

Rockwood Holdings, Inc.
Form S-1/A
July 19, 2005

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 18, 2005

Registration No. 333-122764

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 3

to

FORM S-1

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

2800
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

52-2277366
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**100 Overlook Center
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 514-0300**

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,
Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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If the securities being registered on this form are being offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434 under the Securities Act, please check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title Of Each Class Of Securities To Be Registered	Amount To Be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)	Amount Of Registration Fee(3)
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	23,469,387	\$26.00	\$610,204,062	\$71,821.02

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o).
- (2) Includes shares to be sold upon exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option. See "Underwriting."
- (3) Previously paid.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this preliminary prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion. Dated July 18, 2005.

20,408,163 Shares

Rockwood Holdings, Inc.

Common Stock

This is an initial public offering of shares of common stock of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. All of the 20,408,163 shares of common stock are being sold by Rockwood Holdings, Inc.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the common stock. It is currently estimated that the initial public offering price per share will be between \$23.00 and \$26.00. Our common stock has been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ROC," subject to official notice of issuance.

See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 17 to read about factors you should consider before buying shares of the common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Initial public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discount	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Rockwood Holdings, Inc.	\$	\$

To the extent that the underwriters sell more than 20,408,163 shares of common stock, the underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 3,061,224 shares from Rockwood Holdings, Inc. at the initial public offering price less the underwriting discount.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares against payment in New York, New York on _____, 2005.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Credit Suisse First Boston

Lehman Brothers

UBS Investment Bank

Deutsche Bank Securities

First Analysis Securities Corporation

JPMorgan

Prospectus dated _____, 2005.

(ARTWORK)

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you. You should read the entire prospectus, including the historical and pro forma financial data and related notes, before making an investment decision. This summary contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ significantly from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including those set forth in "Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements."

In this prospectus, unless we indicate otherwise or the context otherwise requires, any references to "we," "our," and "us" refer to Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, and any references to the "issuer" refers to Rockwood Holdings, Inc. In addition, when the context so requires, we use the term "Rockwood" to refer to our historical operations prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition (described below) and the term "Dynamit Nobel" to refer to the historical operations of the businesses of Dynamit Nobel AG that we acquired from mg technologies ag in July 2004. Other than our financial statements as of and for the periods ended subsequent to July 31, 2004, which include the results of operations of the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses subsequent to July 31, 2004, the historical financial statements and related notes presented in this prospectus are separate financial statements and related notes of Rockwood and Dynamit Nobel.

Our Company

We are a leading global developer, manufacturer and marketer of technologically advanced, high value-added specialty chemicals and advanced materials. We believe we have leading market positions in most of our businesses, including lithium compounds, fiber anatase titanium dioxide, color pigments and services, ceramic-on-ceramic components used in hip joint prostheses systems and next generation wood protection products.

We have a number of higher growth businesses such as Advanced Ceramics, Specialty Chemicals and Performance Additives, which are complemented by a diverse portfolio of businesses that historically have generated predictable, stable revenues. Our margins, strong cash flow generation, capital discipline and ongoing productivity improvements provide us with a platform to capitalize on the market growth opportunities.

We operate globally, manufacturing our products in 100 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries and selling our products and providing our services to more than 60,000 customers, including some of the world's preeminent companies. Our products, consisting primarily of inorganic chemicals and solutions and engineered materials, are often customized to meet the complex needs of our customers and to enhance the value and performance of their end products.

We generally compete in niche markets in a wide range of end-use markets, including construction, life sciences (including pharmaceutical and medical markets), electronics and telecommunications, metal treatment and general industrial and consumer products markets. No single end-use market accounted for more than 19% of our \$2,913.0 million 2004 pro forma net sales.

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Following the acquisition of Dynamit Nobel in July 2004, we operate our business through seven segments:

Segment	% of 2004 Pro Forma Net Sales
Performance Additives	23%
Specialty Compounds	7
Electronics	6
Specialty Chemicals	26
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	14
Advanced Ceramics	12
Groupe Novasep	12

Our Competitive Strengths

Leading market positions. We believe that we hold leading market positions within most of our businesses, including, based on our 2004 pro forma net sales:

Segment	Products	Market Position
Performance Additives	synthetic iron oxide pigments wood protection products	one of top 3 globally one of top 3 globally
Specialty Chemicals	lithium compounds and chemicals metal surface treatment chemicals and related services	#1 globally #2 globally
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	anatase titanium dioxide pigment for the synthetic fiber manufacturing industry	#1 globally
Advanced Ceramics	ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in hip joint prostheses systems ceramics cutting tools	#1 globally #1 in Europe

Specialty businesses in niche markets with significant barriers to entry. We believe that nearly all of our businesses operate in niche markets protected by significant barriers to entry. We believe that many of our customers would experience significant disruption and costs if they were to switch to another supplier.

Diverse customer and end-use market base. We operate a diverse portfolio of distinct specialty chemicals and advanced materials businesses that cover a wide variety of industries and geographic areas. Of our 2004 pro forma net sales, 50% were shipments to Europe, 34% to North America and 16% to the rest of the world. No customer accounted for more than 2% of such net sales, and our top ten customers represented only approximately 11% of such net sales.

Limited exposure to raw materials and energy prices. We have a broad raw material base consisting primarily of inorganic (non-petrochemical) materials, most of which are readily available and whose prices follow their own individual supply and demand relationships and have historically shown little correlation to each other. Our exposure to energy prices is limited.

Leading technologies and strong brand names. We believe we are recognized for our use of our technological know-how and expertise to improve, develop and manufacture customized product and process innovations that meet specific customers' performance requirements.

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Experienced and proven management team with significant equity interests. Since joining us in 2001, Seifi Ghasemi, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Robert Zatta, our senior vice president and chief financial officer, together with other members of our senior management team, have implemented a series of improvement initiatives designed to increase sales, improve productivity, reduce costs and expand margins. These initiatives have had a positive impact on the cash flow and profitability of Rockwood's historic businesses.

Our Business Strategy

Building on these strengths, we plan to continue our existing strategy to grow revenue and cash flow and increase profitability as follows:

Capitalize on expected market growth opportunities. We expect our businesses to benefit from a number of growth trends, including:

Advanced Ceramics a growing trend toward replacing plastics and metals with high-performance ceramics.

Specialty Chemicals increased demand for lithium-based batteries for mobile electronic applications.

Performance Additives a growing trend toward the use of color in concrete paving stones and other home remodeling.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments sales of newly-introduced nano-particle titanium dioxide pigments that are used to provide ultraviolet light protection for plastics and coatings.

Achieve profitable growth through selective acquisitions. We intend to continue to selectively pursue cash flow accretive acquisitions and strategic alliances in order to strengthen and expand our existing business lines and enter into complementary business lines. Although we are not subject to any agreement or binding letter of intent with respect to potential acquisitions, we are engaged in acquisition discussions with other parties.

Apply our proven improvement initiatives to the Dynamit Nobel businesses. We are currently in the process of applying the management initiatives successfully applied to Rockwood's historic businesses to the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses. Among other improvements, we expect that we will achieve total annual cost savings of approximately \$17.0 million, of which we have already realized approximately \$7.0 million through March 31, 2005, in connection with cost-reducing measures.

Reduce financial leverage. We intend to reduce our financial leverage by using a significant portion of the net proceeds from this offering and a significant portion of cash flow from operations after required capital expenditures and payments to service our debt. We believe that our strong cash flow generation will be further strengthened by organic growth opportunities within our existing markets, cost-reduction programs applied to the Dynamit Nobel businesses and improved working capital management.

Risks Relating to Our Business Strategy

We may not be able to continue our product innovation, demand for our products may not develop as expected, and regulation of our raw materials, products and facilities may change in a way that is detrimental to our business. We incurred net losses of \$68.2 million, \$91.7 million and \$216.1 million in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, and \$154.1 million in 2004 on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the Transactions (as defined below).

In addition, we have a substantial amount of indebtedness. As of March 31, 2005, on an actual basis, we had approximately \$3,497.0 million of long-term debt outstanding and total stockholders' equity of approximately \$561.8 million, and on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the offering, we would have had approximately \$3,105.9 million of long-term debt outstanding and total stockholders' equity of approximately \$996.2 million. This substantial indebtedness may adversely affect our cash flow and our ability to remain in compliance with our debt covenants, make payments on our indebtedness and operate our business. Any of these factors or other factors described in this prospectus under "Risk Factors" may limit our ability to successfully execute our business strategy.

Acquisitions

On April 19, 2004, we entered into a sale and purchase agreement with mg technologies ag to acquire its wholly-owned specialty chemicals and advanced materials business, Dynamit Nobel. We paid approximately \$2,274.0 million (based on the July 31, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2040), including assumed debt of \$315.1 million and cash acquired of \$9.6 million, for the businesses acquired. This price remains subject to a possible post-closing adjustment. The acquisition was consummated on July 31, 2004.

In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we received an equity contribution of \$425.0 million from affiliates of KKR and DLJ Merchant Banking Partners III, L.P. and its affiliated funds, or DLJMB. In addition, members of our management and certain other employees made cash equity investments of approximately \$7.0 million from September 2004 to December 2004. In this prospectus, we refer to this investment as the 2004 management equity program.

In September 2004, one of our subsidiaries acquired the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. for a purchase price of approximately \$47.1 million and in connection with this acquisition borrowed \$50.4 million (based on the September 27, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2029) under a term loan of the senior secured credit facilities.

In December 2004, in connection with the combination of the three business lines of our Custom Synthesis segment (now known as our Groupe Novasep segment) with Groupe Novasep SAS, one of our subsidiaries acquired 69.4% of the stock of Groupe Novasep SAS for a total purchase price of approximately \$139.7 million, including assumed debt of \$48.6 million, cash acquired of \$14.6 million and the exchange of the remaining 30.6% of the stock of Groupe Novasep SAS for stock in our acquiring subsidiary. As a result of this transaction, we own approximately 79% of the new Groupe Novasep. We used cash on hand to finance this transaction.

In this prospectus, we refer to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and related equity and debt financings and Fall 2004 debt refinancings, the pigments and dispersions acquisition and related financing, the Groupe Novasep combination and this offering collectively as the Transactions.

Recent Developments

Although our results of operations for the three months ended June 30, 2005 are not currently available, the following information reflects our expectations with respect to such results based on currently available information.

We expect our net sales to be between approximately \$815 and \$830 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005. Consistent with trends on a historical and pro forma basis, we expect our operating results and margins for the second quarter of 2005 to exceed the first quarter of 2005 mainly due to seasonal patterns experienced in the ordinary course of our businesses. In addition, we expect our operating results and margins for the second quarter of 2005 to match or exceed our operating results and margins for the second quarter of 2004 on a pro forma basis. Furthermore, we expect our operating margins for the second quarter of 2005 to match or marginally exceed our operating margins for 2004 on a pro forma basis.

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Rockwood Holdings, Inc. is a Delaware corporation that was formed in September 2000. On November 20, 2000, an entity controlled by affiliates of KKR acquired certain specialty chemicals business lines from Laporte plc, which was subsequently acquired by Degussa AG. Total cash consideration paid was \$1,175.0 million, plus a post-closing adjustment of \$5.6 million. The purchase price and related fees and expenses were financed by borrowings under senior secured credit facilities and a senior subordinated loan facility that have been repaid, borrowings under the pay-in-kind loans that are expected to be repaid with a portion of the net proceeds of this offering, and a \$282.0 million common equity investment by affiliates of KKR. KKR acquired these specialty chemicals business lines from Laporte because it believed they would create an attractive business with which it could work to develop and implement value creating strategies.

Our principal executive offices are located at 100 Overlook Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. Our telephone number is (609) 514-0300. Our website address is www.rocksp.com. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider information on our website as part of this prospectus.

The Offering

Common Stock Offered	20,408,163 shares
Common Stock Outstanding After the Offering	70,717,702 shares
Percentage of Common Stock Represented by Shares of Common Stock Offered	28.9%
Use of Proceeds	<p>We estimate that our net proceeds from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$465.0 million, assuming the shares are offered at \$24.50 per share, which is the midpoint of the estimated offering price range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus.</p> <p>We intend to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approximately \$59.9 million of the net proceeds to repay the outstanding principal amount of the 15% pay-in-kind loans due 2011 and pay a prepayment premium, and approximately \$120.7 million of the net proceeds to redeem the outstanding principal amount of the 15% pay-in-kind notes due 2015 and pay a redemption premium; approximately \$85.2 million of the net proceeds to redeem the outstanding principal amount of the 12% senior discount notes due 2011, which are held by an affiliate of KKR; approximately \$151.5 million of the net proceeds to redeem \$131.3 million, or 35%, of the 10⁵/₈% senior subordinated notes due 2011, which we refer to as the 2011 notes, and pay a redemption premium and accrued and unpaid interest; approximately \$37.7 million of the net proceeds to redeem all outstanding shares of our 15% redeemable convertible preferred stock, which are held by an affiliate of KKR, and pay a redemption premium and accumulated and unpaid dividends; and \$10.0 million of the net proceeds to terminate the management services agreement with affiliates of KKR and DLJ Merchant Banking III, Inc., or DLJMB III. <p>These amounts are based on the accreted value, the outstanding principal amount, the accrued and unpaid interest and the accumulated and unpaid dividends on the applicable securities being repaid or redeemed as of March 31, 2005. The actual amounts we pay to repay or redeem the securities will increase from the amounts shown above. Except with respect to the pay-in-kind loans and notes, each of these repayments and redemptions is voluntary.</p>

\$132.9 million, or approximately 29%, of the net proceeds will be paid to our affiliates that are affiliates of KKR and DLJMB. This amount does not include underwriting discounts and commissions to be received by CSFB, an affiliate of DLJMB, in its capacity as underwriter. Five of the eight members of our current board of directors are affiliated with KKR; two are affiliated with DLJMB; one, our chairman, is our chief executive officer. Our board of directors voted unanimously to approve the offering.

We intend to use any net proceeds we receive from any shares sold pursuant to the underwriters' over-allotment option, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions, for general corporate purposes.

Dividend Policy

We do not anticipate paying any periodic dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. See "Dividend Policy."

Proposed New York Stock Exchange Symbol

ROC

Unless we specifically state otherwise, all information in this prospectus:

assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their over-allotment option to purchase 3,061,224 additional shares; if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option, common stock outstanding after the offering will be 73,778,926;

excludes 9,121,469 shares of common stock that are reserved for issuance under the 2005 Amended and Restated Stock Purchase and Option Plan of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries (which we refer to in this prospectus as the stock plan), including approximately 3,879,785 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options at an exercise price of \$14.61 per share, of which approximately 931,077 are vested, up to 10,869 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options at an exercise price equal to the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus, of which none are vested, and 68,452 shares of common stock underlying vested restricted stock units held by our chairman and chief executive officer, Seifi Ghasemi;

excludes 958,315 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants held by an affiliate of KKR at an exercise price of \$14.61 per share; and

reflects a 34.22553019 for 1 stock split of our outstanding shares of common stock effected on July 18, 2005.

Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves substantial risk. You should carefully consider all of the information set forth in this prospectus and, in particular, should evaluate the specific factors set forth under "Risk Factors" in deciding whether to invest in our common stock.

Rockwood Summary Historical and Pro Forma Financial Data

Set forth below is summary historical financial and summary pro forma financial data of Rockwood, in each case, at the dates and for the periods indicated. The summary historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2003 and as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004 have been derived from our and Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary financial data presented below for the three months ended March 31, 2004 have been derived from Rockwood's unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, and the summary financial data presented below as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 have been derived from our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, in each case, included elsewhere in this prospectus. In the opinion of management, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2005 have been prepared on a basis consistent with the audited consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include all adjustments, which are normally recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the periods presented. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet data is presented to illustrate the estimated effects of the offering as if it had occurred on March 31, 2005 and is based on the exchange rate on March 31, 2005 of €1.00=\$1.2996. The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations data and other pro forma financial data is presented to illustrate the estimated effects of the Transactions on our historical results of operations and financial condition as if they had occurred on January 1, 2004 and is based on the weighted average exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2669.

As described above, the Transactions include, among other things, the equity and debt financings and Fall 2004 debt refinancings related to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Specifically, in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, in addition to the equity investments from KKR and DLJMB of \$425.0 million in July 2004 and members of our management and certain other employees of \$7.0 million from September 2004 to December 2004, certain of our subsidiaries, including Rockwood Specialties Group, Inc. (which we refer to as Group), entered into senior secured credit facilities and a senior subordinated loan facility. In addition, our direct wholly-owned subsidiary exchanged its outstanding dollar-denominated pay-in-kind notes for euro-denominated pay-in-kind notes. In this prospectus, we refer to these related financings collectively as the acquisition financings.

In October 2004, Group refinanced a portion of its borrowings under the senior subordinated loan facility with additional term loan borrowings under an amendment to the senior secured credit facilities. In November 2004, Group refinanced the remaining borrowings under the senior subordinated loan facility with proceeds from the issuance of senior subordinated notes due 2014, which we refer to as the 2014 notes. In December 2004, Group refinanced all of its borrowings under one tranche of term loans under its senior secured credit facilities with borrowings under a new tranche of term loans of the same aggregate principal amount bearing a lower interest rate in order to reduce its interest expense. In this prospectus, we refer to these three refinancings collectively as the Fall 2004 debt refinancings.

The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is based on the audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements of Rockwood, our audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and the audited and unaudited combined financial statements of Dynamit Nobel, in each case, included elsewhere in this prospectus, as adjusted to illustrate the estimated pro forma effects of the Transactions.

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The summary unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is for illustrative purposes only. Such information is not intended to be indicative of the financial condition and the results of operations that would have been achieved had the Transactions for which we are giving pro forma effect actually occurred on the dates referred to above or the financial condition and the results of operations that may be expected in the future. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared based upon currently available information and assumptions that we believe are reasonable. Such currently available information and assumptions may prove to be inaccurate over time.

The summary historical and pro forma financial data presented below should be read together with "Selected Financial Data," "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," Rockwood's consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements, our consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements and Dynamit Nobel's combined financial statements and the notes to those statements, in each case, included elsewhere in this prospectus.

(\$ in millions, except per share amounts; shares in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,		Pro Forma As Adjusted for Year Ended December 31, 2004	Pro Forma As Adjusted for Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
	2002	2003(8)	2004	2004	2005		
(As restated)							
Statement of operations data:							
Net sales:							
Performance Additives	\$ 443.8	\$ 477.3	\$ 630.9	\$ 139.1	\$ 159.5	\$ 674.8	\$ 159.5
Specialty Compounds	168.8	176.4	200.4	47.9	58.1	200.4	58.1
Electronics	147.3	143.6	168.1	40.4	42.8	168.1	42.8
Specialty Chemicals			321.1		220.0	759.6	220.0
Titanium Dioxide Pigments			175.7		104.5	422.0	104.5
Advanced Ceramics			146.3		91.9	349.5	91.9
Groupe Novasep			101.0		92.9	338.6	92.9
	759.9	797.3	1,743.5	227.4	769.7	2,913.0	769.7
Total net sales							
Cost of products sold	542.5	581.4	1,267.6	165.0	544.1	2,008.8	544.1
	217.4	215.9	475.9	62.4	225.6	904.2	225.6
Gross profit							
Selling, general and administrative expenses	112.9	118.0	327.7	35.1	150.2	615.9	149.7
Impairment charges(1)	50.0	35.0	11.0			11.0	
Restructuring charges	1.2	1.8	1.1		2.9	1.1	2.9
	53.3	61.1	136.1	27.3	72.5	276.2	73.0
Operating income							
Other income (expenses):							
Interest expense, net(2)	(108.2)	(112.3)	(162.1)	(25.1)	(57.3)	(189.9)	(44.0)
Foreign exchange (loss) gain(3)	(24.6)	(18.5)	(126.4)	12.2	47.2	(125.7)	47.2
Refinancing expenses(4)		(38.3)	(27.1)			(27.1)	
Loss on receivables sold	(1.2)						
Stamp duty tax and other(5)			(4.3)			(0.9)	
	(80.7)	(108.0)	(183.8)	14.4	62.4	(67.4)	76.2
(Loss) income before taxes and other adjustments							
Income tax (benefit) provision	(12.5)	(16.3)	32.3	5.5	24.9	86.7	29.7
	(68.2)	(91.7)	(216.1)	8.9	37.5	(154.1)	46.5
Net (loss) income before minority interest							
Minority interest					0.8		0.8
	\$ (68.2)	\$ (91.7)	\$ (216.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3	\$ (154.1)	\$ 47.3
Net (loss) income							
Net (loss) income applicable to common stockholders basic(6)							
	\$ (68.2)	\$ (102.9)	\$ (220.3)	\$ 7.9	\$ 37.2	\$ (156.4)	\$ 47.3
Net (loss) income applicable to common stockholders diluted(6)							
	\$ (68.2)	\$ (102.9)	\$ (220.3)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3	\$ (156.4)	\$ 47.3

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						Pro Forma As Adjusted for Year Ended December 31, 2004	Pro Forma As Adjusted for Three Months Ended March 31, 2005					
Net (loss) income per share data (unaudited)(7):												
Basic net (loss) income per common share:												
Net (loss) income per common share	\$	(3.29)	\$	(4.96)	\$	(6.66)	0.38	\$	0.74	(2.21)	0.67	
Weighted average shares		20,746		20,739		33,054	20,740		50,310	70,718	70,718	
Diluted net income (loss) per common share:												
Net income (loss) per common share	\$		\$		\$	0.38	\$	0.73	\$	(2.21)	\$	0.66
Weighted average shares						20,740		51,849		70,718		72,182
Cash flow data:												
										\$)	\$

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Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	\$ (4.1)	\$ 42.6	\$ 179.3	\$ 1.3	\$ (7.4)
Net cash used in investing activities	(30.4)	(48.5)	(2,249.9)	(6.7)	(35.5)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(18.9)	(1.7)	2,134.4	(3.8)	169.1
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	2.6	3.8	5.6	(0.4)	(0.4)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (50.8)	\$ (3.8)	\$ 69.4	\$ (9.6)	\$ 125.8

Other financial data:

Depreciation and amortization	\$ 46.3	\$ 52.4	\$ 115.2	\$ 13.8	\$ 53.2	\$ 179.8	\$ 53.2
Capital expenditures	36.0	34.3	112.8	6.7	35.7	211.5	35.7
EBITDA(9)	73.8	56.7	93.5	53.3	173.7	302.3	174.2
Non-cash charges and gains included in EBITDA(10)	74.6	90.4	151.6	(12.2)	(47.2)	150.9	(47.2)
Other special charges and gains included in EBITDA(11)	2.0	2.4	87.3		6.7	86.7	6.7

(\$ in millions)	As of December 31, 2004(14)	As of March 31, 2005	Pro Forma As Adjusted as of March 31, 2005
	(As restated)		

Balance sheet data:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 111.3	\$ 237.1	\$ 243.9
Working capital(12)	493.0	454.7	720.3
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,566.8	1,520.8	1,520.8
Total assets(1)	5,399.5	5,316.8	5,319.4
Long-term debt(13)	3,380.6	3,497.0	3,105.9
Redeemable convertible preferred stock	34.3	35.4	
Stockholders' equity	624.0	561.8	996.2

(1) As part of our impairment testing in late 2002, 2003 and 2004, we determined that there were goodwill impairments of \$50.0 million, \$19.3 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, in our Electronics segment. We also determined that there was a property, plant and equipment impairment of \$15.7 million and \$7.0 million in 2003 and 2004, respectively, in our Electronics segment.

(2) For the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, and the three months ended March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2005, interest expense, net included (losses) gains of \$(11.6) million, \$(6.0) million, \$6.0 million, \$2.3 million and \$7.6 million, respectively, representing the movement in the mark-to-market valuation of our interest rate derivative instruments for the periods. In addition, interest expense, net for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 are mark-to-market (loss) gain of \$(10.5) million and \$0.8 million, respectively, related to cross-currency interest rate swaps entered into in connection with the July 2003 debt refinancing. Interest expense, net also includes \$8.0 million, \$6.1 million \$7.4 million, \$0.9 million and \$2.9 million for the years ended

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December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2005, respectively, of amortization expense related to deferred financing costs.

(3)

Represents the non-cash translation impact on our euro-denominated debt resulting from the (strengthening) weakening of the euro against the U.S. dollar during the applicable periods. In the year ended December 31, 2004, this amount also included a \$10.9 million mark-to-market realized loss on foreign currency derivative agreements that we entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

(4)

In July 2003, we wrote off \$36.9 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous long-term debt that was repaid as part of the July 2003 debt refinancing. In December 2003, we expensed \$1.4 million of investment banking and professional fees in connection with the December 2003 refinancing of borrowings under the then new senior credit facilities. In July 2004, we wrote off \$2.8 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous

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long-term debt that was repaid as part of the acquisition financings. In October 2004, we wrote off \$6.1 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the first amendment of the senior secured credit agreement. In November 2004, we wrote off \$17.2 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the repayment of the senior subordinated loan facility with the proceeds of the offering of the 2014 notes. In December 2004, we expensed \$1.0 million in connection with the second amendment of the senior secured credit agreement.

- (5) Represents the tax on certain assets transferred in the United Kingdom in connection with the KKR acquisition of \$4.0 million plus \$0.3 million related to disposal of property, plant and equipment.
- (6) Represents the net (loss) income applicable to common shareholders after reducing net (loss) income by the amount of accumulated and unpaid dividends and the accretion to the redemption value of the redeemable convertible preferred stock for the respective periods.
- (7) Net (loss) income per common share is calculated by dividing net (loss) income applicable to common shares by the weighted average shares outstanding. Unaudited pro forma basic and diluted net (loss) income per common share has been calculated in accordance with the SEC rules for initial public offerings. These rules require that the weighted average share calculation give retroactive effect to any changes in our capital structure as well as the number of shares whose sale proceeds will be used to repay any debt as reflected in the pro forma adjustments. Therefore, pro forma weighted average shares for purposes of the unaudited pro forma as adjusted basic net (loss) income per common share calculation, adjusted for the 34.22553019 for 1 stock split to be effected prior to the completion of this offering, are comprised of approximately 50.3 million shares of our common stock outstanding prior to this offering and 20.4 million shares of our common stock being offered in this offering.
- (8) See discussion of the restatement in Note 20 Restatement to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.
- (9) EBITDA is defined as net income plus interest expense, net, income tax provision (benefit) and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is not a recognized term under U.S. GAAP and is not intended to be an alternative to net (loss) income as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Additionally, EBITDA is not intended to be a measure of free cash flow for management's discretionary use, as it does not consider certain cash requirements such as interest payments, tax payments and debt service requirements.

The amounts shown for EBITDA in this prospectus differ from the amounts calculated under the definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements. The definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements permits further adjustments for certain cash and non-cash charges and gains; the indentures governing the 2011 notes and the 2014 notes exclude certain adjustments permitted under the senior secured credit agreement. EBITDA as adjusted is used in our debt agreements to determine compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities, such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments. In addition to covenant compliance, our management also uses EBITDA as adjusted, calculated using the same definition as used in our senior secured credit agreement, to assess our operating performance, and to calculate performance-based cash bonuses and determine whether certain performance-based stock options vest, as both such bonuses and options are tied to EBITDA as adjusted targets. For a discussion of the adjustments, uses and the limitations on the use of EBITDA as adjusted, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Special Note Regarding Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

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The following table sets forth a reconciliation of net (loss) income to EBITDA for the periods indicated.

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,		Pro Forma As Adjusted for	Pro Forma As Adjusted for
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	Year Ended December 31, 2004	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Net (loss) income	\$ (68.2)	\$ (91.7)	\$ (216.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3	\$ (154.1)	\$ 47.3
Interest expense, net	108.2	112.3	162.1	25.1	57.3	189.9	44.0
Income tax (benefit) provision	(12.5)	(16.3)	32.3	5.5	24.9	86.7	29.7
Depreciation and amortization	46.3	52.4	115.2	13.8	53.2	179.8	53.2
EBITDA	73.8	56.7	93.5	53.3	173.7	302.3	174.2
Minority interest					(0.8)		(0.8)
EBITDA (before minority interest)	\$ 73.8	\$ 56.7	\$ 93.5	\$ 53.3	\$ 172.9	\$ 302.3	\$ 173.4

(10)

EBITDA, as defined above, contains the following non-cash charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, each of which is described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,		Pro Forma As Adjusted for	Pro Forma As Adjusted for
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	Year Ended December 31, 2004	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Impairment charges	\$ 50.0	\$ 35.0	\$ 11.0	\$	\$	\$ 11.0	\$
Write-off of deferred debt issuance costs		36.9	25.1			25.1	
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	24.6	18.5	115.5	(12.2)	(47.2)	114.8	47.2
	\$ 74.6	\$ 90.4	\$ 151.6	\$ (12.2)	\$ (47.2)	\$ 150.9	\$ 47.2

(11)

In addition to non-cash charges and gains, EBITDA contains the following other special charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, each of which is described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,		Pro Forma As Adjusted for	Pro Forma As Adjusted for
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	Year Ended December 31, 2004	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Systems/organization establishment expenses	\$ 1.5	\$ 1.6	\$ 4.8	\$	\$ 1.2	\$ 4.8	\$ 1.2
Inventory write-up reversal		0.2	61.1		2.8	61.1	2.8

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					Pro Forma As Adjusted for Year Ended December 31, 2004	Pro Forma As Adjusted for Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Stamp duty tax			4.0		4.0	
Business interruption costs and insurance recovery	(2.2)	(4.5)				
Costs incurred related to debt modifications		1.4	2.0		2.0	
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs	0.3	1.9	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2
Loss on receivables sold	1.2					
Loss on disposed businesses			0.8		0.8	
Restructuring and related charges	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.9	1.1	2.9
Foreign exchange loss on foreign currency derivatives			10.9		10.9	
Minority interest				(0.8)		(0.8)
CCA litigation defense costs				0.4		0.4
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
	2.0	2.4	87.3	6.7	86.7	6.7
	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

(12) Working capital is defined as current assets less current liabilities.

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- (13) Includes the current portion of long-term debt of \$47.2 million and \$242.4 million on an actual basis and on a pro forma as adjusted basis as of December 31, 2004 and March 31, 2005, respectively. The current portion of our long-term debt outstanding as of March 31, 2005 includes \$175.0 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility, which we are not contractually obligated to repay until July 30, 2010; the borrowings under the revolving credit facility have subsequently been repaid.
- (14) See discussion of the restatement in Note 20 Restatement to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

Dynamit Nobel Summary Financial Data

The summary financial data of Dynamit Nobel presented below as of and for the years ended September 30, 2001 and 2002, and the three months ended December 31, 2002 and the year ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from its audited combined financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary financial data of Dynamit Nobel presented below for the six months ended June 30, 2003 and as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2004 have been derived from its unaudited condensed combined financial statements, included elsewhere in this prospectus. In the opinion of our management, the unaudited financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with the audited financial statements and include all adjustments, which are normally recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the periods presented. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

In September 2002, Dynamit Nobel changed its fiscal year end from September 30 to December 31, which resulted in a short financial year from October 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

The summary financial data presented below should be read together with Dynamit Nobel's combined financial statements and the notes to those statements and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Dynamit Nobel" included elsewhere in this prospectus.

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Statement of operations data:						
Net sales	\$ 1,446.5	\$ 1,421.9	\$ 336.9	\$ 1,595.9	\$ 800.0	\$ 885.5
Cost of sales	(949.5)	(914.7)	(219.3)	(1,060.0)	(524.9)	(587.0)
Gross profit	497.0	507.2	117.6	535.9	275.1	298.5
Operating expenses(a)	(286.4)	(300.9)	(84.6)	(353.2)	(171.3)	(194.3)
Operating income	210.6	206.3	33.0	182.7	103.8	104.2
Other income, net(a)	4.9	3.8	2.2	5.8	0.8	0.5
Interest expense, net	(24.2)	(22.8)	(6.9)	(25.2)	(13.6)	(14.4)
Income before taxes and other adjustments	191.3	187.3	28.3	163.3	91.0	90.3
Income tax provision	94.1	80.4	11.8	61.7	34.2	32.1
Other adjustments(1)	1.3	3.4	0.3	(0.7)	1.1	
Net income	\$ 98.5	\$ 110.3	\$ 16.8	\$ 100.9	\$ 57.9	\$ 58.2
Cash flow data:						
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 128.0	\$ 142.1	\$ 42.1	\$ 267.0	\$ 57.6	\$ (18.2)
Net cash used in investing activities(2)	(60.3)	(62.5)	(23.8)	(102.7)	(9.0)	(45.0)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities(3)	(82.3)	(95.9)	(30.9)	(196.8)	(56.6)	71.7
Exchange-rate-related change in cash and cash equivalents	8.3	15.1	10.2	33.3	6.1	(6.9)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (6.3)	\$ (1.2)	\$ (2.4)	\$ 0.8	\$ (1.9)	\$ 1.6
Other financial data:						
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 103.3	\$ 83.1	\$ 21.1	\$ 94.6	\$ 45.7	\$ 52.0
Capital expenditures	125.1	112.0	26.3	122.0	39.4	58.2
EBITDA(4)	320.1	295.8	56.6	282.7	151.7	156.7
Non-cash charges and gains included in EBITDA(5)	(2.7)	(3.4)	(1.6)	(2.4)	(6.0)	(1.1)
	(58.2)	(20.4)	2.6	31.8	8.3	2.7

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	<u>Year Ended September 30,</u>	<u>Three Months Ended December 31, 2002</u>	<u>Six Months Ended June 30,</u>
Other special charges and gains included in EBITDA(6)		14	

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(\$ in millions)	As of September 30,		As of December 31,		As of June 30, 2004
	2001	2002	2002	2003	
Balance sheet data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10.7	\$ 9.5	\$ 7.0	\$ 7.8	\$ 9.5
Working capital deficiency(7)	(67.9)	(139.6)	(56.2)	(103.6)	(153.2)
Property, plant and equipment	663.3	723.9	766.2	918.2	886.2
Total assets	1,596.7	1,732.5	2,144.7	2,431.6	2,430.7
Long-term debt(8)	137.9	94.1	201.6	231.6	203.3
Investment by mg technologies ag	599.8	602.6	966.3	1,036.7	1,037.8

- (a) Certain amounts have been reclassified to conform to Rockwood's historical presentation.
- (1) Other adjustments include earnings (loss) from discontinued operations, cumulative effects from changes in accounting principles and minority interest.
- (2) Net cash used in investing activities primarily represents capital expenditures, net of proceeds from dispositions of businesses and fixed assets.
- (3) Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities primarily represents net changes in external debt and the net change in intercompany balances with Dynamit Nobel's parent, mg technologies ag.
- (4) EBITDA is defined as net income plus interest expense, net, income tax provision (benefit) and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is not a recognized term under U.S. GAAP and is not intended to be an alternative to net (loss) income as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Additionally, EBITDA is not intended to be a measure of free cash flow for management's discretionary use, as it does not consider certain cash requirements such as interest payments, tax payments and debt service requirements.

The amounts shown for EBITDA in this prospectus differ from the amounts calculated under the definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements. The definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements permits further adjustments for certain cash and non-cash charges and gains; the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes exclude certain adjustments permitted under the senior secured credit agreement. EBITDA as adjusted is used in our debt agreements to determine compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities, such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments. In addition to covenant compliance, our management also uses EBITDA as adjusted, calculated using the same definition as used in our senior secured credit agreement, to assess our operating performance, and to calculate performance-based cash bonuses and determine whether certain performance-based stock options vest, as both such bonuses and options are tied to EBITDA as adjusted targets. For a discussion of the adjustments, uses and the limitations on the use of EBITDA as adjusted, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Special Note Regarding Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

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The following is a reconciliation of Dynamit Nobel's net income to EBITDA:

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Net income	\$ 98.5	\$ 110.3	\$ 16.8	\$ 100.9	\$ 57.9	\$ 58.2
Interest expense, net	24.2	22.8	6.9	25.2	13.6	14.4
Income tax provision	94.1	80.4	11.9	61.7	34.2	32.1
Depreciation and amortization	103.3	83.1	21.1	94.6	45.7	52.0
EBITDA	320.1	296.6	56.7	282.4	151.4	156.7
Minority interest		(0.8)	(0.1)	0.3	0.3	
EBITDA (before minority interest)	\$ 320.1	\$ 295.8	\$ 56.6	\$ 282.7	\$ 151.7	\$ 156.7

(5)

EBITDA, as defined above, contains the following non-cash charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, which are described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Earnings from discontinued operations	\$ (1.3)	\$ (2.6)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (1.4)	\$ (1.4)	\$
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle				1.8		
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(1.4)	(0.8)	(1.4)	(2.8)	(4.6)	(1.1)
	\$ (2.7)	\$ (3.4)	\$ (1.6)	\$ (2.4)	\$ (6.0)	\$ (1.1)

(6)

In addition to non-cash charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, our EBITDA contains the following other special charges and gains, which are described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Non-recurring charges	\$ (0.3)	\$ (1.9)	\$	\$ 12.6	\$ 5.6	\$ 2.3
Restructuring and closure charges	2.4	3.3	2.6	14.6	2.2	0.4

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Adjustment related to divested businesses	Year Ended September 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,			
	(60.3)	(21.8)	4.6		0.5	
	\$ (58.2)	\$ (20.4)	\$ 2.6	\$ 31.8	\$ 8.3	\$ 2.7

(7) Working capital is defined as current assets less current liabilities.

(8) Excludes the current portion of long-term debt.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the following factors and the other information in this prospectus before deciding to purchase any shares of our common stock.

Risk Factors Relating to Our Business

Substantial Leverage *Our available cash and access to additional capital may be limited by our substantial leverage.*

We are highly leveraged and have significant debt service obligations. As of March 31, 2005, on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the offering, we would have had approximately \$3,105.9 million of long-term debt outstanding and total stockholders' equity of approximately \$996.2 million.

This high level of indebtedness could have important negative consequences to us and you, including:

we may have difficulty obtaining financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions;

we will need to use a substantial portion of our available cash flow to pay interest and principal on our debt, which will reduce the amount of money available to finance our operations and other business activities;

some of our debt, including borrowings under the senior secured credit facilities, will have variable rates of interest, which will expose us to the risk of increased interest rates;

our debt level increases our vulnerability to general economic downturns and adverse industry conditions;

our debt level could limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and in our industry in general;

our substantial amount of debt and the amount we need to pay to service our debt obligations could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and

our failure to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants in our debt instruments which, among other things, require us to maintain specified financial ratios and limit our ability to incur debt and sell assets, could result in an event of default that, if not cured or waived, could cause our lenders to terminate commitments under our debt agreements, declare all amounts, including accrued interest, due and payable, and enforce their rights in respect of collateral.

Our pro forma cash interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2005 was \$184.0 million and \$43.3 million, respectively. At March 31, 2005, on an actual basis, we had \$1,831.7 million of variable rate debt. After including the notional amounts of variable to fixed interest rate swaps, the variable amount was \$549.1 million. A 1% increase in the average interest rate would increase future interest expense by approximately \$5.5 million per year. Our debt service for 2005 is expected to be \$236.9 million. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources Liquidity Contractual Obligations" for years beyond 2005.

Additional Borrowings Available *Despite our substantial leverage, we and our subsidiaries will be able to incur more indebtedness. This could further exacerbate the risks described above, including our ability to service our indebtedness.*

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Although Group's senior secured credit facilities and indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, such restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and under certain circumstances, indebtedness incurred in compliance with such restrictions could be substantial. As of June 20, 2005, the revolving credit facility under the senior secured credit facilities provided for additional borrowings of up to \$217.3 million, after giving effect to \$14.0 million of borrowings (these borrowings have subsequently been repaid in full) and \$18.7 million of letters of credit issued on our behalf. To the extent new debt is added to our debt levels, the substantial leverage risks described above would increase.

Restrictive Covenants in Our Debt Instruments *Our debt instruments contain a number of restrictive covenants which may limit our ability to finance future operations or capital needs or engage in other business activities that may be in our interest.*

Group's senior secured credit agreement and indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes impose, and the terms of any future indebtedness may impose, operating and other restrictions on us. Such restrictions will affect, and in many respects limit or prohibit, among other things, our ability to take certain actions. See "Description of Indebtedness Senior Secured Credit Facilities Negative Covenants," "2011 Notes Negative Covenants" and "2014 Notes Negative Covenants." In addition, Group's senior secured credit facilities also require us to achieve certain financial and operating results and maintain compliance with specified financial ratios. Our ability to comply with these ratios may be affected by events beyond our control. The restrictions and financial covenants contained in Group's senior secured credit agreement and indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes could adversely affect our ability to finance our operations, acquisitions, investments or strategic plans or other capital needs or to engage in other business activities that would be in our interest.

A breach of any of these covenants or our inability to comply with the required financial ratios could result in a default under the senior secured credit facilities and/or the indentures. If an event of default occurs under the senior secured credit facilities, which includes an event of default under the indentures, the lenders could elect to:

declare all borrowings outstanding, together with accrued and unpaid interest, to be immediately due and payable;

require us to apply all of our available cash to repay the borrowings; or

prevent us from making debt service payments on the 2011 notes and 2014 notes;

any of which would result in an event of default under the 2011 notes and 2014 notes. The lenders will also have the right in these circumstances to terminate any commitments they have to provide further financing. If we were unable to repay or otherwise refinance these borrowings when due, our lenders could sell the collateral securing the senior secured credit facilities, which constitutes substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' assets.

Structural Subordination *Because the issuer does not conduct any business operations of its own, it depends upon the performance of its subsidiaries and their ability to make distributions to it. Accordingly, in the event of the issuer's dissolution, bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, you will not be entitled to receive ratably any assets available for distribution to our stockholders until after the payment in full of the claims of the creditors of these subsidiaries.*

The issuer is a holding company that does not conduct any business operations of its own. The issuer's principal asset is common stock of its subsidiary, Rockwood Specialties Consolidated, Inc., which, indirectly through other subsidiaries, owns operating subsidiaries. As a result, the issuer is dependent upon cash dividends and distributions or other transfers from its subsidiaries to make dividend payments on its common stock and to meet any obligations. The ability of the issuer's subsidiaries to pay dividends and make payments to the issuer will depend on their operating results and may be restricted by, among other things, applicable corporate, tax and other laws and regulations, agreements of those subsidiaries, such as the senior secured credit agreement, the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes and agreements governing any future indebtedness the issuer or its subsidiaries may incur.

In addition, because the issuer is a holding company, your claims as stockholders will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities and obligations (whether or not for borrowed money) of its subsidiaries, including obligations under Group's senior secured credit facilities and indentures. Accordingly, in the event of the issuer's dissolution, bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, the issuer's assets and those of its subsidiaries will be available for distribution to our stockholders only after all of the issuer's and its subsidiaries' liabilities and obligations have been paid in full. The issuer would not be able to make distributions to its stockholders until after the payment in full of the claims of the creditors of its subsidiaries.

Risks Associated with Acquisitions *We may not be able to successfully integrate Dynamit Nobel, Groupe Novasep SAS or other acquisitions we may make in the future.*

The process of combining the businesses of Dynamit Nobel or any of our recent acquisitions or combinations, including Groupe Novasep SAS, or any other future acquisitions, and Rockwood involves risks. We are currently in the process of integrating the businesses of Dynamit Nobel and Groupe Novasep SAS. We may face difficulty completing the integration of the new operations, technologies, products and services of Dynamit Nobel or any of our recent acquisitions or combinations, including Groupe Novasep, or any other future acquisition, and may incur unanticipated expenses related to those integrations. The difficulties of combining operations may be magnified by integrating personnel with differing business backgrounds and corporate cultures. Completion of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition required, and the continuing integration of Dynamit Nobel with Rockwood requires, a substantial amount of management's time. Failure to successfully manage and integrate these acquisitions with our existing operations could lead to the potential loss of customers of the acquired business, the potential loss of employees who may be vital to the new operations, the potential loss of business opportunities or other adverse consequences that could affect our financial condition and results of operations. Even if integration occurs successfully, failure of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the Groupe Novasep combination or any future acquisition to achieve levels of anticipated sales growth, profitability or productivity comparable with those achieved by our existing operations, or otherwise not perform as expected, may adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations. We have incurred, and will continue to incur, certain liabilities and expenses in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the Groupe Novasep combination, our recent acquisitions or combinations or any future acquisitions or combinations.

Limited Relevance of Financial Information Our historical and pro forma financial information may not be representative of our results as a combined company.

Other than our financial information as of and for the periods ended subsequent to July 31, 2004, which include the results of operations of the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses subsequent to July 31, 2004, the historical financial information included in this prospectus is derived from separate financial statements of Rockwood and Dynamit Nobel for periods prior to the consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Furthermore, the historical financial statements of Dynamit Nobel are derived from the historical accounting records of mg technologies ag and are presented on a "carve-out" basis to include the historical operations applicable to Dynamit Nobel as operated under mg technologies ag. The historical financial information of Dynamit Nobel includes all revenues and costs directly attributable to Dynamit Nobel as operated under mg technologies ag, including compensation for executives of Dynamit Nobel, costs for facilities, functions and services used by Dynamit Nobel at mg technologies ag's sites and costs for certain functions and services performed by centralized mg technologies ag's financial and cash management systems. In addition, the pro forma financial information presented in this prospectus is based on certain assumptions regarding the integration of Dynamit Nobel, as well as the other components of the Transactions, that we believe are reasonable. Our assumptions may prove to be inaccurate over time. Accordingly, the historical and pro forma financial information included in this prospectus may not reflect what our results of operations and financial condition would have been had we been a combined entity during the periods presented, or what our results of operations and financial condition will be in the future.

Net Loss We have a history of losses and may experience losses in the future and we cannot be certain that our net operating loss carryforwards will continue to be available to offset our tax liability.

We have incurred net losses in the past and we may incur net losses in the future. We incurred net losses of \$68.2 million, \$91.7 million and \$216.1 million in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, and \$154.1 million in 2004 on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the Transactions.

We may not achieve profitability in the future and we may not generate cash flow sufficient to make dividend payments or meet debt service obligations and other capital requirements, such as working capital and maintenance capital expenditures.

As of December 31, 2004, we had deferred tax assets of \$136.4 million related to worldwide net operating loss carryforwards for which we had valuation allowances of \$86.6 million and an additional valuation allowance of \$34.1 million for the net United States deferred tax assets including interest on the pay-in-kind loans and notes and senior discount notes. If our operating performance deteriorates in the future in the relevant tax jurisdictions, we may be unable to realize these net operating loss carryforwards and we may be required to record an additional valuation allowance.

Currency Fluctuations Because a significant portion of our operations is conducted in foreign currencies, fluctuations in currency exchange rates may adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations and may affect the comparability of our results between financial periods.

Our operations are conducted by subsidiaries in many countries. The results of their operations and financial condition are reported in the local currency and then translated into U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rates for inclusion in our consolidated financial statements. The exchange rates between some of these currencies and the dollar in recent years have fluctuated significantly and may continue to do so in the future. As a result of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, a significantly

larger portion of our net sales and cost of products sold is now denominated in euros. Approximately 40% of our 2004 pro forma net sales would have been derived from subsidiaries whose sales are denominated in euros. This increases the impact of the fluctuation of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

Furthermore, because a portion of our debt is denominated in euros, which as of March 31, 2005 equaled an aggregate of €1,061.5 million (\$1,379.5 million based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996), we are subject to fluctuation in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro. For example, the dollar-euro noon buying rate announced by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York decreased from \$1.00=€1.065 on December 31, 2000 to \$1.00=€0.7357 on December 31, 2004. Being subject to this currency fluctuation may have an adverse effect on the carrying value of our debt and may also affect the comparability of our results of operations between financial periods. As of March 31, 2005, a weakening or strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar by \$0.01 would decrease or increase, respectively, by \$10.6 million the U.S. dollar equivalent of our total euro-denominated debt of €1,061.5 million. In addition, because our financial statements are reported in U.S. dollars, the translation effect of such fluctuations has in the past significantly impacted, and may in the future, significantly impact the carrying value of our debt and results of operations and may affect the comparability of our results between financial periods. We also incur currency transaction risk whenever we enter into either a purchase or sale transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity.

We may not be able to effectively manage our currency translation and/or transaction risks and volatility in currency exchange rates may have a material adverse effect on the carrying value of our debt and results of operations.

Regulation of Our Raw Materials, Products and Facilities *Our business could be adversely affected by regulation to which our raw materials, products and facilities are subject.*

Some of the raw materials we handle, and our products and facilities, are subject to government regulation. These regulations affect the manufacturing processes, uses and applications of our products.

In addition, some of our subsidiaries' products contain raw materials, such as arsenic pentoxide, carbon disulfide, lithium carbonate, tetrahydrofuran, copper, chromic acid, silica, zinc chromate and lead, that are deemed hazardous materials in certain situations. The use of these materials is regulated and some of these regulations require product registrations, which also are subject to renewal and potential revocation. These regulations may affect our ability to market certain chemicals we produce.

There is also a risk that other key raw materials or one or more of our products may be found to have, or be recharacterized as having, a toxicological or health-related impact on the environment or on our customers or employees. If such a discovery or recharacterization occurs, the relevant materials, chemicals or products, including products of our customers incorporating our materials or chemicals, may be recalled or banned or we may incur increased costs in order to comply with new regulatory requirements. Change in regulations, or their interpretation, may also affect the marketability of certain of our products.

Manufacturing Hazards *Hazards associated with chemical manufacturing could adversely affect our results of operations.*

Due to the nature of our business, we are exposed to the hazards associated with chemical manufacturing and the related storage and transportation of raw materials, products and wastes in our manufacturing facilities or our distribution centers, such as fires, explosions and accidents. These hazards could lead to an interruption or suspension of operations and have an adverse effect

on the productivity and profitability of a particular manufacturing facility or on our company as a whole. Other hazards include:

 piping and storage tank leaks and ruptures;

 mechanical failure;

 employee exposure to hazardous substances;

 chemical spills and other discharges or releases of toxic or hazardous substances or gases; and

 inclement weather and natural disasters.

These hazards may cause personal injury and loss of life, damage to property and contamination of the environment, which could lead to government fines or work stoppage injunctions and lawsuits by injured persons. For example, our subsidiaries had been named as defendants in a wrongful death suit filed by the family of an employee who was fatally injured in an accident in our Clay-based Additives facility in Gonzales, Texas. While we are unable to predict the outcome of this case and other such cases, if determined adversely to us, we may not have adequate insurance to cover such claims and, if not, we may not have sufficient cash flow to pay for such claims. Such outcomes could adversely affect our customer goodwill, cash flow and results of operations.

Raw Materials Fluctuations in costs of our raw materials or our access to supplies of our raw materials could adversely affect our results of operations.

Although no single raw material represented more than 5% of our pro forma cost of products sold in 2004, raw material costs generally account for a high percentage of our total costs of products sold. In 2004, raw materials constituted approximately 48% of our pro forma cost of products sold. We generally purchase raw materials based on supply agreements linked to market prices and therefore our results of operations are subject to short-term fluctuations in raw materials prices. These fluctuations limit our ability to accurately forecast future raw material costs and hence our profitability.

Many of the raw materials we use are commodities, and the price of each can fluctuate widely for a variety of reasons, including changes in availability, major capacity additions or reductions or significant facility operating problems. Historically, there have been some price increases we have not been able to pass through to our customers. This trend may continue in the future.

In addition, titanium-bearing slag used in our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment is our largest raw material (in terms of dollars) and is sourced primarily from one supplier in Canada. If our supplier is unable to meet its obligations under our present supply agreement or we are unable to enter into new supply arrangements on competitive terms when our existing short-term supply arrangements expire, we may be forced to pay higher prices to obtain these necessary raw materials. Furthermore, certain of our raw materials, such as cesium and lithium salts, are sourced from countries where political, economic and social conditions may be subject to instability. In addition, one of our raw materials, lithium brine, requires a period of gestation before it can be used to produce lithium compounds. In the event there is an increase in market demand for lithium products, we may not be able to respond to such market demand on a timely basis. Any interruption of supply or any price increase of raw materials could result in our inability to meet demand for our products, loss of customer goodwill and higher costs of producing our products.

Energy Costs *Fluctuations in energy costs could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.*

Energy purchases in 2004 constituted approximately 4% of Rockwood's historical cost of products sold and 5% of Dynamit Nobel's historical cost of products sold. Fluctuations in the price of energy limit our ability to accurately forecast future energy costs and consequently our profitability. For example, in 2004, natural gas prices were volatile in North America and have been increasing in the first quarter of 2005. Energy costs increases have been mainly due to global political conditions and extreme weather conditions. Rising energy costs may also increase our raw material costs. If energy prices fluctuate significantly, our business, in particular, our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, or results of operations may be adversely affected. In addition, rising energy costs also negatively impact our customers and the demand for our products. These risks will be heightened if our customers or production facilities are in locations experiencing severe energy shortages.

Environmental, Health and Safety Regulation *Compliance with extensive environmental, health and safety laws could require material expenditures or changes in our operations.*

Our operations are subject to extensive environmental, health and safety laws and regulations at national, international and local levels in numerous jurisdictions. In addition, our production facilities and a number of our distribution centers require operating permits that are subject to renewal and, in some circumstances, revocation. The nature of the chemicals industry exposes us to risks of liability under these laws and regulations due to the production, storage, transportation, disposal and sale of chemicals and materials that can cause contamination or personal injury if released into the environment. In 2004, on a pro forma basis, our capital expenditures for safety, health and environmental matters was approximately \$23.9 million. We expect such capital expenditures to be approximately \$25.0 million in 2005. We may be materially impacted in the future by the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, or REACH, program proposed by the European Union.

Compliance with environmental laws generally increases the costs of registration/approval requirements, the costs of transportation and storage of raw materials and finished products, as well as the costs of the storage and disposal of wastes, and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. We may incur substantial costs, including fines, damages, criminal or civil sanctions and remediation costs, or experience interruptions in our operations, for violations arising under these laws or permit requirements. Furthermore, environmental laws are subject to change and have tended to become stricter over time. Such changes in environmental laws or their interpretation, or the enactment of new environmental laws, could result in materially increased capital expenditures and compliance costs.

In addition, the discovery of contamination arising from historical industrial operations at some of our former and present properties has exposed us, and in the future may continue to expose us, to cleanup obligations and other damages. For example, soil and groundwater contamination is known to exist at several of our facilities, including some that we acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. At March 31, 2005, we had approximately \$51.2 million in reserves for estimated environmental liabilities, of which approximately \$44.7 million is for estimated liabilities related to environmental matters in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Under the sale and purchase agreement, mg technologies ag is required to indemnify us for certain environmental matters, subject to certain limitations. See "Dynamit Nobel Acquisition Sale and Purchase Agreement Indemnity for Breaches of Representations and Warranties Environmental Indemnity." However, mg technologies ag may not adhere to its indemnity obligations to us and the indemnity may not adequately cover any related environmental matters,

and we may have to institute proceedings to pursue recovery for such matters. Such legal proceedings may be costly and may require a substantial amount of management attention.

Environmental Indemnities We may be subject to environmental indemnity claims relating to properties we have divested.

The discovery of contamination arising from properties that we have divested may expose us to indemnity obligations under the sale agreements with the buyers of such properties or cleanup obligations and other damages under applicable environmental laws. For example, we have obligations to indemnify the buyers of the former explosives business and automotive ignition systems business of Dynamit Nobel for certain environmental matters. Under such sale agreements, these indemnities are not limited as to amount. Furthermore, we have an obligation to indemnify the buyer of our former manufacturing sites at Troisdorf, Germany, for which we have reserved approximately \$13.9 million, and Greenville, South Carolina where there has been a discovery of groundwater and soil contamination. We may not have adequate insurance coverage or cash flows to make such indemnity payments. Such payments may be costly and may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Product Liability Due to the nature of our business and products, we may be liable for damages arising out of product liability claims.

The sale of our products involves the risk of product liability claims. For example, some of the chemicals or substances that are used in our businesses, such as arsenic pentoxide, have been alleged to represent potentially significant health and safety concerns. Class action suits had been filed in Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas, for example, naming one of our subsidiaries and a number of competitors of our Timber Treatment Chemicals business line in our Performance Additives segment, as well as treaters and retailers, as defendants. In addition, our subsidiary has been named as a defendant in personal injury suits in several jurisdictions with retailers and treaters named as other defendants. Furthermore, there are other similar suits, including putative class actions, pending against retailers, treaters and other formulators to which we may be eventually named as a defendant. These suits allege, among other things, product liability claims in connection with the use of timber products treated with CCA, which utilizes arsenic pentoxide as a raw material. In addition, a subsidiary in our Advanced Ceramics segment has been named as a defendant in several product liability lawsuits in Europe and in one product liability lawsuit in the United States relating to broken artificial hip joints, which allege negligent manufacturing by our subsidiary of ceramic components used in the production of artificial hip joints. Further, a subsidiary in our Specialty Chemicals segment has been named as a defendant in several lawsuits in the United States regarding exposure to solvents and other chemicals contained in some of our products. We are unable to estimate our exposure, if any, to these lawsuits at this time.

We may be subject to future claims with regard to these suits or others like them and we may not be able to avoid significant product liability exposure. A successful product liability claim or series of claims against us for which we are not otherwise indemnified or insured could materially increase our operating costs or prevent such operating subsidiary from satisfying its financial obligations. For example, for policies renewed on or after November 2002, our insurers excluded CCA from our insurance coverage under our general liability policies. We may not have sufficient cash flow from operations or assets to pay a judgment resulting from a product liability claim, if any, for which there is no or inadequate insurance coverage. Any such judgment could materially increase our operating costs or prevent such operating subsidiary from satisfying its financial obligations.

