securities. At March 31, 2004 the net market value of these combined instruments was a liability of \$1.333 billion. The sensitivity analysis assumes an instantaneous 100-basis point move in interest rates from their levels, with all other variables held constant. A 100-basis point increase in interest rates at March 31, 2004 would result in a \$94 million decrease in the net market value of the liability. A 100-basis point decrease in interest rates at March 31, 2004 would result in a \$63 million increase in the net market value of the liability.

Our financial instruments subject to foreign currency exchange risk consist of foreign currency forwards and represent a net liability position of \$0.7 million at March 31, 2004. The following sensitivity analysis assumes an instantaneous 10% change in foreign currency exchange rates from year-end levels, with all other variables held constant. A 10% strengthening of the U.S. dollar versus other currencies at March 31, 2004 would result in a \$0.6 million decrease in the net liability position while a 10% weakening of the dollar versus all currencies would result in a \$0.8 million increase in the net liability position.

Foreign exchange forward and option contracts have been used to hedge the Company's firm and anticipated foreign currency cash flows. Thus, there is either an asset or cash flow exposure related to all the financial instruments in the above sensitivity analysis for which the impact of a movement in exchange rates would be in the opposite direction and substantially equal to the impact on the instruments in the analysis. There are presently no significant restrictions on the remittance of funds generated by the Company's operations outside the United States.



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The Company has not designated any derivative as a hedge instrument under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" ("SFAS 133"), and, accordingly, changes in the fair value of derivatives are recorded each period in earnings.

### Environmental

In the ordinary course of its business, the Company is subject to numerous environmental laws and regulations covering compliance matters or imposing liability for the costs of, and damages resulting from, cleaning up sites, past spills, disposals and other releases of hazardous substances. Changes in these laws and regulations may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position and results of operations. Any failure by the Company to adequately comply with such laws and regulations could subject the Company to significant future liabilities.

Environmental remediation expenses are funded from internal sources of cash. Such expenses are not expected to have a significant effect on the Company's ongoing liquidity. Environmental cleanup costs, including capital expenditures for ongoing operations, are a normal, recurring part of operations and are not significant in relation to total operating costs or cash flows.

### Litigation

Hercules is a defendant in numerous lawsuits that arise out of, and are incidental to, the conduct of its business. These suits concern issues such as product liability, contract disputes, labor-related matters, patent infringement, antitrust proceedings, environmental proceedings, property damage and personal injury matters. While it is not feasible to predict the outcome of all pending suits and claims, the ultimate resolution of these matters could have a material effect upon the financial position of Hercules, and the resolution of any of the matters during a specific period could have a material effect on the quarterly or annual operating results for that period (see Note 14).

### Pension

The assets and liabilities associated with the Company's defined benefit plans are subject to interest rate and market risk. A 100-basis point decrease or increase in the discount rate will increase or decrease the ABO by approximately \$193 million. A 100-basis point decrease or increase in the assumed rate of return will increase or decrease the estimated 2004 U.S. pension and postretirement expense by approximately \$10 million.

### **Indemnifications**

In connection with the sale of certain Company assets or businesses, the Company has indemnified respective buyers against certain liabilities that may arise in connection with the sales transactions and business activities prior to the ultimate closing of the sale. These indemnifications typically pertain to environmental, tax, employee and/or product-related matters. If the indemnified party were to incur a liability or have a liability increase as a result of a successful claim, pursuant to the terms of the indemnification, the Company would be required to reimburse the buyer. These indemnifications are generally subject to threshold amounts, specified claim periods and other restrictions and limitations. The carrying amount recorded for all indemnifications as of March 31, 2004 was \$77 million. Although it is possible that future payments may exceed amounts accrued, due to the nature of indemnified items, it is not possible to make a reasonable estimate of the maximum potential loss or range of loss.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In January 2004, the FASB issued Staff Position FAS 106-1, "Accounting and Disclosure Requirements Related to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003" ("FSP 106-1"). FSP 106-1 permits a sponsor of a postretirement health care plan that provides a prescription drug benefit to make a one-time election to defer accounting for the effects of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the

"Medicare Act"). The Medicare Act, which was signed by the President on December 8, 2003, introduces a prescription drug benefit under Medicare (Medicare Part D) as well as a federal subsidy to sponsors of retiree health care benefit plans that provide a benefit that is at least actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D.