Product Liability Due to the nature of our business and products, we may be liable for damages arising out of certain indemnity claims.

We may be subject to indemnity claims for product liability lawsuits relating to products we have sold. For example, our Timber Treatment Chemicals business has entered into indemnity agreements with various customers who purchased CCA-based wood protection products. Pursuant to those agreements, one of our subsidiaries agreed to defend and hold harmless those customers for certain causes of action, based on domestic mammalian, and in some cases, human, toxicity, caused by our CCA-based wood protection products, subject to certain conditions. Our Timber Treatment Chemicals business, and several of our customers were named as defendants in several suits, including putative class actions, relating to CCA-based wood protection products. Our Timber Treatment Chemicals business has received and may in the future receive claims for indemnity from customers in connection with litigation relating to CCA-based wood protection products and may be required to pay indemnity claims under such agreements to one or more of its customers. If our Timber Treatment Chemicals business is required to pay one or more indemnity claims, insurance or indemnity arrangements from Degussa (the successor to Laporte, from which the specialty chemicals business lines that formed Rockwood in the KKR acquisition were acquired) may not cover such claims and, if not, our subsidiary may not have sufficient free cash flow to pay such claims. We are unable to estimate our exposure, if any, to these claims and lawsuits at this time.

In addition, our Specialty Chemicals segment's subsidiary that formerly manufactured insulating glass sealants has been named as a defendant in several product liability lawsuits relating to alleged negligent manufacturing of these sealants. Pursuant to the sale and purchase agreement, one of our Specialty Chemicals' subsidiaries may be required to pay indemnity claims for a limited number of years. If such subsidiary is required to pay indemnity claims, our insurance may not cover such claims and, if not, our subsidiary may not have sufficient cash flow to pay such claims. One or more of these claims could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations.

Cyclical Downturns in cyclical industries and general economic conditions could adversely affect our profitability.

Our products are used in certain industries that are cyclical in nature, such as the automotive, data and communications and electronics industries. In addition, sales to the construction market are driven by trends in commercial and residential construction, housing starts and trends in residential repair and remodeling. Downturns in one or more of these industries could severely reduce demand for our products. For example, the telecommunications market has experienced a similar downturn, which has affected the results of operations of our Specialty Compounds segment, and in recent years the semiconductor market has experienced a severe downturn, which has affected the results of operations of our Electronics segment.

In addition, downturns in general economic conditions, whether in a particular region or globally, could reduce demand for our products. An economic downturn in one or more of the markets or geographic regions in which we sell our products may result in a decline in our net sales.

Pharmaceutical Industry We may not be able to renew our contracts with Groupe Novasep's pharmaceutical customers due to their manufacturing strategy, which may adversely affect our results of operations.

Net sales of pharmaceutical intermediates or active ingredients by our Groupe Novasep segment, which accounted for approximately 12% of our 2004 pro forma net sales, may be adversely impacted by the manufacturing strategy of our customers in the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmaceutical companies may establish back-up production facilities through a second supplier or

manufacture these intermediates on their own if they have hazardous chemical production expertise in-house or are willing to make capital investments. Consequently, while we typically enter into long-term, requirement-based supply contracts with our pharmaceutical customers, we may not be able to renew these contracts upon expiration.

FDA Regulation *Some of our manufacturing processes and facilities, pharmaceutical customers and medical device customers are subject to regulation by the FDA or similar foreign agencies. These events could adversely affect our results of operations.*

The manufacturing processes and facilities of our Novasep Synthesis business line of our Groupe Novasep segment, which specializes in commercial production of pharmaceutical intermediates, are subject to regulatory requirements of the FDA, including current Good Manufacturing Practice regulations or other applicable foreign regulatory agencies such as the central European agency for medicines. In addition, certain lithium compounds manufactured by our Fine Chemicals business line of our Specialty Chemicals segment are also subject to FDA regulation. Furthermore, the manufacture and supply of ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components for hip joint prostheses systems by our Advanced Ceramics segment may also be subject to the FDA's Quality System Regulation, which imposes current Good Manufacturing Practice requirements on the manufacture of medical devices.

Pharmaceutical customers of our Groupe Novasep segment to whom we supply our pharmaceutical intermediates and medical device customers of our Advanced Ceramics segment to whom we supply our ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components are subject to FDA regulation, including premarket approval of their products and post market compliance requirements. The FDA may take three years or longer to grant premarket approval, if at all. Once approved, our customers' pharmaceutical products and total hip prostheses systems may be withdrawn from the market either voluntarily by our customers or as a result of the FDA's or a foreign equivalent's withdrawal of marketing approval or removal of such products for a number of reasons including safety, current Good Manufacturing Practice or Quality System Regulation problems with our products or our customers' final products. These factors relating to our customers in the pharmaceutical industry and medical devices industry could significantly limit our net sales generated by our Groupe Novasep segment and Advanced Ceramics segment, respectively, and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Regulatory requirements of the FDA are complex, and any failure to comply with them could subject us and/or our customers to fines, injunctions, civil penalties, lawsuits, recall or seizure of products, total or partial suspension of production, denial of government approvals, withdrawal of marketing approvals and criminal prosecution and could adversely impact our net sales, undermine goodwill established with our customers, damage commercial prospects for our products and materially adversely affect our results of operations.

Competition *Our industry is highly competitive. The end-use markets in which we compete are also highly competitive. This competition may adversely affect our results of operations.*

We face significant competition from major international producers as well as smaller regional competitors. Our most significant competitors include major chemicals and materials manufacturers and diversified companies, a number of which have revenues and capital resources exceeding ours.

In addition, within the end-use markets in which we compete, competition between products is intense. Substitute products also exist for many of our products. Therefore, we face substantial risk that certain events, such as new product development by our competitors, changing customer needs, production advances for competing products, price changes in raw materials, our failure to

secure patents or the expiration of patents, could result in declining demand for our products as our customers switch to substitute products or undertake manufacturing of such products on their own. If we are unable to develop and produce or market our products to effectively compete against our competitors, our results of operations may materially suffer.

We believe that our customers are increasingly looking for strong, long-term relationships with a few key suppliers that help them improve product performance, reduce costs, or support new product development. To satisfy these growing customer requirements, our competitors have been consolidating within product lines through mergers and acquisitions. We may also need to invest and spend more on research and development and marketing costs to strengthen existing customer relationships, as well as attract new customers. As a result, our substantial debt level could limit our flexibility to react to these industry trends and our ability to remain competitive.

Product Innovation *If we are not able to continue our technological innovation and successful commercial introduction of new products, our profitability could be adversely affected.*

Our industries and the end-use markets into which we sell our products experience periodic technological change and product improvement. Manufacturers periodically introduce new generations of products or require new technological capacity to develop customized products. Our future growth will depend on our ability to gauge the direction of the commercial and technological progress in all key end-use markets and upon our ability to fund and successfully develop, manufacture and market products in such changing end-use markets. We will have to continue to identify, develop and market innovative products on a timely basis to replace or enhance existing products in order to maintain our profit margins and our competitive position. We may not be successful in developing new products and/or technology, either alone or with third parties, or licensing intellectual property rights from third parties on a commercially competitive basis. Our new products may not be accepted by our customers. If we fail to keep pace with the evolving technological innovations in our end-use markets on a competitive basis, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Dependence on Intellectual Property *If our intellectual property were copied by competitors, or if they were to develop similar intellectual property independently, our results of operations could be negatively affected.*

Our success depends to a significant degree upon our ability to protect and preserve our intellectual property rights, which rights we own or use pursuant to licenses granted to us by third parties. The confidentiality and patent assignment agreements we enter into with most of our key employees and third parties to protect the confidentiality, ownership and use of intellectual property may be breached, may not be enforceable, may provide for joint ownership or ownership by a third party. In addition, we may not have adequate remedies for a breach by the other party, which could adversely affect our intellectual property rights.

The use of our intellectual property rights or intellectual property similar to ours by others or our failure to protect such rights could reduce or eliminate any competitive advantage we have developed, adversely affecting our net sales. If we must sue to protect, defend or enforce our intellectual property rights, any suits or proceedings could result in significant costs and diversion of company resources and management attention, and we may not prevail in such action.

We conduct research and development activities with third parties and license certain intellectual property rights from third parties and we plan to continue to do so in the future. For example, in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business, we developed the technology to produce ACQ pursuant to a license agreement with Domtar Inc. and through the acquisition of the Kemwood business from Kemira OY. We endeavor to license or otherwise obtain intellectual property rights on

terms favorable to us. However, we may not be able to license or otherwise obtain intellectual property rights on such terms or at all. Our inability to license or otherwise obtain such intellectual property rights could have a material adverse effect on our ability to create a competitive advantage and create innovative solutions for our customers, which will adversely affect our net sales and our relationships with our customers.

The steps we take to protect our intellectual property may not provide us with any competitive advantage and may be challenged by third parties. We have been and currently are subject to oppositions of our patents and trademarks by third parties before regulatory bodies in certain jurisdictions. Our failure to defend these patents or registered trademarks may limit our ability to protect the intellectual property rights that these applications were intended to cover. In addition, a failure to obtain and defend our trademark registrations may impede our marketing and branding efforts and competitive position. A failure to protect our intellectual property rights could have a material adverse effect on demand for our products and our net sales.

Risk of Intellectual Property Litigation *Our products or processes may infringe the intellectual property rights of others, which may cause us to pay unexpected litigation costs or damages or prevent us from selling our products.*

Although it is our intention to avoid infringing or otherwise violating the intellectual property rights of others, our processes and products may infringe or otherwise violate the intellectual property rights of others. We may be subject to legal proceedings and claims, including claims of alleged infringement by us or our licensees of the patents, trademarks and other intellectual property rights of third parties. Intellectual property litigation is expensive and time-consuming, regardless of the merits of any claim, and could divert our management's attention from operating our businesses.

If we were to discover or be notified that our processes or products potentially infringe or otherwise violate the intellectual property rights of others, we may need to obtain licenses from these parties or substantially re-engineer our products and processes in order to avoid infringement. We might not be able to obtain the necessary licenses on acceptable terms, or at all, or be able to re-engineer our products successfully. Moreover, if we are sued for infringement and lose the suit, we could be required to pay substantial damages and/or be enjoined from using or selling the infringing products or technology. Any of the foregoing could cause us to incur significant costs and prevent us from selling our products.

International Operations *As a global business, we are exposed to local business risks in different countries which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.*

We have significant operations in many countries, including manufacturing facilities, research and development facilities, sales personnel and customer support operations. Currently, we operate, or others operate on our behalf, facilities in countries such as, among others, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey. 66% of our pro forma net sales in 2004 were shipments to countries outside North America. Our operations are affected directly and indirectly by global regulatory, economic and political conditions, including:

new and different legal and regulatory requirements in local jurisdictions;

managing and obtaining support and distribution for local operations;

increased costs of, and availability of, transportation or shipping;

credit risk and financial conditions of local customers and distributors;

potential difficulties in protecting intellectual property;

risk of nationalization of private enterprises by foreign governments;

potential imposition of restrictions on investments;

potentially adverse tax consequences, including imposition or increase of withholding and other taxes on remittances and other payments by subsidiaries;

capital controls; and

local political, economic and social conditions, including the possibility of hyperinflationary conditions and political instability in certain countries.

In addition, our facilities may be targets of terrorist activities that could result in full or partial disruption of the activities of such facilities.

Furthermore, our subsidiaries are subject to the export controls and economic embargo rules and regulations of the United States, violations of which may carry substantial penalties. These regulations limit the ability of our subsidiaries to market, sell, distribute or otherwise transfer their products or technology to prohibited countries or persons. Failure to comply with them could subject our subsidiaries to fines, enforcement actions and/or have an adverse affect on our goodwill and the value of our common stock.

We may not succeed in developing and implementing policies and strategies to counter the foregoing factors effectively in each location where we do business. Our failure to do so could limit our ability to sell products, compete or receive payments for products sold in such locations.

Disaster Recovery Planning *If any of our facilities used in the Dynamit Nobel businesses are forced to shut down, we may incur significant remediation or reconstruction costs.*

If any of our facilities used by the Dynamit Nobel businesses are forced to shut down for a significant period of time due to natural disaster, power loss, terrorist attacks, telecommunications failures, computer viruses or other similar events, our disaster recovery planning may not be sufficient, and we may experience a significant disruption of our financial reporting systems or the manufacture and distribution of our products and services and/or damage to our relationships with customers.

Retention of Key Personnel *If we lose certain key personnel or are unable to hire additional qualified personnel, we may not be able to execute our business strategy.*

Our success depends, in part, upon the continued services of our highly skilled personnel involved in management, research, production, sales and distribution, and, in particular, upon the efforts and abilities of our executive officers and key employees. Although we believe that we are adequately staffed in key positions and that we will be successful in retaining key personnel, we may not be able to retain such personnel on acceptable terms or at all. Furthermore, if we lose the service of any executive officers or key employees, we may not be able to execute our business strategy. We do not have key-person life insurance covering any of our employees.

Relations with Employees *We are subject to stringent labor and employment laws in certain jurisdictions in which we operate, and our relationship with our employees could deteriorate, which could adversely impact our operations.*

A majority of our full-time employees are employed outside the United States, particularly in Germany where many of our Dynamit Nobel businesses are located. In certain jurisdictions where we operate, particularly in Germany, labor and employment laws are relatively stringent and, in many cases, grant significant job protection to certain employees, including rights on termination of employment. In addition, in certain countries where we operate, including Germany, our employees are members of unions or are represented by a works council as required by law. We are often required to consult and seek the consent or advice of these unions and/or respective works'

councils. These regulations and laws coupled with the requirement to consult with the relevant unions or works' councils could significantly limit our flexibility in managing costs and responding to market changes.

Furthermore, with respect to our employees that are subject to collective bargaining arrangements or similar arrangements (approximately 3,218 of our 9,443 full-time employees as of March 31, 2005), we may not be able to negotiate labor agreements on satisfactory terms and actions by our employees may disrupt our business. If these workers were to engage in a strike, work stoppage or other slowdown, we could experience a significant disruption of our operations and/or higher ongoing labor costs. In addition, if our other employees were to become unionized, we could experience a significant disruption of our operations and/or higher ongoing labor costs.

Tax Liabilities *As a result of mg technologies ag's tax restructuring program in December 2002, we may incur tax liabilities.*

Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, mg technologies ag implemented a tax restructuring program in Germany. In the event that the resulting structure is challenged by the German tax authorities, we may be required to refund all or a portion of the benefits obtained by mg technologies ag and/or incur additional tax liabilities for current and future periods. Although under the sale and purchase agreement, mg technologies ag has agreed to substantially indemnify us for any such tax liabilities, a successful challenge by the German tax authorities combined with mg technologies ag's failure or inability to satisfy its indemnity obligations may result in our having to pay such tax liabilities.

Anticipated Capital Expenditures *Our required capital expenditures may exceed our estimates.*

Total combined capital expenditures of Rockwood, Dynamit Nobel and Groupe Novasep SAS for 2004 were \$211.5 million, which consisted of maintenance expenditures and substantial investments in new equipment. Future capital expenditures may be significantly higher, depending on the investment requirements of each of our business lines. Future capital expenditures may also vary substantially if we are required to undertake certain actions to compete with new technologies in our industry. We may not have the capital necessary to undertake these capital investments. If we are unable to do so, we may not be able to effectively compete in some of our markets.

Control *Affiliates of KKR and DLJMB control us and may have conflicts of interest with us or you.*

Upon the closing of this offering, affiliates of KKR and DLJMB (which is affiliated with CSFB) will beneficially own approximately 68.4% of our common stock (or 65.6% if the underwriters exercise in full their over-allotment option) on an undiluted basis. In addition, representatives of KKR and DLJMB will occupy a majority of the seats on our board of directors. As a result, affiliates of KKR and DLJMB have control over our decisions to enter into any corporate transaction and will have the ability to prevent any transaction that requires the approval of our board of directors or the stockholders regardless of whether or not other members of our board of directors or stockholders believe that any such transactions are in their own best interests. For example, affiliates of KKR and DLJMB could cause us to sell revenue-generating assets, which could impair our long-term ability to declare dividends or grow our business. Additionally, KKR and DLJMB are in the business of making investments in companies and may from time to time acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us. They may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business, and as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us. So long as affiliates of KKR and DLJMB continue to hold a majority of our outstanding common stock, they will be entitled to nominate a majority of our board of directors, and will have the ability to control the vote in any election of directors. See "Related

Party Transactions Agreements with KKR, DLJMB and/or Management Stockholders' Agreement with Affiliates of KKR and DLJMB."

\$132.9 million, or approximately 29%, of the net proceeds will be paid to affiliates of KKR and DLJMB in connection with the redemption of the senior discount notes and the redeemable convertible preferred stock and the termination of the management service agreement.

We are a "controlled company" within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange rules and, as a result, will qualify for, and intend to rely on, exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements.

Upon the closing of this offering, affiliates of KKR and DLJMB will continue to control a majority of our outstanding common stock. As a result, we are a "controlled company" within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance standards. Under the New York Stock Exchange rules, a company of which more than 50% of the voting power is held by an individual, group or another company is a "controlled company" and may elect not to comply with certain New York Stock Exchange corporate governance requirements, including:

the requirement that a majority of the board of directors consist of independent directors;

the requirement that we have a nominating/corporate governance committee that is composed entirely of independent directors;

the requirement that we have a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors; and

the requirement for an annual performance evaluation of the nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees.

Following this offering, we intend to utilize these exemptions. As a result, we will not have a majority of independent directors nor will our nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees consist entirely of independent directors. Accordingly, you will not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance requirements.

Effectiveness of Internal Controls Our internal controls over financial reporting are currently not effective in certain areas, which could have a significant and adverse effect on our business and reputation.

We have identified a material weakness in internal controls within the financial reporting process with respect to the timely analyses and reporting of income tax provisions and pensions and other post-retirement benefits related to our newly acquired businesses mainly due to our dependence on external resources for data accumulation and analysis, and within the design and operation of our purchase accounting review procedures.

The material weakness regarding the timely analyses and reporting of income tax provisions and pensions and other post-retirement benefits related to our newly acquired businesses resulted in our inability to timely file Group's annual report on Form 10-K. We originally filed this registration statement on Form S-1 with the SEC in February 2005 and we decided to incorporate into Group's annual report on Form 10-K all relevant information obtained as a result of this registration process. Additionally, we entered into several significant transactions during 2004, most notably the acquisition of the Dynamit Nobel businesses, along with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey plc and the Groupe Novasep combination. These transactions substantially expanded the scope of our business operations, which in turn significantly increased the complexity of our financial reporting obligations. As a result of this significantly increased complexity, we were unable to incorporate into Group's annual report on Form 10-K in a

timely manner certain information, principally related to our newly acquired businesses, and information that we obtained as a result of the registration process.

The material weakness within the design and operation of our purchase accounting review procedures resulted in certain purchase accounting errors in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and the Groupe Novasep combination that required adjustment. These errors consisted of a mathematical error in the determination of the minority interest attributable to the Groupe Novasep combination and an error in the determination of the Groupe Novasep SAS purchase price, certain mathematical errors contained in the valuation report prepared by our independent valuation specialists in conjunction with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and an error in the determination of the fair value of deferred income and restructuring reserves related to the former corporate offices of Dynamit Nobel.

As a result of these errors, we restated our consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2004 and consolidated statement of changes in stockholders' equity for the year then ended, and Group's consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2004 and consolidated statement of changes in stockholders' equity for the year then ended in Group's annual report on Form 10-K and Group's consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2005 in Group's quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

The errors related to the Groupe Novasep combination involved isolated manual calculations performed outside of our electronic consolidation system. As a result of these errors, we are in the process of implementing additional detailed review procedures of these calculations, including additional levels of review by our existing corporate accounting staff, as part of our quarter- and year-end close process beginning in the second quarter. We also recently hired an assistant controller responsible solely for external financial reporting and technical accounting matters and plan to hire an additional employee with technical accounting and external financial reporting expertise to further strengthen our corporate accounting staff.

The Dynamit Nobel purchase accounting errors, specifically related to the appraisal calculations, also occurred outside of our electronic consolidation system and involved calculations outside the normal year-end closing process. As a result of these errors, we are in the process of implementing similar additional review procedures related to Dynamit Nobel purchase accounting activity as part of our quarter- and year-end close process beginning in the second quarter, and are utilizing the additional financial reporting resources identified above to strengthen our review process of significant and complex financial reporting areas, including purchase accounting.

We are also in the process of creating and staffing a global tax department at our corporate headquarters to, among other matters, strengthen the income tax accounting function. We expect this department to be in place in the third quarter of 2005. We have also engaged a global coordinating actuary to enhance the internal controls over the accounting for pensions. Furthermore, we have engaged external consultants to review our closing process and systems and make recommendations which we hope to implement during the fourth quarter of 2005.

Given that the remediation process has not been fully completed, the material weakness still exists. Because the material weakness exists, the risk of relying on our financial statements is increased. In addition, the remediation steps we have taken, are taking, or plan to take may not effectively remediate the material weakness, in which case our internal controls in these particular areas will continue to be ineffective. In that event, there could be a negative reaction in the financial markets due to a loss of confidence in the reliability of our financial statements.

If we are unable to implement the requirements of Section 404 in a timely manner or if we conclude our internal controls are not effective in other areas, we may be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities and incur additional compliance costs and the financial markets may react negatively.

We are currently performing the system and process evaluation of our internal controls over financial reporting in order to allow management to report on, and our independent auditors to attest to, our internal controls over financial reporting, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which we refer to as Section 404. The requirements of Section 404 will initially apply to us in connection with our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. In connection with our preliminary evaluation, we have identified other areas of internal controls that may need improvement, such as internal controls related to the segregation of duties at certain smaller locations, system access and user security profiles, operating policies and procedures and in each case particularly with respect to newly acquired businesses. We plan to begin in late 2005 the testing necessary to permit the management certification and auditor attestation required to comply with Section 404. As we complete the evaluation and testing required by Section 404, we may identify conditions that may be categorized as significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the future.

During 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, we incurred \$2.8 million in professional fees in connection with our initial implementation of the systems and internal control documentation required pursuant to Section 404. We have previously estimated an additional \$2.6 million would be required to complete initial Section 404 compliance. Given the extension of the compliance deadline from the year ended December 31, 2005 to the year ended December 31, 2006, and the expectations articulated in the SEC Release that announced the extension, we are reevaluating the scope of our initial compliance plan, including documentation, and are currently unable to estimate the additional costs we will incur implementing the requirements of Section 404.

If we are not able to implement the requirements of Section 404 in a timely manner, management will not be able to certify as to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and we may be subject to sanctions or investigation by regulatory authorities, such as the SEC. As a result, there could be a negative reaction in the financial markets due to a loss of confidence in the reliability of our financial statements. If we continue to conclude that our internal controls are not effective, there could similarly be a negative reaction in the financial markets due to a loss of confidence in the reliability of our financial statements. In addition, we may be required to incur additional costs in improving our internal control system and/or the hiring of additional personnel. Any such action could adversely affect our results of operations.

Risk Factors Relating to This Offering

Absence of a Public Market There is no existing market for our common stock, and an active trading market may not develop.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. An active trading market may not develop and continue upon closing of this offering. The market price for our common stock may decline below the initial public offering price. The initial public offering price of our common stock will be determined through negotiations among the underwriters and us and will be based on numerous factors and may not be indicative of the market price for our common stock after the initial public offering. Variations in our actual or anticipated operating results, changes in, or failure to meet, earnings estimates of securities analysts, regulatory actions and general economic and securities market conditions, among other factors, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline below the initial public offering price.

Future Sales *Future sales of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the possibility or perception of such future sales, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.*

The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of a large number of shares of our common stock in the market after this offering or the perception that these sales could occur. These sales, or the possibility that these sales may occur, also might make it more difficult for us to sell equity securities in the future at a time and at a price that we deem appropriate.

Sales of our common stock will be restricted by lock-up agreements that all of our directors and executive officers and affiliates of KKR and DLJMB will enter into with the underwriters, which will restrict them, subject to specified exceptions, from selling or otherwise disposing of any shares of our common stock for a period of 180 days after the date of this prospectus without the prior written consent of Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Credit Suisse First Boston LLC. Although there is no present intent or arrangement to do so, all or any portion of the shares may be released from the restrictions in the lock-up agreements and those shares would then be available for resale in the market.

After this offering, we will have 70,717,702 shares of common stock outstanding. Of those shares, the 20,408,163 shares we are offering will be freely tradeable. The 50,309,539 shares that were outstanding immediately prior to this offering will be eligible for resale from time to time after the expiration of the 180-day lock-up period, subject to contractual restrictions and restrictions under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Approximately 1,036,114 of those shares may be sold freely pursuant to Rule 144(k), approximately 48,626,600 of those shares may be sold subject to the volume, manner of sale and other conditions of Rule 144 and approximately 646,825 of those shares may be sold freely pursuant to Rule 144(k) once they have been held until the fifth anniversary of the investment date set forth in the applicable management stockholder's agreement, which in some instances is February 2006.

Under the registration rights agreement, affiliates of KKR, which will beneficially own 37,485,510 shares after this offering, and DLJMB, which will beneficially own 10,909,384 shares after this offering, will have the right to request us to register the resale of their respective shares. In addition, affiliates of KKR, DLJMB, management stockholders and other stockholders can exercise certain piggyback registration rights in connection with other registered offerings.

In addition, 9,121,469 shares have been reserved for future issuance under the stock plan, including approximately 3,879,785 shares issuable upon the exercise of presently outstanding stock options (approximately 931,077 of which are currently vested), up to 10,869 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options at an exercise price equal to the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus (of which none are vested) and 68,452 shares of common stock underlying vested restricted stock units held by our chairman and chief executive officer, Seifi Ghasemi. Furthermore, warrants to purchase 958,315 shares of common stock which are exercisable at any time have been issued to an affiliate of KKR and are presently outstanding. Following the closing of this offering, we intend to file one or more registration statements on Form S-8 under the Securities Act to register the sale of shares issued or issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options. Subject to the exercise of issued and outstanding options and contractual restrictions, shares registered under the registration statement on Form S-8 will be available for sale into the public market after the expiration of the 180-day lock-up agreements.

In the future, we may issue our common stock in connection with acquisitions, repayment of our debt or for other general corporate purposes. The amount of such common stock issued could constitute a material portion of our then outstanding common stock.

Anti-takeover measures *Certain provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws may prevent another party's ability to acquire us without approval by our board of directors, which may deprive you of the opportunity to obtain a takeover premium for your shares.*

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws contain a number of anti-takeover measures. For example, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for a classified board of directors, limitations on the removal of directors, the inability of stockholders to act by written consent (subject to certain exceptions), call special meetings or fill vacancies on our board of directors; requires stockholders to give advance notice for stockholder proposals and director nominations; and authorizes the issuance of preferred stock without shareholder approval and upon such terms as our board of directors may determine.

These provisions may discourage potential acquisition proposals and may delay, deter or prevent a change of control of our company, including through transactions, and, in particular, unsolicited transactions, that some or all of our stockholders might consider to be desirable and through which some or all of our stockholders may obtain a premium for their shares. They may also adversely affect the prevailing market price of the common stock.

Absence of Dividends *We may not pay dividends on our common stock at any time in the foreseeable future.*

We are a holding company, and our ability to pay dividends may be limited by restrictions upon transfer of funds by our subsidiaries, including those which are contained in Group's senior secured credit facilities, indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes and those of any future outstanding indebtedness we or our subsidiaries may incur. Any decision to declare and pay dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements, contractual restrictions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. We currently have no intention to pay dividends on our common stock at any time in the foreseeable future.

Volatility of Market Price *The market price of our common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.*

Securities markets worldwide experience significant price and volume fluctuations. This market volatility, as well as general economic, market or political conditions, could reduce the market price of our common stock in spite of our operating performance. In addition, our operating results could be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors, and in response, the market price of our common stock could decrease significantly. You may be unable to resell your shares of our common stock at or above the initial public offering price.

Dilution *Public investors will suffer immediate and substantial dilution in the book value of the shares purchased in this offering.*

The initial public offering price per share of our common stock is higher than our pro forma net tangible book value per share. Accordingly, if you purchase common stock in this offering, you will suffer immediate and substantial dilution of your investment. Based upon the issuance and sale of 20.4 million shares of common stock by us at an assumed initial public offering price of \$24.50 per share (the midpoint of the price range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus), you will incur immediate dilution of approximately \$43.77 in the pro forma net tangible book value per share if you purchase shares in this offering (or approximately \$42.01 per share if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full). We also have a large number of outstanding stock options and warrants with an exercise price that is below the assumed initial public offering price of the common stock. To the extent that these options and/or warrants are exercised, there will be further dilution.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact and may involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements give our current expectations or forecasts of future events and estimates of amounts not yet determinable. We have used the words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "project," "intend," "plan," "believe," "predict," "could," "may" and other words and terms of similar meaning, including references to assumptions, in this prospectus to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made based on expectations and beliefs concerning future events affecting us and are subject to uncertainties and factors relating to our operations and business environment, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control, that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those matter expressed in or implied by these forward-looking statements. In particular, these statements include, among other things, statements relating to:

our business strategies;

changes in demand for our products;

fluctuations in interest rates, exchange rates and currency values;

availability and pricing of raw materials;

fluctuations in energy prices;

changes in the end-use markets in which our products are sold;

changes in the general economic conditions in North America and Europe and in other locations in which we currently do business;

technological changes affecting production of our materials;

our high level of indebtedness;

governmental and environmental regulations and changes in those regulations;

hazards associated with chemicals manufacturing;

risks associated with negotiating, consummating and integrating acquisitions, especially relating to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition;

risks associated with competition and the introduction of new competing products, especially in the Asia-Pacific region; and

risks associated with international sales and operations.

You should keep in mind that any forward-looking statements made by us in this prospectus or elsewhere speak only as of the date on which we make it. New risks and uncertainties come up from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict these events or how they may affect us. We have no duty to, and do not intend to, update or revise the forward-looking statements in this prospectus after the date of this prospectus.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that our net proceeds from the sale of 20,408,163 shares of common stock being offered in this offering, after deducting estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, will be approximately \$465.0 million, assuming the shares are offered at \$24.50 per share, which is the midpoint of the estimated offering price range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus.

We intend to use:

approximately \$59.9 million of the net proceeds to repay the outstanding principal amount of the pay-in-kind loans and pay a prepayment premium, and approximately \$120.7 million of the net proceeds to redeem the outstanding principal amount of the pay-in-kind notes and pay a redemption premium;

approximately \$85.2 million of the net proceeds to redeem the outstanding principal amount of the senior discount notes, which are held by an affiliate of KKR;

approximately \$151.5 million of the net proceeds to redeem \$131.3 million, or 35%, of the 2011 notes and pay a redemption premium and accrued and unpaid interest;

approximately \$37.7 million of the net proceeds to redeem all outstanding shares of our redeemable convertible preferred stock, which are held by an affiliate of KKR, and pay a redemption premium and accumulated and unpaid dividends; and

\$10.0 million of the net proceeds to terminate the management services agreement with affiliates of KKR and DLJMB III.

These amounts are based on the accreted value, the outstanding principal amount, the accrued and unpaid interest and the accumulated and unpaid dividends on the applicable securities being repaid or redeemed as of March 31, 2005. The actual amounts we pay to repay or redeem the securities will increase from the amounts shown above. Except with respect to the pay-in-kind loans and notes, each of these repayments and redemptions is voluntary.

\$132.9 million, or approximately 29%, of the net proceeds will be paid to our affiliates that are affiliates of KKR and DLJMB. This amount consists of approximately \$85.2 million to redeem the 12% senior discount notes held by an affiliate of KKR, approximately \$37.7 million to redeem the 15% redeemable convertible preferred stock held by an affiliate of KKR and \$10.0 million to terminate the management services agreement with affiliates of KKR and DLJMB III. This amount does not include underwriting discounts and commissions to be received by CSFB, an affiliate of DLJMB, in its capacity as underwriter. Five of the eight members of our current board of directors are affiliated with KKR; two are affiliated with DLJMB; one, our chairman, is our chief executive officer. Our board of directors voted unanimously to approve the offering.

We intend to use any net proceeds we receive from any shares sold pursuant to the underwriters' over-allotment option, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions, for general corporate purposes.

The pay-in-kind loans and pay-in-kind notes, which were incurred and issued by our direct subsidiary Rockwood Specialties Consolidated, Inc., accrue interest at the rate of 15% per year and mature on November 20, 2011 and January 31, 2015, respectively. Interest is paid on the pay-in-kind loans and pay-in-kind notes by increasing the principal amount outstanding rather than making cash payments. The senior discount notes, which were issued by our indirect subsidiary Rockwood Specialties International, Inc., accrue interest at the rate of 12% per year, but do not require cash interest payment until 2007, and mature on August 15, 2011. The 2011 notes, which were issued by Group, accrue interest at the rate of 10⁵/₈% per year and mature on May 15, 2011. The redeemable convertible preferred stock accumulates dividends at 15% per year of the sum of (i) \$1,000 original issue price per share and (ii) accumulated and unpaid dividends on such share from the original issue date.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We do not currently intend to pay any periodic cash dividends on our common stock, and instead intend to retain earnings, if any, for future operation and expansion and debt repayment. We are a holding company that does not conduct any business operations of our own. As a result, we are dependent upon cash dividends and distributions and other transfers from our subsidiaries to make dividend payments on our common stock. The amounts available to us to pay cash dividends are restricted by our subsidiaries' debt agreements. Under Group's senior secured credit facilities and indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes, Group is generally restricted from making dividends or other distributions to us. Any decision to declare and pay dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant.

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and consolidated capitalization as of March 31, 2005:

on an actual basis;

on a pro forma basis to give effect to the offering.

This table should be read together with "Use of Proceeds," "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and our consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements, in each case, included elsewhere in this prospectus.

(\$ in millions, except per share data)	As of March 31, 2005	
	Actual	Pro Forma As Adjusted
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 237.1	\$ 243.9
Long-term debt, including current portion:		
Senior secured credit facilities:		
Revolving credit facility(1)	175.0	175.0
Tranche A-1 and A-2 term loans(2)(7)	272.3	272.3
Tranche C term loans(3)(7)	357.1	357.1
Tranche D term loans	1,145.0	1,145.0
2011 notes	375.0	243.7
2014 notes(4)(7)	687.4	687.4
Assumed long-term debt(5)(7)	225.4	225.4
Pay-in-kind loans and notes(6)(7)	174.6	
Senior discount notes	85.2	
Total long-term debt	\$ 3,497.0	\$ 3,105.9
Redeemable convertible preferred stock (\$.01 par value; \$32.0 aggregate liquidation preference, 50,000 shares authorized, 25,000 shares issued and outstanding on an actual basis; no shares issued and outstanding on a pro forma basis)(8)	35.4	
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$.01 par value (75,296,166 shares authorized, 50,403,659 shares issued and 50,309,539 shares outstanding on an actual basis; 400,000,000 shares authorized, 70,811,822 shares issued and 70,717,702 shares outstanding on a pro forma basis)(9)	0.5	0.7
Additional paid-in capital	717.5	1,182.3
Accumulated other comprehensive income	271.0	271.0
Accumulated deficit	(425.1)	(455.7)
Treasury stock, at cost	(1.4)	(1.4)
Other	(0.7)	(0.7)
Total stockholders' equity	561.8	996.2
Total capitalization	\$ 4,094.2	\$ 4,102.1

- (1) Does not include \$19.0 million of letters of credit issued at March 31, 2005. At March 31, 2005, the revolving credit facility had approximately \$56.0 million of remaining availability. The loans

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borrowed under the revolving credit facility may be denominated in dollars, euro or pounds sterling. See "Description of Indebtedness Senior Secured Credit Facilities."

- (2) Represents the approximate aggregate U.S. dollar equivalent of €39.1 million of borrowings under the tranche A-1 term loan and €170.4 million of borrowings under the tranche A-2 term loan (based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996).
- (3) Represents the approximate U.S. dollar equivalent of €274.8 million of borrowings under the tranche C term loans (based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate).
- (4) Represents the approximate aggregate U.S. dollar equivalent of €375.0 million of 2014 euro notes and \$200.0 million of 2014 dollar notes (based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate).
- (5) Represents the approximate U.S. dollar equivalent of long-term debt which was assumed in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and the Groupe Novasep combination and remains outstanding under the existing arrangements, including \$144.5 million denominated in euros (€111.2 million). See "Description of Indebtedness Other Long-Term Debt."
- (6) Represents the approximate U.S. dollar equivalent of €91.0 million under the pay-in-kind notes and \$56.3 million of pay-in-kind loans.
- (7) The approximate U.S. dollar equivalent of our total euro-denominated debt of €1,061.5 million is \$1,379.5 million (based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate). A weakening or strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar by \$0.01 would decrease or increase, respectively, by \$10.6 million the U.S. dollar equivalent of our total euro-denominated debt of €1,061.5 million. Based on the exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2137 as of June 20, 2005, the approximate U.S. dollar equivalent of this €1,061.5 million euro-denominated debt would be \$1,288.3 million.
- (8) The redeemable convertible preferred stock accumulates dividends at 15% per year of the sum of (a) \$1,000 original issue price per share and (b) accumulated and unpaid dividends on such share from the original issue date. When the redeemable convertible preferred stock is redeemed, the holder will receive in cash, in addition to the \$25.0 million aggregate issue price, all accumulated and unpaid dividends and 1% of the aggregate value of our common stock (other than excluded shares, as defined under "Description of Capital Stock Preferred Stock Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock"). As of March 31, 2005, the redemption price was \$35.4 million on a historical basis and \$37.7 million on a pro forma as adjusted basis.
- (9) The amount does not include 9,121,469 shares of our common stock that are reserved for issuance under the stock plan, under which options to purchase approximately 3,879,785 shares (of which approximately 931,077 are vested) and 68,452 shares underlying restricted stock units (all of which are vested) were outstanding as of March 31, 2005, and 958,315 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants outstanding as of March 31, 2005.

DILUTION

Dilution is the amount by which the offering price paid by the purchasers of the common stock to be sold in this offering will exceed the pro forma net tangible book value per share of common stock after the offering. The pro forma net tangible book value per share is equal to the amount of our total tangible assets (total assets less intangible assets) less total liabilities and minority interest, divided by the number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2005, after giving effect to this offering. The net tangible book value per share is equal to the amount of our total tangible assets less total liabilities, minority interest and redeemable convertible preferred stock.

After giving effect to the sale of 20,408,163 shares of common stock in this offering at an assumed initial public offering price of \$24.50 per share, the midpoint of the estimated offering price range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus, and after deducting estimated underwriting discounts and offering expenses and applying the net proceeds as described in "Use of Proceeds," our pro forma net tangible book value as of March 31, 2005 would have been \$(1,362.9) million, or \$(19.27) per share of common stock. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$16.45 per share to existing stockholders and an immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$43.77 per share to new investors.

The following table illustrates this per share dilution:

Assumed initial public offering price per share	\$	24.50
Net tangible book value per share at March 31, 2005	\$	(35.72)
Increase in net tangible book value per share attributable to this offering		16.45
Pro forma net tangible book value per share after this offering		(19.27)
<hr/>		
Dilution per share to new investors	\$	43.77
Pro forma net tangible book value per share after this offering assuming full exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option		(17.51)
<hr/>		
Dilution per share to new investors assuming full exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option	\$	42.01

The following table summarizes, on a pro forma as adjusted basis as of March 31, 2005, the total number of shares of common stock purchased from us, the total consideration paid to us and the average price per share paid by the existing stockholders and by new investors purchasing shares in this offering:

(in millions, except per share data)	Shares Purchased		Total Consideration		Average Price Per Share
	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent	
Existing stockholders	50.3	71.1%	\$ 735.0	59.5%	\$ 14.61
New investors	20.4	28.9	500.0	40.5	24.50
<hr/>					
Total	70.7	100.00%	\$ 1,235.0	100.00%	

The tables and calculations above assume no exercise of outstanding options and warrants and no issuance of shares of common stock underlying vested restricted stock units. As of March 31, 2005, there were approximately 3,879,785 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding options at an exercise price of \$14.61 per share, 958,315 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants at an exercise price of \$14.61 per share and 68,452 shares underlying vested restricted stock units. To the extent that these options and warrants are exercised and shares underlying restricted stock units are issued, there will be dilution to new investors of \$41.59 per share (\$40.02 per share after giving effect to the underwriters' over-allotment option).

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following unaudited pro forma consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2005 is presented to illustrate the estimated effects of this offering and the application of the net proceeds as set forth under "Use of Proceeds" as if this offering had occurred on March 31, 2005 and is based on the exchange rate at March 31, 2005 of €1.00=\$1.2996. No adjustment was required for the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and related equity and debt financing and Fall 2004 debt refinancings, the pigments and dispersions acquisition and related financing and the Groupe Novasep combination because they occurred prior to March 31, 2005 and therefore are already reflected in the March 31, 2005 balance sheet.

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations for the three month period ended March 31, 2005 and for the year ended December 31, 2004 are presented to illustrate the estimated effects of the Transactions (which include the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and related equity and debt financings and Fall 2004 debt refinancings, the pigments and dispersions acquisition and related financing, the Groupe Novasep combination and this offering) on our historical financial condition and our results of operations as if the Transactions had occurred on January 1, 2004 and is based on a weighted average exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2669.

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is based on the audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements of Rockwood, our audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and the audited and unaudited combined financial statements of Dynamit Nobel, in each case, included elsewhere in this prospectus, as adjusted to illustrate the estimated pro forma effects of the Transactions. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information should be read together with "Selected Financial Data," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements and Dynamit Nobel's combined financial statements and the notes to those statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information has been prepared based upon currently available information and assumptions that we believe are reasonable. Such currently available information and assumptions may prove to be inaccurate over time.

The allocation of the purchase price of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition to the identifiable assets acquired is complete, except that the purchase price is subject to possible post-closing adjustments, including adjustments related to Closing Net Financial Debt and Closing Working Capital (as each term is defined in the Sale and Purchase Agreement dated April 19, 2004). mg technologies ag has notified us of several adjustments which would result in our paying an additional €31.5 million (\$40.9 million based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996); however, we have notified mg technologies ag of counterclaims in the aggregate of €34.7 million (\$45.1 million). On June 20, 2005 we tentatively agreed to settle these post-closing adjustments with mg technologies by paying mg technologies €13.5 million (\$16.6 million). We expect to finalize a formal settlement agreement in the third quarter of 2005. The recorded amount of goodwill, net of tax, as applicable, will change based on this tentative settlement.

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information is for illustrative purposes only. Such information is not intended to be indicative of the financial condition and the results of operations that would have been achieved had the Transactions for which we are giving pro forma effect actually occurred on the dates referred to above or the financial condition and the results of operations that may be expected in the future.

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Balance Sheet
as of March 31, 2005

(\$ in millions)	Rockwood Historical	Adjustments for This Offering	Pro Forma As Adjusted
ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 237.1	\$ 6.8 (a)	\$ 243.9
Accounts receivable, net	497.8		497.8
Inventories	473.8		473.8
Other current assets	98.0	11.1 (h)	109.1
Total current assets	1,306.7	17.9	1,324.6
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET	1,520.8		1,520.8
GOODWILL	1,738.1		1,738.1
OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS, NET	621.0		621.0
OTHER ASSETS	130.2	(15.3)(g)	114.9
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,316.8	\$ 2.6	\$ 5,319.4
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:			
Other current liabilities, excluding current portion of long-term debt	\$ 609.6	\$ (5.3)(a)	\$ 604.3
Total current liabilities	609.6	(5.3)	604.3
LONG-TERM DEBT, INCLUDING CURRENT PORTION:			
Senior secured credit facilities:			
Revolving credit facility	175.0		175.0
Tranche A-1 and A-2 term loans	272.3		272.3
Tranche C term loans	357.1		357.1
Tranche D term loans	1,145.0		1,145.0
2011 notes	375.0	(131.3)(a)	243.7
2014 notes	687.4		687.4
Assumed long-term debt and other debt	225.4		225.4
Pay-in-kind loans and notes	174.6	(56.3)(a)	
		(118.3)(a)	
Senior discount notes	85.2	(85.2)(a)	
Total long-term debt	3,497.0	(391.1)	3,105.9
OTHER LIABILITIES	584.0		584.0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,690.6	(396.4)	4,294.2
MINORITY INTEREST	29.0		29.0
REDEEMABLE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK	35.4	(35.4)(a)	
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Common stock	0.5	0.2(b)	0.7
Paid-in capital	717.5	499.8 (b)	1,182.3
		(25.0)(d)	
		(10.0)(c)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	271.0		271.0
Accumulated deficit	(425.1)	(10.0)(e)	(455.7)
		(16.4)(f)	
		(15.3)(g)	
		11.1 (h)	
Treasury stock, at cost	(1.4)		(1.4)
Other	(0.7)		(0.7)

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(\$ in millions)	Rockwood Historical	Adjustments for This Offering	Pro Forma As Adjusted
Total stockholders' equity	561.8	434.4	996.2
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 5,316.8	\$ 2.6	\$ 5,319.4

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Balance Sheet

- (a) Use of proceeds of this offering as follows (in millions):

Proceeds from this offering		\$ 500.0
Repayment of pay-in-kind loans	\$ (56.3)	
Repayment of pay-in-kind notes	(118.3)	
Prepayment penalty on the pay-in-kind notes	(2.4)	
Redemption of senior discount notes	(85.2)	
Partial redemption of the 2011 notes	(131.3)	
Accrued interest on the 2011 notes to be redeemed	(5.3)	
Redemption premium on the 2011 notes to be redeemed	(14.0)	
Redemption of redeemable convertible preferred stock	(35.4)	
	<u> </u>	
		(448.2)
Fee for termination of management services agreement		(10.0)
Estimated fees and expenses associated with this offering		(35.0)
		<u> </u>
		<u>\$ 6.8</u>

We expect to use the remaining proceeds to:

pay accreted value of \$3.6 million, which represents accretion on the pay-in-kind loans from January 1, 2005 through November 20, 2005 calculated on a discount basis;

pay \$0.9 million related to 30 days of accrued interest on the 2011 notes to be redeemed; and

pay an additional \$2.3 million in connection with the redemption of the redeemable convertible preferred stock based on the midpoint of the estimated offering price range set forth on the cover of this prospectus.

- (b) Equity to be issued in this offering.
- (c) Fee for termination of management services agreement.(1)
- (d) Estimated underwriters' fees.
- (e) Estimated other fees and expenses related to this offering.
- (f) Pre-tax charges related to prepayment penalties and redemption premiums to be paid.(1)
- (g) Pre-tax charges related to the write-off of deferred financing costs associated with the debt to be repaid with the proceeds from this offering.(1)

(h) Deferred tax impact of the pre-tax charges described in (f) and (g) above, consisting of \$5.7 million related to the prepayment penalties and redemption premiums paid and \$5.4 million related to the deferred financing costs associated with the debt repaid with the proceeds from this offering.(1)

(1) Similar adjustments were not made to the pro forma statement of operations as the adjustments are non-recurring in nature. These adjustments will be included in the statement of operations once the offering is complete.

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations
for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2005

(\$ in millions except per share amounts)	Rockwood Historical	Adjustments for This Offering	Pro Forma
Statement of operations data:			
NET SALES	\$ 769.7	\$	\$ 769.7
COST OF PRODUCTS SOLD	544.1		544.1
GROSS PROFIT	225.6		225.6
OPERATING EXPENSES	153.1	(0.5)(h)	152.6
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	72.5	0.5	73.0
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES):			
Interest expense, net	(57.3)	13.3 (b)	(44.0)
Other income	47.2		47.2
Total other income (expenses), net	(10.1)	13.3	3.2
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	62.4	13.8	76.2
INCOME TAX PROVISION (BENEFIT)	24.9	4.8 (g)	29.7
Net income before minority interest	37.5	9.0	46.5
Minority interest	(0.8)		(0.8)
NET INCOME	\$ 38.3	\$ 9.0	\$ 47.3
Redeemable convertible preferred stock dividends	(1.1)		
Net income applicable to common shareholders basic	\$ 37.2		\$ 47.3
Add: Redeemable convertible preferred stock dividends	1.1		
Net income applicable to common shareholders diluted	\$ 38.3		\$ 47.3
Basic:			
Net earnings per common share	\$ 0.74		\$ 0.67
Weighted average number of common shares(i)	50,309,539		70,717,702
Diluted:			
Net earnings per common share	\$ 0.73		\$ 0.66
Effect of dilutive convertible preferred stock	\$ 0.01		
Weighted average number of common shares and common stock equivalents(i)	51,848,611		72,181,564

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined information.

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Information
for the Year Ended December 31, 2004

(\$ in millions except per share amounts)	Rockwood Historical(1)	January 1, 2004 thru July 31, 2004 Dynamit Nobel Historical	Adjustments (excluding this offering)			Pro Forma Total Prior to Offering	This Offering	Pro Forma As Adjusted
			Other Acquisitions(2)	Dynamit Nobel	Other Acquisitions			
Statement of operations data:								
NET SALES	\$ 1,743.5	\$ 1,030.3	\$ 137.9	\$	\$ 1.3(d)	\$ 2,913.0	\$	\$ 2,913.0
COST OF PRODUCTS SOLD	1,267.6	674.7	91.4	(25.1)(a)	0.2(e)	2,008.8		2,008.8
GROSS PROFIT	475.9	355.6	46.5	25.1	1.1	904.2		904.2
OPERATING EXPENSES	339.8	239.7	32.9	16.4(a)	0.4(e)	629.2	(1.2)(h)	628.0
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	136.1	115.9	13.6	8.7	0.7	275.0	1.2	276.2
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES):								
Interest expense, net	(162.1)	(17.0)	(0.7)	(60.5)(b)	(4.0)(f)	(244.3)	54.4(b)	(189.9)
Other income (expenses)	(157.8)	3.4	0.7			(153.7)		(153.7)
Total other income (expenses), net	(319.9)	(13.6)		(60.5)	(4.0)	(398.0)	54.4	(343.6)
(LOSS) INCOME BEFORE TAXES	(183.8)	102.3	13.6	(51.8)	(3.3)	(123.0)	55.6	(67.4)
INCOME TAX PROVISION (BENEFIT)	32.3	25.9	3.5	6.7(c)	(1.2)(g)	67.2	19.5(g)	86.7
NET (LOSS) INCOME	\$ (216.1)	\$ 76.4	\$ 10.1	\$ (58.5)	\$ (2.1)	\$ (190.2)	\$ 36.1	\$ (154.1)
Redeemable convertible preferred stock dividends	(4.2)							
Accretion of redeemable convertible preferred stock to redemption value							(2.3)	(2.3)
Net loss applicable to common shareholders	\$ (220.3)							\$ (156.4)
Basic and diluted net loss per common share data(i):								
Net loss per common share	\$ (6.66)							\$ (2.21)
	33,053,981							70,717,702

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	January 1, 2004 thru July 31, 2004	Adjustments (excluding this offering)
Weighted average shares	Dynamit Nobel Historical	

- (1) Includes the operations of Dynamit Nobel for the period from August 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004 and the operations of the pigments and dispersions business from September 2, 2004 to December 31, 2004.
- (2) Represents the historical operations of the pigments and dispersions business from January 1, 2004 to September 1, 2004 and the historical operations of Groupe Novasep for the year ended December 31, 2004.

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined information.

ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Information

- (a) The pro forma adjustment effect related to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition of depreciation and amortization expense was calculated as follows:

(\$ in millions)	Fair Value	Average Useful Life	Annual Depreciation and Amortization Expense	7 Month Effect(2)
Calculation of depreciation expense:				
Land	\$ 155.6		\$	
Buildings and improvements, including land improvements	229.1	24.6	9.3	
Machinery and equipment	361.1	9.4	38.3	
Furniture and fixtures	7.9	4.9	1.6	
Mining rights	86.3	41.1	2.1	
Construction-in-progress	66.9			
Other tangible assets	8.4	6.0	1.4	
Total	\$ 915.3		\$ 52.7	\$ 30.7
Calculation of amortization expense:				
Patents and other intellectual property	\$ 273.5	12.6	\$ 21.7	
Customer relationships	160.2	12.2	13.1	
Trade names and trademarks	98.4	25.2	3.9	
Total	\$ 532.1	13.6	\$ 38.7	\$ 22.6

Year Ended December 31, 2004

(\$ in millions)	7 Months Historical(1)	Pro Forma	Net Adjustment
Cost of products sold:			
Depreciation	\$ 58.6	\$ 30.7	
	90.0%	90.0%	
	52.7	27.6	\$ (25.1)
Operating expenses:			
Depreciation	58.6	30.7	
	10.0%	10.0%	
	5.9	3.1	(2.8)
Amortization	3.4	22.6	19.2
Total operating expenses	\$ 9.3	\$ 25.7	\$ 16.4

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(\$ in millions)	Fair Value	Average Useful Life	Annual Depreciation and Amortization Expense	7 Month Effect(2)
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(1) Information obtained from the Dynamit Nobel financial statements as of July 31, 2004.

(2) Represents the pro rata depreciation expense for seven months based on the estimated annual depreciation expense.

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(b) The pro forma adjustment effect related to the Dynamit Nobel Acquisition of interest expense, net was calculated as follows:

	Period		Balance(3)	Average Annual Rate(4)	Interest Expense
Pro forma adjustments excluding the offering					
Additions to interest expense related to Dynamit Nobel Acquisition:					
Senior secured credit facilities(5)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	\$ 1,464.0	5.559%	\$ 47.5
Senior subordinated loan facility(6)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	865.1	9.158%	46.2
Exchange of pay-in-kind loans from dollar to euro denomination(7)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	101.5	15.000%	8.9
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs(8)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004			4.2
Decreases in interest expense related to Dynamit Nobel Acquisition:					
2003 senior secured credit facilities(9)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	449.5	5.348%	(14.0)
Portion of pay-in-kind loans repaid(10)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	20.0	15.000%	(1.8)
Portion of Dynamit Nobel assumed debt repaid and other(11)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	129.0	4.630%	(3.5)
Exchange of pay-in-kind loans from dollar to euro denomination(8)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004	99.5	15.000%	(8.7)
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs(12)	January 1, 2004	July 31, 2004			(0.9)
Net change related to Dynamit Nobel Acquisition					77.9
Debt refinancings:					
Additional senior secured credit facilities borrowings(5)	January 1, 2004	October 8, 2004	224.8	4.748%	8.2
Senior subordinated loan facility(6)	January 1, 2004	October 8, 2004	220.0	9.176%	(15.6)
Net change related to October 8, 2004 refinancing					(7.4)
2014 notes(13)	January 1, 2004	November 10, 2004	652.4	7.527%	42.3
Senior subordinated loan facility(6)	January 1, 2004	November 10, 2004	645.1	9.207%	(51.1)
Net change related to November 10, 2004 refinancing					(8.8)
Tranche D term loan under senior secured credit facility(7)	January 1, 2004	December 10, 2004	1,145.0	4.952%	53.5
Tranche B term loan under senior secured credit facility(7)	January 1, 2004	December 10, 2004	1,145.0	5.059%	(54.7)
Net change related to December 10, 2004 refinancing					(1.2)
Summary changes related to Dynamit Nobel Acquisition					77.9
Summary changes related to debt refinancings					(17.4)

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Period	Balance(3)	Average Annual Rate(4)	Interest Expense
			\$ 60.5
Pro forma as adjusted			
Year ended December 31, 2004			
Decrease to interest expense, net related to offering:			
2011 notes	\$ 131.3	10.625%	\$ 13.9
Pay-in-kind loans and notes	173.7	15.000%	26.1
Senior discount notes	82.8	12.000%	9.9
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs			4.5
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total pro forma as adjusted effect of offering on interest expense, net	\$ 387.8		\$ 54.4
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Three months ended March 31, 2005			
Decrease to interest expense, net related to offering:			
2011 notes	\$ 131.3	10.625%	\$ 3.4
Pay-in-kind loans and notes	174.6	15.000%	6.5
Senior discount notes	85.2	12.000%	2.6
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs			0.8
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
Total pro forma as adjusted effect of offering on interest expense, net	\$ 391.1		\$ 13.3
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

(3) Balances represent average debt balances outstanding throughout the periods noted based on the applicable average exchange rates.

(4) For variable rate debt, represents the average variable rate over the applicable historical period.

(5) Includes the tranche A-1 and A-2 term loan facilities that have interest rates that are, at our option, either Adjusted LIBOR plus 2.50% or, in the case of loans denominated in U.S. dollars, ABR plus 1.25%. ABR is the alternate base rate, which is the higher of Credit Suisse First Boston's prime rate and the federal funds effective rate plus 0.5%. The interest

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rate per year under the tranche C term loan facility is Adjusted LIBOR plus 3.00%. Adjusted LIBOR is the London inter-bank offered rate, adjusted for statutory reserves. The interest rate per year under the tranche D term loan facilities is, at our option, either Adjusted LIBOR plus 2.25% or ABR plus 1.00%. In each case, the interest rates per year (other than under the tranche C term loan facility) are subject to step-downs based on attaining certain financial covenant levels. Includes the effect of interest rate swaps that effectively converted the euro tranches into fixed interest rates ranging from 5.576% to 7.029% and \$652.6 million of the dollar tranche into fixed rate debt of 5.894%.

After including the notional amounts of variable to fixed interest rate swaps, a 1% increase in the average interest rate would increase future interest expense by approximately \$5.6 million per year.

- (6) Interest rate equal to the greater of 9.0% and EURIBOR + 7.0% (in the case of euro borrowings) or LIBOR + 8.0% (in the case of dollar borrowings) annually with a 75 basis point increase every six months for the first 18 months.
- (7) Represents exchange of dollar-denominated pay-in-kind loans for euro-denominated loans.
- (8) Represents \$0.6 million per month of amortization on senior secured credit facilities.
- (9) Includes borrowings under the 2003 senior secured credit facilities of tranche A and tranche B at LIBOR plus 3.500% and tranche C at LIBOR plus 2.7500%.
- (10) Includes the effect of the repayment of a portion of the pay-in-kind loans.
- (11) Includes the effect of the repayment of a portion of the debt assumed.
- (12) Represents \$0.1 million per month of amortization on 2003 senior secured credit facilities.
- (13) Includes €375.0 million notes at 7.625% and \$200.0 million notes at 7.500%. Also includes the effect of the cross currency interest rate swap that converts the dollar fixed rate debt into €155.6 million euro fixed rate debt at 7.290%.
- (c) Represents the federal statutory rate of 35% on the incremental pre-tax effect of the pro forma adjustments offset by the impact of valuation allowances on certain jurisdictional pro forma losses, primarily in the United States.
- (d) Represents effect of change in pricing of certain contracts that were at below-market prices prior to the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business. Such contracts are with divisions of the former owner and have been increased to market level upon consummation of the acquisition.
- (e) Represents change in depreciation and amortization based upon fair values and estimated useful lives of stepped-up values of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets other than goodwill, as determined by appraisal. Estimated useful lives are derived from the appraisal for major categories of property, plant and equipment (excluding land, which has no finite useful life and construction in progress which has not begun amortization) and intangible assets. In some cases, we have used shorter useful lives where management believes appropriate. Estimated average useful lives (in years) used for major categories are as follows:

Property, Plant and Equipment

Machinery and equipment 7

Buildings 25

Mining rights 14-50

Intangible assets other than goodwill

Customer relationships 10

Intellectual property and patents 7-15

Trade names and marks 25

- (f) Represents estimated increase in interest expense resulting from the other acquisitions.
- (g) Assumes federal statutory rate of 35%.
- (h) Represents the elimination of the management services fee that is assumed to be terminated effective upon the closing of the offering.
- (i) Net loss per share is calculated by dividing net loss by the weighted average shares outstanding. Unaudited pro forma basic and diluted net loss per share has been calculated in accordance with the SEC rules for initial public offerings. These rules require that the weighted average share calculation give retroactive effect to any changes in our capital structure as well as the number of shares whose sale proceeds will be used to repay any debt as reflected in the pro forma adjustments. Below is a reconciliation between the historical and pro forma weighted average shares used in computing basic and diluted net earnings and net loss per common share:

	Three months ended March 31, 2005		Year ended December 31, 2004 Basic and Diluted
	Basic	Diluted	
Historical	50,309,539	51,848,611	33,053,981
Effect of 2004 net share issuances			17,255,558
Shares to be issued in this offering	20,408,163	20,408,163	20,408,163
Effect of redeemable convertible preferred stock dilutive in historical calculation but eliminated due to redemption in this offering		(2,421,933)	
Effect of utilization of treasury stock method for computing diluted earnings per share for common stock equivalents which were not dilutive on a historical basis but were dilutive after adjusting for the effects of this offering		2,346,723	
Pro Forma	70,717,702	72,181,564	70,717,702

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Rockwood Selected Financial Data

The selected financial data of Rockwood presented below for the period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000 have been derived from the audited combined financial statements of Rockwood's predecessor not included in this prospectus. The selected financial data of Rockwood presented below for the period from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000, as of December 31, 2000, 2001 and 2002 and for the year ended December 31, 2001 have been derived from Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements not included in this prospectus. The selected financial data of Rockwood presented below as of December 31, 2003 and 2004 and for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

The selected financial data of Rockwood presented below for the three months ended March 31, 2004 have been derived from Rockwood's unaudited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected financial data presented below as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2005 have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. In the opinion of management, the unaudited financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and March 31, 2005, have been prepared on a basis consistent with the audited financial statements and include all adjustments, which are normally recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the periods presented. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

The selected financial data presented below should be read together with our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included elsewhere in this prospectus.

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(\$ in millions, except per share data; shares in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,							Three Months Ended March 31,	
	Predecessor	Successor or Rockwood							
	Period From January 1, 2000 Through November 20, 2000	Period From November 21, 2000 Through December 31, 2000	2000(1)	2001	2002	2003(11)	2004	2004	2005
	(As restated)								
Statement of operations data:									
Net sales:									
Performance Additives(2)	\$ 410.1	\$ 42.5	\$ 452.6	\$ 418.4	\$ 443.8	\$ 477.3	\$ 630.9	\$ 139.1	\$ 159.5
Specialty Compounds	188.2	19.8	208.0	171.7	168.8	176.4	200.4	47.9	58.1
Electronics	154.0	20.2	174.2	152.5	147.3	143.6	168.1	40.4	42.8
Specialty Chemicals							321.1		220.0
Titanium Dioxide Pigments							175.7		104.5
Advanced Ceramics							146.3		91.9
Groupe Novasep							101.0		92.9
Total net sales	752.3	82.5	834.8	742.6	759.9	797.3	1,743.5	227.4	769.7
Cost of products sold	534.4	69.7	604.1	546.5	542.5	581.4	1,267.6	165.0	544.1
Gross profit	217.9	12.8	230.7	196.1	217.4	215.9	475.9	62.4	225.6
Selling, general and administrative expenses	149.4	21.8	171.2	147.5	112.9	118.0	327.7	35.1	150.2
Impairment charges(3)					50.0	35.0	11.0		
Restructuring charges(4)	3.9		3.9	9.2	1.2	1.8	1.1		2.9
Operating income (loss)	64.6	(9.0)	55.6	39.4	53.3	61.1	136.1	27.3	72.5
Other income (expenses):									
Interest expense, net(5)	(45.4)	(10.9)	(56.3)	(107.0)	(108.2)	(112.3)	(162.1)	(25.1)	(57.3)
Foreign exchange (loss) gain(6)	(2.6)	(16.7)	(19.3)	9.6	(24.6)	(18.5)	(126.4)	12.2	47.2
Refinancing expenses(7)						(38.3)	(27.1)		
Gain on sale of investment(8)	1.0		1.0						
Loss on receivables sold				(1.2)	(1.2)				
Stamp duty tax and other(9)							(4.3)		
Income (loss) before taxes	17.6	(36.6)	(19.0)	(59.2)	(80.7)	(108.0)	(183.8)	14.4	62.4
Income tax provision (benefit)	9.9	(4.8)	5.1	(4.8)	(12.5)	(16.3)	32.3	5.5	24.9
Net income (loss) before minority interest	7.7	(31.8)	(24.1)	(54.4)	(68.2)	(91.7)	(216.1)	8.9	37.5
Minority interest									(0.8)
Net income (loss)	\$ 7.7	\$ (31.8)	\$ (24.1)	\$ (54.4)	\$ (68.2)	\$ (91.7)	\$ (216.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders basic(10)	\$ 7.7	\$ (31.8)	\$ (24.1)	\$ (54.4)	\$ (68.2)	\$ (102.9)	\$ (220.3)	\$ 7.9	\$ 37.2
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders diluted(10)	\$ 7.7	\$ (31.8)	\$ (24.1)	\$ (54.4)	\$ (68.2)	\$ (102.9)	\$ (220.3)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3

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(\$ in millions, except per share data; shares in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,						Three Months Ended March 31,		
	Predecessor	Successor or Rockwood							
	Period From January 1, 2000 Through November 20, 2000	Period From November 21, 2000 Through December 31, 2000	2000(1)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Net income (loss) per common share data (unaudited)(12):									
Basic net income (loss) per common share:									
Net income (loss) per common share	\$ 0.38	\$ (1.57)	\$ (1.19)	\$ (2.63)	\$ (3.29)	\$ (4.96)	\$ (6.66)	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.74
Weighted average shares	20,319	20,319	20,319	20,701	20,746	20,739	33,054	20,740	50,310
Diluted net income (loss) per common share							\$ 0.38	\$ 0.73	
Weighted average shares							20,740	51,849	
Cash flow data:									
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 48.9	\$ (0.5)	\$ 48.4	\$ 113.8	\$ (4.1)	\$ 42.6	\$ 179.3	\$ 1.3	\$ (7.4)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	9.9	(1,181.4)	(1,171.5)	(31.6)	(30.4)	(48.5)	(2,249.9)	(6.7)	(35.5)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(104.2)	1,207.2	1,103.0	(30.6)	(18.9)	(1.7)	2,134.4	(3.8)	169.1
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(11.4)	19.5	8.1	0.1	2.6	3.8	5.6	(0.4)	(0.4)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (56.8)	\$ 44.8	\$ (12.0)	\$ 51.7	\$ (50.8)	\$ (3.8)	\$ 69.4	\$ (9.6)	\$ 125.8
Other financial data:									
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 61.6	\$ 10.6	\$ 72.2	\$ 74.7	\$ 46.3	\$ 52.4	\$ 115.2	\$ 13.8	\$ 53.2
Capital expenditures	45.0	6.5	51.4	34.5	36.0	34.3	112.8	6.7	35.7
EBITDA(13)	124.6	(15.1)	109.5	122.5	73.8	56.7	93.5	53.3	173.7
Non-cash charges and gains included in EBITDA(14)	2.6	25.5	28.1	(0.6)	74.6	90.4	151.6	(12.2)	(47.2)
Other special charges and gains included in EBITDA(15)	21.4	4.2	25.6	18.5	2.0	2.4	87.3		6.7

(\$ in millions)	Successor or Rockwood					As of March 31, 2005
	As of December 31,					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004(18)	

(As restated)

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Successor or Rockwood

Balance sheet data:

Cash and cash equivalent	\$	44.8	\$	96.5	\$	45.7	\$	41.9	\$	111.3	\$	237.1
Working capital(16)		127.5		70.7		73.2		110.6		493.0		454.7
Property, plant and equipment, net		407.5		391.2		407.0		418.6		1,566.8		1,520.8
Total assets(3)		1,537.3		1,431.0		1,425.3		1,460.7		5,399.5		5,316.8
Long-term debt(17)		993.3		954.1		982.5		1,054.4		3,333.4		3,254.6
Redeemable convertible preferred stock								30.1		34.3		35.4

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Stockholders' equity	274.4	205.2	172.9	126.1	624.0	561.8
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- (1) This column represents the sum of the financial results of Rockwood's predecessor for the period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000 and the period after the KKR acquisition (or successor period) of Rockwood from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000. Periods after the KKR acquisition reflect the effects of purchase accounting applied as a result of such acquisition. This column is not representative of what Rockwood's financial results would have been had Rockwood's predecessor been a stand-alone entity for the entire year as these periods are prepared on two different basis of accounting.
- (2) Net sales for our Performance Additives segment include net sales from our U.K. and Irish water treatment business, which we sold in December 2000, of \$13.8 million in the full year 2000 on a combined basis.
- (3) As part of our impairment testing in late 2002, 2003 and 2004, we determined that there were goodwill impairments of \$50.0 million, \$19.3 million, and \$4.0 million, respectively, in our Electronics segment. We also determined that there was a property, plant and equipment impairment of \$15.7 million and \$7.0 million in 2003 and 2004, respectively, in our Electronics segment.
- (4) Restructuring charges include certain expenses incurred in connection with severance charges and asset write-offs related to consolidations and cessations of certain of our operations. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges."
- (5) For the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2005, interest expense, net included (losses) gains of \$(11.6) million, \$(6.0) million, \$6.0 million, \$2.3 million and \$7.6 million, respectively, representing the movement in the mark-to-market valuation of our interest rate derivative instruments for the periods. In addition, interest expense, net for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2004 are mark-to-market (loss) gain of \$(10.5) million and \$0.8 million, respectively, related to cross-currency interest rate swaps entered into in connection with the July 2003 debt refinancing. Interest expense, net also includes \$8.0 million, \$6.1 million, \$7.4 million, \$0.9 million and \$2.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2005, respectively, of amortization expense related to deferred financing costs.
- (6) For the period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000, represents losses (gains) incurred as a result of intercompany derivative contracts with Laporte. For the period from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000 and subsequent periods, represents the non-cash translation impact on our euro-denominated debt resulting from the strengthening (weakening) of the euro against the U.S. dollar during the applicable periods. In the year ended December 31, 2004, this amount also included a \$10.9 million mark-to-market realized loss on foreign currency derivative agreements that we entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.
- (7) In July 2003, we wrote off \$36.9 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous long-term debt that was repaid as part of the July 2003 debt refinancing. In December 2003, we expensed \$1.4 million of investment banking and professional fees in connection with the December 2003 refinancing of borrowings under the then new senior credit facilities. In July 2004, we wrote off \$2.8 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous long-term debt that was repaid as part of the acquisition financings. In October 2004, we wrote off \$6.1 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the first amendment of the senior secured credit agreement. In November 2004, we wrote off \$17.2 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the repayment of the senior subordinated loan facility with the proceeds of the offering of the 2014 notes. In December 2004, we expensed \$1.0 million in connection with the second amendment under the senior secured credit agreement.
- (8) Represents gain from the sale of an investment purchased by Laporte in 1999 and sold in October 2000.
- (9) Represents the tax on certain assets transferred in the United Kingdom in connection with the KKR acquisition of \$4.0 million plus \$0.3 million related to disposal of property, plant and equipment.
- (10) Represents the net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders after reducing net income (loss) by the amount of accumulated and unpaid dividends and the accretion to the redemption value of the redeemable convertible preferred stock for the respective period.
- (11) See discussion of the restatement in Note 20 Restatement to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.
- (12) Net income (loss) per share is calculated by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average shares outstanding.
- (13)

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EBITDA is defined as net income plus interest expense, net, income tax provision (benefit) and depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is not a recognized term under U.S. GAAP and is not intended to be an alternative to net (loss) income as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Additionally, EBITDA is not intended to be a measure of free cash flow for management's discretionary use, as it does not consider certain cash requirements such as interest payments, tax payments and debt service requirements.

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The amounts shown for EBITDA in this prospectus differ from the amounts calculated under the definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements. The definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements permits further adjustments for certain cash and non-cash charges and gains; the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes exclude certain adjustments permitted under the senior secured credit agreement. EBITDA as adjusted is used in our debt agreements to determine compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities, such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments. In addition to covenant compliance, our management also uses EBITDA as adjusted, calculated using the same definition as used in our senior secured credit agreement, to assess our operating performance and to calculate performance-based cash bonuses and determine whether certain performance-based stock options vest, as both such bonuses and options are tied for EBITDA as adjusted targets. For discussion of the adjustments, uses and the limitations on the use of Adjusted EBITDA, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Special Note Regarding Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

The following table sets forth a reconciliation of net income (loss) to EBITDA for the periods indicated.

(\$ in millions)	Predecessor		Successor or Rockwood						
	Period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000	Period from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months Ended March 31,	
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Net income (loss)	\$ 7.7	\$ (31.8)	\$ (24.1)	\$ (54.4)	\$ (68.2)	\$ (91.7)	\$ (216.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3
Interest expense, net	45.4	10.9	56.3	107.0	108.2	112.3	162.1	25.1	57.3
Income tax provision (benefit)	9.9	(4.8)	5.1	(4.8)	(12.5)	(16.3)	32.3	5.5	24.9
Depreciation and amortization	61.6	10.6	72.2	74.7	46.3	52.4	115.2	13.8	53.2
EBITDA	124.6	(15.1)	109.5	122.5	73.8	56.7	93.5	53.3	173.7
Minority interest									(0.8)
EBITDA (before minority interest)	\$ 124.6	\$ (15.1)	\$ 109.5	\$ 122.5	\$ 73.8	\$ 56.7	\$ 93.5	\$ 53.3	\$ 172.9

(14)

EBITDA, as defined above, contains the following non-cash charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, each of which is described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Predecessor		Successor or Rockwood						
	Period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000	Period from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months Ended March 31,	
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Impairment charges	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 50.0	\$ 35.0	\$ 11.0	\$	\$
Write-off of deferred debt issuance costs						36.9	25.1		
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	2.6	16.7	19.3	(9.6)	24.6	18.5	115.5	(12.2)	(47.2)

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Predecessor		Successor or Rockwood															
\$	2.6	\$	16.7	\$	19.3	\$	(9.6)	\$	74.6	\$	90.4	\$	151.6	\$	(12.2)	\$	(47.2)

(15)

In addition to non-cash charges and gains, our EBITDA contains the following other special charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, each of which is described under

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"Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Predecessor		Successor or Rockwood						
	Period from January 1, 2000 through November 20, 2000	Period from November 21, 2000 through December 31, 2000	Year Ended December 31,					Three Months Ended March 31,	
			2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Systems/organization establishment expenses	\$	\$ 3.7	\$ 3.7	\$ 2.6	\$ 1.5	\$ 1.6	\$ 4.8	\$ 1.2	
Incentive plan expenses	9.4		9.4						
Inventory write-up reversal		8.8	8.8	9.0		0.2	61.1	2.8	
Stamp duty tax							4.0		
Business interruption costs and insurance recovery				1.3	(2.2)	(4.5)			
Costs incurred related to debt modifications						1.4	2.0		
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs	0.9		0.9	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.5	0.2	
Loss on receivables sold				1.2	1.2				
Loss from disposed businesses							0.8		
Restructuring and related charges	5.1		5.1	9.7	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.9	
Foreign exchange loss on foreign currency derivatives							10.9		
Minority interest								(0.8)	
CCA litigation defense costs								0.4	
Patent litigation expense	6.0	0.5	6.5						
Other				2.5			2.1		
	\$ 21.4	\$ 13.0	\$ 34.4	\$ 27.5	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.4	\$ 87.3	\$ 6.7	

- (16) Working capital is defined as current assets less current liabilities.
- (17) Excludes the current portion of long-term debt.
- (18) See discussion of the restatement in Note 20 Restatement to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

Dynamit Nobel Selected Financial Data

The selected financial data of Dynamit Nobel presented below for the years ended September 30, 2001 and 2002, and as of and for the three months ended December 31, 2002 and the year ended December 31, 2003 have been derived from Dynamit Nobel's audited combined financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected financial data of Dynamit Nobel presented below for the six months ended June 30, 2003 and 2004 have been derived from Dynamit Nobel's unaudited combined financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

In September 2002, Dynamit Nobel changed its fiscal year end from September 30 to December 31, which resulted in a short financial year from October 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. In the opinion of our management, the unaudited financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with the audited financial statements and include all adjustments, which are normally recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of operations for the periods presented. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year. The selected financial data presented below should be read together with Dynamit Nobel's combined financial statements and the

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notes to those statements and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Dynamit Nobel" included elsewhere in this prospectus.

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Statement of operations data:						
Net sales	\$ 1,446.5	\$ 1,421.9	\$ 336.9	\$ 1,595.9	\$ 800.0	\$ 885.5
Cost of sales	(949.5)	(914.7)	(219.3)	(1,060.0)	(524.9)	(587.0)
Gross profit	497.0	507.2	117.6	535.9	275.1	298.5
Operating expenses(a)	(286.4)	(300.9)	(84.6)	(353.2)	(171.3)	(194.3)
Operating income	210.6	206.3	33.0	182.7	103.8	104.2
Other income, net(a)	4.9	3.8	2.2	5.8	0.8	0.5
Interest expense, net	(24.2)	(22.8)	(6.9)	(25.2)	(13.6)	(14.4)
Income before taxes and other adjustments	191.3	187.3	28.3	163.3	91.0	90.3
Income tax provision	94.1	80.4	11.8	61.7	34.2	32.1
Other adjustments(1)	1.3	3.4	0.3	(0.7)	1.1	
Net income	\$ 98.5	\$ 110.3	\$ 16.8	\$ 100.9	\$ 57.9	\$ 58.2
Cash flow data:						
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 128.0	\$ 142.1	\$ 42.1	\$ 267.0	\$ 57.6	\$ (18.2)
Net cash used in investing activities(2)	(60.3)	(62.5)	(23.8)	(102.7)	(9.0)	(45.0)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities(3)	(82.3)	(95.9)	(30.9)	(196.8)	(56.6)	71.7
Exchange-rate-related change in cash and cash equivalents	8.3	15.1	10.2	33.3	6.1	(6.9)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (6.3)	\$ (1.2)	\$ (2.4)	\$ 0.8	\$ (1.9)	\$ 1.6
Other financial data:						
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 103.3	\$ 83.1	\$ 21.1	\$ 94.6	\$ 45.7	\$ 52.0
Capital expenditures	125.1	112.0	26.3	122.0	39.4	58.2
EBITDA(4)	320.1	295.8	56.6	282.7	151.7	156.7
Non-cash charges and gains included in EBITDA(5)	(2.7)	(3.4)	(1.6)	(2.4)	(6.0)	(1.1)
Other special charges and gains included in EBITDA(6)	(58.2)	(20.4)	2.6	31.8	8.3	2.7
		As of September 30,		As of December 31,		As of
		2001	2002	2002	2003	June 30,
						2004
Balance sheet data:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10.7	\$ 9.5	\$ 7.0	\$ 7.8	\$ 9.5	
Working capital deficiency(7)	(67.9)	(139.6)	(56.2)	(103.6)	(153.2)	
Property, plant and equipment	663.3	723.9	766.2	918.2	886.2	
Total assets	1,596.7	1,732.5	2,144.7	2,431.6	2,430.7	
Long-term debt(8)	137.9	94.1	201.6	231.6	203.3	
Investment by mg technologies ag	599.8	602.6	966.3	1,036.7	1,037.8	

(a) Certain amounts have been reclassified to conform to Rockwood's historical presentation.

(1) Other adjustments include earnings (loss) from discontinued operations, cumulative effects from changes in accounting principles and minority interest.

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- (2) Net cash used in investing activities primarily represents capital expenditures, net of proceeds from dispositions of businesses and fixed assets.
- (3) Net cash used in financing activities primarily represents net changes in external debt and the net change in inter-company balances with Dynamit Nobel's former parent, mg technologies ag.
- (4) EBITDA is defined as net income plus interest expense, net, income tax provision (benefit) and depreciation and amortization. Our management believes EBITDA is not a recognized term under U.S. GAAP and is not intended to be an

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alternative to net (loss) income as an indicator of operating performance or to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. Additionally, EBITDA is not intended to be a measure of free cash flow for management's discretionary use, as it does not consider certain cash requirements such as interest payments, tax payments and debt service requirements.

The amounts shown for EBITDA in this prospectus differ from the amounts calculated under the definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements. The definition of EBITDA used in our debt agreements permits further adjustments for certain cash and non-cash charges and gains; the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes exclude certain adjustments permitted under the senior secured credit agreement. EBITDA as adjusted is used in our debt agreements to determine compliance with financial covenants and our ability to engage in certain activities, such as incurring additional debt and making certain payments. In addition to covenant compliance, our management also uses EBITDA as adjusted, calculated using the same definition as used in our senior secured credit agreement, to assess our operating performance and to calculate performance-based cash bonuses and determine whether certain performance-based stock options vest, as both such bonuses and options are tied to EBITDA as adjusted targets. For a discussion of the adjustments, uses and the limitations on the use of EBITDA as adjusted, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Special Note Regarding Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

The following table presents a reconciliation of Dynamit Nobel's net income to EBITDA:

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Net income	\$ 98.5	\$ 110.3	\$ 16.8	\$ 100.9	\$ 57.9	\$ 58.2
Interest expense, net	24.2	22.8	6.9	25.2	13.6	14.4
Income tax provision	94.1	80.4	11.9	61.7	34.2	32.1
Depreciation and amortization	103.3	83.1	21.1	94.6	45.7	52.0
EBITDA	320.1	296.6	56.7	282.4	151.4	156.7
Minority interest		(0.8)	(0.1)	0.3	0.3	
EBITDA (before minority interest)	\$ 320.1	\$ 295.8	\$ 56.6	\$ 282.7	\$ 151.7	\$ 156.7

(5)

EBITDA, as defined above, contains the following non-cash charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, which are described under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations - Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Earnings from discontinued operations	\$ (1.3)	\$ (2.6)	\$ (0.2)	\$ (1.4)	\$ (1.4)	\$
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle				1.8		
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(1.4)	(0.8)	(1.4)	(2.8)	(4.6)	(1.1)
	\$ (2.7)	\$ (3.4)	\$ (1.6)	\$ (2.4)	\$ (6.0)	\$ (1.1)

(6)

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In addition to non-cash charges and gains, our EBITDA contains the following other special charges and gains for which we believe adjustment is permitted under our senior secured credit agreement, which are described on "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations Special Charges":

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Adjustment related to divested businesses	\$ (60.3)	\$ (21.8)	\$	\$ 4.6	\$ 0.5	\$
Restructuring and closure charges	2.4	3.3	2.6	14.6	2.2	0.4
Non-recurring charges	(0.3)	(1.9)		12.6	5.6	2.3
	\$ (58.2)	\$ (20.4)	\$ 2.6	\$ 31.8	\$ 8.3	\$ 2.7

(7) Working capital is defined as current assets less current liabilities.

(8) Excludes the current portion of long-term debt.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL
CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations covers periods prior and subsequent to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition consummated on July 31, 2004. We also provide a discussion of Dynamit Nobel's historical results of operations separately under "Dynamit Nobel." In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we entered into new financing arrangements and significantly altered our capital structure. The historical financial information of Rockwood during the periods prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition included in this prospectus does not reflect the significant impact the Dynamit Nobel acquisition has had and will have on us. The results of operations of Dynamit Nobel for the periods ended subsequent to July 31, 2004 are included in our condensed consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2005.

The Groupe Novasep combination was completed on December 31, 2004 and is included in our consolidated balance sheet as of that date; however, no results of operations are reflected in our income statement for the year ended December 31, 2004.

The following management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations gives effect to the restatement as described in Note 20 Restatement to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of these risks and uncertainties, including those set forth under "Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Statements." You should read the following discussion and analysis together with "Selected Financial Data," "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information" and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements and the notes to those statements and Dynamit Nobel's combined financial statements and the notes to those statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

Given the significance of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we have included a limited discussion of the results of our operations on a pro forma basis as if the Dynamit Nobel acquisition had occurred on January 1, 2004. See "Pro Forma Net Sales, Net Income (Loss) and Adjusted EBITDA" below. The results of operations on a pro forma basis also assumes the pigments and dispersions acquisition and the Groupe Novasep combination had occurred on January 1, 2004.

General

We are a global developer, manufacturer and marketer of technologically advanced, high value-added specialty chemicals and advanced materials. We serve more than 60,000 customers across a wide variety of industries and geographic areas. Since the completion of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we operate through seven business segments: (1) Performance Additives; (2) Specialty Compounds; (3) Electronics; (4) Specialty Chemicals; (5) Titanium Dioxide Pigments; (6) Advanced Ceramics; and (7) Groupe Novasep. Of these seven segments, we acquired Specialty Chemicals, Titanium Dioxide Pigments, Advanced Ceramics and Groupe Novasep (then known as Custom Synthesis) in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Our net sales consist of sales of our products, net of sales discounts, product returns and allowances. Sales are primarily made on a purchase order basis.

Our cost of products sold consists of variable and fixed components. Our variable costs are proportional to volume and consist principally of raw materials, packaging and related supplies, certain energy costs, and certain distribution costs including inbound, outbound, and internal shipping and transfer costs. Our fixed costs are not significantly impacted by production volume

and consist principally of certain fixed manufacturing costs and other distribution network costs, including warehousing. Fixed manufacturing costs comprise headcount-related costs and overhead, including depreciation, periodic maintenance costs, purchasing and receiving costs, inspection costs and certain energy costs.

Our selling, general and administrative expenses include research and development costs, sales and marketing, divisional management expenses and corporate services including cash management, legal, benefit plan administration and other administrative and professional services.

We financed the Dynamit Nobel acquisition primarily through the proceeds of equity investments of \$425.0 million from KKR and DLJMB, term loans of approximately \$1,454.2 million and a senior subordinated loan facility of approximately \$854.5 million, as described in detail under "Liquidity and Capital Resources" below. Subsequently, we refinanced significant portions of this indebtedness with indebtedness bearing lower interest rates. Nonetheless, as a result of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, our interest expense currently is, and will continue to be, higher than it was prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

We are focused on increasing sales, improving productivity, reducing costs, expanding margins and reducing debt. In connection with this focus, since the KKR acquisition, among other things:

we reduced overhead costs and eliminated management redundancies. We have begun to implement plans to cut costs, reduce overhead and eliminate duplicative positions in the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses and the acquired pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. For example, we closed the former headquarters of Dynamit Nobel in Troisdorf, Germany and the New Lebanon, New York manufacturing facility of our Advanced Ceramics segment and will implement other restructuring measures at our Specialty Chemicals and Groupe Novasep segments. In addition, we eliminated 40 positions in connection with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business. In total, we expect to achieve annual cost savings of approximately \$17.0 million, of which we have already realized approximately \$7.0 million through March 31, 2005, in connection with these and other actions;

we reduced our net working capital as a percentage of net sales by implementing more effective systems to monitor working capital, augmenting further our "just-in-time" inventory management and creating incentives for managers to focus on working capital management; and

we implemented stringent controls to help ensure that maintenance capital expenditures are appropriate and that expansion capital is in line with both capacity and market demands. In 2000, Rockwood's capital expenditures as a percentage of net sales was 6.2%; in 2003, it was 4.3%. We intend to monitor capital expenditures in all of our segments.

Factors Which Affect Our Results of Operations

Our Markets

Because the businesses in our segments generally serve many unrelated end-use markets, we discuss the principal market conditions on a segment basis rather than a consolidated basis. The principal market conditions in our segments and regions in which we operate that impacted our results of operations during the periods presented include the following:

Performance Additives

Although there was a slight improvement in 2002, global political instability and the continued economic slowdown that began in 2001 contributed to a generally soft sales environment in

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most of 2003. During 2004, a general economic improvement resulted in improved sales by our Performance Additives segment.

The continued growth in demand in certain North American end-use markets, such as construction, contributed to an increase in sales, specifically in our Color Pigments and Services and Timber Treatment Chemicals businesses. In particular, a continuing trend towards the increased use of colored concrete products in the North American construction market has had a positive effect on our Color Pigments and Services business line. Timber Treatment Chemicals also benefited from high levels of activity in home improvement areas, although growth in demand for treated wood has been impacted by the increasing use of wood substitutes and poor weather during the first quarter of 2005 in many regions.

Demand in certain European end-use markets over the last few years has slowed. This affected sales of Color Pigments and Services in the construction market, particularly in Germany, and, in certain regions, sales of Clay-based Additives in the coatings and paint markets. Demand in Europe improved in the second half of 2004 but we have experienced a decrease in volumes in our Color Pigments and Services business in early 2005.

The change in the market to environmentally advanced wood treatment chemical products, such as alkaline copper quaternary, or ACQ, and the phase out of chromated copper arsenate, or CCA, for residential use have had a positive impact on our Timber Treatment Chemicals business, which is a leading supplier of these higher margin products.

In recent years, we exited a number of lower margin product lines in our Clay-based Additives business, which negatively impacted our net sales. We are now focusing on increasing high margin specialty applications to offset these lost sales.

Raw material costs have increased in general in the Performance Additives segment in 2004 and continue to trend upward currently, particularly in the Timber Treatment Chemicals and Color Pigments and Services businesses. Increased raw material costs for copper and mono-ethanolamine, primary components in the ACQ production process, are expected to continue to increase in the near future. Our ability to pass on some or all of these increases is uncertain.

Specialty Compounds

Our largest product line in the Specialty Compounds segment is wire and cable compounds. Sales within this product line are dependent upon the telecommunications market and related sectors, specifically demand for high-end voice and data communication wire and cable, for which our Specialty Compounds segment is a significant provider of sheathing materials. A sustained downturn in the telecommunications market and related sectors caused a significant decline in the volume of our products sold during the first half of 2002. Sales of these products have been relatively stable in 2003 and the first half of 2004 with demand improving moderately in the second half of 2004 and continued to experience moderate gains in the first quarter of 2005.

Most of the other end-use markets for which Specialty Compounds' products are used generally track growth of gross domestic product and as a result, our net sales were negatively impacted during 2002 and were relatively flat in 2003 and 2004. We are focusing more of our efforts towards increasing high margin specialty applications to offset this impact, in particular, thermoplastic elastomers, and less of our efforts in regulated packaging because we have been unable to successfully penetrate this market to date.

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As a result of declining or flat sales, we significantly rationalized our cost structure in the Specialty Compounds segment through headcount reductions and other cost cutting measures.

Raw material costs have increased in the Specialty Compounds segment during 2004 and continue to trend upward in 2005. This is particularly true with respect to PVC resin and plasticizers, primary components in the production of wire and cable products. Also, the price of ammonium octamolybdate, another key raw material used in the production of wire and cable products, has increased in 2005 and we expect this trend to continue. Our ability to pass on some or all of these increases is uncertain.

Electronics

Demand for our Electronics products generally follows the activity levels of semiconductor and printed circuit board manufacturers. The global semiconductor and printed circuit board markets are cyclical in nature. These markets witnessed a sustained downturn in 2002 and most of 2003, which significantly impacted the volume of our products sold in the three business lines within our Electronics segment. Although the timing and severity of such impact generally varied among the business lines during this period, due to the unusually long duration of that downturn, volumes sold in most of our Electronics business lines (most notably our Wafer Reclaim business line and, to a lesser extent, our Photomasks and Electronic Chemicals business lines) declined through 2003. Market conditions generally improved during 2004, resulting in higher volumes in 2004 as compared to 2003. However, general electronic market conditions in the fourth quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 appear to indicate that demand for Electronics products has declined. Although the semiconductor industry is now predicting growth over 2004, we expect such growth to occur largely in Asia.

The price of certain of our products is insulated to some degree from the effect of changes in the price of semiconductors and printed circuit boards due to the fact that the cost of these products is generally a small component of the cost of the end product. Despite this, in 2004 and continuing into 2005 there has been heavy pricing pressure in certain businesses, particularly wafer reclaim and photomasks, due to very aggressive competition.

Specialty Chemicals

Demand for our Surface Treatment products of our Specialty Chemicals segment generally follows the activity levels of metal processing manufacturers, including the automotive supply, steel and aircraft industries. Overall market conditions for Surface Treatment products in the industries served improved in 2003, following a downturn in 2002 that reflected the slow world economy. During 2004, less favorable global market conditions in the automotive and aircraft industries were offset by more favorable conditions in the steel industry. Despite the less favorable automotive conditions, we have been able to sustain sales growth due to market penetration.

Demand for our lithium products in the Fine Chemical business line of our Specialty Chemicals segment is generally driven in part by demand of lithium carbonate in industrial applications, the aluminum business, battery products and higher general demand in China. Sales of lithium products specifically used in life science applications depend on the trends in drug development and growth in pharmaceuticals markets as well as generic competition. Market conditions for lithium products in the industries served have been stable in 2003 and 2004. Through the first quarter of 2005, we have experienced price increases related to a key raw material used in producing metal sulfides.

Pricing for lithium products is very competitive, particularly in the butyllithium market.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments

Demand for our titanium dioxide products in anatase form is driven mainly by demand in the synthetic fiber industry, while demand for titanium dioxide products in rutile form and our functional additives is driven by demand in the coatings, paper and plastics industries. Volumes sold of our titanium dioxide products in anatase form increased from mid-2002 through 2004. In contrast, volumes sold of our titanium dioxide products in rutile form decreased during 2002 due to continued weak global conditions and remained flat in 2003 and 2004. We have experienced a decrease in volume in our titanium dioxide business line in early 2005 due, in part, to the lower cost of cotton, which has negatively affected demand for synthetic fibers and in turn our products. In addition, a significant portion of our sales generated in Asia are denominated in euros, and the strengthening of the euro may negatively impact our net sales in this region in 2005 by either resulting in pricing pressure or loss of customers.

Although price levels of titanium dioxide products in anatase form remained relatively stable globally in 2003, we experienced pricing pressure in Europe from global suppliers and in Asia from Chinese suppliers during 2004. Although price levels of titanium products in rutile form gradually increased in 2003, we experienced pricing pressures during 2004.

Advanced Ceramics

Demand for our ceramic medical devices is mainly tied to the aging population in Europe and the U.S. As a result of this demographic as well as our market share penetration, the volume of our products used in medical device applications sold have experienced double-digit growth each year since 2001. We expect demand for ceramic components in artificial hip joints to continue to increase.

Beginning in 2003, the markets for our electronic products stabilized, although we experienced less demand as a result of the shift in the market focus to Asia. We have experienced some pricing pressure in our electronic products business in early 2005. Similarly, sales of ceramic products for use in cutting tool products and mechanical applications have been negatively impacted by strong pricing pressure from Asian competitors in 2003 and 2004. We also experienced lower market growth as these applications are for more mature industries.

Groupe Novasep

Demand for our custom synthesis chemistries and processes depends to a large extent on the pipeline and lifecycles of pharmaceutical products. The decrease of annual FDA approvals in recent years reflects the slowdown of the development of new molecules in the life-sciences industry. In addition, the average development time of a new drug has increased in recent years, despite pharmaceutical manufacturers' attempts to decrease this development period. Further, merger and acquisition activity in the pharmaceutical industry and overcapacity in the custom synthesis industry has adversely affected the demand for and prices of our products. We also expect demand to be adversely affected by the migration of certain manufacturing processes to China. This trend toward lower demand has been partially offset in recent years, however, by increased demand for pharmaceuticals caused by a growing population worldwide and an aging population in the United States.

Global Exposure

We operate a geographically diverse business. Of our 2004 pro forma net sales, 50% were shipments to Europe, 34% to North America (predominately the United States) and 16% to the rest of the world. We estimate that we sold to customers in more than 25 countries during this period. Currently, we serve our diverse and extensive customer base with 100 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries. Consequently, we are exposed to global economic and political changes, particularly currency fluctuations that could impact our profitability.

Our sales and production costs are mainly denominated in U.S. dollars or euros. Therefore, our results of operations and financial condition have been historically impacted primarily by the fluctuation of the euro against our reporting currency, the U.S. dollar. The recent strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar through the first quarter of 2005 has had a positive impact on our net sales, gross profit and operating income reported in our consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, as a result of our euro-denominated operations being translated into U.S. dollars, but has had a negative impact on the "foreign exchange gain (loss)" component of "other (expenses) income" as a result of our euro-denominated debt being translated into U.S. dollars. A weakening of the euro against the U.S. dollar would have had the opposite effect. Historically, however, our pro forma operating margins have not been significantly impacted by currency fluctuations because, in general, sales and costs of products sold are generated or incurred in the same currency, subject to certain exceptions, particularly in our Groupe Novasep segment.

Raw Materials

Raw materials constituted approximately 48% of our 2004 pro forma cost of products sold. We have a broad raw material base, with the cost of no single raw material representing more than 5% of our pro forma cost of products sold in 2004. Nonetheless, the significant price fluctuations our raw materials have experienced in the past during periods of high demand have had an adverse impact on our results of operations business. We cannot accurately predict the impact of any future price increases for raw materials or any raw material shortages on our business as a whole or in specific geographic regions. In addition, we may not be able to pass on raw material price increases to our customers.

Energy Costs

In 2004, energy purchases represented approximately 4% of Rockwood's historical cost of products sold and 5% of Dynamit Nobel's historical cost of products sold. However, within certain business lines, such as our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment and the Color Pigments and Services and Clay-based Additives businesses of our Performance Additives segment, energy costs are more significant. The cost of products sold for certain of our businesses, including Color Pigments and Services and Clay-based Additives, increases when the price of natural gas in North America rises. In 2004, natural gas prices were volatile in North America and have been increasing in the first quarter of 2005. Energy cost increases have been mainly due to global political conditions and extreme weather conditions. In contrast, natural gas prices in Europe, where our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment is located, have historically been relatively stable.

Income Taxes

As of March 31, 2005, we have global tax loss carryforwards (excluding state and local amounts) of approximately \$398.9 million, of which \$189.8 million expire in years 2005 through 2025 and \$209.1 million have no current expiration date. For financial reporting purposes, a valuation allowance has been recognized to reduce the deferred tax assets related to certain tax

loss carryforwards for which it is more likely than not that the related tax benefits will not be realized. Our net deferred tax assets include certain amounts of tax loss carryforwards as well as certain tax deductible temporary differences which we believe are realizable through a combination of future taxable income, reversal of deferred tax liabilities and anticipated tax planning strategies. Failure to achieve future taxable income might affect the ultimate realization of any remaining recorded net deferred tax assets. In addition, a significant issuance of our common stock or a significant shift in ownership of our currently outstanding common stock may result in an ownership change under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that may subject our federal net operating loss carryforwards to an annual usage limitation, which could limit our ability to use our federal net operating loss carryforwards to offset our post-ownership-change taxable income.

Acquisitions

Since February 2002, pursuant to our business strategy of achieving profitable growth through selective acquisitions, we have acquired seven businesses at purchase prices ranging from approximately \$3.0 million (a Canadian color pigments asset acquisition by our Performance Additives segment) to \$2,274.0 million (the four businesses of Dynamit Nobel); and combined the three business lines of our Custom Synthesis segment (now known as our Groupe Novasep segment) with the businesses of Groupe Novasep SAS.

We accounted for the Dynamit Nobel acquisition using the purchase method of accounting. We have allocated the estimated total purchase price to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed of Dynamit Nobel based on management's estimates of their fair values. We retained independent valuation specialists to assist in the determination of fair value of a significant portion of these assets, including property, plant and equipment and identified intangible assets. The consolidated statements of operations for the year ended December 31, 2004 and three months ended March 31, 2005 reflect the results of operations of the Dynamit Nobel businesses since July 31, 2004. See notes 2, 6 and 7 to our audited consolidated financial statements for additional information.

The allocation of the purchase price of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition to the identifiable assets acquired is complete, except that the purchase price is subject to possible post-closing adjustments, including adjustments related to Closing Net Financial Debt and Closing Working Capital (as each term is defined in the Sale and Purchase Agreement dated April 19, 2004). mg technologies ag has notified us of several adjustments which would result in our paying an additional €31.5 million (\$40.9 million based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996); however, we have notified mg technologies ag of counterclaims in the aggregate of €34.7 million (\$45.1 million). On June 20, 2005 we tentatively agreed to settle these post-closing adjustments with mg technologies by paying mg technologies €13.5 million (\$16.6 million). We expect to finalize a formal settlement agreement in the third quarter of 2005. The recorded amount of goodwill, net of tax, as applicable, will change based on this tentative settlement. The excess of the total purchase price over the fair value of the net assets acquired at closing has been allocated to goodwill and this indefinite-lived asset is subject to annual impairment review. Goodwill in the transaction totaled \$931.6 million at March 31, 2005.

In September 2004, one of our subsidiaries acquired the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. and in connection therewith borrowed €41.9 million (or \$50.4 million based on the September 27, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2029) under a term loan of the senior secured credit facilities.

In December 2004, we completed a combination of the three business lines of our Custom Synthesis segment (now known as our Groupe Novasep segment) with Groupe Novasep SAS. Pursuant to this transaction, one of our subsidiaries acquired 69.4% of the stock of Groupe

Novasep SAS from outside investors and Groupe Novasep SAS management for a total purchase price of approximately \$139.7 million, including assumed debt of \$48.6 million; cash acquired of \$14.6 million and the exchange of the remaining 30.6% of the stock of Groupe Novasep SAS for stock in our acquiring subsidiary, valued at \$31.2 million. As a result of the combination, we own approximately 79% of the combined new Groupe Novasep. We believe this combination strengthens this segment by joining together Groupe Novasep SAS' proprietary separation technologies with our capabilities of developing and manufacturing advanced intermediates and active ingredients for the pharmaceutical and performance chemical industries, which we expect will position us better in this highly competitive market.

We accounted for the Groupe Novasep combination using the purchase method of accounting. We have not finalized the estimated fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed other than inventory, identified intangible assets, and property, plant and equipment. We expect to complete our research and fair value estimates on remaining purchase price components by the third quarter of 2005. Based on the preliminary allocation of the total estimated purchase price, goodwill in the transaction totaled \$33.8 million at the combination date. We expect this amount will change at a subsequent date when we finalize the purchase accounting for the Groupe Novasep combination.

Special Charges

During the periods presented, we have incurred certain special charges, substantially in connection with the process of refocusing and restructuring the historic Rockwood businesses after the completion of the KKR acquisition and the establishment of the post-acquisition corporate entity that incorporates the four business segments acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. These items include the following:

Non-recurring charges/gains:

Systems/organization establishment expenses: These expenses include:

costs of \$1.6 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.3 million in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, that arose in connection with the KKR acquisition and our resulting organization as a stand-alone company and expenses primarily relating to the amortization of sign-on compensation arrangements for key executives;

costs of \$2.1 million and \$0.3 million incurred during 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, respectively, primarily relating to the integration of the business acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. We expect to incur additional integration costs in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2005;

professional fees of \$1.9 million and \$0.9 million incurred during 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, respectively, in connection with the initial implementation of systems and internal control documentation in connection with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have previously estimated additional non-recurring costs of approximately \$2.6 million to complete initial Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. However, this estimate was prepared based on our original compliance timetable of the year ending December 31, 2005. Given the recent extension of the compliance deadline until the year ended December 31, 2006, and the expectations articulated in SEC Release 33-8545 that announced this extension, we are reevaluating the scope and estimated cost of our documentation and initial compliance plan; and

additional expenses of \$0.5 million within the business segments during 2004.

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Inventory write-up reversal: Under Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 141, *Business Combinations*, all inventories acquired in an acquisition must be revalued to "fair value."

In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we allocated approximately \$55.4 million of the total purchase price to inventory to reflect manufacturing profit in inventory at the date of the acquisition. This resulted in a consequential reduction in gross profit, including currency effects, of \$60.1 million during 2004, as the inventory was sold in the normal course of business.

In connection with the pigments and dispersions acquisition in our Performance Additives segment, we have also included for 2004 the \$1.0 million impact from the reversal of inventory step-ups.

In connection with the Groupe Novasep combination, we allocated approximately \$3.3 million of the total purchase price to inventory to reflect manufacturing profit in inventory at the date of the combination. This resulted in a consequential reduction in gross profit, including currency effects, of \$2.8 million during the first quarter of 2005, as the inventory was sold in the normal course of business. We expect the remaining \$0.5 million to be charged to gross profit during the second quarter of 2005.

Stamp duty tax: In June 2004, we paid a stamp duty tax of \$4.0 million on certain assets transferred in the United Kingdom in connection with the KKR acquisition.

Business interruption costs and insurance recovery: We recorded gains in 2002 and 2003 for fire insurance settlements received in connection with fire related costs in our Electronics segment incurred in 2001.

Costs incurred related to debt modifications: In December 2003, we expensed \$1.4 million in connection with a modification of our then senior credit agreement resulting in a 75 basis point interest rate reduction on \$290.0 million of our senior debt. In July 2004, we expensed \$1.0 million related to debt refinancing. In December 2004, we expensed \$1.0 million related to the second amendment of the senior secured credit agreement resulting in a 25 basis point interest rate reduction on our tranche D term loans.

Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs: We incurred cancelled acquisition and disposition costs in connection with non-consummated acquisitions and dispositions.

Non-cash charges:

Impairment charges: As part of our annual impairment testing, we determined that there were asset impairments in certain businesses within our Electronics segment. These impairments resulted from a significant decline in earnings and operating cash flows, both historical and prospective, based on global economic conditions common to significant competitors, including overcapacity, as well as the erosion of the Electronics segment's business lines' relative competitive position due to continued industry concentration and resulting pricing pressure. Accordingly, we recorded non-cash asset impairment charges to goodwill of \$50.0 million, \$19.3 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Also, we recorded non-cash impairment charges to property, plant and equipment of \$15.7 million and \$7.0 million in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

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Deferred debt issuance costs:

In July 2003, we wrote off \$36.9 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous long-term debt that was repaid as part of the July 2003 debt refinancing.

In July 2004, we wrote off \$1.8 million of deferred debt issuance costs relating to our previous long-term debt that was repaid as part of the acquisition financings.

In October 2004, we wrote off \$6.1 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the first amendment of the senior secured credit agreement.

In November 2004, we wrote off \$17.2 million of deferred financing costs in connection with the repayment of the senior subordinated loan facility with the proceeds of the offering of the 2014 notes.

Foreign exchange (loss)/gain: During all periods presented, we have recorded foreign exchange losses and gains related to our long-term debt. These amounts reflect \$115.5 million in losses during 2004 and \$12.2 million and \$47.2 million in gains during the three months ended March 31, 2004 and 2005, respectively, for the non-cash translation impact on our euro-denominated debt resulting from the strengthening and weakening, as applicable, of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

Losses on asset sales:

Loss on receivables sold: During 2002, we entered into two receivables sales agreements for which losses were recorded in accordance with SFAS No. 140 *Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities*. We did not enter into such transactions during 2003 or 2004.

Loss on disposed business: During 2004, we incurred a loss of \$0.8 million in connection with the disposition of a business in our Groupe Novasep segment.

Restructuring charges: A net charge of \$1.2 million was recorded in 2002 to reflect the difference between estimated and actual costs of the 2001 restructuring programs. Additional restructuring charges of \$1.8 million and \$1.1 million were recorded in 2003 and 2004, respectively, for miscellaneous restructuring activities.

Expenses paid in connection with the Dynamit Nobel Acquisition: We incurred foreign exchange losses of \$10.9 million on foreign currency derivative agreements that we entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

CCA litigation defense costs: During the three months ended March 31, 2005, we incurred \$0.4 million in connection with litigation defense costs related to our Timber Treatment Chemicals business of our Performance Additives segment.

In addition, Dynamit Nobel incurred special charges during the periods presented prior to July 1, 2004, largely in connection with implementing certain business portfolio changes in an effort to streamline and strengthen its core assets, including the divestiture of its traditional low-growth explosives business, and to concentrate a greater proportion of its resources on higher growth life science applications. Other related portfolio changes were implemented, including the closure of certain operations within the Advanced Ceramics segment and the sale of certain non-core businesses within the Specialty Chemicals segment. In addition, Dynamit Nobel performed certain restructuring actions that resulted in the closure of certain operations and headcount reductions. These actions resulted in a number of charges and gains that are non-recurring that significantly affected Dynamit Nobel's historical results. Dynamit Nobel also incurred non-recurring charges related to certain events deemed not to be part of the ongoing business. These non-recurring

charges related to discretionary bonus payments made to employees in the Specialty Chemicals segment; two discrete technical production incidents in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment; and non-recurring losses in connection with a contract that was subsequently cancelled in the Advanced Ceramics segment. Finally, Dynamit Nobel incurred certain non-cash charges related to plant capacity issues in the Groupe Novasep segment and net foreign exchange gains in the Specialty Chemicals segment related to an intercompany loan.

Special Note Regarding Non-GAAP Financial Measures

A non-GAAP financial measure is generally defined by the SEC as one that purports to measure historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flows but excludes or includes amounts that would not be so adjusted in the most comparable U.S. GAAP measure. From time to time in this management's discussion and analysis, we disclose non-GAAP financial measures, primarily Adjusted EBITDA, as defined below.

Definition of Adjusted EBITDA

All presentations of consolidated Adjusted EBITDA contained in this prospectus are calculated using the definition set forth in the senior secured credit agreement. Adjusted EBITDA, which is referred to under the senior secured credit agreement as "Consolidated EBITDA," is defined in the senior secured credit agreement as consolidated earnings (which, as defined in the senior secured credit agreement, equals income (loss) before the deduction of income taxes of Rockwood Specialties Group, Inc. and the Restricted Subsidiaries (as such term is defined in the senior secured credit agreement), excluding extraordinary items) plus:

interest expense;

depreciation expense;

amortization expense, including amortization of deferred financing fees;

extraordinary losses and non-recurring charges;

non-cash charges;

losses on asset sales;

restructuring charges or reserves (including severance, relocation costs and one-time compensation charges and costs relating to the closure of facilities);

expenses paid by us or any of our subsidiaries in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the senior secured credit agreement, the granting of liens under the security documents (as such term is defined in the senior secured credit agreement), the indenture governing the 2014 notes and the offering of the 2014 notes and any other related transactions;

any expenses or charges incurred in connection with any issuance of debt or equity securities;

any fees and expenses related to permitted acquisitions;

any deduction for minority interest expense; and

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items arising in connection with litigation related to our Timber Treatment Chemicals business of our Performance Additives segment;

less:

extraordinary gains and non-recurring gains;

non-cash gains; and

gains on asset sales,

in all cases, subject to certain exclusions.

With respect to entities acquired, we include Adjusted EBITDA for such entities in calculating our pro forma Adjusted EBITDA. The adjustments made to the income from continuing operations before income taxes and extraordinary items of such entities directly correlate to the adjustments to net income in calculating Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated basis pursuant to the senior secured credit agreement.

Management's Uses

We use Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated basis to assess our operating performance. We believe this financial measure on a consolidated basis is helpful in highlighting trends in our overall business because the items excluded in calculating Adjusted EBITDA have little or no bearing on our day-to-day operating performance. It is also the most significant criterion in our calculation of performance-based cash bonuses and our determination of whether certain performance-based stock options vest, both of which are tied to Adjusted EBITDA targets.

We also use Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated basis as a liquidity measure. We believe this financial measure on a consolidated basis is important in analyzing our liquidity because our senior secured credit agreement and indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes contain financial covenants that are determined based on Adjusted EBITDA. These covenants are material terms of these agreements, which are material because they govern substantially all of our long-term debt, which in turn represents a substantial portion of our capitalization. Non-compliance with these financial covenants under our senior secured credit facilities our maximum total leverage ratio and our minimum interest coverage ratio, in particular could result in the lenders requiring us to immediately repay all amounts borrowed. Any such acceleration could also lead to the noteholders accelerating the maturity of the 2011 notes and the 2014 notes. In addition, if we cannot satisfy these financial covenants in the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes, we cannot engage in certain activities, such as incurring additional indebtedness or making certain payments. Consequently, Adjusted EBITDA is critical to our assessment of our liquidity.

We also use Adjusted EBITDA on a segment basis as the primary measure used by our chief decision maker to evaluate the ongoing performance of our business segments and reporting units. On a segment basis, we define Adjusted EBITDA as operating income excluding depreciation and amortization, certain non-cash gains and charges, certain other special gains and charges determined by our senior management to be non-recurring gains and charges and certain items deemed by our senior management to have little or no bearing on the day-to-day operating performance of our business segments and reporting units. The adjustments made to operating income directly correlate with the adjustments to net income in calculating Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated basis pursuant to the senior secured credit agreement.

Limitations

Adjusted EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and should not be viewed in isolation and is not a substitute for U.S. GAAP measures of earnings and cash flows. Material limitations associated with making the adjustments to our earnings and cash flows to calculate Adjusted EBITDA, and using this non-GAAP financial measure as compared to the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP financial measures, include:

the cash portion of interest expense, net, income tax (benefit) provision, and restructuring as well as non-recurring charges related to securities issuance, acquisition activities, and

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systems/organization establishment, generally represent charges (gains) which may significantly affect funds available to use in our operating, investing and financing activities;

non-operating foreign exchange gains (losses), although not immediately affecting cash used in investing activities, may affect the amount of funds needed to service our debt if those currency impacts remain in place as we meet our future principal repayment obligations; and

depreciation, amortization, non-cash (gains) charges and impairment charges, though not directly affecting our current cash position, represent the wear and tear and/or reduction in value of the plant, equipment and intangible assets which permit us to manufacture and/or market our products; these items may be indicative of future needs for capital expenditures, for development or acquisition of intangible assets or relevant trends causing asset value changes.

An investor or potential investor may find any one or all of these items important in evaluating our performance, results of operations, financial position and liquidity. Management compensates for the limitations of using non-GAAP financial measures by using them only to supplement our U.S. GAAP results to provide a more complete understanding of the factors and trends affecting our business.

Adjusted EBITDA is not an alternative to net (loss) income or operating income or cash flows from operating activities as calculated and presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You should not rely on Adjusted EBITDA as a substitute for any such U.S. GAAP financial measures. We strongly urge you to review the reconciliations of Adjusted EBITDA to GAAP financial measures and other financial information, in each case included elsewhere in this prospectus. We also strongly urge you not to rely on any single financial measure to evaluate our business.

Results of Operations**Actual Results of Operations**

The following table presents the major components of our operations on an actual basis and Adjusted EBITDA (the reconciliation to net loss is set forth in "Reconciliation of Net Income to Adjusted EBITDA"), including as a percentage of net sales, for the periods presented. See note 3 to our and Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements and unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for segment information and reconciliation to consolidated net income.