The Company offers a drug benefit plan and has elected to defer current recognition of the effects of the Act in the accounting for its plan pursuant to FSP 106-1 until authoritative guidance on the accounting for the federal subsidy is issued. As such, any measures of the accumulated projected benefit obligation or net periodic postretirement benefit cost in the financial statements or accompanying notes do not reflect the effects of the Act on the plan. Specific authoritative guidance on the accounting for the federal subsidy is still pending and it is possible that the guidance, when issued, could require the Company to change previously reported information.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q includes forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, reflecting management's current analysis and expectations, based on what management believes to be reasonable assumptions. Forward-looking statements may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the actual results to differ materially from those projected, stated or implied, depending on such factors as: ability to generate cash, ability to raise capital, ability to refinance, ability to execute work process redesign and reduce costs, business climate, business performance, economic and competitive uncertainties, higher manufacturing costs, reduced level of customer orders, changes in strategies, risks in developing new products and technologies, environmental and safety regulations and clean-up costs, foreign exchange rates, the impact of changes in the value of pension fund assets and liabilities, changes in generally accepted accounting principles, legislative changes, adverse legal and regulatory developments, including increases in the number or financial exposures of claims, lawsuits, settlements or judgments, or the inability to eliminate or reduce such financial exposures by collecting indemnity payments from insurers, the impact of increased accruals and reserves for such exposures, and adverse changes in economic and political climates around the world, including terrorist activities and international hostilities. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the Company will meet future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. As appropriate, additional factors are contained in other reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Words or phrases such as "will likely result," "are expected to," "will continue," "is anticipated," "estimate," "project" or similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. This paragraph is included to provide safe harbor for forward-looking statements, which are not generally required to be publicly revised as circumstances change, and which the Company does not intend to update.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

For discussion of quantitative and qualitative disclosure about market risk, see "Risk Factors" under Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15 as of March 31, 2004. Based upon that evaluation, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and the Company's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective. Disclosure controls and procedures are controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in Company reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

There have been no significant changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's first fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

For information related to Legal Proceedings, see Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

### Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

#### (a) Exhibits

Please see the exhibits listed on the Exhibit Index.

Reports on Form 8-K.

Date of Report	Item No.	Financial Statements Included
January 26, 2004	5	No
February 11, 2004	12	No*
February 12, 2004	5	No
March 1, 2004	5, 7	No
March 19, 2004	9	No**
March 22, 2004	5, 7	No

\* Furnishing earnings press release and other financial information.

\*\*Furnishing information under Regulation FD.

## 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.

**HERCULES  
INCORPORATED**

By:

/s/ Allen A. Spizzo  
Allen A. Spizzo  
Vice President and  
Chief Financial  
Officer  
(Principal  
Accounting Officer  
and duly  
Authorized  
signatory)  
May 10, 2004

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1*	Indenture, dated as of April 8, 2004, between Hercules Incorporated and each of the Guarantors party thereto and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association.
4.2*	Registration Rights Agreement, dated April 8, 2004, between Hercules Incorporated and the Guarantors listed on Schedule A thereto and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.
10.1*	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of April 8, 2004, among Hercules Incorporated, certain subsidiaries of Hercules Incorporated party thereto as Guarantors, the Several Lenders party thereto, Credit Suisse First Boston, Wachovia Bank, National Association, Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, the Bank of Nova Scotia and PNC Bank, National Association.
31.1*	Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2*	Certification of Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1*	Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2*	Certification of Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
* Filed herewith	