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Net sales:					
Performance Additives	\$ 443.8	\$ 477.3	\$ 630.9	\$ 139.1	\$ 159.5
Specialty Compounds	168.8	176.4	200.4	47.9	58.1
Electronics	147.3	143.6	168.1	40.4	42.8
Specialty Chemicals			321.1		220.0
Titanium Dioxide Pigments			175.7		104.5
Advanced Ceramics			146.3		91.9
Groupe Novasep			101.0		92.9
Total net sales	759.9	797.3	1,743.5	227.4	769.7
Gross profit	217.4	215.9	475.9	62.4	225.6
	28.6%	27.1%	27.3%	27.4%	29.3%
Selling, general and administrative expenses	112.9	118.0	327.7	35.1	150.2
	14.9%	14.8%	18.8%	15.4%	19.5%
Impairment charges	50.0	35.0	11.0		
Restructuring charges	1.2	1.8	1.1		2.9
Operating income (loss):					
Performance Additives	81.7	84.1	115.4	24.9	23.0
	18.4%	17.6%	18.3%	17.9%	14.4%
Specialty Compounds	19.2	16.1	20.7	5.4	5.9
	11.4%	9.1%	10.3%	11.3%	10.2%
Electronics	(29.7)	(24.8)	(3.2)	1.6	0.7
	(20.2%)	(17.3%)	(1.9%)	4.0%	1.6%
Specialty Chemicals			16.3		30.8
			5.1%		14.0%
Titanium Dioxide Pigments			16.0		11.7
			9.1%		11.2%
Advanced Ceramics			2.8		13.9
			1.9%		15.1%
Groupe Novasep			4.8		(1.5)
			4.8%		(1.6%)
Corporate costs	(17.9)	(14.3)	(36.7)	(4.6)	(12.0)
Total	53.3	61.1	136.1	27.3	72.5
Other (expenses) income:					
Interest expense, net	(108.2)	(112.3)	(162.1)	(25.1)	(57.3)
Foreign exchange (loss) gain, net	(24.6)	(18.5)	(126.4)	12.2	47.2
Refinance expenses		(38.3)	(27.1)		
Other, net	(1.2)		(4.3)		
Loss before taxes	(80.7)	(108.0)	(183.8)	14.4	62.4
Income tax (benefit) provision	(12.5)	(16.3)	32.3	5.5	24.9
Net income (loss) before minority interest	(68.2)	(91.7)	(216.1)	8.9	37.5
Minority interest					(0.8)

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	Three Months Ended				
	March 31,				
Net (loss) income	\$ (68.2)	\$ (91.7)	\$ (216.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ 38.3
Adjusted EBITDA:					
Performance Additives	\$ 106.4	\$ 112.5	\$ 149.2	\$ 32.1	\$ 34.2
	24.0%	23.6%	23.6%	23.1%	21.4%
Specialty Compounds	26.0	23.9	28.8	6.8	7.3
	15.4%	13.5%	14.4%	14.2%	12.6%
Electronics	33.4	24.8	28.9	6.6	5.8
	22.7%	17.3%	17.2%	16.3%	13.6%
Specialty Chemicals			60.0		43.0
			18.7%		19.5%
Titanium Dioxide Pigments			37.8		20.9
			21.5%		20.0%
Advanced Ceramics			35.8		21.4
			24.5%		23.3%
Groupe Novasep			23.0		10.2
			22.8%		11.0%
Corporate costs	(15.4)	(11.7)	(31.1)	(4.4)	(9.6)
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 150.4	\$ 149.5	\$ 332.4	\$ 41.1	\$ 133.2

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The following tables present the changes in the major components of our operations on a historical basis in dollars and percentages.

(\$ in millions)	Change: 2002 vs. 2003					Change: 2003 vs. 2004				
	Total Change in \$	Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Acquisitions & Divestitures, Net	Organic	Total Change in \$	Total Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Acquisitions & Divestitures, Net	Organic
Net sales:										
Performance Additives	\$ 33.5	7.5%	\$ 16.2	\$ 9.7	\$ 7.6	\$ 153.6	32.2%	\$ 14.6	\$ 32.4	\$ 106.6
Specialty Compounds	7.6	4.5	5.8		1.8	24.0	13.6	6.1		17.9
Electronics	(3.7)	(2.5)	6.6		(10.3)	24.5	17.1	7.3	2.7	14.5
Specialty Chemicals						321.1			321.1	
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments						175.7			175.7	
Advanced Ceramics						146.3			146.3	
Groupe Novasep						101.0			101.0	
Total net sales	37.4	4.9	28.6	9.7	(0.9)	946.2	118.7	28.0	779.2	139.0
Gross profit	(1.5)	(0.7)	5.3	3.7	(10.5)	260.0	120.4	4.5	208.7	46.8
Selling, general and administrative expenses	5.1	4.5	4.4	1.7	(1.0)	209.7	177.7	5.6	181.0	23.1
Impairment charges	(15.0)				(15.0)	(24.0)				(24.0)
Restructuring charges	0.6				0.6	(0.7)				(0.7)
Operating income (loss):										
Performance Additives	2.4	2.9	1.1	2.0	(0.7)	31.3	37.2	1.0	(0.6)	30.9
Specialty Compounds	(3.1)	(16.1)	(0.3)		(2.8)	4.6	28.6	0.3		4.3
Electronics	4.9	(16.5)	0.2		4.7	21.6	87.1	(1.8)	(5.6)	29.0
Specialty Chemicals						16.3			16.3	
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments						16.0			16.0	
Advanced Ceramics						2.8			2.8	
Groupe Novasep						4.8			4.8	
Corporate costs	3.6	(20.1)	(0.1)		3.7	(22.4)	156.6	(0.6)	(6.0)	(15.8)
Total operating income	7.8	14.6	0.9	2.0	4.9	75.0	122.8	(1.1)	27.7	48.4
Other (expenses) income:										
Interest expense, net	(4.1)	(3.9)	(2.0)		(2.1)	(49.8)	44.3	(1.7)	(7.3)	(40.8)
Foreign exchange (loss) gain, net	6.1					(107.9)				
Refinancing expenses	(38.3)					11.2				
Other, net	1.2					(4.3)				
Loss before taxes	(27.3)					(75.8)				
Income tax (benefit) provision	(3.8)					48.6				
Net (loss) income:										
Performance Additives	2.8					40.1				
Specialty Compounds	(5.3)					(4.6)				
Electronics	10.1					20.7				
Specialty Chemicals						(24.5)				
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments						(4.2)				
Advanced Ceramics						(22.0)				
Groupe Novasep						(18.6)				
Corporate costs	(31.1)					(111.3)				
Total net loss	\$ (23.5)					\$ (124.4)				

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Change: 2002 vs. 2003

Change: 2003 vs. 2004

	Change: 2002 vs. 2003				Change: 2003 vs. 2004					
Adjusted EBITDA:										
Performance Additives	\$ 6.1	5.7%	\$ 3.4	2.2	\$ 0.5	36.7	32.6%	\$ 2.8	0.7	33.2
Specialty Compounds	(2.1)	(8.1)	0.9		(3.0)	4.9	20.5	0.7		4.2
Electronics	(8.6)	(25.7)	1.1		(9.7)	4.1	16.5	(0.4)	(1.4)	5.9
Specialty Chemicals						60.0			60.0	
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments						37.8				37.8
Advanced Ceramics						35.8				35.8
Groupe Novasep						23.0				23.0
Corporate costs	3.7	(24.0)	(0.1)		3.8	(19.4)	165.8	(0.7)	(6.4)	(12.3)
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ (0.9)	(0.6)%	\$ 5.3	2.2	\$ (8.4)	182.9	122.3%	\$ 2.4	149.5	\$ 31.0

(1) The foreign exchange effect was calculated based on the change in the euro to U.S. dollar exchange rate for the applicable period.

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Change: Three Months Ended March 31, 2004 vs. March 31, 2005

(\$ in millions)	Total Change in \$	Total Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Acquisitions & Divestitures, Net	Organic
Net sales:					
Performance Additives	\$ 20.4	14.7%	\$ 2.0	\$ 16.3	\$ 2.1
Specialty Compounds	10.2	21.3	0.7		9.5
Electronics	2.4	5.9	1.3		1.1
Specialty Chemicals	220.0			220.0	
Pigments	104.5			104.5	
Advanced Ceramics	91.9			91.9	
Groupe Novasep	92.9			92.9	
Total net sales	542.3	238.5	4.0	525.6	12.7
Gross profit	163.2	261.5	0.9	160.7	1.6
Selling, general and administrative expenses	115.0	326.7	0.8	108.7	5.5
Restructuring charges	2.9			0.5	2.4
Operating income (loss):					
Performance Additives	(1.9)	(7.6)	0.3	1.3	(3.5)
Specialty Compounds	0.5	9.3	0.1		0.4
Electronics	(0.9)	(56.3)	(0.2)		(0.7)
Specialty Chemicals	30.8			30.8	
Pigments	11.7			11.7	
Advanced Ceramics	13.9			13.9	
Groupe Novasep	(1.5)			(1.5)	
Corporate costs and eliminations	(7.4)	160.9			(7.4)
Total operating income (loss)	45.2	165.6	0.2	56.2	(11.2)
Other (expenses) income:					
Interest expense, net	(32.2)	128.3	0.4	(6.0)	(26.6)
Foreign exchange gain, net	35.0				35.0
Refinancing expenses					
Stamp duty tax					
Income before taxes	48.0				
Income tax provision	19.4				
Net income before minority interest	28.6				
Minority interest	0.8				
Net income (loss):					
Performance Additives	0.4				
Specialty Compounds	1.6				
Electronics	(0.1)				
Specialty Chemicals	6.9				
Pigments	1.9				
Advanced Ceramics	2.8				
Groupe Novasep	(3.1)				
Corporate costs and eliminations	19.0				
Total net income	\$ 29.4				
Adjusted EBITDA:					
Performance Additives	\$ 2.1	6.5%	\$ 0.5	\$ 2.2	\$ (0.6)

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Change: Three Months Ended March 31, 2004 vs. March 31, 2005

Specialty Compounds	0.5	7.4	0.1	0.4
Electronics	(0.8)	(12.1)	(0.1)	(0.7)
Specialty Chemicals	43.0			43.0
Pigments	20.9			20.9
Advanced Ceramics	21.4			21.4
Groupe Novasep	10.2			10.2
Corporate costs and eliminations	(5.2)	118.2		(5.2)
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 92.1	224.1%	\$ 0.5	\$ 97.7
				\$ (6.1)

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Three months ended March 31, 2005 compared to three months ended March 31, 2004

Overview

Net sales increased \$542.3 million primarily as a result of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition (\$479.2 million) as well as other 2004 acquisitions consummated after the first quarter of 2004 (\$46.4 million). Net sales also increased by \$4.0 million due to currency changes. The remaining sales improvement of \$12.7 million, or 5.6%, was primarily in the Performance Additives and the Specialty Compounds segments (aggregating \$11.6 million) due to the impact of higher selling prices (\$6.7 million) to offset higher raw material costs, and volume increases in the Specialty Compounds segment.

Gross profit increased \$163.2 million primarily as a result of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition as well as other 2004 acquisitions (\$160.7 million). Gross profit increased by \$0.9 million due to currency changes. The remaining improvement was due to sales increases offset by raw material cost increases.

Operating income increased \$45.2 million with \$56.2 million due to acquisitions and \$0.2 million due to currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$11.2 million was due to special charges aggregating \$4.7 million and higher central costs to operate the significantly larger business due to the acquisitions and higher amortization expense from purchase accounting.

Net income increased \$29.4 million due to the reasons noted above in operating income and a favorable change in foreign exchange gains offset by higher interest expense.

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$92.1 million due to the effect of acquisitions (\$97.7 million) offset primarily by higher corporate costs (\$5.2 million).

Net sales

Performance Additives. Net sales for our Performance Additives segment increased \$20.4 million over the prior period primarily due to acquisitions (\$16.3 million). Net sales also increased by \$2.0 million due to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$2.1 million, or 1.5%, was due to the impact of higher selling prices to offset higher raw material costs.

Specialty Compounds. Net sales for our Specialty Compounds segment increased \$10.2 million, or 21.3%, over the prior period including the impact of higher selling prices (\$4.3 million) to offset higher raw material costs. The remaining increase was primarily due to stronger sales volume in our wire and cable compounds business.

Electronics. Net sales for our Electronics segment increased \$2.4 million over the prior year period with \$1.3 million due to currency changes. Despite \$0.8 million of price declines from continued pricing pressures in the wafer reclaim business, a remaining increase of \$1.1 million, or 2.7%, occurred due to increases in sales volumes.

Gross profit

Gross profit increased \$163.2 million primarily due to acquisitions (\$160.7 million). Gross profit increased by \$0.9 million due to currency changes. The remaining net decline in gross profit occurred as the remaining sales improvement above was offset primarily by higher raw material costs of \$8.3 million (\$4.7 million in the Specialty Compounds segment due to PVC resin and ammonium octamolybdate cost increases, \$3.5 million in the Performance Additives segment due to higher copper costs in the Timber Treatment Chemicals business and higher costs in the Color Pigments and Services business and \$0.1 million in the Electronics business) as well as by higher manufacturing costs.

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Gross profit as a percentage of net sales was 29.3% in the first quarter of 2005 versus 27.4% in the first quarter of 2004 due to the inclusion of the Dynamit Nobel businesses which have a higher average gross margin percentage than the historical Rockwood businesses (offset by higher selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales in the Dynamit Nobel businesses versus the historical Rockwood businesses), and offset in part by the impact of the higher raw material costs.

Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses, or SG&A, increased \$115.0 million primarily due to the acquisitions (\$108.7 million), as well as \$0.8 million due to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$5.5 million was due primarily to special charges, aggregating \$1.8 million, primarily related to the integration of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and costs for initial compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley as well as \$7.3 million of higher central costs to operate the significantly larger business resulting from the acquisitions.

SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales were 19.5% in the first quarter of 2005 as compared to 15.5% for the first quarter of 2004, primarily due to the inclusion of the Dynamit Nobel businesses which have higher weighted average SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales than the historical Rockwood businesses.

Restructuring charges

We recorded \$2.9 million of restructuring charges in the first quarter of 2005 for miscellaneous restructuring actions, primarily in the Performance Additives segment including the announced closure of our Baulking, United Kingdom facility in the Clay-based Additives business.

Operating income

Performance Additives. Operating income decreased \$1.9 million despite the \$1.3 million favorable impact of acquisitions due to \$2.4 million of restructuring charges with the balance primarily due to the higher raw material costs described above.

Specialty Compounds. Operating income increased \$0.5 million primarily due to the increase in net sales partially offset by the higher PVC and AOM raw material costs discussed above.

Electronics. Operating income decreased \$0.9 million primarily due to the pricing pressures in the wafer reclaim business.

Corporate. Operating loss at Corporate increased \$7.4 million primarily due to the special charges and higher central costs discussed in "Selling, general and administrative expenses" above.

Other income (expenses)

Interest expense, net. For the first quarter of 2005 and 2004, interest expense, net, increased \$32.2 million. The first quarter of 2005 and 2004 included a gain of \$7.6 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, representing the movement in the mark-to-market valuation of our interest rate and cross currency hedging instruments as well as \$2.9 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, of amortization expense related to deferred financing costs. The remaining increase of \$34.9 million was primarily due to higher debt levels from the acquisitions.

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Foreign exchange gain. In the first quarter of 2005, the foreign exchange gains increased by \$35.0 million reflecting the non-cash currency impact on our euro-denominated debt due to the weaker euro as of March 31, 2005 versus December 31, 2004.

Provision for income taxes

The effective income tax rate for the first quarter of 2005 and 2004 was 39.9% and 38.2%, respectively. The effective tax rate in the first quarter of 2005 was favorably impacted by the reversal of \$4.9 million of valuation allowances related to U.S. federal income generated. The effective tax rate in both periods was impacted by the recording of valuation allowances in certain other jurisdictions as well as the impact of foreign tax rate differentials.

Minority interest

Minority interest income represents the minority interest portion of the Groupe Novasep segment net loss in the first quarter of 2005.

Net income

Net income for the first quarter of 2005 was \$38.3 million as compared to net income of \$8.9 million for the first quarter of 2004 for the reasons described above.

Adjusted EBITDA

Performance Additives. Adjusted EBITDA for our Performance Additives segment increased from \$32.1 million to \$34.2 million, or 6.5%, primarily due to a \$2.2 million impact from acquisitions and \$0.5 million from currency changes.

Specialty Compounds. Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Compounds segment increased from \$6.8 million to \$7.3 million, or 7.4%, primarily due to stronger wire and cable volume. Higher raw material prices, partially offset by higher selling prices described above, negatively impacted Adjusted EBITDA.

Electronics. Adjusted EBITDA for our Electronics segment decreased from \$6.6 million to \$5.8 million, or (12.1%), primarily due to \$0.8 million in selling price decreases.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA loss at Corporate increased from \$4.4 million to \$9.6 million due to higher central costs to operate the significantly larger business due to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Year ended December 31, 2004 compared to year ended December 31, 2003

Overview

Net sales increased \$946.2 million, or 118.7%, as a result of the inclusion of five months of operations for the segments acquired as part of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition (\$744.1 million), other acquisitions and favorable currency changes. The sales improvement was also a result of the strong performance of the Performance Additives segment largely stemming from higher North American sales of ACQ products versus CCA products as a result of the ACQ conversion. Specialty Compounds also had solid net sales growth primarily due to wire and cable sales volume increases. The Electronics segment experienced double-digit net sales percentage growth, primarily due to the general recovery in the Electronics sector, as well as the effects of favorable currency effects and acquisitions.

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We also experienced solid operating income and Adjusted EBITDA growth as well for 2004 as compared to 2003 primarily due to the net sales growth described above. Operating income was up \$75.0 million, or 122.8%. Adjusted EBITDA was up \$182.9 million, or 122.3%. This improvement was also primarily due to the strong performance of the Performance Additives segment (operating income and Adjusted EBITDA up \$31.3 million, or 37.2%, and \$36.7 million, or 32.6%, respectively), stemming from acquisitions and favorable currency changes and the higher ACQ sales in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business.

Operating income and Adjusted EBITDA results were negatively impacted by rising raw material costs in several businesses including, among others, PVC in the Specialty Compounds segment and the cost of copper in the Timber Treatment Chemicals business of the Performance Additives segment.

Net loss increased \$124.4 million due to an increase in foreign exchange losses and higher interest expense, partially offset by the reasons noted above in operating income.

Net sales

Net sales were \$1,743.5 million for 2004 as compared to \$797.3 million for 2003. The 118.7% increase is largely due to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition from the inclusion of \$744.1 million of five months of operations for the segments acquired as part of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Other acquisitions accounted for \$35.1 million of net sales for 2004 as compared to the same period in 2003. Currency changes positively impacted net sales in 2004 by approximately \$28.0 million. The remaining increase was \$139.0 million, or 17.4%, and is explained below in the segment discussion of net sales.

Performance Additives. Net sales for our Performance Additives segment increased \$153.6 million, or 32.2%, over the prior period with favorable mix (\$84.5 million) primarily in our Timber Treatment Chemicals products due to a greater mix of higher priced ACQ products versus CCA products as a result of the ACQ conversion in North America (\$66.3 million). Selling prices were unfavorable by \$7.0 million. Also, volume was higher in this segment including in our Color Pigments and Services business with stronger volume due to increased demand for construction products. Also included in net sales were \$14.6 million from favorable currency changes and \$32.4 million from the impact of acquisitions.

Specialty Compounds. Net sales for our Specialty Compounds segment increased \$24.0 million, or 13.6%, over the prior period including the impact of more favorable sales volume (\$16.8 million), primarily in our wire and cable compounds business. Also, selling prices increased \$4.3 million in 2004 due to raw material cost increases. Favorable currency changes of \$6.1 million were also experienced in 2004.

Electronics. Net sales for our Electronics segment increased \$24.5 million, or 17.1%, over the prior year period primarily due to increase in sales volumes. Pricing pressure (\$8.0 million) offset this sales increase in certain businesses.

Gross profit

Gross profit as a percentage of net sales was 27.3% in 2004 and 27.1% in 2003. Gross profit increased by \$260.0 million, primarily representing \$208.7 million due to acquisitions (primarily Dynamit Nobel). Gross profit also increased by \$4.5 million due to currency changes.

The remaining gross margin increase was \$46.8 million mostly due to more favorable mix in the Performance Additives segment (\$27.1 million), primarily resulting from ACQ product sales in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business and generally higher gross margins from the Dynamit

Nobel businesses partially offset by higher raw material costs in the Performance Additives segment (\$2.8 million), primarily in the Timber Treatment Chemicals business, higher PVC raw material costs in our Specialty Compounds segment (\$4.2 million) and pricing pressures within the Wafer Reclaim and Photomasks' businesses of our Electronics segment discussed above.

Gross profit margin as a percentage of net sales was partially impacted by a \$61.1 million charge, or 3.5% of net sales, to cost of goods sold in 2004 primarily related to the portion of the purchase price allocated to inventory to reflect manufacturing profit in inventory on the date the Dynamit Nobel acquisition was consummated. This was recorded as the inventory was sold in the normal course of business during the five months of operations for the segments acquired.

Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses, or SG&A, increased primarily due to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales were 18.8% in 2004 as compared to 14.8% in 2003. The increase in SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales is partially attributable to income in 2003 from fire insurance proceeds of \$4.5 million. Also, SG&A expenses in 2004 included \$0.8 million of losses related to disposed businesses in the Groupe Novasep segment.

Impairment charges

As part of our annual goodwill impairment testing in 2004 and 2003, we determined there were goodwill impairments of \$4.0 million and \$19.3 million, respectively, in certain business lines of our Electronics segment. These impairments resulted from a significant decrease in earnings and operating cash flows during the year of the applicable charge and estimated prospective earnings and operating cash flows based on projections prepared late in the same year. The decline in profitability and cash flows was due to global economic conditions common to significant competitors, including significant pricing pressure in part based on current industry overcapacity and eroding competitive position. We also reviewed these business lines for impairment of property, plant and equipment. As a result, we recorded an impairment charge of \$7.0 million and \$15.7 million, respectively, in 2004 and 2003 to our property, plant and equipment of our Electronics segment.

Restructuring charges, net

We recorded \$1.1 million and \$1.8 million in 2004 and 2003, respectively, of restructuring charges for miscellaneous restructuring actions.

Operating income

Operating income increased \$75.0 million, or 122.7%. \$42.5 million of this increase resulted from special charges in gross profit and operating expenses of \$78.5 million in 2004 as compared to \$36.0 million in 2003. The remaining amounts of operating income for those period of \$214.6 million in 2004 and \$97.1 million in 2003 would represent operating margins of 12.3% in 2004 versus 12.2% in 2003, despite increased depreciation and amortization expenses from fair value step-ups associated with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Performance Additives. Operating income increased \$31.3 million primarily due to the increase in net sales of Timber Treatment Chemicals due to a greater mix of ACQ products, partially offset by higher raw material costs of \$2.9 million as discussed above.

Specialty Compounds. Operating income increased \$4.6 million primarily due to the increase in net sales partially offset by higher PVC raw material costs as discussed above.

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Electronics. Operating income increased \$21.6 million primarily due to the net increase in sales from higher sales volume offset by certain pricing pressures in 2004 and the \$4.5 million of fire insurance proceeds in 2003 as discussed above.

Corporate. Operating loss at Corporate increased \$22.4 million primarily due to higher bonus accruals and higher central costs to operate the significantly larger business due to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Also, \$5.6 million of special charges were incurred at Corporate in 2004 including costs related to the integration of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and initial costs related to Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

Other income (expenses)

Interest expense, net. During the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, interest expense, net, included a gain of \$6.0 million and a loss of \$6.0 million, respectively, representing the movement in the mark-to-market valuation of our interest rate and cross currency hedging instruments as well as \$7.4 million and \$6.1 million, respectively, of amortization expense related to deferred financing costs. This amortization increased in 2004 due to the acquisition financings (see "Liquidity and Capital Resources"), which substantially increased our deferred financing cost balance. Currency changes increased interest expense, net by \$1.7 million. The remaining increase of \$40.8 million was primarily due to higher debt levels from the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Foreign exchange loss. During the year ended December 31, 2004, the foreign exchange loss reflected the non-cash currency impact on our euro-denominated debt of the strengthening of the British pound against the euro and also included a \$10.9 million mark-to-market realized loss on certain foreign currency call options (see "Liquidity and Capital Resources Liquidity Foreign currency related transactions"). During the year ended December 31, 2003, the foreign exchange loss reflected the non-cash currency impact on our euro-denominated debt of the strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

Other, net. Primarily represents stamp duty tax of \$4.0 million paid during 2004 in connection with the KKR acquisition.

Provision for income taxes

The effective income tax rate for 2004 was 17.6%. The current year effective tax rate was negatively impacted by 4.4% due to foreign tax differential, 40.5% due to the expected inability to realize tax benefits on losses incurred in the United States, Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom and by 2.9% due to certain costs incurred on derivatives in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition that are not deductible for tax purposes.

Net loss

Net loss for 2004 was \$216.1 million as compared to a net loss of \$91.7 million for 2003 for the reasons discussed above.

Adjusted EBITDA

Performance Additives. Adjusted EBITDA for our Performance Additives segment increased from \$112.5 million to \$149.2 million, or 32.6%, primarily due to the increase in sales of Timber Treatment Chemicals due to a greater mix of ACQ products, partially offset by higher raw material costs specifically in the third quarter of 2004. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales was the same in 2004 as in 2003.

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Specialty Compounds. Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Compounds segment increased from \$23.9 million to \$28.8 million, or 20.5%, primarily due to the increase in sales volume partially offset by higher PVC raw material costs as discussed above. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales was higher in 2004 than in 2003.

Electronics. Adjusted EBITDA for our Electronics segment increased from \$24.8 million to \$28.9 million, or 16.5%, primarily due to the increase in net sales with higher sales volume offset by certain pricing pressures as discussed above. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales was lower in 2004 than in 2003.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA loss at Corporate increased from \$11.7 million to \$31.1 million primarily due to higher professional fees and other costs related to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Year ended December 31, 2003 compared to year ended December 31, 2002

Overview

Net sales growth was predominately due to the favorable exchange rates and acquisitions. Performance Additives sales increased primarily due to currency exchange rate changes and acquisitions. However, \$7.6 million of the increase was due to a greater mix of ACQ products versus CCA products within the Timber Treatment Chemicals business, offset by the generally difficult global economic and political conditions in 2003 and the unusually severe weather, particularly impacting our Color Pigments and Services volume. Net sales in our Specialty Compounds segment were up in 2003 due primarily to currency exchange rate changes, but also increased \$1.8 million, or 1.1%, due to higher wire and cable product pricing. Net sales in our Electronics segment decreased \$3.7 million, despite \$6.6 million of favorable currency changes, due to the continued slowdown in the semiconductor and printed circuit board industries experienced in 2003.

Operating income grew \$7.8 million in 2003, including \$2.9 million due to favorable exchange rates and the effect of acquisitions. The remaining \$4.9 million, or 9.2%, increase in operating income in 2003 was due to a reduction in non-cash impairment charges offset primarily by gross profit decreases. However, Adjusted EBITDA decreased despite positive effects from currency exchange rate changes and acquisitions. Growth in operating income and Adjusted EBITDA for our Performance Additives segment in 2003 was predominately due to exchange rate changes and acquisitions. The impact of the small organic sales increase was offset by generally higher energy, depreciation, and insurance costs as well as higher marketing costs related to the ACQ conversion and higher rent expense at our Water Treatment Chemicals business due to a sale/leaseback transaction. Despite favorable exchange rate changes, other sources of operating income and Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Compounds segment decreased \$2.8 million, or 14.6%, and \$3.0 million, or 11.9%, respectively, as higher PVC and insurance costs offset the impact of the small organic sales increase. Operating income for our Electronics segment increased \$4.9 million as lower goodwill impairment charges offset the impact of the sales decrease. Adjusted EBITDA for our Electronics segment decreased \$8.6 million due primarily to the impact of the sales decrease and higher insurance costs. Corporate operating expense decreased \$3.6 million, or 20.1%, due to lower bonus payments and lower discretionary spending. Corporate Adjusted EBITDA loss decreased \$3.7 million, or 24.0%, for the same reason.

Net income decreased \$23.5 million due to refinancing expenses for the write-off of deferred debt issuance cost and costs incurred for debt modifications offset by a favorable change in foreign exchange gains and the reasons noted above in operating income.

Net sales

Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2003 increased as compared to the year ended December 31, 2002, principally due to currency changes and acquisitions, primarily Southern Color, within our Color Pigments and Services business in the Performance Additives segment. Included in this increase were 2003 sales aggregating \$18.0 million. Included in 2002 net sales were sales aggregating \$8.3 million from our pool and spa accessories business line within our Water Treatment Chemicals business in the Performance Additives segment which was divested in October 2002, and G.D. Holmes, a division of our Clay-based Additives business in the Performance Additives segment which was shut down in late 2002. The remaining decrease in net sales of \$0.9 million represented an increase in our Performance Additives segment of \$7.6 million, an increase in our Specialty Compounds segment of \$1.8 million, and a decrease in our Electronics segment of \$10.3 million.

Performance Additives. Net sales for our Performance Additives segment increased due primarily to currency changes and acquisitions (primarily Southern Color) offset by 2002 net sales from our divested pool and spa accessories business line and discontinued G.D. Holmes division. The remaining increase in net sales of \$7.6 million was primarily due to a greater mix of ACQ products versus CCA products within the Timber Treatment Chemicals business line, offset in part by the generally difficult global economic and political conditions and the unusually severe weather, particularly impacting our Color Pigments and Services volume in 2003 as well as Timber Treatment Chemicals and Water Treatment Chemicals businesses, during certain portions of 2003.

Specialty Compounds. Net sales for our Specialty Compounds segment increased primarily due to currency changes with the remaining increase in net sales of \$1.8 million primarily due to more favorable pricing of certain products in our wire and cable compounds business.

Electronics. Net sales for our Electronics segment decreased primarily due to the continued slowdown in the semiconductor and printed circuit board industries and the resulting pricing pressure and volume declines experienced particularly in our Wafer Reclaim business. Pricing pressure was also experienced in our Photomasks business. These declines were offset in part by currency changes. Conditions in certain of our Electronics businesses improved near the end of 2003 due to improvement in general market conditions in the industries served.

Gross profit

Gross profit was 27.1% of 2003 net sales, as compared to 28.6% of 2002 net sales. Gross profit decreased \$1.5 million in 2003 despite an increase of \$5.3 million due to currency changes. Also, gross profit included in 2003 \$4.9 million in the aggregate from acquisitions, primarily Southern Color, while gross profit in 2002 included \$1.2 million in the aggregate from the divested businesses discussed above. In Performance Additives, we benefited from currency changes and our 2003 acquisitions offset by our divestitures mentioned above, and the greater mix of ACQ products in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business line largely offset by generally higher energy costs experienced in 2003, the impact of lower Titanium Dioxide Pigments volume and higher depreciation expenses. In Specialty Compounds, higher PVC raw material costs offset the improvement due to product sales mix discussed above and favorable currency impact. In Electronics, apart from the currency impact, we experienced the net sales decrease discussed above and higher depreciation expense.

Selling, general and administrative expenses

SG&A increased primarily due to currency changes but was essentially flat as a percentage of net sales. Included in 2003 SG&A was \$2.3 million, primarily related to Southern Color, and 2002

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SG&A included \$0.6 million from our divested pool and spa accessories business line and discontinued G.D. Holmes division. Also included in SG&A in 2003 and 2002 was \$0.8 million and \$0.5 million, respectively, of net reductions in SG&A expense due to certain non-cash and non-recurring charges/credits. The non-cash and non-recurring charges related to the amortization of sign-on compensation arrangements for key executives in both periods, non-consummated acquisition efforts in 2003 and insurance recoveries on proceeds of \$4.5 million and \$2.2 million in 2003 and 2002, respectively, from fire damage to one of our plants in 2001. The remaining decrease in SG&A resulted from lower bonus expense and discretionary spending offset in part by higher general insurance costs, higher marketing costs related to the ACQ conversion in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business and higher rent expense at our Water Treatment Chemicals business due to a sale leaseback transaction consummated at the end of the second quarter of 2002.

Impairment charges

As part of our annual goodwill impairment testing in late 2003 and 2002, we determined there were goodwill impairments of \$19.3 million and \$50.0 million, respectively, in certain business lines within our Electronics segment. These impairments resulted from a significant decrease in earnings and operating cash flows during the year of the applicable charge and estimated prospective earnings and operating cash flows based on projections prepared late in the same year. The decline in profitability and cash flows was due to global economic conditions common to significant competitors, including significant pricing pressure in part based on current industry overcapacity and eroding competitive position. We also reviewed these business lines for impairment of property, plant and equipment. As a result, we recorded an impairment charge of \$15.7 million in 2003 to our property, plant and equipment.

Restructuring charges, net

We recorded \$1.8 million of restructuring charges for miscellaneous restructuring actions covering all of the three reporting segments in 2003. In 2002, we recorded \$1.2 million of restructuring expense for adjustments to restructuring reserves from the end of 2001, primarily pension-related.

Operating income

Operating income increased primarily due to a \$15.0 million reduction in asset impairment charges as well as currency changes. Included in 2003 operating income was \$2.6 million of operating income, primarily related to Southern Color, offset by 2002 operating income aggregating \$0.6 million from our divested pool and spa accessories business line and discontinued G.D. Holmes division. Also included in 2003 and 2002 operating income was \$0.9 million and \$0.5 million, respectively of net SG&A reductions due to certain non-cash and non-recurring charges/credits discussed above over 2002. Also included in 2003 operating income was \$0.7 million of additional restructuring charges over 2002. The remaining operating income decrease of \$9.9 million was comprised of decreases of \$1.0 million in our Performance Additives segment, \$2.4 million in our Specialty Compounds segment, \$10.4 million in our Electronics segment, offset in part by a \$3.9 million decrease in corporate costs.

Performance Additives. Operating income for our Performance Additives segment increased primarily due to currency changes, the operating income from the 2003 acquisitions net of operating income from 2002 divestitures and \$0.5 million of lower restructuring charges. The remaining decrease of \$1.0 million was due to higher general insurance costs, higher marketing costs related to the ACQ conversion in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business, higher depreciation expense and higher rent expense at our Water Treatment Chemicals business due to

the sale leaseback transaction, offset in part by higher gross profit discussed above and lower bonus expense.

Specialty Compounds. Operating income for our Specialty Compounds segment decreased \$3.1 million primarily due to lower gross profit discussed above as well as restructuring costs and higher general insurance costs.

Electronics. Although operating loss for our Electronics segment improved during 2003, this was largely due to the decrease in non-cash impairment charges noted above. The remaining operating loss increased by \$9.9 million primarily due to the gross profit decrease discussed above along with higher general insurance costs.

Corporate. Corporate operating expense decreased due to lower bonus expense and discretionary spending.

Other income (expenses)

Interest expense, net. For the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, interest expense, net, included \$6.0 million and \$11.6 million, respectively, representing the movement in the mark-to-market valuation of our interest rate and cross currency hedging instruments as well as \$6.1 million and \$8.0 million, respectively, of amortization expense related to deferred financing costs. This amortization decreased in 2003 due to the effect of the July 2003 debt refinancing, which substantially reduced our deferred financing cost balance. Currency changes increased interest expense, net by \$2.0 million. The remaining increase of \$9.6 million was primarily due to the scheduled increase in the interest rate on our old senior subordinated loan prior to the July 2003 debt refinancing and the interest related to the senior discount notes that were issued in July 2003.

Loss on receivables sold. During 2002, we entered into certain receivables sales agreements for which losses of \$1.2 million were recorded in accordance with SFAS No. 140 "Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities." We did not enter into any such transactions in 2003.

Foreign exchange loss. In both 2002 and 2003 foreign exchange losses reflected the non-cash currency translation impact on our euro-denominated debt of the strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

Provision for income taxes

An income tax benefit of \$16.3 million on a loss before taxes of \$108.0 million in 2003 resulted in an effective income tax rate of 15.1%. This compared to an income tax benefit of \$12.5 million on a loss before taxes of \$80.7 million in 2002 resulted in an effective income tax rate of 15.5%. The difference between the effective income tax rate and the statutory rate primarily related to the non-deductibility of the impairment charges in both years. The effective tax rate was also impacted in both years by foreign tax rate differentials, the inclusion of state taxes, and our expected inability to utilize certain tax loss carryforwards, particularly our tax loss carryforwards in 2003 in the United Kingdom.

Net loss

A net loss of \$91.7 million was incurred in the year ended December 31, 2003 as compared to a net loss of \$68.2 million incurred in the year ended December 31, 2002 due to the reasons discussed above.

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Adjusted EBITDA

Performance Additives. Adjusted EBITDA for our Performance Additives segment increased primarily due to currency changes. Included in 2003 Adjusted EBITDA was \$3.1 million primarily from Southern Color as well as the other small acquisitions. Included in 2002 Adjusted EBITDA was \$0.9 million from our pool and spa accessories business line, which we sold during 2002, and G.D. Holmes division, which was discontinued in 2002. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of Performance Additives net sales was lower in 2003 than 2002.

Specialty Compounds. Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Compounds segment decreased primarily due to the lower gross profit discussed above and higher general insurance costs, offset in part by currency exchange rate changes. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of Specialty Compounds net sales was lower in 2003 than 2002.

Electronics. Adjusted EBITDA for our Electronics segment decreased primarily due to the gross profit decrease discussed above along with higher general insurance costs, offset in part by currency exchange rate changes. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of Electronics net sales was lower in 2003 than 2002.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA loss at Corporate decreased primarily due to reductions in bonuses and discretionary spending including certain professional fees.

Reconciliation of Net Income to Adjusted EBITDA

Because we view Adjusted EBITDA on both a consolidated basis and segment basis as an operating performance measure, we use net income (loss) as the most comparable U.S. GAAP measure. The following table, which sets forth the applicable components of Adjusted EBITDA, presents a reconciliation of net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA:

(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Groupe Novasep	Corporate	Consolidated
Three months ended March 31, 2005									
Net income (loss)	\$ 10.8	\$ 5.3	\$ 0.6	\$ 6.9	\$ 1.9	\$ 2.8	\$ (3.1)	\$ 13.1	\$ 38.3
Income tax provision (benefit)	6.4	0.7	0.2	10.1	1.3	1.7	(1.9)	6.4	24.9
Interest, net	6.6	(0.1)	1.3	12.1	8.5	9.4	4.5	15.0	57.3
Depreciation and amortization	8.5	1.4	5.1	11.7	9.2	7.5	8.9	0.9	53.2
Systems/organization establishment expenses								1.2	1.2
Inventory write-up reversal							2.8		2.8
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs								0.2	0.2
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(0.9)		(1.4)	1.8				(46.7)	(47.2)
Restructuring and related charges	2.4			0.5					2.9
Minority interest							(0.8)		(0.8)
CCA litigation defense costs	0.3							0.1	0.4
Other	0.1			(0.1)			(0.2)	0.2	
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 34.2	\$ 7.3	\$ 5.8	\$ 43.0	\$ 20.9	\$ 21.4	\$ 10.2	\$ (9.6)	\$ 133.2

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(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Group Novasep	Corporate	Consolidated
Three months ended March 31, 2004									
Net income (loss)	\$ 10.4	\$ 3.7	\$ 0.7	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ (5.9)	\$ 8.9
Income tax provision (benefit)	8.4	1.7	1.2					(5.8)	5.5
Interest, net	7.6		1.5					16.0	25.1
Depreciation and amortization	7.1	1.4	5.0					0.3	13.8
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(1.4)		(1.8)					(9.0)	(12.2)
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 32.1	\$ 6.8	\$ 6.6	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ (4.4)	\$ 41.1
(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Group Novasep	Corporate	Consolidated
Year ended December 31, 2004									
Net income (loss)	\$ 84.1	\$ 12.4	\$ (5.5)	\$ (24.5)	\$ (4.2)	\$ (22.0)	\$ (18.6)	\$ (237.8)	\$ (216.1)
Income tax provision (benefit)	4.2	8.6	(4.6)	17.4	4.5	8.2	17.6	(23.6)	32.3
Interest, net	26.8	(0.7)	5.4	24.3	15.7	16.6	5.5	68.5	162.1
Depreciation and amortization	32.0	7.7	20.8	17.4	15.0	11.5	9.8	1.0	115.2
Systems/organization establishment expenses	0.2		0.2	0.1				4.3	4.8
Inventory write-up reversal	1.0			25.4	6.6	20.8	7.3		61.1
Stamp duty tax								4.0	4.0
Costs incurred related to debt modifications								2.0	2.0
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs			0.2					0.3	0.5
Impairment charges			11.0						11.0
Write-off of deferred debt issuance costs	0.4	0.2	0.1					24.4	25.1
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	0.3		1.4	(0.9)			0.2	114.5	115.5
Loss on disposed business							0.8		0.8
Restructuring and related charges	0.5	0.3		0.3					1.1
Foreign exchange loss on foreign currency derivative								10.9	10.9
Other	(0.3)	0.3	(0.1)	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.4	2.1
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 149.2	\$ 28.8	\$ 28.9	\$ 60.0	\$ 37.8	\$ 35.8	\$ 23.0	\$ (31.1)	\$ 332.4

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(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Corporate	Consolidated
Year ended December 31, 2003					
Net income (loss)	\$ 44.0	\$ 17.0	\$ (26.2)	\$ (126.5)	\$ (91.7)
Income tax (benefit) provision	10.1	(0.3)	(5.3)	(20.8)	(16.3)
Interest expense, net	30.0	(0.5)	6.6	76.2	112.3
Depreciation and amortization	27.4	7.2	17.1	0.7	52.4
Systems/organization establishment expenses				1.6	1.6
Inventory write-up reversal	0.2				0.2
Business interruption costs and insurance recovery			(4.5)		(4.5)
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs			1.6	0.3	1.9
Cost incurred related to debt modifications				1.4	1.4
Impairment charges			35.0		35.0
Write-off of deferred debt issuance costs				36.9	36.9
Foreign exchange loss (gain)		(0.1)	0.1	18.5	18.5
Restructuring and related charges	0.8	0.6	0.4		1.8
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 112.5	\$ 23.9	\$ 24.8	\$ (11.7)	\$ 149.5
Year ended December 31, 2002					
Net income (loss)	\$ 41.2	\$ 22.3	\$ (36.3)	\$ (95.4)	\$ (68.2)
Income tax (benefit) provision	14.1	(2.5)	(0.5)	(23.6)	(12.5)
Interest expense, net	26.0	(0.8)	7.0	76.0	108.2
Depreciation and amortization	23.4	6.7	15.4	0.8	46.3
Systems/organization establishment expenses				1.6	1.6
Business interruption costs and insurance recovery		0.1	(2.3)		(2.2)
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs				0.2	0.2
Impairment charges			50.0		50.0
Foreign exchange loss (gain)			0.1	24.5	24.6
Loss on receivables sold	0.5	0.2		0.5	1.2
Restructuring and related charges	1.2				1.2
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 106.4	\$ 26.0	\$ 33.4	\$ (15.4)	\$ 150.4

(a) Includes \$0.5 reflected in costs of product sold.

Pro Forma Net Sales, Net Income (Loss) and Adjusted EBITDA

Our company has changed significantly since the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Our historical results of operations on an actual basis for the year ended December 31, 2004, presented immediately prior to this pro forma information, include only the results of operations for the four segments acquired as part of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition since the consummation date of July 31, 2004 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which we refer to as U.S. GAAP in this prospectus. Our historical results of operations on an actual basis for the three months ended March 31, 2004, presented immediately prior to this pro forma information, do not include the results of operations for these four segments. As such, we believe the following supplemental unaudited pro forma information is helpful in highlighting trends by segment and on a consolidated basis.

The following supplemental pro forma net sales, net income (loss) and Adjusted EBITDA for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and the year ended December 31, 2004 is prepared on a pro forma basis as if the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and related equity and debt financings and Fall 2004 debt refinancings, the pigments and dispersions acquisition and related financing and the Groupe Novasep combination had occurred at January 1, 2004; this unaudited pro forma information does not give effect to the offering. The net sales, net income (loss) and Adjusted EBITDA for the three months ended March 31, 2005 is presented on an actual basis.

The following supplemental unaudited pro forma information is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to be indicative of the results that would have actually been attained had the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and related equity and debt financings and Fall 2004 debt refinancings, the pigments and dispersions acquisition and related financing and the Groupe Novasep combination occurred as of January 1, 2004 or that may be attained in the future. The supplemental unaudited pro forma information has been prepared based upon currently available information and assumptions that we believe are reasonable. Such currently available information and assumptions may prove to be inaccurate over time.

The following table presents net sales, net income (loss) and Adjusted EBITDA (the reconciliation to pro forma net income (loss) is set forth below) for the year ended December 31, 2004 and the three months ended March 31, 2004 on a pro forma basis, and net sales, net income (loss) and Adjusted EBITDA for the three months ended March 31, 2005 on an actual basis.

(\$ in millions) (unaudited)	Pro Forma Year Ended December 31, 2004	Pro Forma Three Months Ended March 31, 2004	Actual Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Net sales:			
Performance Additives	\$ 674.8	\$ 155.0	\$ 159.5
Specialty Compounds	200.4	47.9	58.1
Electronics	168.1	40.4	42.8
Specialty Chemicals	759.6	187.9	220.0
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	422.0	109.2	104.5
Advanced Ceramics	349.5	86.6	91.9
Groupe Novasep	338.6	72.3	92.9
Total net sales	\$ 2,913.0	\$ 699.3	\$ 769.7

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Net income (loss):			
Performance Additives	\$ 84.2	\$ 11.1	\$ 10.8
Specialty Compounds	12.2	3.4	5.3
Electronics	(6.7)	0.6	0.6
Specialty Chemicals	2.9	4.8	6.9
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	9.0	2.6	1.9
Advanced Ceramics	(12.1)		2.8
Groupe Novasep	(5.3)	(0.2)	(3.1)
Corporate	(274.3)	(19.7)	13.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net income (loss)	\$ (190.1)	\$ 2.6	\$ 38.3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Adjusted EBITDA:			
Performance Additives	\$ 154.9	\$ 34.6	\$ 34.2
Specialty Compounds	28.8	6.8	7.3
Electronics	28.9	6.6	5.8
Specialty Chemicals	141.4	37.0	43.0
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	84.6	20.4	20.9
Advanced Ceramics	80.3	19.4	21.4
Groupe Novasep	61.1	13.3	10.2
Corporate	(40.1)	(9.7)	(9.6)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 539.9	\$ 128.4	\$ 133.2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Actual three months ended March 31, 2005 compared to pro forma three months ended March 31, 2004

Overview

Net sales increased \$70.4 million on a pro forma basis with \$27.2 million due to currency changes. The remaining sales improvement of \$43.2 million, or 6.2%, was primarily in the Specialty Chemicals segment, the Performance Additives segment and the Specialty Compounds segment due to the impact of higher selling prices in each of the segments to offset higher raw material costs, and volume increases in the Specialty Compounds segment. Net sales for our Groupe Novasep segment were favorably impacted by \$12.5 million due to acquisitions made by Groupe Novasep after the first quarter of 2004. Titanium Dioxide Pigments sales were down due to weaker demand for synthetic fiber caused by lower prices for cotton, which are a competing fiber.

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$4.8 million on a pro forma basis with \$5.3 million due to currency changes. The remaining decrease was \$0.5 million. Gross profit was down slightly as higher selling prices and slightly lower selling, general and administrative expenses incurred at the operating segments were offset by higher raw material costs.

Net income on a pro forma basis increased by \$35.7 million in the first quarter of 2005 due to the higher Adjusted EBITDA and foreign exchange gains from the weaker euro.

Pro Forma Net sales

Net sales on a pro forma basis increased \$70.4 million with \$27.2 million due to currency changes. The remaining sales improvement of \$43.2 million, or 6.2%, is described in the segment discussions below.

Performance Additives. Net sales on a pro forma basis for our Performance Additives segment increased \$4.5 million with \$2.0 million due to currency changes. The remaining increase of

\$2.5 million, or 1.6%, was due to the impact of higher selling prices (\$2.4 million), to offset higher raw material costs.

Specialty Compounds. Net sales for our Specialty Compounds segment increased \$10.2 million, or 21.3%, over the prior period including the impact of higher selling prices (\$4.3 million) to offset higher raw material costs. The remaining increase was primarily due to stronger sales volume in our wire and cable compounds business.

Electronics. Net sales for our Electronics segment increased \$2.4 million over the prior year period with \$1.3 million due to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$1.1 million, or 2.7%, occurred despite \$0.8 million of continued pricing pressures in the wafer reclaim business due to increases in sales volumes.

Specialty Chemicals. Net sales for our Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$32.1 million on a pro forma basis over the prior period, including \$8.9 million related to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$23.2 million, or 12.3%, was primarily due to higher sales prices (\$7.6 million) primarily in metal sulfide products realized due to the pass through of raw material cost increases and volume growth in the Surface Treatment businesses.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Net sales for our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment decreased \$4.7 million on a pro forma basis versus the prior year period, despite \$5.2 million of favorable currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$9.9 million, or 9.1%, was due to weaker demand for synthetic fiber caused by lower prices for cotton, a competing fiber.

Advanced Ceramics. Net sales for our Advanced Ceramics segment increased \$5.3 million on a pro forma basis over the prior year period, including \$4.3 million related to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$1.0 million is primarily due to a better mix of medical products and Piezo applications.

Groupe Novasep. Net sales for our Groupe Novasep segment increased \$20.6 million on a pro forma basis as compared to the prior year period. However, \$12.5 million related to Novasep acquisitions made after the first quarter of 2004 and \$4.8 million related to currency changes. The remaining net sales increase of \$3.3 million was primarily due to solid performance from the new Groupe Novasep businesses offset by continued capacity utilization issues at the Rohner plant.

Pro Forma Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$4.8 million on a pro forma basis with \$5.3 million due to currency changes. The remaining Adjusted EBITDA decrease of \$0.5 million is described in the segment discussion below.

Performance Additives. Adjusted EBITDA on a pro forma basis for our Performance Additives segment decreased from \$34.6 million to \$34.2 million despite \$0.5 million of favorable currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$0.9 million was primarily due to the higher raw material prices partially offset by higher selling prices described above.

Specialty Compounds. Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Compounds segment increased from \$6.8 million to \$7.3 million, or 7.4%, primarily due to stronger wire and cable volume. Higher raw material prices, partially offset by higher selling prices described above, negatively impacted Adjusted EBITDA.

Electronics. Adjusted EBITDA for our Electronics segment decreased from \$6.6 million to \$5.8 million, or 12.1%, primarily due to \$0.8 million in selling price decreases.

Specialty Chemicals. Adjusted EBITDA for our Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$6.0 million on a pro forma basis over the prior period, including \$2.3 million related to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$3.7 million was primarily due to volume growth in the Surface Treatment businesses. Also, higher sales prices (\$7.6 million) primarily in metal sulfide products were realized due to the pass through of raw material cost increases (\$6.5 million).

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Adjusted EBITDA for our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$0.5 million on a pro forma basis over the prior year period, with \$1.1 million of favorable currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$0.6 million was due to soft demand for synthetic fiber used in clothing caused by lower prices for cotton, a competing fiber, offset partially by cost reduction measures.

Advanced Ceramics. Adjusted EBITDA for our Advanced Ceramics segment increased \$2.0 million on a pro forma basis over the prior year period, including \$1.2 million related to currency changes. The remaining increase of \$0.8 million is primarily due to a better mix of medical products and Piezo applications.

Groupe Novasep. Adjusted EBITDA for our Groupe Novasep segment decreased \$3.1 million on a pro forma basis as compared to the prior year period despite \$0.5 million of increases related to Novasep acquisitions made after the first quarter of 2004 and \$0.4 million related to currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$4.0 million was primarily due to continued capacity utilization issues at the Rohner plant partially offset by solid performance from the new Novasep businesses.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA loss at Corporate was relatively flat as higher central costs to operate the significantly larger business due to the Dynamit Nobel Acquisition were offset in part by savings from headcount reductions at the former Dynamit Nobel corporate headquarters.

Pro forma year ended December 31, 2004

Pro Forma Net Sales

Net sales on a pro forma basis were \$2,913.0 million in 2004. This amount consisted of \$674.8 million in the Performance Additives segment, \$200.4 million in the Specialty Compounds segment, \$168.1 million in the Electronics segment, \$759.6 million in the Specialty Chemicals segment, \$422.0 million in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, \$349.5 million in the Advanced Ceramics segment and \$338.6 million in the Groupe Novasep segment.

Pro Forma Net Income (Loss)

Net loss on a pro forma basis was \$190.1 million in 2004. This amount included \$84.2 million pro forma net income in the Performance Additives segment, \$12.2 million pro forma net income in the Specialty Compounds segment, \$6.7 million pro forma net loss in the Electronics segment, \$2.9 million pro forma net income in the Specialty Chemicals segment, \$9.0 million pro forma net income in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, \$12.1 million pro forma net loss in the Advanced Ceramics segment and \$5.3 million pro forma net loss in the Groupe Novasep segment. Also included in net loss on a pro forma basis in 2004 were losses at Corporate of \$274.3 million.

Pro Forma Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA on a pro forma basis was \$539.9 million in 2004. This amount included \$154.9 million in the Performance Additives segment, \$28.8 million in the Specialty Compounds segment, \$28.9 million in the Electronics segment, \$141.4 million in the Specialty Chemicals segment, \$84.6 million in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, \$80.3 million in the Advanced Ceramics segment and \$61.1 million in the Groupe Novasep segment. Also included in Adjusted EBITDA on a pro forma basis in 2004 were losses at Corporate of \$40.1 million.

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Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales on a pro forma basis was 18.5% in 2004. Adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of net sales on a pro forma basis per segment in 2004 was 23.0% in the Performance Additives segment, 14.4% in the Specialty Compounds segment, 17.2% in the Electronics segment, 18.6% in the Specialty Chemicals segment, 20.0% in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, 23.0% in the Advanced Ceramics segment and 18.0% in the Groupe Novasep segment. Adjusted EBITDA loss at Corporate on a pro forma basis was (1.4)% of net sales in 2004.

Reconciliation of Pro Forma Net Income (Loss) to Pro Forma Adjusted EBITDA for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2004 and the Year Ended December 31, 2004

Because we view Adjusted EBITDA on both a consolidated and segment basis as an operating performance measure, we use net income (loss) as the most comparable U.S. GAAP measure. The following table, which sets forth the applicable components of Adjusted EBITDA, presents a reconciliation of pro forma net income (loss) to pro forma Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated and segment basis for the three months ended March 31, 2004 and the year ended December 31, 2004. For a reconciliation of actual net income (loss) to actual Adjusted EBITDA on a consolidated and segment basis for the three months ended March 31, 2005, see " Actual Results of Operations."

(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Groupe Novasep	Corporate	Consolidated
Three months ended March 31, 2004									
Net income (loss)	\$ 11.1	\$ 3.4	\$ 0.6	\$ 4.8	\$ 2.6	\$	\$ (0.2)	\$ (19.7)	\$ 2.6
Interest expense, net	7.5	(0.1)	1.7	12.0	7.7	8.2	2.7	23.5	63.2
Income tax (benefit) provision	8.8	1.6	0.9	10.9	3.0	4.5	4.5	(5.3)	28.9
Depreciation and amortization	8.6	1.9	5.2	9.5	7.1	6.4	6.0	0.3	45.0
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	(1.4)		(1.8)	(0.2)				(9.0)	(12.4)
Restructuring and related charges						0.1	0.1		0.2
Other						0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 34.6	\$ 6.8	\$ 6.6	\$ 37.0	\$ 20.4	\$ 19.4	\$ 13.3	\$ (9.7)	\$ 128.4

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(\$ in millions)	Performance Additives	Specialty Compounds	Electronics	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Groupe Novasep	Corporate	Consolidated
Year ended December 31, 2004									
Net income (loss)	\$ 84.2	\$ 12.2	\$ (6.7)	\$ 2.9	\$ 9.0	\$ (12.1)	\$ (5.3)	\$ (274.3)	\$ (190.1)
Interest expense, net	30.0	(0.5)	6.6	43.9	28.3	30.0	9.9	96.1	244.3
Income tax (benefit) provision	4.4	8.6	(4.6)	31.1	12.1	15.4	23.7	(23.6)	67.1
Depreciation and amortization	34.2	7.7	20.8	38.1	28.4	25.5	24.1	1.0	179.8
Systems/organization establishment expenses	0.2		0.2	0.1				4.3	4.8
Inventory write-up reversal	1.0			25.4	6.6	20.8	7.3		61.1
Stamp duty tax								4.0	4.0
Costs incurred related to debt modifications								2.0	2.0
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs			0.2					0.3	0.5
Impairment charges			11.0						11.0
Write-off of deferred debt issuance costs	0.4	0.2	0.1					24.4	25.1
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	0.3		1.4	(0.9)			0.9	114.6	114.8
Loss on disposed business							0.8		0.8
Restructuring and related charges	0.5	0.3		0.3					1.1
Foreign exchange loss on foreign currency derivatives								10.9	10.9
Other	(0.3)	0.3	(0.1)	0.5	0.2	0.7	(0.3)	1.7	2.7
Total Adjusted EBITDA(a)	\$ 154.9	\$ 28.8	\$ 28.9	\$ 141.4	\$ 84.6	\$ 80.3	\$ 61.1	\$ (40.1)	\$ 539.9

(a) Total Adjusted EBITDA does not include estimated annual cost savings from certain restructuring measures that were not realized as of December 31, 2004. In total, we expect to achieve annual cost savings of approximately \$17.0 million, of which we have already realized approximately \$7.0 million through March 31, 2005 through actions we have implemented or are in the process of implementing, such as the closure of the former headquarters of Dynamit Nobel in Troisdorf, Germany, the closure of the New Lebanon, New York manufacturing facility of our Advanced Ceramics segment and various restructuring measures at our Specialty Chemicals and Groupe Novasep segments, and the elimination of 40 positions in connection with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc.

Dynamit Nobel

Separation from mg technologies ag

Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, Dynamit Nobel was a division of mg technologies ag and historically did not prepare separate financial statements. The audited combined financial statements of Dynamit Nobel have been prepared from mg technologies ag's historical accounting records and are presented on a "carve-out" basis to include the historical operations applicable to the acquired businesses of Dynamit Nobel in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The historical financial information of Dynamit Nobel presented in this prospectus does not necessarily reflect what the results of operations would have been had Dynamit Nobel been operated as a stand-alone entity during the periods presented.

Results of Operations

The following table presents the major components of Dynamit Nobel's operations, including as a percentage of net sales, and Adjusted EBITDA (the reconciliation to Dynamit Nobel net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA is set forth below) during the periods presented.

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(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Net sales:						
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 557.7	\$ 568.2	\$ 134.5	\$ 659.7	\$ 328.9	\$ 376.7
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	319.5	321.3	80.9	381.8	188.1	212.8
Advanced Ceramics	266.9	224.8	58.8	286.0	143.1	173.2
Groupe Novasep	302.4	307.6	62.7	268.4	139.9	122.8
Total net sales	1,446.5	1,421.9	336.9	1,595.9	800.0	885.5
Gross profit	497.0	507.2	117.6	535.9	275.1	298.5
	34.4%	35.7%	34.9%	33.6%	34.4%	33.7%
Operating expenses	(286.4)	(300.9)	(84.6)	(350.3)	(171.3)	(194.3)
	19.8%	21.2%	25.1%	21.9%	21.4%	21.9%
Operating income (loss):						
Specialty Chemicals	108.0	102.7	14.6	100.7	54.3	58.2
	19.4%	18.1%	10.9%	15.3%	16.5%	15.4%
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	41.7	44.9	12.3	53.1	26.5	28.3
	13.1%	14.0%	15.2%	13.9%	14.1%	13.3%
Advanced Ceramics	42.5	31.7	6.3	34.2	18.2	28.1
	15.9%	14.1%	10.7%	12.0%	12.7%	16.2%
Groupe Novasep	40.3	37.3	7.1	16.9	14.9	1.1
	13.3%	12.1%	11.3%	6.3%	10.7%	0.9%
Corporate costs and eliminations	(21.9)	(10.3)	(7.3)	(19.3)	(10.1)	(11.5)
Total operating income	210.6	206.3	33.0	185.6	103.8	104.2
	14.6%	14.5%	9.8%	11.6%	13.0%	11.8%
Income from investments	4.9	3.8	2.2	2.9	0.8	0.5
Interest expense, net of similar income	(24.2)	(22.8)	(6.9)	(25.2)	(13.6)	(14.4)
Income before taxes and other adjustments						
	191.3	187.3	28.3	163.3	91.0	90.3
Income tax provision	94.1	80.4	11.8	61.7	34.2	32.1
Minority interests		0.8	0.1	(0.3)	(0.3)	
Income after taxes and before earnings from discontinued operations and cumulative effects from change in accounting principle	97.2	107.7	16.6	101.3	56.5	58.2
Earnings from discontinued operations	1.3	2.6	0.2	1.4	1.4	
Income after taxes and before cumulative effects from change in accounting principle	98.5	110.3	16.8	102.7	57.9	58.2
Cumulative effects from changes in accounting principles				(1.8)		
Net income	\$ 98.5	\$ 110.3	\$ 16.8	\$ 100.9	\$ 57.9	\$ 58.2
Adjusted EBITDA:						
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 112.1	\$ 119.9	\$ 21.6	\$ 133.5	\$ 67.5	\$ 71.3
	20.1%	21.1%	16.1%	20.2%	20.5%	18.9%
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	63.9	64.3	16.8	75.3	36.5	40.3

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	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002		Six Months Ended June 30,	
Advanced Ceramics	20.0%	20.0%	20.8%	19.7	19.4%	18.9%
	62.0	50.5	10.9	65.3%	31.4	38.6
	23.2%	22.5%	18.5%	22.8%	21.9%	22.3%
Groupe Novasep	40.2	52.5	13.4	54.5	28.4	16.9
	13.3%	17.1%	21.4%	20.3%	20.3%	13.8%
Corporate costs and eliminations	(19.0)	(15.2)	(5.2)	(16.5)	(9.8)	(8.8)
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 259.2	\$ 272.0	\$ 57.5	\$ 312.1	\$ 154.0	\$ 158.3
	17.9%	19.1%	17.1%	19.6%	19.3%	17.9%

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The following tables present the changes in the major components of Dynamit Nobel's operations on a historical basis in dollars and percentages.

(\$ in millions)	Change: September 30, 2002 vs. September 30, 2001					Change: December 31, 2003 vs. September 30, 2002				
	Total Change in \$	Total Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Divestitures	Organic	Total Change in \$	Total Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Divestitures	Organic
Net sales:										
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 10.5	1.9%	\$ 11.7	\$ (19.7)	\$ 18.5	\$ 91.5	16.1%	\$ 85.9	\$	\$ 5.6
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments	1.8	0.6	10.2		(8.4)	60.5	18.8	71.4		(10.9)
Advanced Ceramics	(42.1)	(15.8)	6.0	(16.1)	(32.0)	61.2	27.2	46.6	(6.3)	20.9
Groupe Novasep	5.2	1.7	9.7	(40.1)	35.6	(39.2)	(12.7)	50.2	(96.6)	7.2
Total net sales	(24.6)	(1.7)	37.6	(75.9)	13.7	174.0	12.2	254.1	(102.9)	22.8
Gross profit	10.2	2.1	13.3	(18.7)	15.6	28.7	5.7	84.7	(21.4)	(34.6)
Operating expenses	(14.5)	5.1	(7.9)	(35.4)	28.8	(49.4)	16.4	(56.0)	21.4	(14.8)
Operating (loss) income:										
Specialty Chemicals	(5.3)	(4.9)	2.2	(36.9)	29.4	(2.0)	(1.9)	13.2		(15.2)
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments	3.2	7.7	1.4		1.8	8.2	18.3	9.9		(1.7)
Advanced Ceramics	(10.8)	(25.4)	1.0	(1.2)	(10.6)	2.5	7.9	6.0	1.6	(5.1)
Groupe Novasep	(3.0)	(7.4)	1.2	(16.0)	11.8	(20.4)	(55.0)	3.2	(1.6)	(22.0)
Corporate costs and eliminations	11.6	(53.0)	(0.4)		12.0	(9.0)	87.4	(3.6)		(5.4)
Total operating (loss) income	(4.3)	(2.0)	5.4	(54.1)	44.4	(20.7)	(10.1)	28.7		(49.4)
Other income (expenses):										
Income from investments	(1.1)	(22.4)	0.1		(1.2)	1.0	(26.3)	0.5		(1.5)
Interest expense, net of similar income	1.4	(5.8)	(0.5)		1.9	(2.3)	10.1	(3.3)	1.1	(0.1)
Loss before taxes	(4.0)					(24.0)				
Income tax provision	13.7					18.7				
Minority interests	0.8					(1.1)				
Income from discontinued operations	1.3					(1.2)				
Cumulative effects from changes in accounting principles						(1.8)				
Net income (loss):										
Specialty Chemicals	6.3					2.9				
Titanium Dioxide										
Pigments	3.9					(0.7)				
Advanced Ceramics	(14.2)					(5.2)				
Groupe Novasep	(2.8)					(22.3)				
Corporate costs and eliminations	18.6					15.9				
Total	\$ 11.8					\$ (9.4)				

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Change: September 30, 2002 vs.
September 30, 2001

Change: December 31, 2003 vs.
September 30, 2002

Adjusted EBITDA:														
Specialty Chemicals	\$	7.8	7.0%	\$	2.4	\$	5.4	\$	13.6	11.3%	\$	17.8	\$	(4.2)
Titanium Dioxide														
Pigments		0.4	0.6		2.0		(1.6)		11.0	17.1		14.1		(3.1)
Advanced Ceramics		(11.5)	(18.5)		1.6		(13.1)		14.8	29.3		11.4		3.4
Groupe Novasep		12.3	30.6		1.7		10.6		2.0	3.8		10.2		(8.2)
Corporate costs and eliminations		3.8	(20.0)		(0.5)		4.3		(1.4)	9.2		(3.2)		1.8
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$	12.8	4.9%	\$	7.2	\$	5.6	\$	40.0	14.7%	\$	50.3	\$	(10.3)

(1) The foreign exchange effect was calculated based on the change in the euro to U.S. dollar exchange rate for the applicable period.

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Change: Six Months Ended June 30, 2004 vs. June 30, 2003

(\$ in millions)	Total Change in \$	Total Change in %	Foreign Exchange Effect(1)	Organic
Net sales:				
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 47.8	14.5%	\$ 26.7	\$ 21.1
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	24.7	13.1	21.4	3.3
Advanced Ceramics	30.1	21.0	15.3	14.8
Groupe Novasep	(17.1)	(12.2)	12.3	(29.4)
Total net sales	85.5	10.7	75.7	9.8
Gross profit	23.4	8.5	25.7	(2.3)
Operating expenses:	(23.0)	13.4	(16.8)	(6.2)
Operating income (loss):				
Specialty Chemicals	3.9	7.2	4.3	(0.4)
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	1.8	6.8	2.8	(1.0)
Advanced Ceramics	9.9	54.4	2.7	7.2
Groupe Novasep	(13.8)	(92.6)	0.1	(13.9)
Corporate costs and eliminations	(1.4)	13.9	(1.1)	(0.3)
Total operating income (loss)	0.4	0.4	8.8	(8.4)
Other income (expenses):				
Income from investments	(0.3)	(37.5)	0.1	(0.4)
Interest expense, net of similar income	(0.8)	5.9	(1.1)	0.3
Loss before taxes	(0.7)			
Income tax provision	2.1			
Minority interests	0.3			
Income from discontinued operations	(1.4)			
Cumulative effects from changes in accounting principles				
Net (loss) income:				
Specialty Chemicals	(10.5)			
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	1.3			
Advanced Ceramics	7.8			
Groupe Novasep	12.6			
Corporate costs and eliminations	(10.9)			
Total income	\$ 0.3			
Adjusted EBITDA:				
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 3.8	5.6%	\$ 5.1	\$ (1.3)
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	3.8	10.4	4.1	(0.3)
Advanced Ceramics	7.2	22.9	3.7	3.5
Groupe Novasep	(11.5)	(40.5)	1.7	(13.2)
Corporate costs and eliminations	1.0	(10.2)	(0.9)	1.9
Total Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 4.3	2.8%	\$ 13.7	\$ (9.4)

- (1) The foreign exchange effect was calculated based on the change in the euro to U.S. dollar exchange rate for the applicable period.

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Year ended December 31, 2003 compared to year ended September 30, 2002

Net sales

Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2003 increased \$174.0 million to \$1,595.9 million from \$1,421.9 million in the year ended September 30, 2002, primarily due to favorable currency changes net of divestitures. The remaining increase in sales of \$22.8 million consisted of higher sales of \$5.6 million in Specialty Chemicals, \$20.9 million in Advanced Ceramics and \$7.2 million in Groupe Novasep partially offset by lower sales of \$10.9 million in Titanium Dioxide Pigments.

Specialty Chemicals. Net sales for the Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$91.5 million primarily due to favorable currency exchange rate changes. The remaining increase of \$5.6 million was primarily due to increased sales volume of metal sulfides products offset by lower sales volume of lithium products in the Fine Chemicals business. Surface Treatment sales were relatively flat.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Net sales for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$60.5 million primarily due to favorable currency changes offset in part by net sales of \$10.9 million due to sales declines in the Titanium Dioxide business mainly from lower anatase-based pigment volume in Asia, lower volume and lower average selling prices in rutile-based pigment products resulting from weaker market conditions and cyclical price fluctuations, and lower sales in the Functional Additives business due to weaker demand in zinc and barium products. Zinc sales were also negatively impacted by pricing pressures. These decreases were offset in part by sales volume increases in Water Chemistry products due to the addition of several new customers.

Advanced Ceramics. Net sales for the Advanced Ceramics segment increased \$61.2 million primarily due to favorable currency changes net of divestitures. The remaining increase in net sales of \$20.9 million resulted primarily due to higher sales volume in medical related products and, to a lesser extent, electronic related products.

Groupe Novasep. Net sales for the Groupe Novasep segment decreased \$39.2 million due to unfavorable currency changes and divestitures offset in part by a net sales increase of \$7.2 million due to increased sales volume of the segment's German operation offset by the loss of a large customer as a result of industry consolidation and lower overall sales volume in part at Rohner.

Gross profit

Gross profit margin was 33.6% of 2003 net sales, as compared to 35.7% of 2002 net sales. Gross margin in 2003 was negatively impacted by certain non-recurring costs and restructuring costs aggregating \$14.9 million. These charges included \$8.1 million of losses (\$5.1 million of cash charges and \$3.0 million of depreciation) related to the actuator project at Advanced Ceramics for which significant start-up costs and high scrap rates were incurred in excess of selling prices. Gross margin in 2003 was also negatively impacted by \$2.2 million of other non-recurring charges at Groupe Novasep primarily due to non-cash inventory and pension adjustments as well as \$2.3 million of other non-recurring charges at Titanium Dioxide Pigments due to one-time problems in titanium dioxide production. Additionally, \$1.8 million of restructuring costs at Rohner were incurred in 2003 due to a headcount reduction program as well as \$0.5 million of restructuring costs relating to the closure of an Advanced Ceramics plant in Italy. In 2002, gross margin was negatively impacted by \$1.6 million of restructuring costs at Advanced Ceramics.

The remaining decrease in gross profit margin percentage was primarily the result of lower margins in the Groupe Novasep segment due to the lower capacity utilization at the Rohner plant as well as currency effects affecting the Finorga plant which manufactures products in euros and generally sells those products in U.S. dollars. Additionally, margins were lower in Specialty Chemicals due to increased raw material costs and unfavorable product mix. The above negative margin impacts were offset in part by favorable mix in the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment due

to a greater percentage of higher margin anatase-based pigment product sales and lower titanium-bearing slag purchase prices, a key raw material used in Titanium Dioxide Pigments production.

Gross profit increased \$28.7 million in 2003 primarily due to currency changes net of divestitures. The remaining gross profit decrease of \$34.6 million was due to lower gross margins from non-recurring and restructuring costs, as well as the other unfavorable items described above.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses as a percentage of net sales were 21.9% in 2003 as compared to 21.2% in 2002. Operating expenses in 2003 included \$19.8 million of net non-recurring costs primarily related to net closure costs and net costs related to divested assets of \$14.7 million, restructuring charges of \$4.5 million and other net charges of \$0.6 million. This amount consisted of \$5.1 million in Advanced Ceramics related to \$7.8 million of closure costs of divested assets and \$0.2 million of restructuring costs, offset by \$1.7 million of gains on sales of businesses and \$1.1 million of gains on land sales related to divested assets; \$6.6 million in Groupe Novasep consisting of \$5.6 million for environmental damage at a closed operation and \$1.0 million of restructuring costs at Rohner due to a headcount reduction program; and \$6.6 million in Specialty Chemicals with \$3.9 million related to costs associated with divested assets, \$2.3 million of other non-recurring costs and \$1.0 million of restructuring costs offset by \$0.6 million of gains on business sales. Operating expenses in 2003 also included \$2.8 million of currency transaction gains related to intercompany financing denominated in a foreign currency at Specialty Chemicals. Operating expenses in 2002 included \$21.9 million of non-recurring gains related to gains on sold or divested assets net of restructuring charges and disposal costs. This amount consisted of \$9.1 million of gains on disposed assets in Groupe Novasep, \$9.4 million of gains in Specialty Chemicals primarily related to fixed asset and building sales and \$5.6 million of net gains in Corporate with \$8.3 million of gains on disposed assets offset by non-recurring charges of \$1.9 million and \$0.8 million of corporate restructuring charges. Advanced Ceramics had \$1.4 million of charges related to closed facilities and \$0.5 million of restructuring charges and Titanium Dioxide Pigments had \$0.3 million of charges related to closed businesses. Operating expenses in 2002 also included \$0.8 million from currency transaction gains.

Operating income

Operating income decreased \$20.7 million in 2003 primarily because non-recurring costs related to restructuring charges and other non-operational items, including divested businesses, caused a \$53.0 million decline in operating income in 2003 as compared to 2002, including a \$13.3 million increase in cost of goods sold in 2003 and a \$39.7 million increase in other operating expenses in 2003. The \$13.3 million increase in cost of goods sold in 2003 versus 2002 consists of the non-recurring and restructuring charges to gross profit of \$14.9 million in 2003 offset by the \$1.6 million of restructuring charges to gross profit in 2002 discussed in detail in gross profit above. The \$39.7 million increase in other operating expenses includes the net \$19.8 million of non-recurring costs recorded to operating expenses in 2003, offset by the \$2.0 million net increase in currency transaction gains (\$2.8 million in 2003 versus \$0.8 million in 2002), and the \$21.9 million of non-recurring gains recorded to operating expenses in 2002, all as described in further detail above. These items were offset in part by a \$28.7 million favorable effect of exchange rate changes. The remaining increase in operating income was \$3.6 million.

Specialty Chemicals. Operating income for the Specialty Chemicals segment decreased \$2.0 million in 2003. This decrease includes the impact of non-recurring costs related to restructuring charges, disposal costs of businesses and other non-operational items of \$3.9 million in 2003 as compared to a net gain of \$10.2 million in 2002, a net change of \$14.1 million, as well as other decreases of \$1.1 million. This was largely offset by favorable currency rate changes.

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Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Operating income for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$8.2 million due to currency rate changes, offset in part by other decreases of \$1.7 million. These reflected the impact of non-recurring net losses related to non-recurring charges, net of gains on sale of businesses and/or property, plant and equipment equaling \$1.7 million in 2003 and \$0.3 million in 2002.

Advanced Ceramics. Operating income for the Advanced Ceramics segment increased \$2.5 million in 2003. Increases due to currency changes and divested operations were partially offset by other operating income decreases of \$5.1 million. This included the impact of non-recurring costs related to restructuring charges, disposition costs of businesses and other items of \$13.8 million in 2003 (including \$3.0 million in depreciation) as compared to \$3.4 million in 2002.

Groupe Novasep. Operating income for the Groupe Novasep segment decreased \$20.4 million. Non-recurring costs related to restructuring charges, disposal costs of businesses, gains on sale of businesses and/or property, plant and equipment and other non-operational items caused \$19.7 million of this decrease in operating income in 2003 as compared to 2002 as such charges were \$10.7 million in 2003 as compared to income from these items of \$9.1 million in 2002.

Corporate. Corporate operating loss increased \$9.0 million. Non-recurring items related to restructuring charges, disposal costs of businesses, gains on sale of businesses and other non-operational activities resulted in \$5.6 million of gain in 2002 as compared to \$1.9 million of charges in 2003, a net change of \$7.5 million.

Income from investments

For the years ended December 31, 2003 and September 30, 2002, income from investments decreased \$0.9 million in 2003. Favorable currency rate changes of \$0.5 million were offset by \$1.5 million of other decreases.

Interest expense, net of similar income

For the years ended December 31, 2003 and September 30, 2002, interest expense, net of similar income, increased \$2.4 million, primarily due to favorable currency changes offset by divestitures.

Income taxes

Income taxes of \$61.7 million on income before taxes of \$163.3 million in 2003 resulted in an effective income tax rate of 37.8%. This compared to income taxes of \$80.4 million on income before taxes of \$187.3 million in 2002 which resulted in an effective income tax rate of 43.0%. The effective tax rate decreased in 2003 primarily due to reductions in the estimated valuation allowance needed for deferred tax assets including net operating loss carry-forwards.

Net income

Net income was \$100.9 million in the year ended December 31, 2003 as compared to net income of \$110.3 million in the year ended September 30, 2002 due to the reasons discussed above.

Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$40.1 million in 2003 due to currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$10.3 million was due to lower Adjusted EBITDA in the Specialty Chemicals, Titanium

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Dioxide Pigments and Groupe Novasep segments offset in part by higher Adjusted EBITDA at Advanced Ceramics and lower Corporate Adjusted EBITDA losses.

Specialty Chemicals. Adjusted EBITDA for the Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$13.6 million in 2003 due to currency changes. The remaining decrease of \$4.2 million was primarily due to increased raw material costs, unfavorable product mix and lower income from equity investments offset in part by increased sales volume in Metal Sulfides products, net of lower sales volume in Lithium products.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Adjusted EBITDA for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$11.0 million due to currency changes. The remaining Adjusted EBITDA decrease of \$3.1 million was due to sales declines in the Titanium Dioxide and Functional Additives products offset in part by sales volume increases in Water Chemistry products, an increased mix of higher margin anatase-based pigment product sales and lower titanium-bearing slag purchase prices, discussed above.

Advanced Ceramics. Adjusted EBITDA for the Advanced Ceramics segment increased \$14.8 million due to currency changes of \$11.4 million as well as \$3.4 million primarily due to higher sales volume in Medical products and Electronics.

Groupe Novasep. Adjusted EBITDA increased \$2.0 million. Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$8.2 million due to lower capacity utilization at the Rohner plant, currency effects at Finorga, the termination of certain contracts, as well as increased raw material costs and unfavorable product mix, offset partly by increased sales volume of the German business. This was offset by favorable exchange rate changes.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA expense decreased \$1.3 million. Adjusted EBITDA expense increased \$1.9 million primarily due to the impact of miscellaneous cost reductions, but this was offset by \$3.2 million of favorable exchange rate changes.

Three months ended December 31, 2002

Net sales

Net sales for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$336.9 million, which included Specialty Chemicals segment net sales of \$134.5 million, Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment net sales of \$80.9 million, Advanced Ceramics segment net sales of \$58.8 million and Groupe Novasep segment net sales of \$62.7 million.

Gross profit

Gross profit margin was \$117.6 million, or 34.9%, of net sales in the quarter ended December 31, 2002. Gross margin was negatively impacted by \$0.4 million due to restructuring costs at Advanced Ceramics.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses was \$84.6 million, or 25.1%, of net sales in the quarter ended December 31, 2002. Operating expenses included \$2.0 million and \$0.2 million of restructuring charges at Corporate and Advanced Ceramics, respectively, offset by currency transaction gains related to intercompany financing denominated in a foreign currency at Specialty Chemicals of \$1.4 million.

Operating income

Operating income for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$33.0 million, with Specialty Chemicals segment operating income of \$14.6 million, Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment

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operating income of \$12.3 million, Advanced Ceramics segment operating income of \$6.3 million and Groupe Novasep segment operating income of \$7.1 million. Corporate operating expense was \$7.3 million.

Income from investments

Income from investments for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$2.1 million, primarily related to equity investments in Specialty Chemicals.

Interest expense, net

Interest expense, net, for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$6.9 million.

Income taxes

Income taxes of \$11.8 million on income before taxes of \$28.3 million in the quarter ended December 31, 2002 resulted in an effective income tax rate of 41.7%.

Net income

Net income for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$16.8 million.

Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA for the quarter ended December 31, 2002 was \$57.5 million with Specialty Chemicals segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$21.6 million, Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$16.8 million, Advanced Ceramics segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$10.9 million and Groupe Novasep segment Adjusted EBITDA of \$13.4 million. Corporate Adjusted EBITDA loss was \$5.2 million.

Year ended September 30, 2002 compared to year ended September 30, 2001

Net sales

Net sales for the year ended September 30, 2002 decreased \$24.6 million to \$1,421.9 million from \$1,446.5 million in the year ended September 30, 2001 due to divested operations offset in part by other increases, primarily favorable foreign exchange rate effects. The remaining increase in sales of \$13.7 million consisted of higher sales in Specialty Chemicals of \$18.5 million and Groupe Novasep of \$35.6 million, including a full year's impact of the Finorga acquisition, offset by lower sales in Titanium Dioxide Pigments of \$8.4 million and in Advanced Ceramics of \$32.0 million.

Specialty Chemicals. Net sales for the Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$10.5 million. Increases of \$18.5 million primarily due to higher Lithium sales within the life sciences market and higher overall Fine Chemicals product sales as well as favorable exchange rate changes were offset in part by the effect of divestitures.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Net sales for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$1.8 million due to currency changes. The remaining \$8.4 million decrease was due to sales declines in titanium dioxide and Functional Additives products caused by weaker demand and pricing pressures, offset in part by sales volume increases in the Water Chemistry business.

Advanced Ceramics. Net sales for the Advanced Ceramics segment decreased \$42.1 million including \$16.1 million due to divestitures offset in part by \$6.0 million of favorable currency rate changes. The remaining decrease in sales of approximately \$32.0 million was due in part to the economic downturn in the electronics and telecommunications industries offset in part by higher Medical application sales due to market share growth.

Groupe Novasep. Net sales for the Groupe Novasep segment increased \$5.2 million. This was primarily due to sales from the Finorga operation which was acquired on March 1, 2001, as well as favorable currency rate changes offset in part by a \$40.1 million decrease resulting from divestitures.

Gross profit

Gross profit margin was 35.7% of 2002 net sales, as compared to 34.4% of 2001 net sales. The increase in gross profit margin was due to better product mix, particularly related to the Groupe Novasep segment with the addition of a greater mix of higher margin life sciences and agro market synthesis products due to a full year of Finorga operations in 2002 versus a half year in 2001, and the divestiture of lower margin businesses at the same time, as well as better mix in lithium products at Specialty Chemicals.

In 2002 gross profit was negatively impacted by \$1.6 million due to restructuring costs at Advanced Ceramics. Notwithstanding this, gross profit increased \$10.2 million in 2002 primarily due to currency changes. The remaining \$3.1 million decrease in gross profit was due to the divestitures net of the acquisitions discussed above.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses as a percentage of net sales were 21.2% in 2002 as compared to 19.8% in 2001. Operating expenses in 2002 included \$21.9 million of non-recurring gains related to gains on sold or disposed businesses and fixed assets net of restructuring charges and disposal costs of businesses. This amount consisted of \$9.1 million of gains on disposed businesses in Groupe Novasep, \$9.4 million of gains in Specialty Chemicals, primarily related to fixed asset and building sales, and \$5.6 million of net gains in Corporate with \$8.3 million of gains on disposed businesses offset by non-recurring charges of \$1.8 million and \$0.8 million of corporate restructuring charges. Advanced Ceramics had \$1.4 million of charges related to closed businesses and \$0.5 million of restructuring charges and Titanium Dioxide Pigments had \$0.3 million of charges related to closed businesses. Operating expenses in 2002 also included \$0.8 million from currency transaction gains related to intercompany financing denominated in a foreign currency at Specialty Chemicals. Operating expenses in 2001 included \$58.1 million of non-recurring gains related to gains on sold or disposed businesses of \$23.3 million in Groupe Novasep and \$36.9 million in Specialty Chemicals. Sales of fixed assets yielded gains of \$0.7 million at Corporate. Restructuring charges were \$0.3 million at Advance Ceramics, \$0.4 million at Specialty Chemicals and \$1.7 million at Corporate. Also, disposal costs of \$0.5 million were incurred at Corporate. Operating expenses in 2001 also included \$1.4 million from currency transaction gains related to intercompany financing denominated in a foreign currency at Specialty Chemicals.

Operating income

Operating income decreased \$4.3 million in 2002 due to a \$54.1 million decrease resulting from divestitures. In addition to a favorable effect of foreign currency rate changes, the remaining increase of \$44.4 million was primarily due to non-recurring net gains in 2002 and 2001 as well as items described in "Adjusted EBITDA" below.

Specialty Chemicals. Operating income for the Specialty Chemicals segment decreased \$5.3 million due to the \$36.9 million effect of divestitures offset in part by favorable currency rate changes. The remaining operating income increase of \$29.4 million was primarily due to non recurring net gains in 2002 and 2001 as well as items described in "Adjusted EBITDA" below.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Operating income for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased \$3.2 million in 2002 including \$1.4 million of currency rate changes. The remaining

\$1.8 million increase included the impact of \$0.3 million of non-recurring charges in 2002 related to divested operations.

Advanced Ceramics. Operating income for the Advanced Ceramics segment decreased \$10.8 million in 2002, despite favorable currency changes. In addition to the effect of divestitures, operating income decreased \$10.6 million, due to the impact of non-recurring costs such as restructuring charges and disposal costs of business assets totaling \$3.4 million in 2002 as compared to \$0.1 million net in 2001.

Groupe Novasep. Operating income for the Groupe Novasep segment decreased \$3.0 million in 2002 due to divestitures. This was offset in part by favorable exchange rate changes. The remaining increase of \$11.8 million was primarily due to non-recurring net gains in 2002 and 2001.

Corporate. Corporate operating loss decreased \$11.6 million. The main component was a \$7.0 million net change in non-recurring items gains primarily related to business divestitures were \$5.6 million in 2002 while related to restructuring charges and net disposal costs of businesses were \$1.4 million in 2001.

Income from investments

For the years ended September 30, 2002 and September 30, 2001 income from investments decreased \$1.1 million primarily due to lower income from equity investments in the Specialty Chemicals and Advanced Ceramics segments.

Interest expense, net of similar income

For the years ended September 30, 2002 and September 30, 2001 interest expense, net of similar income, decreased \$1.4 million.

Income taxes

Income taxes of \$80.4 million on income before taxes of \$187.3 million in 2002 resulted in an effective income tax rate of 42.9%. This compared to income taxes of \$94.1 million on income before taxes of \$191.3 million in 2001 which resulted in an effective income tax rate of 49.2%. The effective tax rate decreased in 2002 due to certain lower unfavorable permanent differences.

Net income

Net income of \$110.3 million resulted in the year ended September 30, 2002 as compared to net income of \$98.5 million in the year ended September 30, 2001 due to the reasons discussed above.

Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$12.8 million in 2002 including \$7.2 million of currency effects. The remaining Adjusted EBITDA increase of \$5.6 million was due to higher Adjusted EBITDA in the Specialty Chemicals and Groupe Novasep segments along with lower Corporate Adjusted EBITDA losses offset by lower Adjusted EBITDA at Advanced Ceramics and Titanium Dioxide Pigments.

Specialty Chemicals. Adjusted EBITDA for the Specialty Chemicals segment increased \$7.8 million in 2002. In addition to the effect of currency changes, Adjusted EBITDA increased \$5.4 million primarily due to higher Lithium sales within the Life Sciences markets and higher overall Fine Chemicals product sales along with better overall mix in Lithium products.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments. Adjusted EBITDA for the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment increased only \$0.4 million despite \$2.0 million of favorable currency changes. The remaining Adjusted EBITDA decrease of \$1.6 million was due to sales declines in Titanium Dioxide and

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Functional Additives products caused by weaker demand and pricing pressures, offset in part by sales volume increases in the Water Chemistry business.

Advanced Ceramics. Adjusted EBITDA for the Advanced Ceramics segment decreased \$11.5 million despite favorable currency changes of \$1.6 million. The remaining Adjusted EBITDA decrease of \$13.1 million was primarily due to the impact of the economic downturn in the electronics and telecommunications industries offset in part by higher medical application sales due to market share growth.

Groupe Novasep. Adjusted EBITDA increased \$12.3 million in 2002. In addition to currency changes, the remaining Adjusted EBITDA increase of \$10.6 million was primarily due to the impact of a full year's sales from the acquisition of the Finorga operation on March 1, 2001.

Corporate. Adjusted EBITDA expense decreased \$3.8 million is primarily due to the impact of miscellaneous cost reductions including lower consulting fees in 2002, offset in part by a \$0.5 million increase due to currency changes.

The following table, which sets forth the applicable components of Adjusted EBITDA on a segment basis, presents a reconciliation of Dynamit Nobel net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the periods presented:

(\$ in millions)	Specialty Chemicals	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Advanced Ceramics	Custom Synthesis	Corporate and Eliminations	Consolidated
Six months ended June 30, 2004						
Net income (loss)	\$ 28.1	\$ 19.9	\$ 21.8	\$ (1.2)	\$ (10.4)	\$ 58.2
Interest expense, net	8.3	1.8	0.9	2.9	0.5	14.4
Income tax (benefit) provision	22.0	6.8	5.4	(0.6)	(1.5)	32.1
Depreciation and amortization	14.0	11.8	10.4	15.5	0.3	52.0
Non-recurring charges					2.3	2.3
Foreign exchange gain	(1.1)					(1.1)
Restructuring and closure charges			0.1	0.3		0.4
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 71.3	\$ 40.3	\$ 38.6	\$ 16.9	\$ (8.8)	\$ 158.3
Six months ended June 30, 2003						
Net income (loss)	\$ 38.6	\$ 18.7	\$ 14.1	\$ (13.8)	\$ 0.3	\$ 57.9
Interest expense, net	8.0	1.4	0.6	2.6	1.0	13.6
Income tax (benefit) provision	12.4	6.4	3.2	26.2	(14.0)	34.2
Depreciation and amortization	13.5	10.0	8.7	13.1	0.4	45.7
Non-recurring charges	2.2		3.4			5.6
Earnings from discontinued operations	(3.9)				2.5	(1.4)
Adjustment related to divested businesses	1.3		(0.8)			0.5
Foreign exchange gain	(4.6)					(4.6)
Restructuring and closure charges			1.9	0.3		2.2
Minority interest			0.3			0.3
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 67.5	\$ 36.5	\$ 31.4	\$ 28.4	\$ (9.8)	\$ 154.0

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**Year ended December 31,
2003**

Net income (loss)	\$	75.8	\$	41.4	\$	25.6	\$	8.2	\$	(50.1)	\$	100.9
Interest expense, net		14.8		2.1		1.0		5.1		2.2		25.2
Income tax (benefit) provision		16.1		9.9		7.3		3.5		24.9		61.7
Depreciation and amortization		26.6		20.2		20.3		27.0		0.5		94.6
Non-recurring charges		2.3		2.8		5.2		2.3				12.6
Earnings from discontinued operations		(3.7)								2.3		(1.4)
Adjustment related to divested businesses		3.4		(1.1)		(2.9)		5.6		(0.4)		4.6
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle										1.8		1.8
Foreign exchange gain		(2.8)										(2.8)
Restructuring and closure charges		1.0				8.5		2.8		2.3		14.6
Minority interest						0.3						0.3
Adjusted EBITDA	\$	133.5	\$	75.3	\$	65.3	\$	54.5	\$	(16.5)	\$	312.1

**Three months ended
December 31, 2002**

Net income (loss)	\$	93.6	\$	137.1	\$	110.3	\$	3.8	\$	(328.0)	\$	16.8
Interest expense, net		4.2		0.6		0.3		1.3		0.5		6.9
Income tax (benefit) provision		(80.5)		(125.2)		(104.2)		2.1		319.7		11.9
Depreciation and amortization		6.5		4.3		4.0		6.2		0.1		21.1
Earnings from discontinued operations		(0.8)								0.6		(0.2)
Foreign exchange gain		(1.4)										(1.4)
Restructuring and closure charges						0.6				2.0		2.6
Minority interest						(0.1)						(0.1)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$	21.6	\$	16.8	\$	10.9	\$	13.4	\$	(5.1)	\$	57.6

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**Year ended September 30,
2002**

Net income (loss)	\$	72.9	\$	42.0	\$	30.8	\$	30.6	\$	(66.0)	\$	110.3
Interest expense, net		14.9		1.6		0.4		4.1		1.8		22.8
Income tax (benefit) provision		21.0		1.8		1.8		2.8		53.0		80.4
Depreciation and amortization		25.0		18.6		14.9		24.1		0.5		83.1
Non-recurring charges		(3.8)								1.9		(1.9)
Earnings from discontinued operations		(3.7)								1.1		(2.6)
Adjustment related to divested businesses		(6.1)		0.3		1.4		(9.1)		(8.3)		(21.8)
Foreign exchange gain		(0.8)										(0.8)
Restructuring and closure charges		0.5				2.0				0.8		3.3
Minority interest						(0.8)						(0.8)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$	119.9	\$	64.3	\$	50.5	\$	52.5	\$	(15.2)	\$	272.0

**Year ended September 30,
2001**

Net income (loss)	\$	66.6	\$	38.2	\$	45.0	\$	33.3	\$	(84.6)	\$	98.5
Interest expense, net		18.3		1.8		(0.5)		2.3		2.3		24.2
Income tax (benefit) provision		27.5		1.1		(0.7)		4.8		61.4		94.1
Depreciation and amortization		38.5		22.8		18.1		23.4		0.5		103.3
Non-recurring charges								(0.3)				(0.3)
Earnings from discontinued operations		(1.3)										(1.3)
Adjustment related to divested businesses		(36.5)				(0.2)		(23.3)		(0.3)		(60.3)
Foreign exchange gain		(1.4)										(1.4)
Restructuring and closure charges		0.4				0.3				1.7		2.4
Adjusted EBITDA	\$	112.1	\$	63.9	\$	62.0	\$	40.2	\$	(19.0)	\$	259.2

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The following table presents a reconciliation of Dynamit Nobel's net cash provided by (used in) operating activities to Adjusted EBITDA:

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended December 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2003	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2001	2002			2003	2004
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 128.0	\$ 142.1	\$ 42.2	\$ 267.0	\$ 57.6	\$ (18.2)
Changes in assets and liabilities net of the effect of foreign currency translation and acquisitions	(6.6)	24.5	(9.5)	(51.1)	64.6	151.2
Cash interest expense, net	24.2	22.8	6.9	25.2	13.6	14.4
Current portion of income tax (benefit) provision	86.5	80.2	(1.5)	53.5	19.9	18.0
Non-recurring charges	(0.3)	(1.9)		12.6	5.6	2.3
Adjustments related to divested business, net of gains excluded in cash flows	(10.5)	(9.1)		7.2		
Restructuring and closure charges	2.4	3.3	2.6	14.6	2.2	0.4
Change in provisions	38.4	13.1	17.0	(17.0)	(9.9)	(9.1)
Other, net	(2.9)	(3.0)	(0.1)	0.1	0.4	(0.7)
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 259.2	\$ 272.0	\$ 57.6	\$ 312.1	\$ 154.0	\$ 158.3

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Historic Rockwood Cash Flows (for the year ended December 31, 2004, includes five months of Dynamit Nobel)

Operating Activities. Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities was (\$7.4) million and \$1.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Net cash from operating activities was unfavorable in 2005 from higher adjusted EBITDA due to the inclusion of the businesses acquired in the 2004 acquisitions, offset by an increase in working capital as our working capital requirements have historically increased during the first quarter of each year since our inception. That trend is magnified due to the acquisitions.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$179.3 million and \$42.6 million in 2004 and 2003, respectively. Net cash used in operating activities was \$4.1 million in 2002. Net cash provided by operating activities increased in 2004 due to operating cash flows generated from the businesses acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition for the five-month period ended December 31, 2004 and the stronger operating results from the historical Rockwood segments. The change in cash flows from operating activities for 2003 as compared to 2002 was primarily due to a \$50.0 million net use of cash in 2002 related to receivables sale transactions. Also, there was a smaller increase in working capital accounts in 2003 compared to 2002.

Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities was \$35.5 million excluding capital leases which were characterized as non-cash items and \$6.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Investing activities primarily represented capital expenditures, which increased due mostly to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$2,249.9 million in 2004, \$48.5 million in 2003, and \$30.4 million in 2002. Net cash used for investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2004

includes \$2,137.9 million related to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. and the Groupe Novasep combination. The remaining change in net cash used for investing activities for 2004 as compared to 2003 was primarily due to the 2003 acquisition of Southern Color partially offset by higher capital expenditures related to the businesses acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition for the five-month period ended December 31, 2004. The increase for 2003 as compared to 2002 was primarily due to the sale-leaseback of one of our subsidiaries' facilities in 2002 along with increases in cash used for acquisitions in 2003, partially offset by insurance proceeds from fire damage received in 2003.

Financing Activities. Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities was \$169.1 million and \$(3.8) million for the three months ended March 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Activity in the first quarter of 2005 substantially represented \$175.0 million, net borrowed against our senior secured revolving credit facility for short-term liquidity needs.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$2,134.4 million in the year ended December 31, 2004 due to net financing proceeds for the acquisitions discussed above of \$2,137.9 million, primarily the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, and equity contributions of \$425.0 million for the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, as well as management equity contributions of \$7.0 million. Net cash used in financing activities was \$1.7 million in 2003, and \$18.9 million in 2002. Net cash used in financing activities during 2002 represented scheduled principal repayments on our then long-term debt.

Dynamit Nobel Cash Flows

Operating Activities. Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities was (\$18.2) million and \$57.6 million in the six months ended June 30, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$267.0 million in 2003, \$42.1 million in the short fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, \$142.1 million in fiscal 2002 and \$128.0 million in fiscal 2001. The decrease in net cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended June 30, 2004 as compared to six months ended June 30, 2003 was primarily due to a larger increase in working capital in 2004 compared to 2003 along with weaker operating results. The change in cash flows from operating activities for 2003 as compared to 2002 was primarily due to a significant decrease in working capital in 2003 versus a significant increase in working capital in 2002. The change between 2002 and 2001 primarily related to higher operating income in 2002 excluding gains on disposals as well as operating working capital changes.

Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities was \$45.0 million in the six months ended June 30, 2004, \$9.0 million in the six months ended June 30, 2003, \$102.7 million in 2003, \$23.8 million in the short fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, \$62.5 million in 2002 and \$60.3 million in 2001. These amounts primarily represent cash used for capital expenditures net of cash received on disposed businesses and fixed assets. The increase in net cash used for investing activities for the six months ended June 30, 2004 as compared to six months ended June 30, 2003 was primarily due to a larger increase in capital expenditures in the current year along with \$17.8 million of proceeds from business disposals in 2003. The increase in cash used for investing activities for 2003 as compared to 2002 was primarily due to more cash flows generated from business and fixed assets disposals in 2002 versus 2003. The increase in cash used for investing activities for 2002 as compared to 2001 was primarily due to more cash flows generated from business and fixed assets disposals in 2001 versus 2002.

Financing Activities. Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities was \$71.7 million in the six months ended June 30, 2004, (\$56.6) million in the six months ended June 30, 2003, (\$196.8) million in 2003, (\$30.9) million in the short fiscal year ending December 31, 2002, (\$95.9) million in 2002 and (\$82.3) million in 2001. This amount for each period primarily related to net financing provided by mg technologies ag less third party debt activity.

Liquidity

Our primary source of liquidity has been and will continue to be cash generated from operations. Our primary liquidity requirements are working capital, debt service, capital expenditures, contractual obligations and acquisitions. Our debt service requirements, and other contractual obligations and commitments over the next several years are significant and are substantially higher than historical amounts. We believe that our currently available sources of liquidity will be sufficient for these needs. Furthermore, any future acquisitions, business combinations or similar transactions will likely require additional capital resources. If our present operating performance and current market conditions continue, we believe that such resources will be available to us for small transactions. We would need to access alternative sources of liquidity for larger acquisitions such as through additional borrowings, equity issuances or other sources. We may not have access to these sources of cash for a variety of reasons. See "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business."

We believe that based on current and anticipated levels of operations and conditions in our industry and markets, cash flows from operations and borrowings available under our revolving credit facility will be adequate for 2005 and the foreseeable future to make required payments of principal and interest on our debt and fund our working capital and capital expenditure requirements. We are taking actions to reduce overhead and excess or unprofitable manufacturing capacity, in part to improve our long-term liquidity. As noted in " General" above, we are also applying the same initiatives used after the KKR acquisition: reducing net working capital as a percentage of net sales through improved systems and manager incentives as well as the implementation of stringent controls to help ensure that maintenance capital expenditures are appropriate and that expansion capital expenditures are in line with both capacity and market demands. We expect this to further improve our short and long-term liquidity. If our cash flow from operations and borrowings under our revolving credit facility are insufficient to fund our currently existing liquidity requirements, we may be forced to use other means available to us, such as reduce or delay capital expenditures and seek additional capital. We may not have adequate capital for working capital, future acquisitions, business combinations or similar transactions.

As of March 31, 2005, we had total indebtedness of \$3,497.0 million. We incurred substantial amounts of debt in connection with the KKR acquisition, including amounts outstanding under our then existing senior credit facilities and our then existing senior subordinated loan facility. As part of the July 2003 debt refinancing, we repaid the borrowings under our then existing senior subordinated loan facility and repaid all amounts outstanding under our then existing senior credit facilities with the proceeds from the then new senior credit facilities and the private offering of the 2011 notes.

We incurred substantial amounts of debt in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Specifically, we entered into new senior secured credit facilities of approximately \$1,454.2 million and a new senior subordinated loan facility of \$854.5 million (based on the exchange rate at July 31, 2004). We also received an equity contribution of \$425.0 million from affiliates of KKR and DLJMB. \$50.4 million of the term loan was undrawn at the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. The proceeds from the acquisition financings were used at the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition to finance the purchase price of the businesses acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, repay all amounts outstanding under our old senior credit facilities (which totaled approximately \$442.2 million), repay assumed debt of approximately \$129.0 million, fund approximately \$20.0 million of cash settlement of derivative transactions related to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and pay related fees and expenses. We also assumed certain standby letters of credit and comparable obligations. Approximately \$6.1 million of these obligations will have to be renewed upon expiration and will then reduce availability under the revolving credit facility.

In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we also received equity contributions of approximately \$7.0 million from management and certain other employees. Specifically, from September 2004 to December 2004, we sold 477,428 shares of our common stock to members of our management and certain other employees for gross proceeds of \$7.0 million. In connection with the sale of these shares, pursuant to the stock plan, we granted stock options to purchase an aggregate of 2,091,852 shares of common stock to these members of our management and certain other employees.

Subsequent to the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, on September 27, 2004, we drew the remaining \$50.4 million of the term loans in connection with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. In addition, on October 8, 2004, we amended the senior secured credit facilities to borrow an additional \$160.0 million and €52.7 million (or \$225.5 million in aggregate) of term loans and used the additional borrowings to repay a portion of its senior subordinated loan and to pay related fees. On November 10, 2004, we issued the 2014 notes and used the net proceeds to repay the remaining outstanding borrowings under the senior subordinated loan facility of \$260.1 million and €313.2 million (or \$664.9 million in the aggregate), plus accrued interest on the remaining outstanding borrowings and pay related fees and expenses and fund general corporate purposes. On November 30, 2004, we repaid a portion (\$15.9 million, or €12.8 million) of the assumed debt. On December 10, 2004, we refinanced all outstanding borrowings under the tranche B term loans with new tranche D term loans in order to reduce interest expense.

On December 31, 2004, we assumed approximately €27.8 million (\$37.8 million based on the December 31, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.3593) plus \$10.8 million (or an aggregate of \$48.6 million) of debt and approximately €10.7 million (or \$14.6 million) in cash, in connection with the combination of the three business lines of our Custom Synthesis segment (now known as our Groupe Novasep segment) with Groupe Novasep SAS. As a result of the combination, our subsidiary Knight Specialite Synthese SAS acquired approximately 66% of the stock of Groupe Novasep SAS held by outside investors and approximately 3% held by the Groupe Novasep SAS management, and the Groupe Novasep SAS management contributed its remaining stock of 30.6% of Groupe Novasep SAS to Knight Specialite Synthese SAS in exchange for shares in Knight Specialite Synthese SAS. As a result of the transaction, we own approximately 79% of Knight Specialite Synthese SAS, which has now been renamed Groupe Novasep; management owns the remaining approximately 21%. We used cash on hand to finance this transaction.

As of June 20, 2005, we had outstanding borrowings of \$14.0 million under the revolving credit facility; these borrowings have subsequently been repaid in full.

We intend to use the net proceeds of the offering, among other uses, to repay the outstanding principal amount of pay-in-kind loans and redeem the outstanding principal amount of the pay-in-kind notes; redeem the outstanding principal amount of senior discount notes; redeem 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2011 notes; and redeem all outstanding shares of redeemable convertible preferred stock. See "Use of Proceeds."

Contractual Obligations

As of March 31, 2005, on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the offering, our aggregate indebtedness would have been \$3,105.9 million. The following table sets forth our fixed

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contractual debt obligations, as described in detail in "Description of Indebtedness," as of March 31, 2005 on a pro forma basis as adjusted after giving effect to the offering.

(\$ in millions)	Total	Less than 1 Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
Senior secured credit facilities, excluding revolving credit facility	\$ 1,774.4	\$ 28.6	\$ 107.2	\$ 123.0	\$ 1,515.6
Revolving credit facility(1)	175.0				175.0
2011 notes	243.7				243.7
2014 notes	687.4				687.4
Assumed debt	225.4	38.8	51.1	61.8	73.7
Total fixed contractual debt obligations	\$ 3,105.9	\$ 67.4	\$ 158.3	\$ 184.8	\$ 2,695.4

- (1) Although we are not contractually obligated to repay the \$175.0 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility until July 30, 2010, we intend to repay it within one year.

Senior secured credit facilities. The senior secured credit facilities, as amended, consist of:

tranche A-1 term loans in an aggregate principal amount of €39.1 million (or approximately \$50.8 million) and tranche A-2 term loans in an aggregate principal amount of €170.4 (or approximately \$221.5 million), each maturing on July 30, 2011 and bearing interest at Group's option of either (i) Adjusted LIBOR plus 2.50% or (ii) ABR plus 1.25%;

tranche C term loans in an aggregate principal amount of €274.8 million (or approximately \$357.1 million) maturing on July 30, 2012 and bearing interest of Adjusted LIBOR plus 3.00%;

tranche D term loans in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,145.0 million maturing on July 30, 2012 and bearing interest at Group's option of either (i) Adjusted LIBOR plus 2.25% or (ii) ABR plus 1.00%; and

a revolving credit facility in an aggregate principal amount of \$250.0 million maturing on July 23, 2010, bearing interest at Group's option of either (i) Adjusted LIBOR plus 2.50% or (ii) ABR plus 1.25%.

The U.S. dollar equivalents of term loans denominated in euros are shown based on the exchange rate on March 31, 2005 of €1.00=\$1.2996. In each case, the interest rates per year (other than under the tranche C term loan facility) are subject to step-downs determined by reference to a performance test. Adjusted LIBOR is the London inter-bank offered rate adjusted for statutory reserves. ABR is the alternate base rate, which is the highest of Credit Suisse First Boston's prime rate and the federal funds effective rate plus 1/2 of 1%. Tranche A-1 and A-2 term loans are payable in January and July of each year at escalating percentages of the original principal amount. Tranche C and tranche D term loans are payable in January and July of each year at amounts equal to 0.5% of the original principal balance, with the remainder due at the final maturity date.

Group's borrowings and the borrowings of Rockwood Specialties Limited under the senior secured credit facilities are guaranteed and secured by assets and pledges of capital stock as described under "Description of Indebtedness Senior Secured Credit Facilities."

In addition to the financial covenants described below under "Covenant Compliance," Group's senior secured credit facilities contain various affirmative and restrictive covenants. The restrictive covenants limit Group's and Group's subsidiaries' ability to, among other things, incur indebtedness and other liabilities; create liens; merge or consolidate; dispose of assets; make investments; pay dividends and make payments to shareholders; make payments on certain

indebtedness or to amend documents related to certain indebtedness and to enter into sale leaseback transactions.

2011 notes and 2014 notes. Group's 2011 notes will have, on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the offering, an aggregate principal amount of \$243.7 million, and mature on May 15, 2011 and Group's 2014 notes have an aggregate principal amount of €375.0 million (or approximately \$487.4 million based on the exchange rate on March 31, 2005 of €1.00=\$1.2996) in the case of the euro notes and \$200.0 million in the case of the dollar notes, and mature on November 15, 2014. Interest on both the 2011 notes and 2014 notes are payable semi-annually on May 15 and November 15. Interest on the 2011 notes accrues at the rate of 10.625% per year, and interest on the 2014 notes accrues at the rate of 7.625% in the case of euro notes and 7.500% in the case of dollar notes. Certain of our domestic subsidiaries guarantee the 2011 notes and 2014 notes on a senior subordinated unsecured basis.

Group's 2011 notes and 2014 notes contain various affirmative and restrictive covenants. The restrictive covenants limit Group's ability, and the ability of Group's restricted subsidiaries, to, among other things, incur or guarantee additional indebtedness (as described below under "Covenant Compliance"); pay dividends or make other equity distributions or repurchase capital stock (as described below under "Covenant Compliance"); make investments or other restricted payments (as described below under "Covenant Compliance"); create liens; transfer or sell assets; restrict dividends or other payments to us; engage in transactions with affiliates; and merge or consolidate with other companies or sell substantially all of our assets. See "Description of Indebtedness 2011 Notes" and "2014 Notes."

Covenant compliance. In addition to the affirmative and restrictive covenants, Group's senior secured credit agreement contains the following financial covenants that are determined based on our Adjusted EBITDA:

a maximum total leverage ratio: for the twelve-month period ended March 31, 2005, net debt to Adjusted EBITDA must be less than 6.95 to 1; for such period, our ratio equaled 5.74 to 1; and

a minimum interest coverage ratio: for the twelve-month period ended March 31, 2005, Adjusted EBITDA to cash interest expense (interest expense, net excluding deferred debt issuance cost amortization and the movements in the mark-to-market value of our interest rate and cross-currency interest rate derivatives) must be at least 1.60 to 1; for such period, our ratio equaled 2.60 to 1.

These covenants are material terms of the senior secured credit agreement. Non-compliance with these covenants could result in a default under the senior secured credit agreement and the lenders could elect to declare all amounts borrowed immediately due and payable. Any such acceleration would also result in a default under the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes, which could lead to the noteholders electing to declare the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the then outstanding notes immediately due and payable.

The indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes prohibit us from incurring additional debt, subject to certain permitted incurrences, unless the fixed charge coverage ratio, which is the ratio of Adjusted EBITDA (as defined therein excluding certain adjustments permitted under the senior secured credit agreement) to fixed charges (as defined therein), for the most recently ended four fiscal quarters is at least 2.00 to 1. In addition, the indentures prohibit us from making restricted payments (such as dividends or other equity distributions, repurchases of capital stock or restricted investments), subject to certain permitted payments, unless, among other things, the fixed charge coverage ratio for the most recently ended four fiscal quarters is at least 2.00 to 1. For the four-fiscal-quarter period ended March 31, 2005, the fixed charge coverage ratio equaled 2.60 to 1. These covenants are material terms of the indentures governing the 2011 notes and 2014 notes.

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Given our use of Adjusted EBITDA as a liquidity measure, the following table presents a reconciliation of net cash provided by (used in) operating activities to Adjusted EBITDA:

(\$ in millions)	Year Ended December 31,			Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (4.1)	\$ 42.6	\$ 179.3	\$ 1.3	\$ (7.4)
Changes in assets and liabilities net of the effect of foreign currency translation and acquisitions	25.3	21.4	(9.1)	17.8	76.1
Interest expense, net, excluding amortization of deferred financing costs and unrealized losses on derivatives	70.3	75.5	128.1	18.4	53.3
Current portion of income tax (benefit) provision	7.8	9.3	21.6	4.0	6.7
Systems/organization establishment expenses	1.6	1.6	4.8		1.2
Inventory write-up reversal		0.1			
Stamp duty tax			4.0		
Business interruption costs and insurance recovery	(2.2)	(4.5)			
Cancelled acquisition and disposition costs	0.2	1.9	0.5	0.2	0.2
Refinancing fees		1.4	2.0		
Bad debt provision	(0.9)	(1.7)	(2.8)	(0.6)	(0.2)
Net receivables sale activity	50.0				
Loss on receivables sold	1.2				
Loss on disposed business			0.8		
Restructuring charges	1.2	1.9	1.1		2.9
CCA litigation defense costs					0.4
Other			2.1		
Total Adjusted EBITDA(a)	\$ 150.4	\$ 149.5	\$ 332.4	\$ 41.1	\$ 133.2

(a) Total adjusted EBITDA does not include estimated annual cost savings from certain restructuring measures that were not realized as of December 31, 2004. In total, we expect to achieve annual cost savings of approximately \$17.0 million, of which we have already realized approximately \$7.0 million through March 31, 2005 through actions we have implemented or plan to implement. Actions include the closure of the Troisdorf facility (the former headquarters of Dynamit Nobel), the closure of the New Lebanon, New York manufacturing facility of our Advanced Ceramics segment and various restructuring measures at our Specialty Chemicals and Groupe Novasep segments, and the elimination of 40 positions in connection with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc.

Assumed debt. Certain of our subsidiaries acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition are borrowers under eight euro-denominated term loan facilities that provide aggregate outstanding borrowings of approximately €15.6 million as of March 31, 2005. These term loans mature between 2006 and 2009 and bear annual interest rates ranging between 2.50% and 4.25% or EURIBOR plus 1.45% or LIBOR plus 0.39%. On November 30, 2004, we repaid a portion (€12.8 million, or \$15.9 million based on the November 30, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2422) of the assumed debt. In addition, certain of our subsidiaries acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition are borrowers under eight term loan facilities denominated in other foreign currencies, including Swiss Francs, Taiwanese Dollars and Japanese Yen, providing for borrowings of an aggregate U.S. dollar equivalent amount of approximately \$47.4 million as of March 31, 2005. These term loans mature between 2005 and 2011 and bear annual interest rates ranging between 1.38% and 4.02%. The term loan facilities described above contain customary events of default and some of them are secured by mortgages or accounts receivables.

As part of the Groupe Novasep combination on December 31, 2004, we assumed additional gross debt of €27.8 million (\$37.8 million based on the December 31, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.3593) plus \$10.8 million for an aggregate \$48.6 million. The assumed debt includes three tranches of bank debt at the Groupe Novasep parent level totaling €21.6 million (\$29.3 million), each with a maturity date of 2010 and interest rates of EURIBOR plus 1.75% in the case of two of the tranches, and LIBOR plus 1.75% for the remaining tranche. In addition, there is bank debt at the Groupe Novasep subsidiary level totaling €6.3 million (\$8.5 million) with maturity dates ranging from

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2006 to 2010 and interest rates ranging from EURIBOR plus 0.7% to EURIBOR plus 1.25%. The remaining amount of assumed debt of €8.5 million (\$11.6 million) consists primarily of capital leases with maturity dates ranging from 2006 to 2013.

In addition, "Assumed long-term debt" shown in our capitalization table under the section "Capitalization" includes certain capitalized lease obligations, a full recourse receivables factoring arrangement and subsidiary preferred stock in addition to the long-term debt described in the preceding two paragraphs.

The following table details Rockwood's fixed contractual cash obligations as of December 31, 2004:

(\$ in millions)	Total	Less than 1 Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
Debt, including current portion(1)	\$ 5,325.5	\$ 236.9	\$ 524.4	\$ 567.0	\$ 3,997.2
Operating leases	74.7	22.0	24.1	10.8	17.8
Purchase obligations(2)	227.6	124.6	102.3	0.7	
Total(3)(4)	\$ 5,627.8	\$ 383.5	\$ 650.8	\$ 578.5	\$ 4,015.0

- (1) Amounts represent the expected cash payments of our long-term debt and do not include any fair value adjustments or bond premiums or discounts. Includes estimated scheduled cash interest payments totaling \$1,992.1 million. A portion of the debt balance outstanding as of December 31, 2004 contained a variable interest rate component. Therefore, interest was calculated on this portion based upon the average of the rates in effect as of December 31, 2004.
- (2) Purchase obligations consist of agreements to purchase goods or services that are enforceable and legally binding and that specify all significant terms, including: fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased; fixed, minimum or variable price provisions; and the approximate timing of the transaction. Purchase obligations exclude agreements that are cancelable without penalty.
- (3) Statutory minimum funding requirements for 2005 for defined benefit pension plans are not included as such amounts have not been determined. For 2005, we expect to make contributions of approximately \$7.2 million to pension trusts and \$16.2 million directly to plan participants as benefit payments. Future contributions are not included as they are not fixed either as to timing or amount.
- (4) Obligations relating to eventual settlement of derivative contracts are not included as the timing and amounts are not fixed. These contracts are marked to market with the related liabilities (\$38.7 million at December 31, 2004) reflected in "Other liabilities" in the balance sheet.

Capital Expenditures

The capital expenditures of Rockwood and Dynamit Nobel have averaged \$61.0 million and \$108.7 million, respectively, per year over the last three years. Rockwood's capital expenditures consisted primarily of replacements of worn, obsolete or damaged equipment as well as investments in new equipment, mostly for our Color Pigments and Services and Timber Treatment Chemicals business lines of our Performance Additives segment. In addition, Rockwood also made significant investments in new facilities to expand capacity across our business lines including expenditures made in connection with the expansion of our ACQ production capabilities in our Timber Treatment Chemicals business line, expansion and refurbishment of our wafer reclaim facility and production equipment in Greasque, France. In addition to maintenance capital expenditures, Dynamit Nobel's growth capital expenditures consisted of expansion of current Good Manufacturing Practice production lines and new equipment relating to multi-column chromatography in our Groupe Novasep segment, expansion of our titanium dioxide capacity for our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment and capacity expansion for our Advanced Ceramics segment.

For the three months ended March 31, 2004, Rockwood's capital expenditures amounted to \$6.7 million. For the three months ended March 31, 2005, our capital expenditures amounted to \$35.7 million.

We may incur future costs for capital improvements and general compliance under safety, health and environmental laws. For the year December 31, 2004, our capital expenditures for SHE matters totaled approximately \$23.9 million, excluding costs to maintain and repair pollution control equipment. For 2005 and 2006, we estimate capital expenditures for compliance with SHE laws to be at similar levels; however, because capital expenditures for these matters are subject to changes in and new SHE laws, we cannot provide assurance that our recent expenditures will be indicative of future amounts required to comply with these laws.

We intend to apply our capital discipline and stringent controls to reduce our future capital expenditures as compared to historical levels for the acquired businesses of Dynamit Nobel. Our annual capital expenditures will increase in amount, but we do not believe they will change significantly from current levels in proportion to the size of the combined entity or as a percentage of net sales.

Foreign currency related transactions

As of March 31, 2005, based on the exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996, \$1,379.5 million of the debt outstanding are denominated in euros (€1,061.5 million). A weakening or strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar by \$0.01 would decrease or increase, respectively, by \$10.6 million the U.S. dollar equivalent of our total euro-denominated debt of €1,061.5 million. As of March 31, 2005, on a pro forma as adjusted basis after giving effect to the offering, there was \$1,261.2 million of euro-denominated debt outstanding. In order to mitigate the effect of any exchange rate changes which may have taken place prior to the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we entered into call options, permitting us to purchase up to €750.0 million at a price of €1.00=\$1.225. We recorded a mark-to-market loss of \$2.9 million during the quarter ended June 30, 2004 on the call options. The options expired unexercised and we recorded an additional loss of \$8.0 million in the third quarter of 2004. We also entered into a forward contract in July 2004 to purchase €1,057.0 million at a fixed U.S. dollar rate of \$1.208=€1.00, which was utilized to pay for a portion of the purchase price at the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. We recorded a charge of approximately \$4.0 million in the third quarter of 2004. See " About Market Risk Foreign Currency Risk."

Management and transaction fees

Approximately \$21.5 million and \$9.0 million of the transaction fees, including reimbursable expenses, were paid to KKR or its affiliates and to DLJMB III, respectively. In addition, approximately \$25.5 million of financing fees was paid to Credit Suisse First Boston or its affiliates. Effective with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, KKR and DLJMB III agreed to provide us consulting and management advisory services for an aggregate annual fee of \$2.0 million. This management services agreement will be terminated in connection with this offering for an aggregate consideration of \$10.0 million.

Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Matters. We are involved in various legal proceedings, including product liability, intellectual property and environmental matters, of a nature considered normal to our business. It is our policy to accrue for amounts related to these matters in accordance with SFAS No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies*, if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and an amount can be reasonably estimated. It is our policy to disclose such matters when there is at least a reasonable possibility that a material loss may have been incurred. In addition, we may be required to make indemnity payments in connection with certain product liability claims. See "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business Product Liability Due to the nature of our business and products, we may be liable for damages arising out of product liability claims." Although we expect to continue to pay legal fees in connection with certain legal actions related to chromated copper arsenate and other product liability matters, based on currently available facts, we do not believe that these actions will have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. In accordance with our policy, reserves in connection with such matters do not individually exceed \$350,000 and in the aggregate \$1.5 million. Our reserve estimates are based on available facts, including damage claims and input from our internal and external legal counsel, past experience, and, in some instances where defense costs are being paid by our insurers, insurance coverage. We are unable to estimate the amount or range of any potential incremental charges should facts and circumstances change and may in the future revise our estimates based on new information becoming available. In addition, we do not believe that there is any other individual legal proceeding that is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition. However, we cannot predict the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation.

Indemnities. Under the business and share sale and purchase agreement, the deed of tax covenant and the environmental deed entered into in connection with the KKR acquisition, Degussa UK Holdings Ltd., or Degussa, as successor to Laporte, plc, or Laporte, is required to indemnify us for certain legal, tax and environmental liabilities and obligations that relate to the period prior to the closing of the KKR acquisition. In addition, under the sale and purchase agreement entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, mg technologies ag and MG North America Holdings Inc. are required to indemnify us for certain legal, tax and environmental liabilities and obligations that related to the period prior to the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. See "Dynamit Nobel Acquisition Sale and Purchase Agreement." Pursuant to these agreements, we have made various claims for indemnification with Degussa, mg technologies ag and MG North America Holdings, Inc. In the opinion of management, and based upon information currently available, we do not expect the ultimate resolution of any of these claims to have a material effect on our financial condition or results of operations. See " Environmental Matters."

Environmental Matters. We are subject to extensive environmental, health and safety laws in the United States, the European Union and elsewhere at the international, national, state and local levels. Many of these laws impose requirements relating to clean-up of contamination, and impose liability in the event of damage to human beings, natural resources or property, and provide for

substantial fines, injunctions and potential criminal sanctions for violations. Our products, including the raw materials we handle, are also subject to rigorous industrial hygiene regulations and investigation. The nature of our operations exposes us to risks of liability for breaches of these laws and regulations as a result of the production, storage, transportation and sale of materials that can cause contamination or personal injury when released into the environment. Environmental laws are subject to change and have tended to become stricter over time. Such changes in environmental laws, or the enactment of new environmental laws, could result in materially increased capital, operating and compliance costs.

We are committed to achieving and maintaining compliance with all applicable safety, health and environmental, or SHE, legal requirements, and our subsidiaries have developed policies and management systems that are intended to identify the SHE legal requirements applicable to our operations, enhance compliance with such requirements, ensure the safety of our employees, contractors, community neighbors and customers and minimize the production and emission of wastes and other pollutants. Although SHE legal requirements are constantly changing and are often difficult to comply with, these SHE management systems are designed to assist us in meeting our compliance goals and minimizing overall risk to us.

In October 2003, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new European Union framework for chemicals known as the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, or REACH. While it is uncertain as to whether, when and in what form REACH will be finalized and become law, REACH may eventually significantly expand the European Union's regulation of chemicals. As currently proposed, REACH would include requirements that certain manufacturers and importers of chemicals register those chemicals, perform health and environmental risk analyses of those chemicals, and in certain instances, obtain authorizations for the use of the chemicals. As a specialty chemicals company, it is possible that we are the only manufacturer of one or more substances to be regulated under REACH and thus could potentially bear the full cost of compliance with REACH for some or all of our products. We estimate we have over 400 products that might be subject to REACH.

Under the European Union Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive, or IPPC, European Union member governments are to adopt rules and implement a cross-media (air, water and waste) environmental permitting program for individual facilities. IPPC requires a consistent application of Best Available Techniques, or BAT, throughout the European Union. Generally, by 2007, facilities located within the European Union must be operating consistent with BAT. While the EU countries are at varying stages in their respective implementation of the IPPC permit program, we have submitted all necessary IPPC permit applications required to date, and in some cases received completed permits from the applicable government agency. We expect to submit all other IPPC applications and related documents on a timely basis as the various countries implement the IPPC permit program. Although we do not know with certainty what each IPPC permit will require, we believe, based upon our experience with the permits received to date, that the costs of compliance with the IPPC permit program will not be material to our results of operations, financial position or liquidity.

Environmental laws have a significant effect on the nature and scope of any clean-up of contamination at current and former operating facilities, the costs of transportation and storage of chemicals and finished products and the costs of the storage and disposal of wastes. In addition, "Superfund" statutes in the United States as well as statutes in other jurisdictions impose strict, joint and several liability for clean-up costs on the entities that generated waste and/or arranged for its disposal at contaminated third party sites, as well as the past and present owners and operators of contaminated sites. Each responsible party may be required to bear some or all clean-up costs regardless of fault, legality of the original disposal or ownership of the disposal site.

Environmental contamination is known to exist at certain of our present and former facilities, including our facilities located in Turin, Italy; St. Fromond, St. Cheron and Sens, France; Hainhaussen, Troisdorf, Schlebusch, Stadeln, Duisburg, Plochingen, Marktredwitz, Ronnenberg-Empelde and Langelsheim, Germany; Oss, The Netherlands; Kidsgrove and Barrow, United Kingdom; Boksborg East, South Africa; Pratteln, Switzerland; and in the United States, in Valdosta, Georgia, Beltsville, Maryland, Harrisburg, North Carolina, Laurens, South Carolina, Silver Peak, Nevada and La Mirada, California. Soil contamination is also known to exist at our facilities at Freeport, Texas, Chasse-sur-Rhone, France and Sumperk in Czech Republic; however, no further regulatory remedial actions are currently required for these facilities and any liabilities arising from such contamination is covered by indemnity obligations or the previous owners of these facilities with the exception of Freeport. We are currently operating groundwater remediation systems at our Hainhaussen, Troisdorf, Valdosta and Silver Peak facilities. We also operate ground water remediation systems at our Schlebusch, Plochingen, Marktredwitz, Stadeln and Laurens facilities, for which prior owners or insurers have assumed responsibility and a soil remediation project at our facility in St. Cheron, and we continue to monitor groundwater at the Beltsville facility, which was previously the subject of a soil removal action. Groundwater is also monitored at the St. Fromond and Barrow facilities due to prior spills and at the Harrisburg facility due to a landfill closure. We are also required to monitor groundwater quality at our facilities at Mourenx, France and New Johnsonville, Tennessee. We believe that additional environmental studies, and possibly environmental remediations, will be required at the Turin and Harrisburg facilities. We are also in the process of determining appropriate remedial actions with the regulatory authorities at the following locations: Duisburg, Pratteln, Langelsheim, Troisdorf and La Mirada. Furthermore, as a result of facility closings, divestitures and offsite disposal activities such as a former disposal site in Laurel, Maryland, we are responsible for the following other matters: contamination beneath divested portions of the manufacturing facility in Troisdorf; contamination at a closed Chemetall Oakite facility in Houston, Texas; contamination at a former Chemetall Foote facility in Sunbright, Virginia; contribution towards the clean-up of three industrial landfills in the Basel, Switzerland area; groundwater remediation at Stadeln and former sites operated by Dynamit Nobel's previously divested explosives business. We are also a *de minimis* participant in several Superfund matters.

Although we cannot provide assurances in this regard, we do not believe that these issues will have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition, but we do believe these issues may have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or cash flow in any given quarterly or annual reporting period. Nonetheless, the discovery of contamination arising from present or historical industrial operations at some of our and our predecessor's former and present properties and/or at sites we and our predecessor disposed wastes could expose us to cleanup obligations and other damages in the future.

During the course of our business, we may receive notices of violation, enforcement and other complaints from regulatory agencies alleging non-compliance with applicable SHE laws. Currently, we are party to a consent order with the Metropolitan Sewer District, or MSD, in Saint Louis, Missouri to reduce ammonia concentrations in wastewater discharge to a city treatment plant. The entry into the consent order resulted from violations of our wastewater discharge permit. The order is presently stayed pending MSD's negotiation of its own National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit with the State of Missouri. Although we may be required to make capital expenditures in connection with this matter, we do not believe that this issue will have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

Pursuant to the environmental deed entered into in connection with the KKR acquisition, Degussa, as successor to Laporte, is required to indemnify us and our subsidiaries for certain environmental matters that relate to the business as conducted prior to the closing of the KKR acquisition. The environmental deed provides that Degussa will indemnify us and our subsidiaries for claims for which notice is given within a period of two years for breaches of representations and

warranties, which expired in 2002, and five years for claims related to the contamination of our properties or our subsidiaries' properties (inclusive of contamination which leaks or escapes from our properties or our subsidiaries' properties), which expires in September 2005. These indemnity obligations are subject to a minimum per matter loss of \$175,000 and are further subject to a \$5.0 million deductible for the indemnity to be available. In addition, the environmental deed provides that Degussa will indemnify us and our subsidiaries for claims relating to properties that were formerly owned, occupied or used as of November 20, 2000, as well as properties owned by third parties (inclusive of disposal of waste and certain other identified issues prior to November 20, 2000). The environmental deed provides that in this instance, Degussa will be responsible for reasonable costs and expenses incurred.

In addition, pursuant to the sale and purchase agreement entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, mg technologies ag and its subsidiary, MG North America Holdings Inc., are required to indemnify us and our subsidiaries for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related to the contamination of our or our subsidiaries' properties, if notified within ten years. If mg technologies and MG North America Holdings' responsibility for contamination matters cannot be proven, a sliding scale reduces the percentage further for each year during the five-year period from year six to ten. mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are also obligated to indemnify us for 85% of claims related to legacy site matters, such as environmental matters relating to properties or businesses owned or operated by Dynamit Nobel prior to, but not on, the closing of Dynamit Nobel acquisition, if notified within ten years. In addition, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves for operational compliance matters, if notified by December 31, 2006, and 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related to certain environmental damage claims unknown at the time of the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, if notified within ten years. All of these indemnity obligations are subject to different minimum per-claim thresholds depending on whether the matter was disclosed or not, and on the subject matter, ranging between €100,000 and €750,000 depending on the type of claim. The indemnity obligations are further subject to certain deductibles, exclusions and limitations. Furthermore, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for certain environmental risks arising from certain "shared site" structures for a duration of ten years. This indemnity obligation is not subject to the percentages, *de minimis* exclusions, deductibles and thresholds described above, and it is not subject to most of the general limitations.

In the event we seek indemnity under any of these agreements or through other means, there can be no assurance that mg technologies, MG North America Holdings, Degussa or any other party who may have obligations to indemnify us will adhere to their obligations and we may have to resort to legal action to enforce our rights under the indemnities. In addition, we may be required to make indemnity payments in connection with certain environmental matters. See "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business Environmental Indemnities We may be subject to environmental indemnity claims relating to properties we have divested." However, we do not believe that resolution of the known environmental matters subject to indemnification obligations owed to us or by us will have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition, but may have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or cash flow in any given quarterly or annual reporting period.

We have established financial reserves relating to anticipated environmental cleanup obligations, site reclamation and remediation and closure costs. Liabilities are recorded when potential liabilities are either known or believed to be probable and can be reasonably estimated. Our liability estimates are based upon available facts, existing technology, past experience and, in some instances where the remediation costs are being paid directly by our insurers, insurance

recoveries, and are generated by several means, including State-mandated schedules, environmental consultants and internal experts, depending on the circumstances. On a consolidated basis, we accrued approximately \$51.2 million and \$51.9 million for known environmental liabilities as of March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively, all of which are classified as other non-current liabilities on our consolidated balance sheets for such periods. Included in the \$51.2 million and \$51.9 million as of March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004 is €6.5 million (\$8.4 million using the exchange rate on March 31, 2005 of €1.00 = \$1.2996) that is discounted using 5.0% discount rate (undiscounted amount equals \$13.0 million), and €2.4 million (\$3.2 million) that is discounted using 5.5% discount rate (undiscounted amount equals \$4.9 million). In certain cases, our remediation liabilities are payable over periods of up to 30 years.

We believe these accruals are adequate based on currently available information. We may incur losses in excess of the amounts accrued, however, based on currently available information we do not believe the additional amount of potential losses would have a material effect on our results of operations or financial condition, but may have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or cash flow in any given quarterly or annual reporting period. We are unable to estimate the amount or range of any potential incremental charges should facts and circumstances change and may in the future revise our estimates based on new information becoming available.

We are obligated to undertake soil remediation at two of our facilities in Europe in the event manufacturing operations are discontinued there at some future date. We do not contemplate any such action occurring in the foreseeable future, as these facilities' remaining lives are indefinite. Given the indeterminate useful life of these facilities and the corresponding indeterminate settlement date of any soil remediation obligations we do not have sufficient information to estimate a range of potential settlement dates for the obligations. Consequently, we cannot employ a present value technique to estimate fair value and, accordingly, we have not accrued for any related costs.

We believe that these environmental matters will not have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition. However, these matters may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or cash flows in any given quarterly or annual reporting period.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. These estimates include assessing, among other things:

the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations;

the use and recoverability of inventory;

the valuation of deferred tax assets;

impairment of goodwill, property, plant and equipment and other intangible assets; and

the useful lives of tangible and intangible assets.

We evaluate our estimates on an ongoing basis, based on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe 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 under different assumptions or conditions.

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See note 1 to our and Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements included for a summary of our significant accounting policies. We believe the following to be the most critical accounting policies and estimates affecting preparation of our consolidated financial statements:

Revenue Recognition. We recognize revenue when the earnings process is complete. Product sales are recognized when products are shipped to the customer in accordance with the terms of the contract of sale, title and risk of loss have been transferred and collectibility is reasonably assured. We believe that we have adequate credit granting procedures in place and operating effectively so that collectibility is reasonably assured. We have a low incidence of uncollectible accounts. Additionally, credit insurance is purchased at times by certain of our businesses, particularly in Europe, to protect against collection risk. Accruals are made for sales returns based on our experience and for other allowances based on the terms of allowance programs put in place. Although we believe that sufficient experience and history exists to make reasonable estimates as to such accruals and allowances, actual results can differ depending on market conditions.

Impairment Accounting. The recoverability of goodwill is reviewed on an annual basis during the fourth quarter. Additionally, the recoverability of goodwill, long-lived tangible, and certain intangible assets is reviewed when events or changes in circumstances occur indicating that the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable.

Initial goodwill impairment review begins with the estimate of fair value of each reporting unit generally based on an industry metric such as the ratio of enterprise value (commonly defined as market capitalization, plus long-term debt, less cash) to Adjusted EBITDA for the current year and the following year budget. If potential impairment is identified, we may expand the review to take into account expected future cash flows in subsequent years. Similarly, when we test for impairment of long-lived assets other than goodwill we initially review the estimated future undiscounted cash flows to be derived from the asset or asset group (collectively "asset"). If it appears that the asset is impaired based on undiscounted cash flows, the estimated fair value of the asset is calculated on a present value basis by multiplying the estimated future annual cash flows of the asset by the then current enterprise value ratio (a discounted measure) or by a discount factor appropriate to the related reporting unit, in accordance with paragraph 23 of SFAS 144. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying value of the asset or goodwill exceeds the discounted cash flow (or other measure of) fair value.

These calculations are based on inherent assumptions and estimates about future cash flows and appropriate benchmark peer companies or groups. Subsequent changes in these assumptions could result in future impairment. Although we consistently use the same methods in developing the assumptions and estimates underlying the fair value calculations, such estimates are uncertain by nature and can vary from actual results. For example, if the peer group multiples used in 2004 had been 10% lower, no additional goodwill impairment would have been recorded. However, if the peer group multiples used in 2003 had been 10% lower, we might have had an additional goodwill impairment of approximately \$8.0 million in one of our reporting units. As noted above, if we had discovered such a potential impairment we might have expanded the review to prepare more detailed estimates of future cash flows in subsequent years which might have resulted in a different impairment assessment.

We have not to date had circumstances occur that caused us to review the values of individual long-lived assets for impairment. However, in 2004 and 2003 we did review for impairment the assets of an entire reporting unit within our Electronics segment. Had the calculation multiple in 2003 or the future cash flow estimates in 2004 been 10% lower, we would have recorded an additional impairment in this reporting unit of approximately \$3.5 million in 2003 and \$1.1 million in 2004.

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Business Combinations We account for business combinations using the purchase method of accounting as required by SFAS 141 *Business Combinations*. Under the purchase method of accounting we are required to allocate the purchase price to the estimated fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Examples of material estimates from our previous acquisitions are:

The fair values of work-in-process and finished goods inventories are estimated based on selling price less selling profit. The calculation of selling profit requires a judgment on the relative margins derived from manufacturing vs. marketing efforts.

The fair value of property, plant and equipment can be estimated by a variety of methods taking into account market values, replacement cost, and remaining useful life. Although market value and replacement cost is sometime readily obtainable, often this requires judgment, as does determining the estimated remaining useful life. When we believe that property, plant and equipment acquired will be material to our overall balance sheet, or that fair value might represent a significant difference from the historical cost (net of accumulated depreciation) of such assets, we have engaged an independent appraiser to provide us with expert advice on such estimates, as we have done in our recent acquisitions and combinations of Dynamit Nobel and Groupe Novasep. However, it is not uncommon for appraisers to differ on the valuation of items (such as manufacturing equipment) where a ready secondary market does not exist.

The fair value of identifiable intangible assets such as patents and other intellectual property, customer lists, and trademarks, can be estimated by discounted cash flow and return on royalties. The process utilized to identify intangible assets is consistent with the requirements of SFAS 141. When considered material, we have engaged an independent appraiser to provide expert advice in the identification of intangible assets acquired, valuation of such assets and determination of the estimated useful life. An independent appraiser, with management's oversight and input, is required to make judgments and estimates that could cause such appraisals to differ from those of other appraisal experts.

In order to determine the fair value of intangible assets and other long terms assets, a discount rate and royalty rate is determined in conjunction with our independent appraiser. As we are not a publicly traded company, the discount rate is based on the capital structure and a beta analysis of our closest peers in order to determine the weighted average cost of capital. The royalty rate is based on professional judgment taking into consideration the type of product, market and perceived strength. The discount rate and royalty rate has a material impact on the determination of the fair value.

Purchase accounting often involves the same critical estimates that are required in our ordinary course of business including estimates of the following items:

Deferred tax asset or liability

Pension liability

Restructuring liability

Legal and environmental reserves

We use many of the same criteria and outside expert advice when determining the range of potential amounts as their counterparts described below.

Goodwill is an intangible asset that represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed. While goodwill itself does not represent an estimate, under SFAS 141 we must assign goodwill to one or more reporting units. Allocation of goodwill to reporting units requires judgments about the relative fair values of reporting units including the fair value of their identifiable assets and estimates as to the present value of future

cash flows expected from the reporting units as adjusted by a weighted average and or risk-adjusted costs of capital. Goodwill is assessed for impairment at least annually.

Some of our business combinations have complex terms that may result in conflicting claims between buyer and seller concerning the purchase price itself. Management is required to assess the probability and amount (or range of amounts) of such claims, and, where possible, determine the most likely amount due.

Legal Matters. We are involved in various legal proceedings, including commercial, product liability, intellectual property and environmental matters, of a nature that can be expected in our business. It is our policy to accrue for amounts related to these matters in accordance with SFAS No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies*, if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and an amount can be reasonably estimated. The probability that a contingent liability has been incurred is regularly assessed by our legal staff, based on periodic reviews of available facts and circumstances for our legal matters, with senior operating and finance management both at the business accountable for the potential liability and at our corporate offices. This is supplemented where applicable by consultation with outside counsel. We do not believe it is informative to quantify past experience in assessing probability or estimating exposure since material matters of this nature at Rockwood often represent unique situations with little applicability to the assessment of probability or estimation of potential liability regarding other legal matters. It is our policy to disclose such matters when there is at least a reasonable possibility that a loss may have been incurred.

Environmental Matters. We accrue costs of a non-capital nature related to environmental clean-up when those costs are believed to be probable and can be reasonably estimated. Expenditures that extend the life of the related property or mitigate or prevent future environmental contamination are capitalized, and expenditures related to existing conditions resulting from past or present operations and from which no current or future benefit is discernible are immediately expensed. The quantification of environmental exposures requires an assessment of many factors, including changing laws and regulations, advancements in environmental technologies, the quality of information available related to specific sites, the assessment stage of each site investigation and the length of time involved in remediation or settlement. As such, it can be extremely difficult to accurately estimate such costs. We do not include anticipated recoveries from insurance carriers or other third parties in our accruals for environmental liabilities.

We have estimated and established financial reserves relating to anticipated environmental cleanup obligations, site reclamation and remediation and closure costs. On a consolidated basis, we have accrued approximately \$51.2 million for known environmental liabilities as of March 31, 2005. Included in the \$51.2 million as of March 31, 2005 is \$8.4 million that is discounted using 5.0% discount rate (undiscounted amount equals \$13.0 million), and \$3.2 million that is discounted using 5.5% discount rate (undiscounted amount equals \$4.9 million). Some of these liabilities were assumed as part of business combinations, others resulted from charges to operations when the underlying costs were probable and could be reasonably estimated. Given that these obligations may be paid/relieved over extended time periods (30 years in some cases), charges or credits to operations may be required as information is gathered and estimates refined.

We have evaluated our total environmental exposure based on currently available data and believe that such environmental matters will not have a material adverse impact on our financial position or results of operations. If matters previously identified by management are resolved in a manner different from original estimates, there is the potential for a material adverse effect on operating results or cash flows in any one accounting period. See " Commitments and Contingencies."

Restructuring. We record restructuring charges from time to time that represent expenses incurred in connection with consolidations and cessations of certain of our operations as well as headcount reduction programs. These charges consist primarily of write-offs of surplus assets and severance costs. These charges are based on various factors including the employee's length of service, contract provisions, salary levels and local governmental legislation. At the time a related charge is recorded, we calculate our best estimate based upon detailed analysis. Although significant changes are not expected, actual costs may differ from these estimates.

For example, we had a headcount restructuring program, initiated in late 2001, with an original estimated charge to operations of \$6.6 million. In 2002, after many of the specific restructuring actions took place, we took an additional charge of \$1.3 million to refine our estimate. Similarly, we have accrued liabilities of \$33.7 million to cover restructuring liabilities for employee severance and facility closure costs in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Although under the rules of purchase accounting, this is not charged to operations, in the event that our estimates of such costs are too low, an additional charge to operations would be required.

Deferred Taxes. We record valuation allowances to reduce our deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized based on available evidence weighted toward evidence that is objectively verifiable. While we consider future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies in assessing the need for valuation allowances, if we were to determine that we would be able to realize deferred tax assets in the future in excess of our net recorded amount, an adjustment to the net deferred tax asset would increase income (or decrease goodwill for any net deferred tax assets acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition) in the period such determination was made. Likewise, should we determine that we would not be able to realize all or part of our recorded net deferred tax assets in the future, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset would decrease income (or increase goodwill for any net deferred tax assets acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition) in the period such determination was made.

We have cumulative net operating loss carryforwards in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom. We have fully reserved for net operating loss carryforwards in the United States, Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom and certain states in the United States as we have concluded realizability of these net operating loss carryforwards is not more likely than not. The full valuation allowance on the United States federal deferred tax assets was recorded during the fourth quarter of 2004, in accordance with our policy. We have not recorded valuation allowances on our German net operating loss carryforwards as we have considered positive evidence such as forecasted future taxable income based on historical taxable income adjusted for charges which are not indicative of future operations and as the carryforward period is indefinite.

SFAS 109, *Accounting for Income Taxes*, or SFAS 109, paragraph 105, "requires consideration of future taxable income and other available evidence when assessing the need for a valuation allowance." Various assumptions and strategies (including elections for tax purposes) are implicit in estimates of forecasted future taxable income.

We believe that, in situations in which future realization of deferred tax assets is dependent on taxable income from future operations, SFAS 109 requires the relative significance of cumulative losses be addressed within the guidance provided in paragraphs 24 and 103. Accordingly, in assessing the realization of United States jurisdiction net operating loss carryforwards for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, and, considering future taxable income, we have identified the key elements of both positive and negative evidence and evaluated such evidence by applying the guidance provided by paragraphs 24 and 103 of SFAS 109.

December 31, 2002 We were not in a three-year cumulative loss position at December 31, 2002, and accordingly used our operating budgets and forecasts in evaluating taxable income

expected to be available in future years to overcome the negative evidence of current and prior period losses. Our 2003 operating budgets and forecasts indicated that we would generate taxable income in excess of the minimum amount necessary in order to fully recover the United States federal deferred tax asset. Additionally, our predecessor had been in operation for many years and was profitable in all periods prior to the KKR acquisition and our related recapitalization in November 2000.

December 31, 2003 As of December 31, 2003, we had three years of net cumulative losses in the United States. Our policy to determine income from future operations is based on determining the normalized annual taxable income, averaged over the last three years. The steady-state analysis used to determine the amount of future taxable income available to utilize the United States federal net operating losses, or NOL, adjusts items included in the financial pre-tax loss which are not taxable (permanent items), represent items considered to be non-recurring items. The steady-state analysis includes material management assumptions that relate to the appropriateness of including non-recurring items. For 2003, non-recurring adjustments in our analysis included:

fundamental change in the Timber Treatment Chemicals division of the Performance Additives segment from the EPA-mandated change from CCA to ACQ resulting in an increase in the expected profit margin on the change in underlying sales volume from CCA to sales volume of ACQ;

the restructuring charge incurred during 2001 in connection with the KKR acquisition and its resulting organization as a stand-alone company of \$9.7 million;

the write-off of deferred financing charges related to the 2003 debt refinancing of \$38.3 million; and

the temporary differences related to the interest expense associated with the pay-in-kind loans and notes and senior discount notes (the temporary difference is excluded from the steady-state analysis and included as part of the scheduling exercise as an expense in the year in which the temporary difference is estimated to reverse).

We use this steady-state analysis to determine whether any valuation allowance is required. A partial valuation allowance would be required if there is an excess amount of the net deferred tax asset over the cumulative normalized taxable income during the statutory recovery period; a full valuation allowance would be required in the event the steady-state analysis results in a tax loss. In determining whether there is an excess of deferred tax assets, the measurement period for recovery of the asset begins when the underlying temporary differences become tax deductible.

As of December 31, 2003, based on our policy and the steady-state analysis, we determined that no valuation allowance was required on the deferred tax assets related to the United States federal net operating loss carryforwards of \$78.7 million as the analysis resulted in steady-state taxable income sufficient to generate the minimum amount of taxable income of \$3.9 million necessary in order to fully recover the deferred tax asset. During 2003, the valuation allowance was increased by \$6.3 million for increases in foreign and state net operating losses (\$16.4 million balance at December 31, 2003).

December 31, 2004 During the fourth quarter of 2004, the further weakening of the dollar resulted in significant foreign exchange losses on our euro-denominated debt resulting in a cumulative three-year steady-state taxable loss. Based on our policy and the resulting cumulative steady-state loss analysis, we determined during the fourth quarter that a full valuation allowance was required on the deferred tax assets of \$48.2 million related to the United States federal net operating loss carryforwards (including acquired net operating loss carryforwards) of \$137.8 million. In addition, as a result of the cumulative steady-state loss, we recorded a full valuation allowance of \$34.1 during the fourth quarter on the remaining net United States deferred tax assets including

interest on the pay-in-kind loans and notes and the senior discount notes. The remaining increase of \$22.0 million relates to increases in valuation allowance for certain foreign and state net operating losses. The increase in the valuation allowance (\$104.3 million) during 2004 resulted in a total valuation allowance at December 31, 2004 of \$120.7 million.

Tax Planning Strategy We also identified a tax planning strategy as part of our evaluation of evidence needed to rebut the presumption that a full valuation allowance was required for United States NOL carryforwards at December 31, 2002 and 2003. Specifically, we identified the sale of an appreciated non-core business. While the existence of a qualifying strategy often provides more objectively determinable evidence of realization and may be given more weight than a forecast of future taxable income, in our analysis we did not rely entirely on the potential sale because we had other sources of taxable income which were sufficient for us to conclude that no valuation allowance was required at December 31, 2002 and 2003.

We are committed to buying and selling businesses within our portfolio of businesses as opportunities arise to enhance our overall results. We are committed to selling assets which are non-core and which would generate a taxable gain in the event of expiring United States federal NOL's.

Stock-Based Compensation. The sales of common stock and grants of stock options during the year ended December 31, 2004, which are listed in note 12 to our consolidated financial statements, were made to management and certain other employees as part of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Accordingly, our board of directors determined that sales and grants would be made at the same purchase price and related exercise price per share paid by KKR and DLJMB. We and KKR had negotiated this price with DLJMB on an arm's-length basis based on our financial condition, historical results of operations and forecasts of the combined entity resulting from the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Determination of Fair Value At the time the shares of common stock were sold and the stock options were granted, our board of directors determined that the price per share paid by DLJMB as part of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition provided objective evidence of the fair value of the common stock sold and options granted in the 2004 management equity program, and thus did not obtain a contemporaneous valuation by an unrelated valuation specialist.

Our board of directors further determined the fair value of the common stock sold and options granted did not change from July 31, 2004 (the date of consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition) to November 30, 2004 (the date the 2004 management equity program was substantially completed) because, among other reasons:

our operations and forecasts had not changed in any material respect, largely due to the proximity in time to the consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition;

uncertainty and risk surrounded the integration of the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses with our historical businesses; and

at the time of the sales of common stock and the grants of stock options, we had not yet completed the Groupe Novasep combination which was subject to numerous closing conditions.

Subsequently, we performed a valuation of our common stock as of November 30, 2004 using a retrospective approach consistent with the valuation techniques applied in connection with the July 2004 equity investment by KKR and DLJMB. The results of this valuation approach were materially consistent with our board of director's conclusion that the fair value of the common stock on the date of sale or grant was the same as the price per share paid by DLJMB.

Additionally, we performed an implied market value analysis based on the stock price performance of our eight most comparable peers. In calculating this implied market value, we

applied the percentage change in market value of these peers on a monthly basis beginning with July 31, 2004. This analysis further validated the conclusion that the fair value of the common stock on the date of sale or grant at \$14.61 per share was reasonable.

Based on an assumed initial public offering price of \$24.50 (the midpoint of the estimated offering price range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus), the intrinsic value of the options outstanding at December 31, 2004 was \$38.4 million, of which \$9.2 million related to vested options and \$29.2 million related to unvested options.

Significant Factors, Assumptions, and Methodologies Used in Determining Fair Value In determining the fair value of our common stock, we are required to make complex and subjective judgments. This determination represents a critical accounting estimate. Specifically, we retrospectively determined fair value as of November 30, 2004 by multiplying the adjusted EBITDA of the combined company on a pro forma last twelve months basis by the same multiple at which KKR and DLJMB valued the combined Rockwood and Dynamit Nobel businesses in July 2004. The enterprise value of the combined company was then determined by subtracting from this amount the combined company's long-term debt, net of cash and cash equivalents, as of November 30, 2004. This resulting enterprise value was then divided by the outstanding number of shares as of November 30, 2004 to determine the estimated fair value per share.

Significant Factors Contributing to the Difference between Fair Value as of the dates of each grant and Estimated IPO Price As disclosed more fully in note 12 to our consolidated financial statements, during the year ended December 31, 2004, we granted 2,091,852 stock options, each with an exercise price of \$14.61 per share which we also determined to be the fair value of our common stock. We believe the difference between \$14.61 per share and the estimated public offering price is due to several factors that were not anticipated on the dates of the common stock sales and stock option grants and certain events that have occurred, or are expected to occur, and have resulted, or are expected to result, in an increased fair value of our common stock in connection with the initial public offering. They include:

Market factors

Successful Initial Public Offerings by Two Chemical Companies Two chemical companies successfully completed an initial public offering in November 2004 and January 2005. This return of chemical companies to the public equity markets in an initial public offering context bolsters our equity value by significantly increasing our chances of successfully completing an initial public offering. Based on the successful initial public offering in the United States of one of these companies, previously listed in Germany, the likelihood of a successful U.S. initial public offering of a chemicals company with significant European operations, such as Rockwood, increased significantly.

Completion of the Initial Public Offering The completion of an initial public offering will increase the value of our common stock due to the resulting significant increase in liquidity and marketability. In addition, due to the planned repayment of our pay-in-kind loans and redemption of our pay-in-kind notes and senior discount notes, which have a high rate of interest and due to the significant reduction in the cost of equity as a public company, we believe our weighted average cost of capital will decline contributing to a higher valuation of our common stock.

Business factors

Reduced Leverage The application of a substantial portion of the net proceeds of the initial public offering to reduce our substantial leverage will improve our liquidity significantly. This will positively affect the "net equity value," increasing the overall fair value of the common stock.

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Successful Integration of Dynamit Nobel. The integration risk associated with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition has been largely eliminated since the time of the sales of common stock and grants of stock options.

Completion of the Groupe Novasep Combination. On December 31, 2004, one of our subsidiaries completed the Groupe Novasep combination. We believe this combination improved the value of this segment and our overall value.

Subsequent to December 31, 2004, there were no stock options granted other than stock options exercisable for up to 10,869 shares of common stock granted on the date of this prospectus.

Pensions, Postemployment and Postretirement Costs. In connection with the KKR acquisition, the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, and the acquisition of the pigments and dispersion business of Johnson Matthey as well as the Groupe Novasep combination, Rockwood assumed responsibility for the pension and postretirement benefits for substantially all of the employees of the businesses acquired that were active as of the date of the applicable acquisition or combination. For the KKR and pigments and dispersion business acquisitions, obligations related to retired and terminated vested employees as of such date remained the responsibility of the seller, and accordingly, these obligations are not reflected in our financial statements. Defined benefit costs and liabilities have been determined in accordance with SFAS 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*. Postretirement benefit costs and liabilities have been determined in accordance with SFAS 106, *Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*. Postemployment benefit costs and liabilities have been determined in accordance with SFAS 112, *Employers' Accounting for Postemployment Benefits*.

The measurement of our pension obligations, costs and liabilities is dependent on a variety of assumptions used by our actuaries. These assumptions include estimates of the present value of projected future pension payments to all plan participants, with consideration to the likelihood of potential future events such as salary increases (due to marketplace conditions and/or inflation) and demographic experience (such as retirement and mortality rates). These assumptions may have an effect on the amount and timing of future contributions or benefit payments. For funded plans, the plan trustee obtains an independent valuation of the fair value of pension plan assets and prepares estimates of expected returns based on target asset allocations multiplied by current marketplace rates of return for comparable assets. We base the discount rate assumption on investment yields available at year-end on AA-rated corporate long-term bonds. The effects of actual results differing from our assumptions are accumulated and amortized over future periods and therefore are likely to affect our recognized expense in those periods. We cannot predict these bond yields or investment returns and therefore cannot reasonably estimate whether adjustments to our stockholders' equity for minimum pension liability in subsequent years will be significant.

Estimated sensitivity of our pension funded status and stockholders' equity and annual pension expense to a 0.25% increase/decrease in the discount rate assumption is shown below as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004. The estimates were based on inquiries of the actuaries of plans representing approximately 80% of total pension funded status as of December 31, 2004. Remaining plans are assumed to have similar sensitivities. The December 31, 2004 funded status

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and stockholders' equity are affected by assumptions as of December 31, 2004 while 2004 annual pension expense is affected by December 31, 2003 assumptions:

(\$ in millions)	As of December 31, 2004			
	U.S. Plans Funded Status	Non-U.S. Plans Funded Status	Equity	2004 Pension Expense
Impact of a Change in Discount Rate*				
+25 basis points	1.2	21.4	(12.6)	(0.5)
-25 basis points	(1.2)	(22.2)	13.7	0.5

*

Based on sensitivities provided by actuaries for the main German and United Kingdom schemes. Other countries plan are assumed to have similar sensitivities.

As shown above, changes in the discount rate can have a significant effect on the funded status of our pension plans and stockholders' equity. As noted above, the funded status and stockholders' equity of our funded plans might also be significantly affected by assumptions concerning expected return of plan assets. However, given that most of our pension obligations do not require funding, such sensitivity would be significantly less.

Effects of Recently Issued Accounting Standards

On July 31, 2004, we implemented SFAS 150 and Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") interpretation ("FIN") 46R. We implemented these as a result of the completion of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition on that same date; the Company did not previously implement these because they were not relevant prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. Implementation of these accounting standards has had no significant impact on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. SFAS 150, *Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity* establishes standards for how an issuer classifies and measures certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. These instruments are reported as a liability and accounted for at their fair value. Stock options and convertible bonds issued as remuneration are exempted from this standard. SFAS 150 is applicable to financial instruments issued or modified after May 31, 2003. The valuation rules pertaining to certain financial instruments are not applicable until further notice owing to FASB Staff Position No. 150-3 *Effective Date Disclosures, and Transition for Mandatorily Redeemable Financial Instruments of Certain Nonpublic Entities and Certain Mandatorily Redeemable Noncontrolling Interest under FASB Statement No. 150, Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity*. FIN 46R, *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities - an Interpretation of ARB No. 51 (revised)* provides guidance on the identification of entities for which control is achieved through means other than through voting rights ("variable-interest entity") and how to determine when an entity is the primary beneficiary and required to consolidate a variable-interest entity.

We plan to implement the financial accounting standards listed below on January 1, 2006. We do not expect any significant impact on our financial position, results of operation, or cash flows from the implementation of SFAS 151 and SFAS 153, although we are still in the process of evaluating SFAS 123R as to its potential impact, if any.

SFAS 151	<i>Inventory Costs</i>
SFAS 153	<i>Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets</i>
SFAS 123R	<i>Share Based Payment</i>

SFAS 151 clarifies the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material (spoilage). This standard requires such items be recognized as

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current-period charges and is effective for inventory costs incurred during fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005.

SFAS 153 eliminates the exception for nonmonetary exchanges of similar productive assets and replaces it with a general exception for exchanges of nonmonetary assets that do not have commercial substance. This standard is effective for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005.

SFAS 123R revises SFAS 123 *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation* and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and its related implementation guidance. SFAS 123R requires entities to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of the award. That cost will be recognized over the period during which the employee is required to provide services in exchange for the award. This standard eliminates the alternative to use the intrinsic value method of accounting for share based payments as previously provided in APB 25. This standard is effective for us beginning in the first quarter of 2006. As we are not yet a publicly traded equity company, we will apply SFAS 123R on a prospective basis. As such, new awards, modifications to existing awards, repurchases or cancellations subsequent to February 11, 2005 (the date on which we filed our Form S-1) will be accounted for in accordance with SFAS 123R on the modified prospective basis.

In May 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ("FSP") 106-2 *Accounting and Disclosure Requirements Related to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003*. This guidance supersedes FSP 106-1 issued in January 2004 and clarifies the accounting and disclosure requirements for employers with postretirement benefit plans that have been or will be affected by the passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the "Act"). The Act introduces two new features to Medicare that an employer needs to consider in measuring its obligation and net periodic postretirement benefit costs. The effective date for the new requirements was the first interim or annual period beginning after June 15, 2004. The adoption of FSP 106-2 did not have a material impact on us.

About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and commodity prices. We manage our exposure to these market risks through regular operating and financing activities and through the use of derivatives. When used, derivatives are employed as risk management tools and not for trading purposes.

Interest Rate Risk

We had \$549.1 million of variable rate debt (after hedging) outstanding as of March 31, 2005 at the then applicable exchange rate. Any borrowings under our revolving credit facility will also be at a variable rate. We are not required under the terms of any of our long-term debt facilities to hedge, or otherwise protect against interest rate fluctuation in our variable rate debt. In August 2004, we entered into two derivative contracts to hedge interest rate risk, which currently cover notional amounts of \$652.6 million and €486.0 million. These derivative contracts effectively convert the senior secured credit facilities to fixed rate obligations, currently at weighted average interest rates of 6.14% and 6.37%, respectively. The maturity date of the U.S. dollars hedge is July 2007, and the maturity date of the euro hedge is July 2008. We may in the future consider adjusting the amounts covered by these derivative contracts to better suit our new capital structure. Each 0.125% increase or decrease in the assumed weighted average interest rate would change the annual pro forma interest expense by \$0.7 million.

Foreign Currency Risk

We conduct operations in many countries around the world. Our results of operations are subject to both currency transaction risk and currency translation risk. We operate a geographically diverse business, with 50% of our pro forma net sales in 2004 generated from customers in Europe, 34% in North America (predominately in the United States) and 16% from the rest of the world based upon customer ship-to locations. Our diverse and extensive customer base is served by 100 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries. Although we sell and manufacture our products in many countries, our sales and production costs are mainly denominated in U.S. dollars and euros. Our results of operations and financial condition are therefore impacted by the fluctuation of the euro against our reporting currency, the U.S. dollar. As a result of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, a significantly larger portion of our sales and production costs is now denominated in euros. Approximately 40% of our pro forma net sales would have been derived from subsidiaries whose sales are denominated in euros. This increases the impact of the fluctuation of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

We incur currency transaction risk whenever we enter into either a purchase or sale transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity. Gains and losses on currency transactions are included in operating income and do impact our operating margins. With respect to currency translation risk, our financial condition and results of operations are measured and recorded in the relevant domestic currency and then translated into U.S. dollars for inclusion in our consolidated financial statements. Gains and losses on currency translations are recorded in our financial statements as a component of "other comprehensive income (loss)" and do not impact our operating margins. Exchange rates between these currencies and U.S. dollars in recent years have fluctuated significantly and may do so in the future.

Our financial results are subject to the effect of currency fluctuations on the translation of our euro-denominated debt. As of March 31, 2005, our total euro-denominated debt equaled €1,061.5 million (\$1,379.5 million based on the March 31, 2005 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2996). A weakening or strengthening of the euro against the U.S. dollar by \$0.01 would decrease or increase, respectively, by \$10.6 million the U.S. dollar equivalent of our total euro-denominated debt. Gains and losses on the translation of debt denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the borrower are included as a separate component of "other income (expenses)" in our statement of operations and "accumulated other comprehensive income" in our balance sheet. We had previously entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps, with a June 30, 2004 notional amount of \$75.0 million that effectively converted U.S. dollar LIBOR-based debt into euro LIBOR-based debt. Gains and losses on these swaps have been included in interest expense. We settled \$53.4 million of these swaps simultaneously with the consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

Also, in connection with the offering of the 2014 notes, we entered into cross currency interest rate swaps with a five year term and a notional amount of €155.6 million that effectively convert the U.S. dollar fixed rate debt in respect of the 2014 dollar-denominated notes sold into euro fixed rate debt. We designated this contract as a hedge of the foreign currency exposure of our net investment in its euro-denominated operations.

Commodity Price Risk

We are subject to commodity price risk for certain of our raw materials. We have not materially hedged this commodity price exposure to date.

DYNAMIT NOBEL ACQUISITION

The following contains a summary of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and the sale and purchase agreement that Group entered into in contemplation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. The description of the sale and purchase agreement is generalized and not complete.

On April 19, 2004, certain subsidiaries of Group entered into a sale and purchase agreement with mg technologies ag and its subsidiary, MG North America Holdings Inc., to acquire its wholly-owned specialty chemicals and advanced materials business, Dynamit Nobel. We paid approximately €1,635.0 million (or \$1,968.5 million based on the July 31, 2004 exchange rate of €1.00=\$1.2040), in cash, and assumed debt of \$315.1 million and cash acquired of \$9.6 million for the businesses acquired. This price remains subject to a possible post-closing adjustment. The acquisition was consummated on July 31, 2004.

In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, Group entered into senior secured credit facilities and a senior subordinated loan facility, and we received an equity contribution of \$425.0 from affiliates of KKR and DLJMB. In addition, Rockwood Specialties International, Inc. exchanged its outstanding dollar-denominated pay-in-kind notes (including additional pay-in-kind notes issued in connection with interest payments on these notes) for euro-denominated pay-in-kind notes, after the repayment in cash of \$20.0 million of such additional pay-in-kind notes with part of the proceeds of the equity contribution from affiliates of KKR and DLJMB.

In October 2004, Group refinanced a portion of its borrowings under the senior subordinated loan facility with additional term loan borrowings under an amendment to the senior secured credit facilities and in November 2004, refinanced the remaining borrowings under the senior subordinated loan facility with proceeds from the issuance of the 2014 notes. In December 2004, Group refinanced all of its borrowings under the tranche B term loans with new borrowings of the same aggregate principal amount bearing lower interest rate under the tranche D term loans in order to reduce its interest expense.

In addition, in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, pursuant to the 2004 management equity program, members of our management and certain other employees have made cash equity investments of approximately \$7.0 million in us. As a result of these equity contributions, affiliates of KKR, DLJMB and members of our management and certain other employees currently hold approximately 69.6%, 19.7% and 8.8%, respectively, of our common stock, on a fully-diluted basis and, after giving effect to this offering, would hold approximately 50.8%, 14.4% and 6.4%, respectively.

Sale and Purchase Agreement

The sale and purchase agreement contains customary seller representations and warranties of mg technologies ag and MG North America Holdings Inc., limited buyer representations and warranties of certain of our subsidiaries that are parties and customary covenants and other agreements between mg technologies and MG North America Holdings and the buyers.

The sale and purchase agreement contains several indemnification provisions for certain liabilities relating to the companies, businesses and assets that we acquired.

Indemnity for Breaches of Representations and Warranties

The sale and purchase agreement provides that mg technologies will and, in the event that a representation or warranty of MG North America Holdings Inc. turns out to be inaccurate, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings will indemnify us against damages arising from breaches of their representations and warranties.

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The sale and purchase agreement does not allow us to make a claim for indemnification for any loss or damage relating to a breach of a representation or warranty unless the losses or damages for any claim or series of related claims exceed €250,000 (other than for losses relating to specified representations and warranties). The sellers' indemnification obligations with respect to breaches of representations and warranties are subject to a deductible for the first €20.0 million in damages (other than for losses relating to breaches of specified representations and warranties not subject to the deductible) and a cap of €400.0 million (other than for losses relating to breaches of specified representations and warranties not subject to this cap).

The indemnification obligations are limited in certain respects. In particular, we are not able to seek indemnification based on a claim of breach of a representation or warranty if the extent of such breach (inaccuracy of the representation or warranty) was disclosed in the due diligence materials provided to us.

The sale and purchase agreement further provides that mg technologies will be strictly liable for indemnifying us against any claims, losses and damages incurred by us after the date of the consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition arising out of:

any parts of the business that were sold or carved-out of the acquired businesses with effect between December 31, 2003 and the consummation of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition;

obligations or liabilities of any of the companies acquired by us to pay any brokerage or finder's fees;

mg technologies' non-compliance with any of the pre-closing covenants; or

claims for damages made against any of the companies acquired by us by the government of Singapore in relation to the sale of short-range anti-armor weapons.

Tax Indemnity

The sale and purchase agreement provides for a tax indemnity pursuant to which mg technologies ag and its subsidiary, MG North America Holdings Inc., among other things, are obligated to indemnify us, subject to certain limits and exclusions, for certain tax liabilities that arise as a consequence of actions occurring prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, as well as certain other events.

Environmental Indemnity

The sale and purchase agreement provides for an environmental indemnity setting out environmental related matters in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. The environmental indemnity provides that mg technologies ag and MG North America Holdings Inc., will indemnify us and our subsidiaries for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related to the contamination of our or our subsidiaries' properties, if notified within ten years. If mg technologies' and MG North America Holdings' responsibility for contamination matters cannot be proven, a sliding scale reduces the percentage further for each year during the five-year period from year six to ten. mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are also obligated to indemnify us for 85% of claims related to legacy site matters, such as environmental matters relating to properties or businesses owned or operated by Dynamit Nobel prior to, but not on, the closing of Dynamit Nobel acquisition, if notified within ten years. In addition, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves for operational compliance matters, if notified by December 31, 2006, and 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related

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to certain environmental damage claims if notified within ten years. All of these indemnity obligations are subject to different minimum per-claim thresholds depending on whether the matter was disclosed or not, and on the subject matter, ranging between €100,000 and €750,000 depending on the type of claim. The indemnity obligations are further subject to certain deductibles, exclusions and limitations.

Furthermore, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for certain environmental risks arising from certain "shared site" structures for a duration of ten years. This indemnity obligation is not subject to the percentages, *de minimis* and thresholds described above, and it is not subject to most of the general limitations.

In the event we seek indemnity under any of these obligations, there can be no assurance that mg technologies and MG North America Holdings will adhere to their obligations and we may have to resort to legal action to enforce our rights under the indemnities.

BUSINESS

General

We are a leading global developer, manufacturer and marketer of technologically advanced, high value-added specialty chemicals and advanced materials. We believe we have leading market positions in most of our businesses, including lithium compounds, fiber anatase titanium dioxide, color pigments and services, ceramic-on-ceramic components used in hip joint prostheses systems and next generation wood protection products.

We have a number of high growth businesses such as Advanced Ceramics, Specialty Chemicals and Performance Additives, which are complemented by a diverse portfolio of businesses that historically have generated stable revenues. Our margins, strong cash flow generation, capital discipline and ongoing productivity improvements provide us with a platform to capitalize on market growth opportunities.

Our products consist primarily of inorganic chemicals and solutions and engineered materials. They are often customized to meet the complex needs of our customers and to enhance the value and performance of their end products by improving performance, providing essential product attributes, lowering costs or making them more environmentally friendly.

We generally compete in niche markets in a wide range of end-use markets, including construction, life sciences (including pharmaceutical and medical markets), electronics and telecommunications, metal treatment and general industrial and consumer products markets. No single end-use market accounted for more than 19% of our 2004 pro forma net sales.

We operate globally, manufacturing our products in 100 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries and selling our products and providing our services to more than 60,000 customers. Our customers include some of the world's preeminent companies, such as Alcoa Inc., Robert Bosch GmbH, DaimlerChrysler AG, E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Motorola Inc., Novartis AG, Pfizer Inc., Rohm and Haas Company and The Sherwin-Williams Company. We believe our products are generally critical to our customers' products' performance, but account for a small percentage of the total cost of their products. No single customer accounted for more than 2% of our 2004 pro forma net sales.

On July 31, 2004, we acquired the specialty chemicals and advanced materials businesses of Dynamit Nobel. See "Dynamit Nobel Acquisition." Through this acquisition, we have created a further diversified portfolio of distinct specialty chemicals and advanced materials businesses, combining two companies with similar service-driven cultures focused on high margins; expertise in inorganic chemistry; stable profitability; growth platforms and proven management teams. In addition, we believe the Dynamit Nobel acquisition bolsters our leading competitive positions by enhancing our ability to develop innovative products and solutions for our customers, expanding our technological knowledge and further reducing our exposure to any particular raw material or end-use market.

Following the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we operate our business through seven business segments. They are: (1) Performance Additives; (2) Specialty Compounds; (3) Electronics; (4) Specialty Chemicals; (5) Titanium Dioxide Pigments; (6) Advanced Ceramics; and (7) Groupe Novasep. The following table sets forth for each of our seven segments pro forma net sales of such

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segment and the percentage of our pro forma net sales for the year ended December 31, 2004, as well as our principal products and our principal end-use markets.

Segment	2004 Pro Forma Net Sales		Principal Products	Principal End-Use Markets
	\$ in Millions	% of Total		
Performance Additives	\$ 674.8	23%	Iron oxide pigments Wood protection products Inorganic chemicals Synthetic and organic thickeners Branded specialty pool and spa performance chemicals	Residential and commercial construction, coatings and plastics Coatings Personal care, paper manufacturing, foundries Pool products distributors, golf courses, agriculture
Specialty Compounds	\$ 200.4	7%	High specification compounds such as PVC and TPE	Voice and data transmission cables, food and beverage packaging, medical devices, footwear and automotive
Electronics	\$ 168.1	6%	High purity chemicals and printed circuit board chemicals Photo-imaging masks Recycling and repair service	Semi-conductors and printed circuit board manufacturing
Specialty Chemicals	\$ 759.6	26%	Lithium compounds and chemicals Metal surface treatment chemicals including corrosion protection/prevention oils Synthetic metal sulfides	Automotive Pre-coating metal treatment and car body pre-treatment Steel and metal working Life sciences (pharmaceutical synthesis and polymers) Polymerization initiators for elastomers Aerospace Greases and glass manufacturing Mobile batteries
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	\$ 422.0	14%	Titanium dioxide pigments Barium compounds Zinc compounds Flocculants	Synthetic fibers for clothing Plastics Paper Paints and coatings Pharmaceutical contrast media Water treatment
Advanced Ceramics	\$ 349.5	12%	Ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in hip joint prostheses systems Ceramic tapes Cutting tools Other ceramic components	Medical (Hip replacement surgery) Mechanical systems Electronics
Groupe Novasep	\$ 338.6	12%	Pharmaceuticals compounds (advanced intermediates and active ingredients) Equipment engineering and manufacturing	Pharmaceuticals Agro chemicals Flavors and fragrances
Total	\$ 2,913.0	100%		

Business Strengths

Leading market positions. We believe that we hold leading market positions within most of our businesses. We believe that based on our 2004 pro forma net sales, we have leading market positions for the following products in each of our seven segments:

Operating Segment	Products	Market Position
Performance Additives	synthetic iron oxide pigments	one of top 3 globally
	wood protection products	one of top 3 globally
Specialty Compounds	value-added thermoplastics compounds for use in high-end data and video communication wire and cable	#1 in North America
Electronics	chemicals for the printed circuit board industry	a leading producer in Taiwan
	high purity chemicals for the semiconductor industry	a leading producer in Europe
Specialty Chemicals	lithium compounds and chemicals	#1 globally
	metal surface treatment chemicals and related services	#2 globally
Titanium Dioxide Pigments	anatase titanium dioxide pigment for the synthetic fiber manufacturing industry	#1 globally
	zinc- and barium-based pigments	a leading global producer
Advanced Ceramics	ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in hip joint prostheses systems	#1 globally
	ceramics cutting tools	#1 in Europe
Groupe Novasep	hazardous chemistry and chiral technologies for the synthesis of pharmaceutical compounds	a leading global producer

Specialty businesses in niche markets with significant barriers to entry. We believe that nearly all of our businesses operate in niche markets protected by significant barriers to entry, including the following:

Customized products and solutions. We develop and manufacture products that meet specific customers' performance requirements. For example, our Performance Additives segment provides specialized pigments and color formulations to specific customers by producing synthetic iron oxide pigments in a wide range of colors, grades and physical forms to serve the construction, paints and coatings and specialty applications markets. Our Specialty Chemicals segment provides lithium compounds that are tailored to specific customer applications, including lithium batteries and high performance greases. In addition, our Groupe Novasep segment manufactures compounds for the life sciences industry through customized production processes, which are, in most cases, tailored to client-specific processes or special technologies such as hazardous chemistry and chiral separation.

Technological know-how and expertise. We use our technological know-how to improve and develop innovative products to meet our customers' specific requirements and needs. For example, our Performance Additives segment recently developed a proprietary chemical formulation known as Clearwood that acts as a fungicide, insecticide and water repellent to improve the performance of wood windows and doors. In addition, in our Advanced Ceramics segment, we produce ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in FDA-approved hip joint prostheses systems in the United States.

Significant switching costs. We believe that many of our customers would experience significant disruption and costs if they were to switch to another supplier. For example, in our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, our specialty titanium dioxide pigments represent a small portion of the production cost of our customers' products; however, we believe that switching to a new supplier by a customer would require a significant period of production downtime. In addition, our pharmaceutical customers purchase our Groupe Novasep products on a long-term contract basis for use as intermediates in manufacturing FDA-approved drugs that, in many cases, are subject to patents.

Diverse Customer and End-Use Market Base. We operate a diverse portfolio of distinct specialty chemicals and advanced materials businesses. We have more than 60,000 customers worldwide that cover a wide variety of industries and geographic areas. Of our 2004 pro forma net sales, 50% were shipments to Europe, 34% to North America (predominately the United States) and 16% to the rest of the world. No customer accounted for more than 2% of such net sales, and our top ten customers represented only approximately 11% of such net sales. Our largest end-use market represented approximately 19% of such net sales. The following chart provides a breakdown of our 2004 pro forma net sales by end-use markets:

Within these end-use markets, there is further diversification by sector, product and region. For example, within the construction end-use market, our Performance Additives segment companies provide materials for new construction as well as companies that focus on remodeling and renovation. In addition, we serve construction materials clients in both the residential and commercial sectors located in North America, Europe and Asia. Within the life sciences end-use market, we serve a number of sectors, including: the medical devices sector through our Specialty Compounds and Advanced Ceramics segments; the pharmaceutical intermediates sector through our Groupe Novasep segment; and the pharmaceutical ingredients sector through our Specialty Chemicals segment.

Limited exposure to raw materials and energy prices. We have a broad raw material base consisting primarily of inorganic (non-petrochemical) materials, most of which are readily available and whose prices follow their own individual supply and demand relationships and have historically shown little correlation to each other. Our largest and second largest raw material purchases represented less than approximately 2% and 1% of our 2004 pro forma net sales, respectively, while our top ten raw material purchases represented less than 8% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. Further, our exposure to energy prices is limited as energy costs accounted for approximately 3% of our 2004 pro forma net sales.

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Leading technologies and strong brand names. We believe we are recognized as an innovative industry leader in many of our businesses due to our technological know-how and strong customer focus. We identify, commercialize and market new products, which we develop internally or with third parties, as well as license or otherwise acquire. We believe that a number of our products and business brands have gained strong recognition, including the following:

Performance Additives *Granufin*, our patented iron oxide granulated pigment, which provides significant advantages in terms of product handling, color consistency and ease of use when used with our Granumat dispensing system;

Performance Additives *Preserve* and *Preserve Plus*, our environmentally advanced ACQ timber treatment products, which we introduced as alternatives to traditional arsenic-based chemicals such as CCA;

Performance Additives *Garamite*, our clay-based additive, which is used in the manufacture of fiberglass composites and provides production efficiencies and enhanced performance of the end-product;

Performance Additives *Cloisite*, a clay mineral known as nanoclay, which is used in the production of certain plastics;

Specialty Chemicals *Ardrox*, which provides a complete range of globally recognized products specifically developed for use in aircraft maintenance programs, ranging from daily cleaning to complete aircraft overhaul;

Specialty Chemicals *OurGardo* products (such as *Gardoclear* and *Gardobond*), which provide complete process solutions for all steps of the chemical treatment of metal surfaces, often tailored for individual customers and their applications; and

Titanium Dioxide Pigments *Hombitan*, which is recognized as the world's #1 anatase titanium dioxide pigment for the synthetic fiber manufacturing industry.

Experienced and proven management team with significant equity interests. We have an experienced management team with a proven record of financial and operational excellence. Since joining us in 2001, Seifi Ghasemi, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Robert Zatta, our senior vice president and chief financial officer, together with other members of our senior management team, have been responsible for instilling a culture of ownership and introducing several initiatives that have resulted in significant improvement in our business including increased growth in net sales, development of new products, cost reductions, working capital improvements, capital expenditure reductions and improved customer relationships. The heads of our business lines have, on average, over 20 years of experience in the specialty chemicals and advanced materials industry and over ten years at their respective businesses. Members of management and certain other employees currently hold approximately 8.8% of the outstanding shares of our common stock on a fully-diluted basis and, after giving effect to this offering, would hold approximately 6.4%.

Business Strategy

Building on these strengths, we plan to continue our existing strategy to grow revenue and cash flow and increase profitability as follows:

Capitalize on Market Growth Opportunities. We believe that our leading technology and development capabilities position us to capitalize on a number of growth trends affecting our businesses. For example:

Advanced Ceramics We expect this segment to benefit from a growing trend towards replacing plastics and metals with high-performance ceramics. For example, as the only

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manufacturer and supplier to date of ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in FDA-approved hip joint prostheses systems in the United States, we believe that we are well-positioned to capitalize on the global increase in the market for hip implants. We expect this market to grow by approximately 8% per year over the next ten years. In addition, we expect this segment to benefit from the growth in the use of Piezo ceramic components, which are capable of converting mechanical quantities into electrical quantities or, conversely, turning electrical signals into mechanical movement or oscillation, in sensor applications.

Performance Additives We expect this segment to benefit from the growing trend toward the use of color in concrete paving stones and other home remodeling fuelled in part by increased exposure at "do-it-yourself" home centers.

Specialty Compounds We expect to grow sales of this segment for high-end data and video communication wire and cable applications as a result of our joint development agreement with DuPont to create, manufacture and commercialize new Smokeguard® compounds based on Teflon® technologies.

Specialty Chemicals We expect our Fine Chemicals business line to benefit from the increasing use of lithium compounds in the life sciences/pharmaceutical industry. We also expect this segment to benefit from the increased demand for lithium-based batteries for mobile electronic applications. In addition, we will benefit from the trend to replace chrome-containing products with chrome-free technologies in metal surface treatment, such as silane-based systems or our patented self-assembling molecule technology.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments We expect this segment to benefit from sales of our newly introduced nano-particle titanium dioxide pigments that are used to provide ultraviolet light protection for plastics and coatings.

Achieve profitable growth through selective acquisitions. We intend to continue to selectively pursue cash flow accretive acquisitions and strategic alliances in order to strengthen and expand our existing business lines and enter into complementary business lines. For example, in 2004, we acquired:

the assets of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. (purchase price of approximately \$47.1 million), which strengthened our Performance Additives segment; and

the assets of the Hamburger Color Company Inc. (purchase price of \$3.0 million), which strengthened our Performance Additives segment.

We also completed a combination of the three business lines of our Custom Synthesis segment (now known as our Groupe Novasep segment) with Groupe Novasep SAS (purchase price of approximately \$139.7 million, including assumed net debt, shares contributed and acquired cash), which strengthened this segment. Although we are not subject to any agreement or binding letter of intent with respect to potential acquisitions, we are engaged in acquisition discussions with other parties.

In addition, we set aggressive performance targets for all of our businesses and will refocus or divest those activities that fail to meet our targets or do not fit our long-term strategies. For example, in 2002 we divested our pool and spa accessories business and in 2000 sold our U.K. and Irish water treatment business line.

Apply our proven improvement initiatives to the Dynamit Nobel businesses. Since 2001, following the KKR acquisition and the arrival of our new senior management team, Rockwood has implemented a series of initiatives designed to increase sales, improve productivity, reduce costs and expand margins. Key strategic initiatives included a decentralization of decision making,

enhancing accountability for Rockwood's managers, a reduction in overhead cost structure, a focus on manufacturing productivity and cash generation, selective acquisitions and a pursuit of identified organic growth initiatives. These initiatives had positive impact on cash flow and profitability of Rockwood's historic businesses in recent years. We are currently in the process of applying similar initiatives to the acquired Dynamit Nobel businesses:

Reducing overhead costs. Rockwood implemented measures to reduce overhead costs and eliminate redundancies. At the Dynamit Nobel businesses, we have begun to implement plans to cut costs, reduce overhead and eliminate duplicate positions. For example, we closed the former headquarters of Dynamit Nobel in Troisdorf, Germany and the New Lebanon, New York manufacturing facility of our Advanced Ceramics segment and will implement other restructuring measures at our Specialty Chemicals and Groupe Novasep segments. In addition, we eliminated 40 positions in connection with the acquisition of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc. We expect that we will achieve total annual cost savings of approximately \$17.0 million, of which we have already realized approximately \$7.0 million through March 31, 2005 in connection with these and other actions;

Improving working capital management. Since 2001, Rockwood has been successful in reducing its net working capital (accounts receivable and inventory net of accounts payable) as a percentage of net sales by implementing more effective systems to monitor working capital, augmenting further our "just-in-time" inventory management and creating incentives for managers to focus on working capital management. We intend to reduce net working capital as a percentage of net sales at the Dynamit Nobel businesses using the same initiatives;

Instilling capital discipline. Rockwood implemented stringent controls to help ensure that maintenance capital expenditures are appropriate and that expansion capital is in line with both capacity and market demands. Over the past four years, Rockwood's capital expenditures as a percentage of net sales have decreased from 6.2% in 2000 to 4.3% in 2003. From 2001 to 2003, the average capital expenditures of Dynamit Nobel were approximately 8.0% of Dynamit Nobel's net sales, of which we estimate a majority were investments in growth prospects. We intend to monitor capital expenditures in all of our segments; and

Increasing productivity. Rockwood improved productivity by implementing metrics that allow it to better track its manufacturing productivity, product pricing and expenses. We intend to continue to improve productivity in the Rockwood businesses and target productivity improvements in the Dynamit Nobel businesses by implementing additional productivity metrics, rationalizing plants and reducing headcount, particularly in our Groupe Novasep, Specialty Chemicals, and Advanced Ceramics segments.

Reduce financial leverage. We intend to reduce our financial leverage by using a significant portion of the net proceeds from this offering and a significant portion of cash flow from operations after required capital expenditures and payments to service our debt. We believe that our historically strong cash flow generation will be further strengthened by our organic growth opportunities within our existing markets, combined with our improved working capital management.

Our Sponsors

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P., or KKR, is one of the world's most experienced private equity firms specializing in management buyouts. KKR's investment approach is focused on acquiring attractive business franchises and working closely with management over the long-term to design and implement value creating strategies. Over the past 28 years, KKR has raised

approximately \$25.0 billion in private equity funds and invested over \$21.0 billion of equity in more than 115 transactions. KKR has made an aggregate common equity and preferred contribution of \$572.6 million to us since its acquisition of our company from Laporte plc in November 2000.

The funds comprising DLJMB are part of DLJ Merchant Banking, which is a leading private equity investor with a 20-year history of investing in leveraged buyouts and related transactions across a broad range of industries. DLJ Merchant Banking is part of Credit Suisse First Boston's Alternative Capital Division, Credit Suisse First Boston's dedicated alternative asset platform. Since 1985, DLJ Merchant Banking has invested or committed more than \$9.0 billion in more than 140 portfolio companies. DLJ Merchant Banking is currently investing through DLJ Merchant Banking Partners III, which made an equity contribution of \$159.4 million in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition.

History

Rockwood Holdings, Inc., which was formerly known as K-L Holdings, Inc., is a Delaware corporation that was formed in September 2000. On November 20, 2000, an entity controlled by affiliates of KKR acquired certain specialty chemicals business lines with operations in Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States from Laporte plc, a public company incorporated in England and Wales, which was subsequently acquired by Degussa AG. Total cash consideration paid was \$1,175.0 million, plus a post-closing adjustment of \$5.6 million.

The purchase price and related fees and expenses were financed by:

\$520.0 million in term loans under senior secured credit facilities borrowed by Group and one of our U.K. subsidiaries;

\$325.0 million in senior subordinated loans under a senior subordinated loan facility borrowed by Group;

\$100.0 million in pay-in-kind loans borrowed by Rockwood Specialties Consolidated, Inc.; and

\$282.0 million in a cash common equity investment in Rockwood Holdings, Inc. by affiliates of KKR.

KKR acquired these specialty chemicals business lines from Laporte because it believed they would create an attractive business with which it could work to develop and implement value creating strategies. Rockwood retained most of the management of the acquired businesses. However, these businesses had not previously had a central senior management team. Accordingly, in 2001, KKR assisted Rockwood in identifying and hiring Seifi Ghasemi, our chairman and chief executive officer, and Robert Zatta, our senior vice president and chief financial officer. Rockwood also retained Thomas Riordan as senior vice president, law and administration, who had held a similar position with the U.S. operations of Laporte. Following their arrival, Rockwood implemented a series of improvement initiatives designed to grow sales, improve productivity, reduce costs and expand margins.

Operating Segments

The following describes each of our operating segments, as well as the principal products or principal divisions within each segment.

Performance Additives (23% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

Our Performance Additives segment consists of business lines which develop and manufacture a range of specialty chemicals that are used in industrial and consumer products and processes to

enhance performance or create unique characteristics. This segment manufactures and markets products that are based on a focused research and development effort and a strong technology base. Our Performance Additives segment generated net sales of \$443.8 million, \$477.3 million and \$630.9 million (on an actual basis) for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. Our Performance Additives segment accounted for 23% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. See note 3 to our and Rockwood's audited consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Performance Additives segment.

Color Pigments and Services

Our Color Pigments and Services business line is a global producer of synthetic iron oxide and other inorganic pigments in a wide range of yellow, red, orange, blue, black or blended shades, and serves the construction, paints and coatings, plastics, and specialty application markets with powder, granular and liquid grades. Color Pigments and Services focuses on developing and manufacturing high value-added inorganic pigments. The business also offers a number of unique pigment dispensing systems. Color Pigments and Services generates sales from construction pigments, which include colorings for concrete products such as paving stones, bricks, concrete blocks, roofing tiles, ready mix stucco and mortar; from paints and coatings as well as colorants for plastics, paper and rubber; and from specialty applications including security inks, toners for printers and copiers, catalysts and cosmetics.

Our Color Pigments and Services business line has been driven by product innovation, our brand names and our customer and technical service, including customer-specific color blending. We expect this segment to benefit from the growing trend towards the use of color in concrete paving stones and other home remodeling fuelled in part by increased exposure at "do-it-yourself" home centers.

An important component of Color Pigments and Services' product innovation has been our patented granulated pigment, *Granufin*, which, when used in conjunction with our *Granumat* dispensing system, offers significant advantages to customers over traditional pigment systems in the coloring of manufactured concrete products, such as ease of handling and consistency in coloring. We believe that *Granumat* is the leading granulated pigment dispensing system worldwide and is a result of Color Pigments and Services' research and development focus on process and delivery systems for its products. In addition, in May 2000 we commercialized our *Chameleon* dispensing system, which electronically controls the delivery of pigments into ready-mix concrete when used with our liquid pigment product line.

In March 2003, we acquired the assets of Southern Color Company, Inc. and its affiliates, which expanded our Color Pigments and Services product portfolio into the brick and decorative market segments and provided us with access to the packaged mortar tolling business. In addition, in March 2003, Color Pigments and Services purchased a majority interest in a manufacturer of iron oxide pigments in China. The joint venture manufactures and dry blends pigments and provides us with a continuing source of pigments, as well as an important platform to expand Color Pigments and Services' commercial activities inside the Asia Pacific region. Color Pigments and Services holds a 51% interest in the joint venture.

In June 2003, Color Pigments and Services entered into an agreement pursuant to which an affiliate of W.R. Grace & Co., which sells admixtures and fibers, distributes our liquid pigments and *Chameleon* dispensing systems to ready-mix and precast producers in the concrete industry. We believe our combined efforts will provide ready mix and precast customers with added value in the form of colored ready mix concrete.

In September 2004, we acquired the assets of the pigments and dispersions business of Johnson Matthey Plc., which included facilities located in Kidsgrove and Sudbury, U.K., and

Braeside, Australia for approximately \$47.1 million. The pigments and dispersions business produces transparent iron oxide pigments and dispersions, color concentrates and complex inorganic color pigments used in the surface and wood coatings, plastics, building materials and print ink markets. In addition, we acquired the assets of Hamburger Color Company Inc., a producer of liquid pigments, which included a facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Principal Products

Construction Color Pigments and Services. We develop and manufacture principally iron oxide pigments for manufacturers of construction products for use in the coloring of concrete products, including paving stones, bricks, concrete blocks, roofing tiles, stucco and mortar. Color Pigments and Services' major U.S. brand is *Davis Colors* and its key products include *Granufin/Granumat*, *Hydrotint*, *Mix-Ready* and *Chameleon*. *Granufin* is a unique, dry, micro-granulated pigment that combines the flow characteristics of a liquid with the storage and handling advantages of a powder. The *Granumat* dispensing system offers a variety of configurations and features designed to accommodate the varying requirements and budgets of concrete product manufacturers. *Granufin* pigments and the *Granumat* system improve product handling and color consistency for our customers. The granulation technology used in *Granufin* is patented until 2007 in the United States. Our *Chameleon* system, which works in combination with our liquid pigments, automatically weighs, blends and conveys colors into a ready-mix truck using a standard personal computer and custom-developed Windows-based software.

Paints, Coatings and Colorants. We also develop and manufacture colored pigments for the paints, coatings, plastics, paper and rubber end-use markets including the brands *Ferroxide*, *Trans-oxide* and *Colourplex*. We produce a wide variety of pigments for these markets that include synthetic iron oxides, corrosion inhibitor pigments, complex inorganic color pigments and process natural pigments such as burnt umbers and siennas. The largest application for these products is colorant used in architectural, industrial and special purpose paints and coatings. Color, ease of dispersion and chemical stability are the primary characteristics of our products, which can be used in a wide variety of both solvent and water-borne systems. We believe that a number of Color Pigments and Services' products are considered industry standards in the markets in which we compete, such as our Mapico yellow pigment for architectural and industrial applications and our heat stable tans, which can tolerate applications requiring high temperature processing, such as plastic compounding and roofing granules.

Specialties. Our iron oxide pigments are also used in a wide variety of specialty applications such as toner for large printers and copiers, security inks used to print bank notes, catalysts for styrene production and cosmetics. Each of these markets requires specialized pigments with unique properties which are often as important as the coloring characteristics. For example, printer toners require specific magnetic properties whereas pigments used in cosmetics require color and purity.

Competition

We believe the global iron oxide pigments market consists of three major producers and a number of other smaller producers in the United States, Europe, Japan and China. We believe Lanxess Corporation and Elementis plc are the only other two major producers in addition to Color Pigments and Services. Competition in this market is based on customer service, product attributes such as product form and quality, and, to some degree, price. Product quality is critical in the higher end of the market on which Color Pigments and Services focuses as inconsistent product quality can have an adverse impact on the color consistency of the end-product.

Customers

Color Pigments and Services' key customers include Engelhard Corporation, Oldcastle (CRH plc), Pavestone Company, The Sherwin-Williams Company, Degussa, Unilock Ltd. and Xerox Corporation, each of which has been our customer for at least ten years. Color Pigments and Services' customer base is highly fragmented.

Timber Treatment Chemicals

Our Timber Treatment Chemicals business line is a manufacturer of wood protection products primarily in North America. Wood protection products enhance the performance of wood by increasing its longevity through protection from decay and fungal or insect attack. Our specialty timber chemicals also add water repellency and fire retardancy to wood products. Timber Treatment Chemicals' products include wood protection products based on our ACQ technology, which was awarded the EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in 2002, and CCA. Other products recently introduced include Clearwood, our wood protection product for wood windows and doors, as well as a range of specialty additives with fire retardant, water repellent or moldicide properties. Applications include wood protection products used for decking, fencing, playground equipment, garden furniture, house construction materials, utility poles, and other wood constructions.

Timber Treatment Chemicals also manufactures inorganic chemicals such as nitrates and chlorides for various industrial applications, including chemicals that are added to concrete as curing accelerants and corrosion inhibitors, chemicals that are used for odor control in water treatment, galvanizing fluxes, micronutrients, pesticides, and catalysts used in the manufacture of textile resins.

Many of our Timber Treatment products are registered pesticides and subject to extensive regulation. In February 2002, the EPA announced a voluntary decision by CCA manufacturers, including our subsidiary, to amend their registrations for CCA to limit use of CCA-treated lumber in most residential settings. In the culmination of that process, in March 2003, the EPA amended the registrations for CCA prohibiting CCA treatment of wood, effective December 31, 2003, for use in most residential settings, including play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios and walkways and boardwalks. Similar initiatives were enacted in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency which imposed similar limitations on the use of CCA-treated wood. The EPA is currently conducting a risk assessment of CCA-treated wood. The results are expected in June 2006 and may lead to further restrictions on CCA-treated wood products and the use of CCA generally. In addition, in June 2001, special interest groups petitioned the Consumer Products Safety Commission, to ban and recall all CCA-treated wood in playground equipment and refund consumers the cost of the CCA-treated wood playground equipment that they purchased. In November 2003, the Consumer Products Safety Commission denied the petition.

In Japan, the use of arsenic-based chemicals, such as those used in the manufacture of CCA wood protection products, is restricted through legislation limiting the levels of arsenic allowed in rainwater runoff from outdoor wood product storage areas. Due in part to the effect of this legislation, we have been able to attain a significant portion of the Japanese timber treatment chemicals market through our ACQ product line. Various types of restrictive legislation which would further affect the ability to use arsenic-based chemicals are currently being proposed in various jurisdictions in the United States, Canada and Australia. In European Union markets, restrictions were enacted in mid-2004.

We believe that Timber Treatment Chemicals is a leading provider in North America of new generation alternative timber treatment chemicals, such as ACQ, which does not contain chrome, arsenic or any other chemicals classified as "hazardous" by the EPA. We developed this technology to produce ACQ pursuant to a license agreement with Domtar Inc. and through the

acquisition of the Kemwood business from Kemira OY. We have further developed this technology and created our own proprietary line of ACQ products under the brand names *Preserve* and *Preserve Plus*. As a result, in February 2001, we signed a licensing agreement with Osmose, Inc., another major producer of timber treatment chemicals, to license our proprietary ACQ technology to Osmose. Our ACQ technology is patent protected in the United States through mid-2007.

ACQ demand has increased following an industry-wide voluntary transition to non-arsenic-chrome-based wood protection products discussed above. As a result, we invested approximately \$8.5 million to build a new plant in Harrisburg, North Carolina to produce ACQ. This new plant was completed and commenced full production in October 2002.

In addition, Timber Treatment Chemicals provides a broad range of technical expertise and services to its customers. In particular, Timber Treatment Chemicals works closely with its customers to assist them in reducing the total cost of their manufacturing process, by supplying timber treatment chemicals as well as treatment equipment, along with technical support.

Principal Products

We develop and manufacture a broad range of wood protection products, fire retardant and specialty chemicals for use in residential and industrial wood applications. In addition, we provide treatment equipment which facilitates the handling and treatment of wood and chemicals and we provide comprehensive technical support services to timber treaters. Timber Treatment Chemicals' key brands include *Preserve*, *Preserve Plus*, *Ultrawood*, *SupaTimber*, *D-Blaze* and *Clearwood*.

We also develop and manufacture inorganic metallic chemicals for certain specialty markets. These include zinc chloride-based products, other chlorides, and a range of nitrates and other chemicals. Some of these products are manufactured using by-products from other large chemical companies.

Competition

We believe that Timber Treatment Chemicals was one of the leading manufacturers of wood protection products in North America in 2004, along with Arch Chemicals, Inc. and Osmose, Inc. BASF Corporation, Kurt Obermeier GmbH & Co. KG and Weyl GmbH are other competitors, particularly in Europe. Competition for wood protection products is mainly based on price, customer support services, innovative technology and product range. In the inorganic chemicals market, we operate in niche areas, and therefore have few overall competitors. Competition in the inorganic chemicals market is mainly based on quality, customer support services and price.

Customers

Timber Treatment Chemicals sells its products primarily to wood processors who pressure-treat wood. Major customers include Aljoma Lumber, Inc., BB&S Treated Lumber of New England, Coos Bay Lumber Company, Culpeper Wood Preservers, Inc., Eastex Forest Products, Koshii Preserving Co. Ltd., Jeld-Wen, Inc. and Sunbelt Forest Products Corporation. Customers of our inorganic chemicals product line include Degussa AG, Rohm and Haas Company, Nalco Company and W.R. Grace & Co. Each of these companies has been our customer for at least ten years.

Clay-based Additives

Our Clay-based Additives business line is a developer and manufacturer of specialty clay-based rheological additives. These additives are used in a wide variety of products and applications to modify viscosity, thickness and flow characteristics, keep solids in suspension, maintain levels of coloration with a lower amount of pigment, and collect suspended solids into larger particles. End-products in which these additives are used include industrial and architectural coatings, oilfield

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drilling fluids and carbonless copy paper. The principal end-uses for Clay-based Additives' products are paints, inks and paper-making, household care products, oilfield fluids and other end-uses.

During the last several years, we have strategically refocused Clay-based Additives' operations by discontinuing or divesting commodity-based, undifferentiated product lines, while providing significant new capital and research and development for the creation of new high-growth and high-margin products for selected industries. As a result, this business line has developed a number of new value-added products and applications. One of Clay-based Additives' recently developed applications is the use of our *Laponite* synthetic clay as a retention aid in the paper-making process. In addition, we are currently developing new products, including anti-static coatings for paper and variants of *Laponite* to replace current types of thickeners in personal care products. Other products recently introduced by Clay-based Additives include *Garamite*, a cost-effective and easy-to-use thickener which provides low volatile organic compounds capability compared to traditional additives used in the manufacture of fiberglass composites; and *Cloisite*, used in the manufacture of nanocomposite plastics, which are specially engineered composite materials exhibiting superior mechanical, barrier and fire resistant properties compared to traditional plastics and which result in lighter plastic end products. In 2001, our Clay-based Additives business working with General Motors introduced the first commercial exterior automotive application of a new lightweight nanocomposite material based on *Cloisite* nanoclay on the step assist of the GMC Safari and Chevrolet AstroVan. In addition, in January 2004, General Motors adopted this lightweight nanocomposite technology for the body side molding of the 2004 Chevrolet Impala, GM's highest volume car. Although sales of these nanocomposite materials were modest in 2004, we continue to explore additional applications for this product with GM and other strategic partners.

Principal Products

Coatings and Inks. We offer a comprehensive line of additives which modify the viscosity, flow and suspension properties of coatings and inks, including *Claytone* for the manufacture of special purpose coatings, such as bridge, marine and maintenance paints, and architectural coatings, and *Laponite* for the manufacture of automotive coatings. Our *Garamite* additives are used in the manufacture of high solids, low volatile organic compounds epoxy coatings for industrial applications.

Paper-Making. We serve the paper industry with a product line that includes bentonite retention aids, which are used in the paper-making process to reduce fiber losses and aid in water drainage from the sheet, and an additive which provides fade-resistant color for carbonless copy paper. We also produce a form of *Laponite* which is used in the production of clear, flexible and moisture-resistant films and coatings with conductive, anti-static and anti-sticking properties, that are used in the manufacture of specialty photographic and anti-static papers, ink jet papers and anti-static packaging.

Consumer and Household Care Products. We develop and manufacture a wide range of natural clay-based rheology modifiers, including *Gelwhite* and *Bentolite*, for the consumer and household care markets. In addition, *Laponite* also has functional properties that improve the performance of a wide range of consumer products, such as personal care products, creams, lotions, cosmetics and hard surface household cleaning products for the kitchen and bathroom.

Oilfield. We offer a line of *Claytone* organoclays, which are a type of specially treated clays, for use in diesel and synthetic oilfield drilling fluids, which help to control viscosity and flow properties. These additives also help to suspend the cuttings in the fluid, so that they can be expelled from the well efficiently. We recently introduced a *Garamite* additive for use in deep well drilling that requires higher performance.

Other. We developed the *Cloisite* range of clays for the manufacture of nanocomposite plastics. Although *Cloisite* has not yet been released for large-scale commercial sale, we have entered into a joint development agreement in the United States with General Motors Corporation in connection with our efforts to develop nanoclays for automotive components, such as external trim and fascia. In January 2004, General Motors adopted this technology for the body side molding on the 2004 Chevrolet Impala. *Cloisite* clays are also being evaluated in a wide range of rubber-based formulations for industrial applications. In addition, our *Garamite* range of clays is used in the manufacture of fiberglass composites.

Competition

Clay-based Additives operates in specialty markets, and competes based on its research and development capabilities, its ability to produce innovative high-value product solutions and technical support. Our direct competitors in these markets include Elementis plc, Süd-Chemie Ag and R.T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc. We also compete with manufacturers who produce non-clay-based alternatives to our end-users.

Customers

We supply major coatings manufacturers such as International Paint Limited, BASF Corporation, E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Hempel A/S, PPG Industries Inc., and The Sherwin-Williams Company; paper chemical and paper-making companies such as Mitsubishi Hi Tec Paper; ink-makers such as Sun Chemical Corporation; and oil drilling and services companies such as M-I SWACO L.L.C. Each of these companies has been our customer for at least ten years.

Water Treatment Chemicals

Our Water Treatment Chemicals business line is a producer of pool and spa specialty chemicals in the United States. This business line also develops and manufactures surface water chemicals. Our pool and spa specialty chemicals, which are primarily non-chlorine based, are all sold under premium brand names as well as private label brands mainly through distributors to pool and spa professionals and retailers that then sell to consumers. The surface water chemicals portion of this business serves the professional aquatic applicator, turf and ornamental, aquaculture, vegetation management and agricultural irrigation industries. In addition to developing and manufacturing surface water chemicals, we offer professional treatment services for lakes, ponds and reservoirs.

We sell our pool and spa specialty chemicals under a number of premium brands, such as *GLB*, *Rendézvous*, *Leisure Time*, *Robarb* and *Applied Biochemists*, as well as under private label brands. In surface water chemicals, our premium branded products include *Applied Biochemists*, *Citrine-Plus* and *Aquashade*, and we have developed innovative products for surface water treatment, such as *Clearigate*, an environmentally advanced herbicide for irrigation systems.

Principal Products

Our pool and spa chemicals are primarily non-chlorine based specialty chemicals such as algaecides, clarifiers, fragrances and foam reducers. Our major pool and spa product lines include *GLB Pool & Spa*, which offers a comprehensive selection of pool and spa specialty chemicals and sanitizers under the *GLB* and *Rendézvous* brand names; *Leisure Time*, which offers a complete spa water care treatment line; and *Robarb*, which includes *Super Blue*, a leading water clarifier with over 20 years of history as a brand. In addition, our *Applied Biochemists* brand offers a full line of pool chemicals including specialty algaecides for service professionals.

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Our surface water chemicals include copper-based algaecides and herbicides to control aquatic plant growth, dyes to control aquatic weed and algae growth, and a range of enzyme and microorganism blends for use in septic and waste water systems. Our surface water treatment product lines include *Clearigate* which is a patented, environmentally advanced herbicide developed to control nuisance aquatic vegetation especially for the agricultural irrigation market. Our *Applied Biochemists* brand of surface water treatment chemicals includes specialty algaecides and aquatic herbicides. *Citrine Plus* is a liquid algaecide which can be used in a wide range of applications, and *Aquashade* is a line of aquatic dyes which help to control aquatic plant growth in lakes and ponds.

Competition

We believe that Water Treatment Chemicals is a leading pool and spa specialty chemicals producer in the United States. Other competitors include Arch Chemicals, Inc. and Biolab, Inc. In the surface water chemicals segment, competitors include Baker Hughes Incorporated and SePro Corporation. Some of our competitors are also customers in other product areas. Competition in these markets is mainly based on brand identity, technical competence, price and customer relationships. In addition, a number of the products in the water treatment chemicals market are subject to governmental environmental regulation and registration requirements, which can affect the ability of other manufacturers to offer competing products.

Customers

The majority of Water Treatment Chemicals' sales are through distributors that then sell to mainly local or regional dealers. We also sell directly to some of the larger pool and spa dealers. Pool and spa specialty chemicals customers include Keller Supply Company, Leslie's Poolmart, Inc. and SCP Pool Corporation. Surface water customers include Cygnet Enterprises, Inc. and Helena Chemical Company. Each of these companies has been our customer for at least five years.

Specialty Compounds (7% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

Our Specialty Compounds segment develops and manufactures thermoplastic materials possessing specialized characteristics, such as fire and smoke retardance, reduced weight or barrier properties, which are tailored to the specific needs of each intended end-product. These products are grouped into six key end-product areas: wire and cable, consumer performance products, medical devices, automotive components, regulated packaging and footwear. Specialty Compounds segment had net sales of \$168.8 million, \$176.4 million and \$200.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. Our Specialty Compounds segment accounted for 7% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. See note 3 to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Specialty Compounds segment.

Our Specialty Compounds segment focuses on sales of high margin products and operates as a global specialty performance plastic compounding business. We developed and commercialized *SmokeGuard*, our specialty compound for use in high-end data and video communication wire and cable, which must meet stringent fire retardant and low smoke generation standards. We also developed a compound for beverage closure seals and caps. This new compound prevents ozone from attacking the cap and seal and does not affect the taste of water and carbonated beverages, therefore significantly increasing the shelf life of these beverages. We also focus on thermoplastic elastomer, or TPE, compounds in our consumer performance and automotive products areas. In addition to our product offerings, we provide strong, comprehensive customer service and technical expertise by developing innovative products to satisfy our customers' unique needs.

We intend to invest in next generation plastic compounding technologies. For example, in 2003, Specialty Compounds entered into a joint development agreement with E.I. duPont de

Nemours and Company to create, manufacture and commercialize new Smokeguard® compounds based on Teflon® technologies to further raise the safety and performance standards for a variety of wire and cable compounds. Specialty Compounds is also working closely with our Clay-Additives business to create a patented composite material that exhibits superior flame retardancy for wire and cable jacketing and sheathing.

Principal Products

Wire and Cable Compounds. We develop and manufacture low-smoke vinyl alloys, such as *SmokeGuard*, which are used in high-end data and video communication, fiber optic and fire alarm wire and cable; halogen-free plastics, such as *Sentra*, which are used in industrial, aerospace, shipboard or oil rig cables as well as in communication cables; and a variety of TPE compounds, such as *Garaflex*, which are used in flexible cords, tray cables, booster cables, welding cables and automotive wiring. We believe that there is significant growth potential for the wire and cable product line in Europe as a result of the evolution of a common market standard with higher specifications for wire and cable compounds. Unlike in North America, European wire and cable standards dictating certain safety specifications such as fire and smoke resistance have not yet been enacted. However, we anticipate that European legislation mandating specific guidelines for wire and cable will be implemented within the next several years, providing significant new market opportunities for the *SmokeGuard* and *Sentra* product lines.

Consumer Performance Products. We develop and manufacture custom-made plastic compounds for use in products such as moldings, sealing gaskets, tool handles, writing instruments and ladder feet as well as other TPE-based products. Our product line includes *Garaflex*, *Garaflex V*, *Garaflex E*, *GE Series* and *GM Series*. We have also developed a soft-touch compound, *Evoprene*, that is currently undergoing approval processes for a number of applications, including synthetic wine corks and seals for consumer storage devices.

Medical Devices Compounds. We develop and manufacture a series of high-quality polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, compounds which are used to manufacture products such as tubing, disposable masks, and extraction resistant compounds used to make products to handle blood and bodily fluids.

Automotive Compounds. We develop and manufacture compounds for interior and exterior automotive applications such as airbag covers, steering wheel covers, gear shift knobs and boots, handle grips, body side molding and window gaskets.

Regulated Packaging. Under the *Alphaseal* trademark, we develop and manufacture specialty closure materials for soft drinks, beer, bottled water, juice, and other beverage applications which have proven their performance, including purity in taste and odor, consistency in the force needed to remove the closures, reliable carbonation retention, and performance on a variety of molding machine types in various applications.

Footwear Compounds. We develop and manufacture a broad range of compounds for unit soles, uppers, mid-soles, slippers and heels for the diverse requirements of the footwear market. Applications include industrial boots, deck shoes, casual dress shoes, snow boots, slippers and athletic wear.

Competition

Specialty Compounds' key competitors are Advanced Elastomers Systems, L.P., Colorite Plastics Co., DS Chemie GmbH, European Vinyls Corporation, Georgia Gulf Corporation, Norsk Hydro ASA, PolyOne Corporation, Teknor Apex Company and W.R. Grace & Co., most of which serve only a subset of Specialty Compounds' markets. We believe that only Teknor Apex is active in

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all of Specialty Compounds' markets. Competition in specialty compounds occurs primarily on the basis of quality, product innovation and the ability to meet demanding customer and regulatory specifications.

Customers

Specialty Compounds sells products to a wide range of customers. Its major customers include Alcoa Inc., Belden/CDT Inc., Berk-Tek Consolidated, Coleman Worldwide Corporation, CommScope/ Systimax, Inc., Corning Incorporated and Judd Wire Inc. Each of these companies has been our customer for at least ten years.

Electronics (6% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

We supply our customers in the semiconductor and printed circuit board industries with chemicals used in the manufacture of semiconductors, printed circuit boards, and photomasks from our Electronic Chemicals business line, photo-imaging masks from our Photomasks business line, and silicon wafer refurbishment services from our Wafer Reclaim business line. Our Electronics segment generated net sales of \$147.3 million, \$143.6 million and \$168.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. Our Electronics segment accounted for 6% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. See note 3 to our and Rockwood's consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Electronics segment.

Electronic Chemicals

Our Electronic Chemicals business line is a producer of process chemicals, known as high purity chemicals, used in the manufacture of semiconductors, with market positions in Europe and Singapore, as well as chemicals used by printed circuit board manufacturers and photomask manufacturers, with market positions in the United States and Taiwan. In addition, we are in the process of expanding our manufacturing capabilities for printed circuit board chemicals in China to enable us to supply this expanding market. We expect this facility to be operational in the second quarter of 2005. We also offer related outsourcing services to manage the process chemical needs of semiconductor manufacturers. Electronic Chemicals' key products include acids, bases, solvents and mixtures used principally for cleaning and etching silicon wafers and printed circuit boards.

Electronic Chemicals bundles high-quality tailor-made formulations and patented products with technical service and strong systems capabilities. These characteristics also enable us to offer our customers a service we call total chemicals management, through which we are able to manage a customer's supply of electronic process chemicals, including chemicals supplied by third parties, and related logistics.

Principal Products

Printed Circuit Board Chemicals. We develop and manufacture chemicals for the printed circuit board industry, such as oxide treatments, electroplating additives, etching technology, electroless copper processes, *Co-Bra Bond*, the newer oxide replacement technology and a proprietary direct metallization process known as *Shadow*.

High Purity Chemicals. We develop and manufacture a wide range of ultra-pure chemicals used in the manufacture of electronic and computer components such as semiconductors, silicon chips, wafers, and liquid crystal displays. These products include chemicals used to remove controlled portions of silicon and metal, cleaning solutions, photoresist strippers, which control the application of certain light-sensitive chemicals, edge bead removers, which aid in the uniform application of other chemicals, and solvents.

Photomask Chemicals. We also develop and manufacture a broad range of chemicals used in the manufacture of photomasks. Like the high purity chemicals, these products are subject to strict purity specifications, although these specifications are generally not as stringent as those for our high purity chemicals.

Electronic Chemicals Services. We provide a range of analytical, logistical and development support services to the semiconductor industry. These include total chemicals management, primarily offered in Singapore, under which we manage our clients' entire electronic process chemicals operations including providing logistics services, development of application-specific chemicals, analysis and control of customers' chemical distribution systems and quality audit and control of all inbound chemicals, including third party products.

Competition

Key competitors in printed circuit board chemicals are Atotech Deutschland GmbH, Cookson Group plc, MacDermid Incorporated, Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials (Shipley). Key competitors in high purity chemicals include Honeywell International, Inc., Air Products & Chemicals, Inc., Kanto Corporation, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc. The key competitor in photomask chemicals is Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. Competition in this market is based mainly on customer service, product quality and technological advancements.

Customers

We supply our electronic chemicals and related services to semiconductor and printed circuit board manufacturers, including Compeq Manufacturing Co. and Motorola, Inc. Both of these companies have been our customers for at least ten years.

Photomasks

We manufacture photomasks both in Europe and North America under the *Compugraphics* brand name. Photomasks are a key enabling technology to the semiconductor and integrated circuit industries, and perform a function similar to that of a negative in conventional photography.

We believe that Photomasks has achieved its success through its technical abilities and product quality, as well as through customer service and its low cost base, both of which have been especially significant in the recent semiconductor industry downturn. We have achieved high standards of specification, quality, delivery and manufacturing efficiency through our use of statistical process control and other advanced manufacturing techniques. Our equipment is designed to serve the mainstream semiconductor industry.

Principal Products

We manufacture photomasks, which are used as master images to transfer integrated circuit detail onto semiconductor wafers during the fabrication of integrated circuits and other types of electronic components, such as thin film magnetic recording heads and optoelectronic devices, which emit or detect light. In addition, we refurbish and replace pellicles for photomasks manufactured by us and other photomask manufacturers.

Competition

Photomasks competes primarily with Toppan Photomasks, Inc., formerly DuPont Photomasks, Inc. prior to its acquisition by Toppan Printing Company, and Photronics Inc. Competition occurs primarily on the basis of technical specification, product quality, delivery performance, price and customer service and support.

Customers

Photomasks' customer base includes many major semiconductor manufacturers such as Philips Semiconductors and Freescale, Inc., both of which have been our customers for at least ten years.

Wafer Reclaim

Our Wafer Reclaim business line is a provider of semiconductor wafer refurbishment services with market positions in the United States and Europe. Silicon wafers that have been used to monitor or test semiconductor manufacturing processes are generally reclaimed and reused as test pieces. We estimate that three out of every ten wafers used in an established semiconductor manufacturing facility are test wafers.

We work with semiconductor manufacturers to refurbish used test wafers and return them to the manufacturer for reuse in test and process monitor applications. We also believe that we benefit from the fact that many of these semiconductor manufacturers are also customers of Electronic Chemicals and Photomasks and can gain an advantage from these established relationships.

In January 2003, we announced a \$7.0 million expansion and refurbishment project for our Greasque Wafer Reclaim facility located in the South of France. The project focused on increasing capacity and enhancing capabilities, particularly in the area of 8" (200mm) reclaimed silicon wafers. The project was completed in September 2003. In December 2003, we acquired a majority interest in a wafer reclaim business in Germany that is capable of reclaiming next-generation 12" (300mm) wafers and in December 2004 acquired the remaining interests from the minority shareholders.

Principal Products

Wafer Reclaim does not manufacture products, but rather is a service business that refurbishes used wafers for global semiconductor manufacturers and returns them for reuse in the testing process. We clean and inspect the wafers, restore surfaces, and remove film from the wafer surface in order to improve the performance of the wafer. We have the ability to reclaim 4" (100mm), 5" (125mm), 6" (150mm), 8" (200mm) and 12" (300mm) wafers.

Competition

Wafer Reclaim's primary competitors include Hamada Heavy Industries Limited, Kobe Precision Inc., Mimasu Semiconductor Industry Co. Ltd. and Rasa Industries Limited and Pure Wafer. We also compete to a degree with manufacturers of virgin test wafers. The primary bases of competition for this business line are quality of service and price.

Customers

Wafer Reclaim's customers include most of the major semiconductor producers including Atmel Corporation, Cypress Semiconductor Corporation, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc., International Rectifier Corporation, National Semiconductor Corporation, Philips Semiconductors and Tower Semiconductor Ltd. Each of these companies has been our customer for at least ten years.

Specialty Chemicals (26% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

Our Specialty Chemicals segment, which we acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and operates under the *Chemetall* brand name, develops and manufactures metal surface treatment products and services, lithium chemicals and fine chemicals for a wide range of industries and end markets. This segment is comprised of two business lines: (1) Surface Treatment, which supplies surface treatment products and solutions for metal processing industries; and (2) Fine Chemicals, which supplies lithium products across the entire value chain from raw materials to specialty lithium

compounds and advanced metal-based specialty chemicals to niche markets. Our Specialty Chemicals segment generated net sales of \$759.6 million on a pro forma basis for the year ended December 31, 2004, or 26% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. Actual net sales for the five months ended December 31, 2004 were \$321.1 million. Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the Specialty Chemicals segment generated net sales of \$568.2 million for the year ended September 30, 2002 and \$659.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. We expect this segment to benefit from the increased demand for lithium-based batteries for mobile electronic applications. In addition, we expect to benefit from the trend to replace chrome-containing products with chrome-free technologies in metal surface treatment, such as silane-based systems or our patented self-assembling molecule technology. See note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Specialty Chemicals segment.

Surface Treatment

We believe that our Surface Treatment business line is a leading global supplier of surface treatment products and solutions. Surface Treatment's products are used for a variety of applications and serve the automotive, aerospace and general industrial markets, including steel and metalworking industries. This business line supplies more than 5,000 different products, many of which are based on proprietary formulations and extensive application know-how, to over 30,000 customers and operates in 29 different locations for production and research and development in over 20 countries. Surface Treatment operates along the following four business divisions based on its core end-markets: (1) Advanced Technologies; (2) Performance Products; (3) Automotive Technologies; and (4) System Technologies.

In Surface Treatment, we develop and supply products and solutions for the chemical pretreatment of metals and other substrates, some of which are customized for individual customers and applications. Our products and solutions are critical to many areas of the metal processing industry because they protect metals from corrosion, facilitate forming and machining, allow parts to be processed in a clean and grease-free environment and ensure good coating adhesion. Other products are used in the cleaning and maintenance of aircraft. As an integrated part of the business, we also offer a full range of customer services, including process control and analysis of chemical baths at clients' facilities.

Surface Treatment competes in markets characterized by significant barriers to entry, proprietary manufacturing technologies and know-how, demanding product-handling requirements, rigorous product quality and performance standards and specifications and longstanding service-intensive customer relationships. In order to remain competitive, we are currently focused on developing new products, improving process technologies and expanding our customer base and broadening our technology capabilities in existing and new markets through internal research and development. For example, we have recently introduced new generations of organic coatings for coil manufacturers and iron-phosphating products for the smaller customer market in the United States. We currently have a number of significant joint ventures across Asia, which we believe provide us with the opportunities to further penetrate these high growth regions.

Principal Business Divisions

Advanced Technologies. Advanced Technologies comprises three separate units:

Automotive suppliers. We offer cleaning and pretreatment products and services to automotive parts manufacturers for use in the making of automotive parts, such as axles, seats and other metal components. We believe that products for the treatment of steel and aluminum wheels, including a new generation of products based on self-assembling molecules, represent an attractive growth area in this market.

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Cold forming. We provide products and services used to facilitate the cold forming of tubes, wire drawing and cold extrusion of metal.

General industry. We offer a range of products and services to a broad range of industrial end-markets that have metal surface treatment applications, including cleaning, activation, conversion coating and final rinsing. Markets include household appliances manufacturing, can producers, heating, ventilation and aluminum finishing markets.

Performance Products. Performance Products serves the largest number of customers among Surface Treatments' business units. In Performance Products, we develop a wide range of products such as cleaners, iron phosphates, coolants, paint strippers and flocculants for diverse end-markets, which include various types of small to medium-sized users of cleaners and other surface treatment products. Our *Gardo* products (such as *Gardoclean* and *Gardobond*) provide complete process solutions for all steps of the chemical treatment of metal surfaces, often tailored for individual customers and their applications. We have recently introduced a new generation of iron-phosphating products in the U.S. market, which we expect will provide growth in the next few years.

Automotive Technologies. We provide surface treatment products and solutions for automotive OEMs, including an entire range of products and services for use in the "paint shop" step of car body manufacture. The products and services we provide typically represent a low percentage of total car body production costs, but have high value in terms of corrosion protection and surface quality. Major applications include car body pretreatment (zinc-phosphating) and paint coagulation. Our services typically include intensive process control and chemical management function in the customers' production processes.

System Technologies. System Technologies comprises three separate units:

Aerospace Technologies. We provide products and services for aerospace OEMs, airlines and maintenance companies. Aerospace Technologies focuses on four major application areas: cleaning; corrosion protection; maintenance chemicals; and sealants. Cleaning products are used for the interior and exterior cleaning of airplanes. *Ardrox* products provide a complete range of globally recognized products specifically developed for use in aircraft maintenance programs, ranging from daily cleaning to complete aircraft overhaul. Corrosion protection products include waxes used to protect airframes. Maintenance chemicals for aircraft engines and turbines include high performance cleaners and products for non-destructive testing of engines. Aircraft sealants provide high technology sealing solutions for airplanes and are expected to contribute significantly to growth in the next few years.

Coil. We provide products and services used in forming, cleaning and pretreating metal sheets used in the production of steel and aluminum coil.

Glass Technologies. This business division operates in a very specialized niche market and produces specialty products, which are similar to metal surface treatment products but are used on the glass substrates, for glass manufacturers including specialty cleaners, polishing products, cutting oils and cooling lubricants.

Competition

We believe that the top five competitors in the global metal surface treatment market held an estimated market share of more than 50% in 2004. We believe that Henkel Surface Technologies is the global market leader, followed by Surface Treatment. The remaining main competitors include Japan-based Nihon Parkerizing, PPG and Nippon Paint Co., Ltd. Competition in this market is based primarily on customer service, product quality and technological capabilities.

Customers

Surface Treatment serves a large customer base. Surface Treatment's largest customers include Daimler Chrysler AG, RNUR (Renault), Arcelor and Volkswagen AG. The composition of the customer base varies widely by business division. Advanced Technologies business division serves approximately 7,500 customers globally in a broad range of industries. Performance Products business division serves approximately 39,500 small and mid-size customers. Automotive Technologies business division serves approximately 20 customers, primarily global OEMs, and Aerospace Technologies business division serves approximately 3,500 customers worldwide.

Fine Chemicals

Our Fine Chemicals business line consists of our lithium, special metals, metal sulfides and rubber chemicals product lines. We believe that our Fine Chemicals business line is the leading global producer of basic and specialty lithium compounds and chemicals and advanced metal-based specialty chemicals.

Fine Chemicals develops and manufactures a broad range of basic lithium compounds, including lithium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium nitrate, lithium chloride, and value added lithium reagents, including butyllithium and lithium aluminum hydride. Lithium is a key component in products and processes used in a variety of applications and industries, which range from lithium batteries, high performance greases, thermoplastic elastomers for car tires, rubber soles and plastic bottles to intermediates in the pharmaceutical industry. In our Fine Chemicals business, we operate our lithium business along the following four business divisions reflecting its core end-markets: (1) Life Sciences; (2) Base Chemicals; (3) Elastomers; and (4) Electronics.

Lithium brine, which is the primary raw material source for all lithium chemicals, is found in only a small number of locations, including, most importantly, the Atacama Desert in Chile. We have a long-term contract with the Chilean government to produce lithium carbonate from brine in the Atacama Desert, which we believe provides us a secure long-term source.

Lithium carbonate can be resold or used as a primary raw material for more specialized forms of lithium-based materials. We have developed an integrated, low cost manufacturing capability based on a range of proprietary technologies and advanced equipment, including brine processing technology and aqueous chemistry for a broad variety of lithium salts. In addition to developing and supplying lithium compounds, we provide technical service, including training of customers' employees, for handling reactive and air-sensitive lithium products. We also offer our customers recycling services for lithium containing by-products resulting from synthesis with organolithium products, lithium metal and other reagents. Product quality is critical in the life sciences, elastomers and electronics industries. We believe that these services and our ability to handle highly reactive compounds in large quantities serve to build customer loyalty. In Lithium, we plan to continue to focus on the development of new products and applications. Over the last 20 years, the use of lithium products has grown substantially in a variety of applications, such as life sciences and electronics, largely as a result of innovation and product development. Currently, we are in the process of developing lithium compounds for several near- to medium-term, new and potentially high growth products for applications such as fuel cells, batteries for electric vehicles or lithium-aluminum alloys.

Fine Chemicals also develops and manufactures advanced metal-based specialty chemicals along two business divisions based on its principal product groups: (1) Metal Sulfides, which develops and manufactures natural and synthetic metal sulfides used in brake pads and clutch facings and cutting and grinding wheels and (2) Special Metals, which develops and manufactures cesium products for the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and zirconium barium and titanium products for various applications including the airbag industry. Fine Chemicals is the only

commercial producer of certain metal compounds, which are used for X-ray image intensifiers and displays for digital X-ray technology. Fine Chemicals also sells accelerators for the rubber industry.

In our metal-based specialty chemicals business, we are well positioned in the field of metal sulfides and special metals, offering a broad range of products and fully integrated production processes, as a result of which we are a single source supplier for many of our customers. Fine Chemicals benefits from a long-standing expertise in handling, processing and developing new specialty metal products. Fluctuations in purity grades of the products can lead to significant losses in customers' production processes. Fine Chemicals has a reputation among its customers for consistently producing highly customized, quality products. We have had strong sales growth over the past three fiscal years in our metal-based specialty chemicals business, driven by the shift towards synthetic sulfides in brake pads. Currently, we are a major supplier of synthetic metal sulfides for use in brake pads. In addition, we hold several key patents, which, we believe, gives us a competitive advantage in the fast growing synthetic metal sulfides market. In order to further strengthen our competitive position in metal-based specialty chemicals market, we are focused on the production of new variations of synthetic metal sulfides, and new cesium products for organic synthesis. We also continually monitor our customers' industries for potential new applications for our products and often achieve a sole supplier position by being the first to offer our products to potential new customers. In addition, we plan to expand our business by penetrating growth areas such as the United States and Asia.

We believe that demand for metal sulfides and, in particular, synthetic metal sulfides will increase significantly in the future as a result of the continuing substitution of asbestos-based friction linings, transition from naturally occurring sulfides to synthetic sulfides worldwide and the transition from drum to disk brakes in Asia and the Americas. We also believe that the market for cesium compounds will grow as a result of new applications being developed in the chemicals industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the defense industry and for use as catalysts. As a result of our competitive strengths as a supplier of cesium products for established markets, we believe we are well-positioned to take advantage of this market trend.

Principal Business Divisions

Lithium

Life Sciences. We develop and manufacture lithium compounds and other products for life science applications, such as special reagents for the synthesis of drug intermediates as well as for the flavor and fragrances industry. The two principal lithium compounds are butyllithium and lithium aluminum hydride, in which we believe we have strong market positions. Various other compounds include lithium metal, grignard reagents and alkoxides. Development of life science applications usually requires regulatory approvals, such as FDA approvals. Our research and development team often works closely together with research and development departments of pharmaceutical companies, especially in the European market in order to develop products and solutions tailored for the customers' needs.

Base Chemicals. We develop and manufacture basic lithium compounds which serve a wide range of industries and applications. Our products include (1) lithium carbonate, which is used as a fluxing agent for enamels, glass and ceramic production to lower process temperature in aluminum electrolysis, and as a cement additive for construction applications; (2) lithium hydroxide, which is principally used in high performance greases for automotive and industrial applications; (3) lithium nitrate, which is principally used in rubber industry and (4) lithium chloride, which is principally used in gas and air treatment.

Elastomers. We develop and manufacture high-technology lithium compounds for use in rubber and elastomer applications. Our main product, butyllithium, is used as a polymerization initiator for synthetic rubber and thermoplastic elastomers. Generally, these products require a high degree of handling, transport and application know-how and customer service due to their high reactivity. We benefit from being a major supplier with butyllithium manufacturing facilities in all three geographic regions with plants in the United States, Germany and Taiwan.

Electronics. We develop and manufacture lithium products for electronic applications, mainly for the primary (disposable) and secondary (rechargeable) battery industries. Our major product is lithium metal, which is used as anode material for primary batteries. Lithium ion-based batteries are used extensively in consumer electronics, such as mobile phones, camcorders and laptops. We are currently developing a new generation of conductive lithium salts used for the battery market, which, we believe, has the potential to drive significant growth in the future.

Metal-based Specialty Chemicals

Metal Sulfides. This business division has two major product lines: friction stabilizers and abrasive additives. Friction stabilizers enhance the power and performance of brake pads and clutch facings and primarily serve the automotive supplier industry while abrasive additives are additive compounds. When bound with synthetic resin, additive compounds act as active fillers in cutting wheels, enhancing cutting effectiveness and tool life of cutting and grinding wheels and primarily serve the mechanical engineering industry. The demand for metal sulfides is driven primarily by the demand in the automotive supplier industry.

Special Metals. In this business division, we develop and manufacture a unique range of products based on special metal compounds derived from cesium, rubidium, titanium, zirconium and barium. These products are used in highly specialized, technology-driven end-applications such as X-ray diagnostic systems, airbags, television cathode ray tube and vacuum lamps and serve various end-markets, such as chemical, pharmaceutical, metallurgical, automotive, electronics and pyrotechnical industries.

Rubber Chemicals. In this business division, we develop and manufacture products for the rubber and latex industry such as high-speed vulcanization accelerators that are used in latex and solid rubber production and processing. In addition, this business division produces antioxidants that are used in the production and processing of natural and synthetic rubbers, thermoplastic materials and adhesives, and plasticizers that are used for rubber production.

Competition

Lithium. We believe the global lithium market consists of three major producers and a number of other small producers. We believe that we are the global market leader in the lithium market. While we offer a diverse range of products from raw materials to specialty lithium compounds, FMC Corporation offers mainly specialty lithium compounds and Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) offers a more limited product line focused on basic lithium compounds. Competition in this market is based on product quality, reliability of products and customer service.

Metal-based Specialty Chemicals. We believe that in the metal-based specialty chemicals business, Fine Chemicals has a leading market position in its niche markets. It has a leading position in friction materials and is the only supplier offering a full product range of friction stabilizers and abrasive additives based on metal sulfides. Most competitors only offer single product lines in this market. Key competitors include: Dow Corning Corporation, Frimeco Productions GmbH, and American Minerals, Inc., in Metal Sulfides division and Cabot Corporation and SAES Getters, S.p.A. in Special Metals division. Competition in the metal-based specialty

chemicals markets in which Fine Chemicals competes is based on product quality and product diversity.

Customers

Fine Chemicals serves approximately 1,000 customers worldwide in its lithium business and 700 customers worldwide in its metal-based specialty chemicals products business. Fine Chemicals' customers of lithium products include Bayer CropScience, Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC, Energizer and DSM N.V. Fine Chemicals' largest customers of metal-based specialty chemicals products include Bayer, Federal Mogul Corporation, Thorn Microwave Devices Ltd and BASF.

Titanium Dioxide Pigments (14% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

Our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment, which we acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and operates under the *Sachtleben* brand name, is a leading producer of high quality chemical products with a unique range of small inorganic particles that add significant value to customers' products and enhance the economics of customers' production processes. Titanium Dioxide Pigments comprises three business lines: (1) Titanium Dioxide; (2) Functional Additives; and (3) Water Chemistry. Our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment generated net sales of \$422.0 million on a pro forma basis for the year ended December 31, 2004, or 14% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. Actual net sales for the five months ended December 31, 2004 were \$175.7 million. Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment generated net sales of \$321.3 million for the year ended September 30, 2002 and \$381.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. See note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment.

Titanium Dioxide

Our Titanium Dioxide business line is a leading producer of specialty grade titanium dioxide (TiO_2), serving a wide variety of customers in the synthetic fibers, plastics, paints, coatings, life sciences, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and paper industries. TiO_2 is a fine white powder that derives its value from its unparalleled whitening strength and opacifying ability, which is commonly referred to as hiding power. Our Titanium Dioxide business line's principal products include TiO_2 in anatase form, TiO_2 in rutile form and titanium specialties. This business line also provides recycling services for sulfuric waste acid.

There are two ways of producing TiO_2 : the sulfate process and the chloride process. The chloride process permits production of only rutile TiO_2 and is primarily suited for large volume production of standard TiO_2 grades. The sulfate process is capable of producing both the rutile and anatase grade of TiO_2 . Approximately 58% of the globally installed TiO_2 capacity uses the chloride process with the remaining using the sulfate process. Unlike rutile grades, anatase grades can only be made through the sulfate process. We employ sulfate process for TiO_2 production and thus, the output from approximately 58% of the globally installed TiO_2 production capacity does not compete with our anatase products.

We believe that we have a competitive advantage in fiber anatase production and special high margin anatase applications based on our strong technological capabilities, long-term customer relationships and extensive test runs with regular monitoring of product and process parameters. While representing a negligible part of the fiber material cost, TiO_2 application know-how is critical for the production of a value-added product without production interruptions. Due to the process critical nature of the TiO_2 in man-made fiber production, customers demand a longstanding anatase application track record. For over thirty years, we have worked closely with fiber producers on the optimization of their product and processes and as a result we have built up a significant wealth of

customer-problem solution know-how. We intend to grow our Titanium Dioxide business line by focusing the rutile business on selected markets and applications, increasing production capacity by means of enhancing our manufacturing processes and further developing our titanium specialties business. We expect this segment to benefit from sales of newly introduced nano-particle titanium dioxide pigments that are used to provide ultraviolet light protection for plastics and coatings.

Principal Products

TiO₂ in Anatase Form. We develop and manufacture anatase TiO₂ pigments. These pigments can only be produced by the sulfate process and are sold primarily to the global synthetic fiber industry, as well as paper, food and pharmaceutical industries. Our anatase pigments, sold under the brand name *Hombitan®*, are the leading global selling TiO₂ product for applications in the synthetic fiber industry. For synthetic fiber manufacturers, any production downtime is very costly, and the usage of not perfectly formed or homogenous anatase TiO₂ crystals can result in excessive equipment wear and breakdowns. Therefore, while anatase TiO₂ pigments represent a small portion of overall material costs to synthetic fiber manufacturers, they represent a critical component to the manufacturing process due to quality and value added to the end product. We believe our Titanium Dioxide business line produces a high quality anatase TiO₂ and supplies most major producers of synthetic fibers.

TiO₂ in Rutile Form. We develop and manufacture rutile TiO₂ pigments, which are mainly used in special applications such as selected coatings, paints, plastics and laminated paper production processes. In this product area, we are geographically focused on the European market. Rutile-based TiO₂ pigments generally possess performance characteristics different from anatase-based pigments. Rutile-based pigments significantly improve the weatherability and durability of polymer products by providing protection against yellowing and preventing embrittlement of the material. Our rutile grades are state of the art products and are used in applications with high technical requirements. However, given the relatively higher selling price of the anatase-based TiO₂ pigments, we produce rutile-based TiO₂ mainly in order to fully utilize the production capacity of our plant.

Titanium Specialties. Our titanium specialties products primarily include "nano-particles", which are exceptionally fine-particled, transparent and easy-to-use pigment formulations that are used across a large and diverse range of applications in small volumes. For example, the specialty grade TiO₂ products are used as UV-absorbers in sun protection cosmetics. In addition, the new nano-particles form the basis for innovative wood-protection products and innovative color variations, by the paints and coatings industry. Other uses include catalysts, gas cleansing, photocatalysts and intermediates for special ceramics.

Recycling Services. We operate a recycling waste acid recovery plant in Europe in our production facility in Duisburg, Germany. The sulfuric waste acid, which results from the production of TiO₂, is recycled and used in the production process. This service is also offered to other TiO₂ manufacturers in Europe, and we have a long-term contract with one of our competitors to provide this service.

Competition

Titanium Dioxide's key competitors include: (1) Fuji Titanium Industry Co., Ltd. and Kronos Worldwide, Inc. for anatase-based TiO₂; (2) DuPont Titanium Technologies, Millennium Chemicals, Inc., Kerr-McGee Corporation, Huntsman LLC, and Kemira oyj for rutile-based TiO₂; (3) Kemira, Tayca Corporation, Ishihara Corporation and Degussa for TiO₂ specialties; and (4) captive capacity of manufacturers for recycling services. Competition in the markets in which Titanium Dioxide

competes is generally based on technological capabilities, product quality, price in rutile form and customer service.

Customers

Titanium Dioxide's customers include Kronos-Titan, Smurfit, Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, BASF Group and Invista Inc.

Functional Additives

Our Functional Additives business line is a leading global manufacturer of barium-based and zinc-based inorganic fine white pigments and additives. The main function of these products is to improve brilliance of colors and shine of coatings, improve the mechanical strength of plastic parts and prevent degradation due to exposure to light. Our Functional Additives business line serves diverse end-markets, including the plastics industry, the coatings industry and the pharmaceutical industry.

Principal Products

Barium-based Additives. We produce highly dispersed powders of barium sulfate and are the largest global producer of precipitated synthetic barium sulfates (Blanc Fixe). We provide a unique range of barium-based additives customized for applications in coatings, plastic, colorants, lubricants, PVC stabilizers and thermoplastics, fibers and paper to improve optical, chemical and mechanical properties. We also produce an X-ray-grade barium sulfate used as contrast agent in medical applications, such as X-rays for the stomach and intestine area. The barium-based products also include nano-particle barium sulfates, which are mainly used in coatings and plastics. Barium hydroxide grades are used as intermediates, including for the production of PVC stabilizers and as an additive in phenolic resin synthesis, including for the production of phenolic-resin-based plastics used for sanitary products and electrical insulations.

Zinc-based Additives. We believe we are also a leading producer of pure zinc sulfide pigments, mainly used in glass fiber reinforced plastic parts and coatings and a leading supplier of Lithopone, a white zinc sulfide pigment, which is used in plastics and coatings. Lithopone is manufactured by our Huali Sachtleben joint venture in Guangzhou, China.

Competition

Key competitors for barium-based additives include Solvay S.A., Gruppo Chimico Dalton S.p.A., Sakai Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. and Chinese barium-producers. Key competitors for zinc-based additives include Chinese lithopone producers. Competition in the functional additives market is primarily based on application know-how, brand recognition, product quality and, to a certain extent, price.

Customers

Functional Additives' customers include duPont de Nemours, Ampacet Corporation, BASF Group, Akzo Nobel Coatings and A. Schulman Plastics.

Water Chemistry

We believe that our Water Chemistry business line is a leading manufacturer of polyaluminium chloride, or PAC, and polyaluminium nitrate-based flocculants. Flocculants are added to water to improve its purity before, during and after its use in industrial, commercial and municipal

applications. PAC flocculants are widely used in public, industrial and swimming pool water treatment and as a process agent in the paper industry.

We believe we have achieved a strong market position in Europe due to our comprehensive customer service arrangements, well-established brand names, competitive cost structure and innovative products. Customers in this market increasingly prefer full service offers, which include supply of water treatment chemicals together with services. Given this market trend, we believe that our ability to provide full services will help us maintain our market position. We also believe that demand for PAC flocculants will increase as a result of increased demand from the paper industry and moderate growth in public water treatment.

Competition

We believe that our Water Chemistry business line competes in a €190.0 million niche market for inorganic flocculants in Europe. The relevant market is characterized by production overcapacity and is geographically constrained to an approximately 300 mile radius around the production plant because the delivered product contains 80 to 90% water. Key competitors of this business line include Kemira, Rhodia ECO Services, TotalFina Elf and Israel Chemical Ltd./Giulini. Competition in the water chemistry market is primarily based on customer service, brand recognition and location.

Customers

Water Chemistry's customers include Sappi Limited, Akzo Nobel, Brenntag AG, LEIPA Georg Leinfelder GmbH and Stora Enso oyj.

Advanced Ceramics (12% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

Our Advanced Ceramics segment was acquired in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and operates under the *CeramTec* brand name. We believe it is a leading global producer of high-performance advanced ceramics materials and products. Advanced Ceramics serves four principal end-markets: (1) medical; (2) electronics; (3) industrial; and (4) automotive, with strong market positions in various niche markets such as medical products, cutting tools and mechanical applications. Our Advanced Ceramics segment generated net sales of \$349.5 million on a pro forma basis for the year ended December 31, 2004, or 12% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. Actual net sales for the five months ended December 31, 2004 were \$146.3 million. Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, the Advanced Ceramics segment generated net sales of \$224.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2002 and \$286.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. See note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Advanced Ceramics segment.

The global ceramics market comprises products and components based on inorganic, non-metallic, microcrystalline materials that are manufactured at high temperatures. The global ceramics market can be divided into traditional ceramics, such as bricks, tiles and white ware, and high-performance ceramics, which are ceramic materials and products optimized for special purposes. High performance ceramics have superior physical, electrical, chemical or biological properties as compared to traditional ceramics and competing materials, like metals or plastics. Accordingly, they have increasingly replaced plastics and metals as key engineering materials. We compete in the high-performance ceramics segment of the market, offering a wide range of high-performance ceramics products from sealing discs for sanitary fittings to ceramic components for hip joint prostheses to injection components for diesel engines based on piezo technology. These products serve the market's needs for materials that are light, strong, corrosion-resistant and capable of performing in high-temperature environments.

High-performance ceramics materials include ceramic powders, ceramic additives, structural ceramics and functional ceramics. Ceramic powders and ceramic additives are inputs to the manufacturing processes of structural and functional ceramics. Structural ceramics, also called engineering ceramics, take advantage of the mechanical properties such as hardness and wear-resistance to produce load-bearing or engineered components. Due to their resistance to corrosion and heat properties, structural ceramics are also used to perform under special chemical conditions or at high temperatures. We believe that we are one of the leading suppliers in the structural ceramics market. Functional ceramics, also referred to as electronic ceramics, focus on the unique electrical and magnetic properties of ceramics. Ceramic applications in electronic components, such as integrated circuit packages, capacitors and transformers, account for the majority of today's high-performance ceramic materials. We believe that increasing demand for electronic components will continue to offer significant growth opportunities for high-performance ceramics, such as piezo ceramics. As a leading supplier of electronic ceramics materials, we believe we are well-positioned to take advantage of these growth opportunities.

We believe that we have achieved success in the Advanced Ceramics segment as a result of our focus on selected segments of the high-performance ceramics market and our close customer relationships. Almost all of Advanced Ceramics' products are made to order, taking into account specific customer requirements. In many cases, our engineers work in close cooperation with our customers during the design and development phase of new products to ensure highest quality and customer satisfaction. Through its extensive experience, Advanced Ceramics has gained detailed expertise and know-how in the applications areas it is active in. We also benefit from a global network of 12 production sites.

Principal Products

Medical. We currently serve the medical applications market with two product groups: ceramic components for hip joint prostheses, such as ball heads and liners; and ceramic moulds for high-quality latex gloves. The ceramic components for hip joint prostheses are supplied to orthopaedic implant manufacturers in the United States and Europe. Besides their high wear-resistance and good friction behavior, high-performance ceramics are biologically inert, making them one of the few materials that are durable and stable enough to withstand the corrosive effects of bodily fluids. As a result, high-performance ceramics are increasingly becoming more common for medical applications, such as for repair and replacement of hips, knees and other human body parts.

We expect the global market for hip implants to grow by approximately 8% per year over the next ten years, with the largest portion of the growth captured by the North American market. We believe that ceramic-on-ceramic hip implants benefit from additional substitution effects as young people and more active elderly people are better suited to use ceramic implants, given their numerous attractive properties. Currently, the penetration rate for ceramic-on-ceramic hip-implants in Europe is significantly higher than in North America because the first FDA approval for ceramic-on-ceramic hip joint prostheses systems was granted only in 2003. However, given the relative superior performance and positive early acceptance levels in the United States, we expect the market for ceramic-on-ceramic hip joint prostheses systems to grow rapidly over the next ten years. We believe we are well positioned to take advantage of the growing market as we are currently the only manufacturer of ceramic-on-ceramic hip implant components used in FDA-approved hip joint prostheses systems in the United States to date. Given the difficulties and time involved in obtaining an FDA approval, we believe that we will be the sole supplier in the intermediate term. We also enjoy strong relationships with the largest U.S. and European orthopaedics implant manufacturers. In order to expand capacity and complement our existing medical production facility in Plochingen, Germany, we have started to build a new factory at our

site in Marktredwitz, Germany, which will exclusively produce medical ceramics and allow us to serve the volumes required by the growing North American market. We expect to commence production in early 2006.

Electronics. We develop and manufacture substrates, electrical resistor cores and ceramic tapes as carriers for electronic circuits. Substrates are ceramic plates with electrical, thermal and mechanical properties that serve as carriers in electronic applications. These highly specialized products are used in a wide range of industries, such as automotive, consumer electronics, aeronautics and telecommunications industries. The demand for these products is driven, in large part, by the activity levels of the semiconductor market. We believe that the expected recovery of the semiconductor market, as well as a positive substitution effect for ceramic applications, will increase the demand for our products.

Cutting Tools. We develop and manufacture products used in cutting tools, tools and tooling systems. Ceramic material properties such as high melting points, excellent hardness and good wear resistance make ceramics an excellent high-speed cutting tool material. We enjoy a strong market position as a supplier of ceramic cutting tools, tools and tooling systems for high speed processing in the automotive, metalworking and mechanical engineering industries, with automotive OEMs being our main customers. We believe that ceramic cutting tools are benefiting from a positive substitution trend, allowing them to grow faster than the underlying cutting tools market. The longer life and faster cutting speeds possible with ceramic tools allow customers to save costs by increasing their throughput and reducing the downtimes for replacing the cutting tools.

Mechanical Applications and Systems. We also develop and manufacture high performance ceramic components that are used in mechanical applications and systems. Key product groups in mechanical systems include cutting blades, drawing and forming tools, drawing cones and capstans, guide elements, precision parts, preforms and friction discs. Mechanical systems include products used in the sanitary fittings and automotive supplier industries in areas where fluids are pumped, compressed or stirred such as bushings, face seal rings, pump components and valve shims and discs. We primarily supply the general industrial machinery, metalworking, automotive and textile industries with a large number of products customized to the customer requirements.

Industrial machinery has wear parts, such as pump parts and components for paper and textile machinery, which are exposed to abrasive materials and fluids. High performance ceramic components are critical to increasing the durability and performance of machines and plant equipment. The good friction behavior and thermal resistance properties of ceramics reduce the tendency toward deformation of the materials and machinery utilized in production processes.

Our customers are currently located mainly in Germany and other parts of Europe. However, we plan to expand our geographic reach. For example, we recently opened a new plant in China and plan to grow over the next five years by further penetrating the rapidly growing Asian market.

Other products. We also produce various products in other smaller niche markets. Some of these products are used for applications in certain niche markets with limited growth potential, such as electrical/thermal and ceramic metal connections. Other products, such as piezo ceramic components, are used for applications in certain niche markets with significant growth potential the next few years, primarily in the automotive sector.

Competition

Advanced Ceramics' key competitors are Kyocera Corporation, CoorsTek, Inc., Saint Gobain, The Morgan Crucible Company plc and NGK Ceramics Europe S.A. However, each of these competitors has either a different geographical focus or product strategy with respect to small niche

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applications. Competition in the high performance ceramics market is primarily based on product quality, product specifications and customer service.

Customers

Advanced Ceramics' key customers include Robert Bosch GmbH, Stryker Corporation, EPCOS AG, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Siemens AG, De Puy Orthodics, MC and Vishay Europe GmbH.

Groupe Novasep (12% of 2004 pro forma net sales)

We acquired our Groupe Novasep (then known as Custom Synthesis) segment in the Dynamit Nobel acquisition. On December 31, 2004, we completed a combination of the three business lines of this segment that were acquired from Dynamit Nobel (Dynamit Nobel Special Chemistry, Finorga and Rohner) with Groupe Novasep SAS (which consisted of four businesses: Novasep, Applexion, Orelis and Seripharm). Groupe Novasep specializes in innovative production of active pharmaceutical ingredients from biotechnological or chemical processes, focuses on developing new purification solutions and processes and the design, installation and on site qualification of these innovative purification processes and specializes in large scale chromatography, continuous chromatography processes (VARICOL®), ion exchange and membranes.

As a result of the combination, we own 79% of the combined company and Groupe Novasep SAS' management owns the remaining 21%. We believe this combination strengthens this segment by joining together Groupe Novasep SAS' proprietary separation technologies with our capabilities of developing and manufacturing advanced intermediates and active ingredients for the pharmaceutical and performance chemical industries. We believe the capabilities of new Groupe Novasep will enhance our ability to meet our customers' demands for higher purity levels, cost efficient solutions, strict regulatory and operational controls, and shorter times to market.

As a result of the combination, our Groupe Novasep segment consists of two divisions: (1) Novasep Synthesis; and (2) Novasep Process, each of which has a specific technology focus. These two divisions serve customers across the entire life cycle of a pharmaceutical product. Our Novasep Synthesis business line focuses on the custom manufacturing of complex molecules through multi-step synthesis and is comprised of four units:

Dynamit Nobel Special Chemistry, which specializes in scale-up and commercial production of hazardous chemistry with special expertise in azide chemistry;

Finorga, which focuses on chiral technologies, such as asymmetric synthesis and multi-column chromatography, or MCC;

Rohner, which offers a range of multi-step synthesis products, including transition metal catalysis, or TMC; and

Seripharm, which specializes in the production of high-potent active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Our Novasep Process business line specializes on the development and optimization of purification processes, as well as the design, installation and on-site qualification of the customized purification systems in the pharmaceuticals and bio-chemical industries. This business line is comprised of the following units:

Novasep, which offers the development, design and installation of purification equipment and systems for molecules; and

Applixion and Orelis, which offer separation solutions to purify molecules from natural biological sources.

Groupe Novasep generated net sales of \$338.6 million on a pro forma basis for the year ended December 31, 2004, or 12% of our 2004 pro forma net sales. Actual net sales for the five months ended December 31, 2004 were \$101.0 million. Prior to the Dynamit Nobel acquisition (and not including Groupe Novasep), the Custom Synthesis segment generated net sales of \$307.6 million for the year ended September 30, 2002 and \$268.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. See note 3 to our audited consolidated financial statements for additional financial information regarding our Groupe Novasep segment.

Novasep Synthesis

Modern drugs require multiple steps of production to create the end product. These steps often involve highly complex chemical reactions. While pharmaceutical companies have the technical capability to carry out certain of these manufacturing steps in-house, they also use custom synthesis manufacturers to provide additional production capacity as well as creative chemical solutions to reduce the production cost of the intermediates, reduce time to market, and hence the overall cost of the end drug. Typically, pharmaceutical companies will contract for a certain annual volume of one or more production steps for a particular drug based on their expectations for demand for the end-product. Therefore, custom synthesis manufacturers play a critical partnership role for their pharmaceutical customers.

The intermediates used to produce modern drugs can be characterized by where they lie in the multi-step manufacturing process. Basic commodity intermediates are used in the early steps of the manufacturing process. These intermediates tend to require simple chemistry, have a low unit cost and can be provided by a large number of custom synthesis manufacturers. Barriers to entry for this market segment are low, and competition is primarily based on price. As a result, an increasing proportion of commodity intermediates are manufactured by Asian companies, particularly in India and China, as these companies have a significant labor and overhead cost advantage over North American and European companies. The later stages of the drug manufacturing process involve greater complexity in the chemical reactions necessary to produce the intermediates and a higher level of customization. A much smaller number of custom synthesis manufacturers have the expertise and available production facilities to offer the requisite level of service and volume to the customers. The manufacturing process for advanced intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients used in pharmaceutical products approved by FDA or other applicable foreign regulatory agencies are also subject to FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practice and similar requirements by foreign regulatory agencies. These requirements create additional barriers to entry. Unit prices and barriers to entry are, therefore, much higher in this segment of the market. Groupe Novasep is active in this segment of the market.

We have a strong research and development team, and six facilities operated by us have implemented standards intended to meet current Good Manufacturing Practice requirements. Four have been inspected by the FDA and found to be in compliance with current Good Manufacturing Practice requirements. We have also developed strong customer relationships based on our research and development, rapid response to customers, consistent product quality and reliability of supply. Custom synthesis manufacturers tend to have close relationships with their pharmaceutical customers because specific manufacturing and related confidentiality requirements, which are common in the pharmaceutical industry, make substitution by alternative products and suppliers difficult. Some of our products are thus supplied to customers on a long-term basis or are produced for patented drugs whose patent expiration is not due for several years and where we act as a key supplier of intermediates. Leveraging our strong technological capabilities and customer relationships, we are currently developing a broad and diversified project pipeline across a number

of customers, including advanced intermediates for potential new drugs. We are also focused on continued technological innovation. For example, we are currently introducing or using cutting edge technologies such as diborane chemistry at Dynamit Nobel Special Chemistry, MCC facilities at Finorga and TMC at Rohner.

Currently, Europe has the highest commercial significance for our Groupe Novasep segment. However, we believe growth opportunities exist in North America, particularly the United States. Though half of the production capacity for custom synthesis is installed in Europe, the majority of demand originates in North America. We intend to leverage our existing client base in the United States and significant supply relationship with one leading U.S. pharmaceutical company to further penetrate the North American market.

Principal Business Lines

Novasep Synthesis consists of the following four business lines:

Dynamit Nobel Special Chemistry, or DNSC. DNSC is a global market leader in hazardous chemistry, focusing on key technologies such as azide, carbon disulfide and diborane chemistries. The majority of compounds manufactured by DNSC is produced for pharmaceutical companies, with the remainder for agrochemicals and other industrial applications. DNSC operates two facilities in Schlebusch (Leverkusen) and Troisdorf, both in Germany. DNSC offers a unique portfolio of core technologies based on hazardous starting materials, including explosive compounds, shock and friction sensitive compounds, highly inflammable gases and liquids, as well as toxic materials. DNSC's strength is in azide chemistry, which is used to synthesize intermediates of final molecules that have anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial and blood pressure reducing characteristics. Azide chemistry requires extremely high safety standards, state-of-the art purpose built infrastructure and trained employees. Few companies in Europe and the United States have the capabilities and permits to handle azide chemistry. Hazardous chemistry frequently offers a short and efficient synthetic route for the manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients and advanced intermediates. Pharmaceutical companies are usually neither equipped nor licensed to handle hazardous chemistry in-house. DNSC benefits from its know-how, safety standards, permits and its reputation as a reliable supplier to the pharmaceutical industry.

Finorga. Finorga specializes in custom manufacturing of new chemical compounds and active pharmaceutical ingredients, involving complex and sophisticated chemical reactions used in multi-step synthesis. Finorga's products are primarily aimed at the pharmaceutical industry, but also include selective fine chemicals for fast growing electronic industry applications, such as liquid crystals. Finorga offers a broad service platform, including quality control, regulatory support, research and development, process transfer, pilot and large scale production. Finorga operates from two separate sites intended to meet current Good Manufacturing Practice requirements at Chasse-sur-Rhone and Mourenx, both in France. Finorga is contributing to the production of one of the top ten drugs worldwide.

Finorga differentiates itself from its competitors through its focus on sophisticated "chiral synthesis" technologies, which includes asymmetric synthesis and continuous chromatography. Chiral pharmaceutical compounds typically have two chiral forms, each of which can have different potency and side effects on a patient. Pharmaceutical companies are increasingly focused on isolating and producing the more effective chiral form of the compound, or the "enantiomerically pure" drug. We believe approximately 75% of drugs in the current industry pipeline fall into this category. However, the process of isolating the required chiral form during drug manufacturing requires highly complex chemistry and in the separation and purification of the enantiomers. Finorga is one of only a few companies worldwide to offer VARICOL® chiral separation, which is a highly effective and cost efficient way to separate and purify enantiomers.

Rohner. Rohner produces chemicals on a custom synthesis and toll manufacturing basis. Rohner is less focused on the pharmaceutical industry than DNSC and Finorga. Between 2000 and 2002, we invested approximately €45 million in a new state-of-the-art multi-purpose production facility, which is dedicated to the production of complex molecules and active pharmaceutical ingredients. Rohner's technologies include TMC, which includes asymmetric hydrogenation and metal catalyzed C-C coupling. TMC refers to a technology platform that enables a highly selective and efficient transformation of specific functional groups of very complex molecules. Asymmetric hydrogenation is a technology that enables a synthesis of molecules with a high degree of purity cost-effectively. Metal catalyzed C-C coupling is a technology that helps build important core structures.

Seripharm. Seripharm is a former subsidiary of Aventis specializing in the production of high-potent (especially cytotoxic) active pharmaceutical ingredients. Seripharm also develops new high potent active pharmaceutical ingredients for pharmaceutical companies using our purification technologies.

Novasep Process

Novasep Process specializes in the development and optimization of purification processes as well as the design, installation, and on-site qualification of these customized purification systems in the pharmaceutical and bio-chemical industries. Novasep Process offers a broad range of proprietary technologies for industrial purification including preparative chromatography, large-scale chromatography, continuous chromatography processes (VARICOL®), ion exchange, crystallization and membranes. Novasep Process employs its full portfolio of purification technologies to address customers growing demand for customized purification solutions throughout their new product development process.

Principal Business Lines

Novasep Process consists of the following business lines:

Novasep. Novasep offers innovative solutions to pharmaceutical companies to assist them with the purification of molecules. Novasep's core technologies are large scale preparative high pressure chromatography (batch or continuous) and crystallization. Novasep also assists pharmaceutical companies in developing second generation processes able to produce an existing active pharmaceutical ingredients under better technical and economic conditions and in designing, installing and qualifying tailor made purification systems.

Applexion and Orelis. Applexion and Orelis offer separation solutions to purify molecules from natural biological sources. The key technologies include low pressure chromatography (normally in continuous mode), ion-exchange, continuous crystallization and membranes (organic or mineral). Key markets addressed by these divisions are the sugar and sweetener industries and the production of bulk enzymes and antibiotics.

Competition

Competition in the market in which our Groupe Novasep segment competes is based on technological capabilities and know-how across a broad range of synthesis technologies, consistent product quality, reliability of supply and ability to meet customers' production demands on a timely basis. Depending on the relevant technology, the main competitors are: Aerojet Fine Chemicals, Avecia Limited, Degussa, DSM N.V., Isochem, Lanxess, Lonza Group Ltd., Omnicem, Orgamol S.A. and PPG Sipsy.

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Competition in our separation technologies is based on technological capabilities, consistent product quality, reliability of supply and ability to meet customers' production demands on a timely basis. Some competitors include Bayer Technology Services, GE Healthcare and Millipore Corporation.

Customers

Groupe Novasep has a concentrated customer base. In this segment, our customers include some of the largest and most successful pharmaceutical companies, including Altana Pharma AG, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Novartis Pharma AG and Pfizer.

Raw Materials

We purchase raw materials and chemical intermediates from a large number of third parties. We have a broad raw material base, with the cost of no single raw material representing more than 5% of our pro forma cost of products sold in 2004. Raw materials constituted approximately 48% of our 2004 pro forma cost of products sold on the same pro forma basis. The table below lists the most significant raw materials in 2004 and the principal products for which the materials were used.

Raw Material	Segment	Products
Titanium-bearing slag	Titanium Dioxide Pigments	Titanium dioxide
PVC resin	Specialty Compounds	Compounds
Iron oxide	Performance Additives	Iron oxide pigments
Quaternary amines	Performance Additives	Organoclays/wood protection products
Solvents	Performance Additives	Wood protection products
Copper	Performance Additives	Wood protection products
Plasticizers	Specialty Compounds	Compounds
Lithium	Specialty Chemicals	Lithium compounds

Titanium-bearing slag, our largest raw material (in terms of dollars), is the most important raw material used in the production of specialty grade titanium dioxide in our Titanium Dioxide business line of our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment. We purchase Titanium-bearing slag from two suppliers. Our supply agreement with one of them is for a fixed term until December 31, 2007, subject to automatic annual renewal until December 31, 2011, unless earlier terminated, and contains a fixed price with an annual escalation clause. Our supply agreement with the other supplier is for a fixed term until December 31, 2006 and provided for a fixed price until December 31, 2004. Price negotiations for the year 2005 have been finalized; the price for the year 2006 will be negotiated in 2006.

PVC resin is a commodity product and its pricing is directly related to the price of ethylene and chlorine, as well as PVC industry operating rates and energy prices. Historically, we have received iron oxide from multiple sources and have not experienced any significant supply shortages. Iron oxide is primarily sourced from our plants in the United States, Italy and China, as well as from third parties in India and China.

As a result of the conversion from CCA to ACQ, in 2004 our principal raw material for our Timber Treatment Chemical business in our Performance Additives segment has shifted from chromic acid to quaternary amines, solvents and copper. In our Timber Treatment Chemical business, we predominately source quaternary amines under a contract that expires in late 2008, with automatic annual renewals subject to termination by either party. We source solvents used in our Timber Treatment Chemical business from two suppliers under contracts that expire in December 2006, subject to automatic annual renewals except where terminated by either party, and

December 2008. Prices under our solvent and quaternary amine contracts are tied to the ethylene price index. We source copper, which is a commodity, from several sources. Prices for our copper purchases are tied to market conditions.

In our Clay-based Additives business line of our Performance Additives segment, quaternary amine is sourced under a long-term contract, which expires in late 2008 and is subject to quarterly adjustment for the price of tallow, the base component of quaternary amine. In our Specialty Compounds segment, some of the plasticizers we use are generic and considered a commodity product, while others are specific and considered a specialty product. Our supply contracts for plasticizers do not specify a fixed price, and most of them contain market price and discount adjustments.

Lithium brine is a primary raw material source for all lithium chemicals and is found in only a small number of locations, including most significantly for us, the Atacama Desert in Chile. We have a long-term contract with the Chilean government to mine lithium brine in the Atacama Desert in Chile, which we believe provides a secure long-term access to lithium.

Major requirements for our key raw materials and energy are typically satisfied pursuant to contractual agreements and medium- or long-term relationships with suppliers. We are not generally dependent on any one supplier for a major part of our raw materials requirements, but certain important raw materials are obtained from a few major suppliers. In general, where we have limited sources of raw materials, we have developed contingency plans to minimize the effect of any interruption or reduction in supply, such as sourcing from different facilities and multiple suppliers and utilizing alternative formulations.

Temporary shortages of raw materials may occasionally occur and cause temporary price increases. In recent years, these shortages have not resulted in unavailability of raw materials. However, the continuing availability and price of raw materials are affected by unscheduled plant interruptions occurring during periods of high demand, domestic and world market and political conditions, as well as the direct or indirect effect of governmental regulations. During periods of high demand, our raw materials are subject to significant price fluctuations, and, in the past, such fluctuations have had an adverse impact on the results of operations of our business. The impact of any future raw material shortages on our business as a whole or in specific geographic regions cannot be accurately predicted.

Intellectual Property

Our business is dependent to a large extent on our intellectual property rights, including patents and other intellectual property, trademarks and trade secrets. We believe that our intellectual property rights play an important role in maintaining our competitive position in a number of the markets we serve. We rely on technological know-how and formulation and application expertise in many of our manufacturing processes in order to develop and maintain our market positions. Where appropriate, we protect our new technology, applications and manufacturing processes by seeking patent protection. We have more than 2,000 patents and patent applications in key strategic markets worldwide, reflecting our commitment to invest in technology and covering many aspects of our products and processes for making those products. We also own and register in multiple jurisdictions numerous trade names and marks applicable to our business and products, which we believe are important to our business. In addition, we have entered into agreements, pursuant to which we license intellectual property from third parties for use in our business and we license certain intellectual property to third parties. For example, we developed the technology to produce ACQ pursuant to an exclusive license agreement with the right to sublicense from Domtar Inc. Under the term of the license, our Timber Treatment chemicals business of our Performance Additives segment pays a royalty to Domtar based upon the percent

of net sales less certain costs. The license agreement expires in May 2007 in connection with the expiration of the patent and may be terminated by either party upon a material breach of the other party and the failure to cure. We also develop intellectual property with third parties as discussed below in " Research and Development."

Research and Development

We are committed to further investing in our asset base and research effort. Our pro forma research and development costs were approximately 2% of our pro forma net sales in 2004. We believe that our research and development costs are a small percentage of our net sales due in part to the fact that we do not allocate expenses to this category unless they relate directly to research and development. We incur certain expenses related to modifications and improvements in current products. In addition, we believe we allocate our research and development resources selectively based on the need and requirements for each business line to develop innovative products. Research and development costs are charged to expense, as incurred. For historic Rockwood businesses such costs were \$8.1 million, \$8.7 million and \$10.1 million in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, and such costs for Dynamit Nobel were \$29.4 million and \$32.4 million in the year ended September 30, 2002 and in the year ended December 31, 2003, respectively.

The objective of our research and development effort is to develop innovative chemistries and technologies with applications relevant within targeted key markets. Research and development efforts are generally focused on both process development, which is the stage at which products move from development to manufacturing, and new product development. Each business line, however, also has selected long-term strategic projects with the aim to develop new competencies and technologies.

Each of our business lines manages its own research and development effort and has separate research and development facilities dedicated to its specific area. However, where technologically applicable, advances and findings are shared between business lines to foster greater cross-fertilization of ideas and applications.

In certain cases, we conduct research and development efforts with third parties, including universities, customers and other entities. We endeavor to obtain ownership of or license on terms favorable to us the intellectual property developed with a third party.

Seasonality

There is a seasonal effect on a portion of our sales due to the end-use of some of our products. In our pool and spa chemicals operations in our Water Treatment Chemicals business line of our Performance Additives segment, it is industry standard practice to offer significantly extended payment terms to customers prepared to purchase their spring and early summer requirements in the fourth quarter of the previous year. Following this pattern, the fourth quarter customarily includes large sales and shipments although the associated cash payments are not received until the second quarter of the following year. In addition, our Color Pigments and Services and Timber Treatment Chemicals business lines of our Performance Additives segment show some seasonality related to the outdoor construction market. As such, the first quarter has historically been the quarter where we experience the lowest sales. Also, along with the accounts receivable build in the first quarter discussed above, during this quarter we typically build inventory for the pool and spa business, as well as our construction related businesses, in anticipation of increased sales during the spring and summer months. Thus, the first quarter is usually the quarter with the highest working capital requirements for us. Other than these seasonal trends in particular end-use markets, our overall results of operations tend to show few seasonal effects.

International Operations

The following table presents net sales based on geographic area (attributed based on seller's location):

	Year ended December 31,		
	2002	2003	2004
	(millions)		
Net sales:			
United States	\$ 505.4	\$ 523.0	\$ 741.0
Germany	30.8	34.3	483.7
Rest of Europe	171.0	183.0	391.7
Rest of world	52.7	57.0	127.1
	_____	_____	_____
Total	\$ 759.9	\$ 797.3	\$ 1,743.5
	_____	_____	_____

Because of the Transactions, the net sales set forth in the table above may not be indicative of current or future operations.

The following table presents our long-lived assets, other than financial instruments and deferred tax assets, located in the regions indicated:

	Year ended December 31,	
	2003	2004
	(millions)	
Long-lived assets:(1)		
United States	\$ 190.1	\$ 198.7
Germany	27.0	703.0
Rest of Europe	190.7	470.6
Rest of world	10.8	194.5
	_____	_____
Total	\$ 418.6	\$ 1,566.8
	_____	_____

- (1) We have not finalized the allocation of purchase price related to the Groupe Novasep combination as discussed in note 2 to our financial statements. As such, the long-lived asset amounts may change upon finalization of the Groupe Novasep combination purchase price allocation.

Sales and Marketing

We sell our products and services globally. We generally sell our products and services primarily by using our direct sales forces, although we also sell through distributors in certain of our business lines, such as Color Pigments and Services, Clay-based Additives and Water Treatment Chemicals of our Performance Additives segment and Electronic Chemicals business line of our Electronics segment or by using third party sales representatives. Each of our direct sales forces is responsible for marketing only one of our business lines, and is administered pursuant to policies established by the management of that business line. Within each business line, these direct sales forces are organized based on geographic regions, end-use applications or sub-business divisions within the business line. As of March 31, 2005, our in-house sales forces consisted of 1,368 personnel worldwide.

Our direct sales forces interact with our customers to provide both purchasing advice and technical assistance. In general, our sales forces arrange and coordinate contact between our customers and our research and development personnel to provide quality control and new product solutions. In certain of our businesses, such as Surface Treatment and Fine Chemicals business

lines of our Specialty Chemicals segment, most sales managers have a chemical engineering background with advanced degrees and significant technical experience in applying our products, and they play a critical role in developing client relationships and acquiring new clients. Our close interaction with our customers and tailored solutions have allowed us to develop and maintain strong customer relationships as well as focus our sales efforts on those customers who we believe will provide us with higher profit margins in recognition of our superior products, service and technical support.

Sales in each of our business lines are generally made on a purchase order basis. However, longer term arrangements have been established with certain key customers.

Our marketing strategy is generally aimed at working directly with customers to gauge the success of our products, evaluate the need for improvements in product and process technology, and identify opportunities to develop new product solutions for our customers and their end-use markets. We also use media activities and lectures and participate in tradeshow as part of our sales and marketing effort.

Regulation

Environmental Regulation

We are subject to extensive environmental, health and safety laws in the United States, the European Union and elsewhere at the international, national, state and local levels. Many of these laws impose requirements relating to clean-up of contamination, and impose liability in the event of damage to human beings, natural resources or property, and provide for substantial fines, injunctions and potential criminal sanctions for violations. Our products, including the raw materials we handle, are also subject to rigorous industrial hygiene regulations and investigation. The nature of our operations exposes us to risks of liability for breaches of these laws and regulations as a result of the production, storage, transportation and sale of materials that can cause contamination or personal injury when released into the environment.

Environmental laws are subject to change and have tended to become stricter over time. Such changes in environmental laws, or the enactment of new environmental laws, could result in materially increased capital, operating and compliance costs. In October 2003, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new European Union framework for chemicals known as the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals, or REACH. While it is uncertain as to whether, when and in what form REACH will be finalized and become law, REACH may eventually significantly expand the European Union's regulation of chemicals. As currently proposed, REACH would include requirements that certain manufacturers and importers of chemicals register those chemicals, perform health and environmental risk analyses of those chemicals, and in certain instances, obtain authorizations for the use of the chemicals. As a specialty chemicals company, it is possible that we are the only manufacturer of one or more substances to be regulated under REACH and thus could potentially bear the full cost of compliance with REACH for some or all of our products. We estimate we have over 400 products that might be subject to REACH.

Environmental laws have a significant effect on the nature and scope of any clean-up of contamination at current and former operating facilities, the costs of transportation and storage of chemicals and finished products and the costs of the storage and disposal of wastes. In addition, "Superfund" statutes in the United States as well as statutes in other jurisdictions impose strict, joint and several liability for clean-up costs on the entities that generated waste and/or arranged for its disposal at contaminated third party sites, as well as the past and present owners and operators of contaminated sites. Each responsible party may be required to bear some or all clean-up costs regardless of fault, legality of the original disposal or ownership of the disposal site.

Environmental contamination is known to exist at certain of our present and former facilities, including our facilities located in Turin, Italy; St. Fromond, St. Cheron and Sens, France; Hainhaussen, Troisdorf, Schlebusch, Stadeln, Duisburg, Plochingen, Marktredwitz, Ronnenberg-Empelde and Langelsheim, Germany; Oss, The Netherlands; Kidsgrove and Barrow, United Kingdom; Boksburg East, South Africa; Pratteln, Switzerland; and in the United States, in Valdosta, Georgia, Beltsville, Maryland, Harrisburg, North Carolina, Laurens, South Carolina, Silver Peak, Nevada and La Mirada, California. Soil contamination is also known to exist at our facilities at Freeport, Texas, Chasse-sur-Rhone, France and Sumperk in Czech Republic; however, no further regulatory remedial actions are currently required for these facilities and any liabilities arising from such contamination is covered by indemnity obligations or the previous owners of these facilities with the exception of Freeport. We are currently operating groundwater remediation systems at our Hainhaussen, Troisdorf, Valdosta, and Silver Peak facilities. We also operate ground water remediation systems at our Schlebusch, Plochingen, Marktredwitz, Stadeln and Laurens facilities, for which prior owners or insurers have assumed responsibility and a soil remediation project at our facility in St. Cheron, and we continue to monitor groundwater at the Beltsville facility, which was previously the subject of a soil removal action. Groundwater is also monitored at the St. Fromond and Barrow facilities due to prior spills and at the Harrisburg facility due to a landfill closure. We are also required to monitor groundwater quality at our facilities at Mourenx, France and New Johnsonville, Tennessee. We believe that additional environmental studies, and possibly environmental remediations, will be required at the Turin and Harrisburg facilities. We are also in the process of determining appropriate remedial actions with the regulatory authorities at the following locations: Duisburg, Pratteln, Langelsheim, Troisdorf and La Mirada. Furthermore, as a result of facility closings, divestitures and offsite disposal activities such as a former disposal site in Laurel, Maryland, we are responsible for the following other matters: contamination beneath divested portions of the manufacturing facility in Troisdorf; contamination at a closed Chemetall Oakite facility in Houston, Texas, contamination at a former Chemetall Foote facility in Sunbright, Virginia, contribution towards the clean-up of three industrial landfills in the Basel, Switzerland area, groundwater remediation at Stadeln and former sites operated by Dynamit Nobel's previously divested explosives business. We are also a *de minimis* participant in several Superfund matters. Although we cannot provide assurances in this regard, we do not believe that these issues will have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition, but may have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or cash flow in any given quarterly or annual reporting period. Nonetheless, the discovery of contamination arising from present or historical industrial operations at some of our and our predecessor's former and present properties and/or at sites we and our predecessor disposed wastes could expose us to cleanup obligations and other damages in the future.

Pursuant to the environmental deed entered into in connection with the KKR acquisition, Degussa, as successor to Laporte, is required to indemnify us and our subsidiaries for certain environmental matters that relate to the business as conducted prior to the closing of the KKR acquisition. The environmental deed provides that Degussa will indemnify us and our subsidiaries for claims for which notice is given within a period of two years for breaches of representations and warranties, which expired in 2002, and five years for claims related to the contamination of our properties or our subsidiaries' properties (inclusive of contamination which leaks or escapes from our properties or our subsidiaries' properties), which expires in September 2005. These indemnity obligations are subject to a minimum per matter loss of \$175,000 and are further subject to a \$5.0 million deductible for the indemnity to be available. In addition, the environmental deed provides that Degussa will indemnify us and our subsidiaries for claims relating to properties that were formerly owned, occupied or used as of November 20, 2000, as well as properties owned by third parties (inclusive of disposal of waste and certain other identified issues prior to November 20, 2000). The environmental deed provides that in this instance, Degussa will be responsible for reasonable costs and expenses incurred.

In addition, pursuant to the sale and purchase agreement entered into in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, mg technologies ag and its subsidiary, MG North America Holdings Inc., are required to indemnify us and our subsidiaries for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related to the contamination of our or our subsidiaries' properties, if notified within ten years. If mg technologies and MG North America Holdings' responsibility for contamination matters cannot be proven, a sliding scale reduces the percentage further for each year during the five-year period from year six to ten. mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are also obligated to indemnify us for 85% of claims related to legacy site matters, such as environmental matters relating to properties or businesses owned or operated by Dynamit Nobel prior to, but not on, the closing of Dynamit Nobel acquisition, if notified within ten years. In addition, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves for operational compliance matters, if notified by December 31, 2006, and 50% of the excess amount of losses over the amount of the related reserves (in the case of known claims) and 50% of claims (in the case of unknown claims) related to certain environmental damage claims unknown at the time of the closing of the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, if notified within ten years. All of these indemnity obligations are subject to different minimum per-claim thresholds depending on whether the matter was disclosed or not, and on the subject matter, ranging between €100,000 and €750,000 depending on the type of claim. The indemnity obligations are further subject to certain deductibles, exclusions and limitations. Furthermore, mg technologies and MG North America Holdings are obligated to indemnify us for certain environmental risks arising from certain "shared site" structures for a duration of ten years. This indemnity obligation is not subject to the percentages, *de minimis* exclusions, deductibles and thresholds described above, and it is not subject to most of the general limitations. In the event we seek indemnity under any of these agreements or through other means, there can be no assurance that mg technologies, MG North America Holdings, Degussa or any other party who may have obligations to indemnify us will adhere to their obligations and we may have to resort to legal action to enforce our rights under the indemnities. However, we do not believe that resolution of the known environmental matters subject to indemnification obligations owed to us will have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition as such amounts are not significant.

FDA Regulation

Our Groupe Novasep, Advanced Ceramics and to a lesser extent, our Specialty Chemicals segments are also subject to regulation by the FDA with respect to certain products we produce, including pharmaceutical intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients and ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components used in hip joint prostheses systems. Foreign, state, local and other authorities also may regulate us and our products. Regulatory agencies have established requirements that apply to the design, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical and medical device products. We sell our pharmaceutical intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients and ceramic-on-ceramic components to other companies that also may be regulated by such authorities.

Premarket Approval. While we are not required to seek FDA approvals for our pharmaceutical intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients, the customers to whom we supply such products may be subject to FDA approval requirements prior to testing a new drug on humans as well as marketing a new drug for commercial use in the United States. Our customers with FDA approval for the finished drug may also be required to obtain FDA approval of design, manufacturing or labeling changes to the pharmaceutical intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients used in their finished products.

Medical devices also are subject to extensive regulation by the FDA prior to commercial distribution in the United States, including premarket approval, or PMA, which is required for

devices deemed to pose the greatest risk and certain other devices. Our Advanced Ceramics segment currently supplies ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components to manufacturers for incorporation into their total hip prostheses systems, which are subject to the FDA's PMA approval requirements. In addition, our Advanced Ceramics business or our customers who have obtained PMA approval may be required to obtain FDA approval for changes to the design, manufacturing or labeling of our ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components.

Compliance Requirements. Once on the market, drug manufacturers, the suppliers of drug intermediates, and medical device manufacturers are subject to numerous post-market regulations. For our pharmaceutical intermediates business within our Groupe Novasep segment, we are required to comply with the FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practices, which cover all facets of drug manufacturing and distribution including: organization and personnel; buildings and facilities; equipment; control of components and drug product containers and closures; production and process controls; packaging and labeling control; holding and distribution; laboratory controls; recordkeeping and reporting; and returned and salvaged drug products.

Finished device manufacturers such as our customers who manufacture hip prostheses systems are subject to the FDA's Quality System Regulation, or QSR, which requires quality assurance practices and procedures that address, among other things: management responsibility, audits and training; design controls; purchasing controls; identification and traceability of components; production and process controls; acceptance activities; handling of nonconforming product; the initiation of corrective and preventive actions; labeling and packaging controls; handling, storage and distribution of products; and complaint handling and record keeping. The FDA does not directly require component suppliers of finished medical devices to comply with the QSR. However, because our ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components are critical elements of hip joint prostheses systems, our customers may require us to comply with some or all of the QSR. Moreover, the FDA may in the future take the position that the types of components that we supply meet the definition of a finished device and are thus subject to the QSR. Our current contracts with our customers of ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components require us to comply or assist our customers in complying with various FDA regulatory requirements.

The FDA's inspectional authority extends to both component suppliers and pharmaceutical intermediates manufacturers. Pursuant to this authority, the FDA has the ability to conduct inspections at our facilities at which we manufacture our pharmaceutical intermediates or ceramic-on-ceramic ball head and liner components.

If we or our customers violate FDA or other governmental regulatory requirements during either the pre- or post-marketing stages, there may be various adverse consequences. For example, in the United States, the FDA has the authority to impose: fines, injunctions, and civil penalties; recall or seizure of products; operating or import restrictions, partial suspension or total shutdown of production; the FDA's delay in granting approval or refusal to grant approval of new products; or withdrawal of the submission or the approved product from the market.

Employees

As of March 31, 2005, we had 9,443 employees, with 70.6% located in Europe, 21.2% in the United States and the remaining 8.2% located in the rest of the world. Of our employees, approximately 3,218, or 34.1%, are subject to either collective bargaining agreements or other similar arrangements.

We observe local customs, legislation and practice in labor relations and, where applicable, in negotiating collective bargaining agreements. Management believes that its relations with employees and their representatives are good. We have not suffered any material work stoppage or strike in our world-wide operations in the last five years.

Manufacturing Facilities

We are an international business serving customers worldwide. To service our customers efficiently, we maintain 100 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries around the world with a strategy of global, regional and local manufacturing to optimize our service offering and minimize production cost to our customers.

We are dedicated to maintaining updated and technologically advanced manufacturing facilities. To that end, we made capital expenditures of \$36.0 million, \$34.3 million and \$112.8 million, for the periods ended December 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, to expand, upgrade and maintain our manufacturing capabilities. The 2004 amount includes the capital expenditures during the five months of operations for the Dynamit Nobel businesses, including Advanced Ceramics' major expansion at its Marktredwitz, Germany facility related to hip replacement products. During this three-year period, we constructed new plants for our Timber Treatment Chemicals business line of our Performance Additives segment in Harrisburg, North Carolina and for our wafer reclaim business line of our Electronics segment in Prescott, Arizona and upgraded our wafer reclaim facility and operations in Greasque, France. For the years ended September 30, 2001 and 2002 and the year ended December 31, 2003, Dynamit Nobel made capital expenditures of \$125.1 million, \$112.0 million and \$122.0 million, respectively, which included expansion of our current Good Manufacturing Practice production lines and new equipment relating to multi-column chromatography in our Groupe Novasep segment, expansion of our titanium dioxide capacity for our Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment and capacity expansion for our Advanced Ceramics segment. We believe that our plants and facilities are maintained in good condition and are adequate for our present and currently expected future needs.

The table below presents summary information with respect to the manufacturing facilities we currently operate.

Segment	Country	Locations	Leased/Owned	Major Applications/Industry
Performance Additives				
Color Pigments and Services	Australia	Braeside, Melbourne	Leased	Master batches
	Canada	Bromont, Quebec	Owned	Construction
	China	Xinzhuang, Changshu	Leased	Construction
	Germany	Walluf	Owned	Construction and coatings
		Hainhausen	Owned	Construction and coatings
	Italy	Turin	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
	United Kingdom	Matlock Bath	Leased	Construction
		Kidsgrove	Owned	Coatings and specialties
	U.S.A.	Sudbury	Owned	Coatings and specialties
		Los Angeles, CA	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
		St. Louis, MO	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
		Beltsville, MD	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
		Ocala, FL	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
		Cartersville, GA	Owned	Coatings, specialties and construction
Timber Treatment Chemicals	United Kingdom	Barrow-in-Furness	Owned	Wood protection products and treatment
		U.S.A.	Freeport, TX	Owned
	U.S.A.	Valdosta, GA	Owned	Wood protection products and treatment
		Harrisburg, NC	Owned	Wood protection products and treatment
Clay-based Additives	United Kingdom	Baulking(1)	Owned	Paper-making; metal castings; civil engineering applications; coatings; paper; coatings
		Widnes, Cheshire	Owned	Paper-making; consumer and household care; coatings and paper

(1) We expect to close this facility in the third quarter of 2005.

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Segment	Country	Locations	Leased/Owned	Major Applications/Industry
	U.S.A.	Gonzales, TX	Owned	Paints; inks and oilfields; paper-making
Water Treatment Chemicals	U.S.A.	Alpharetta, GA	Leased	Water treatment
Specialty Compounds				
	Canada	Stoney Creek, Ontario	Owned	Footwear products, consumer products
	Italy	Azeglio	Owned	Rubber compounds
	United Kingdom	Melton Mowbray	Owned	TPE/Consumer products, packaging products, medical products, automotive products
	U.S.A.	Pineville, NC	Owned	Wire and cable sheathing products; packaging products; medical products in consumer goods products; footwear products; automotive products
		Leominster, MA	Owned	Wire and cable sheathing products; packaging products; medical products in consumer goods products; footwear products; automotive products
Electronics				
Electronic Chemicals	France	Saint-Fromond	Owned	Semiconductor manufacturing
		St. Cheron	Owned	Semiconductor manufacturing
	Singapore	Singapore	Leased	Semiconductor manufacturing
	Taiwan	Chung-Li	Leased	Printed circuit boards
	United Kingdom	Riddings	Leased	Semiconductor manufacturing
	U.S.A.	Maple Plain, MN	Owned	Printed circuit boards, semiconductor manufacturing
		Fremont, CA	Leased	Photomasks, semiconductor manufacturing
Photomasks	United Kingdom	Glenrothes, Scotland	Owned	Masks and pellicle replacement
	U.S.A.	Austin, TX	Leased	Repairs
		Los Gatos, CA	Leased	Masks and pellicle replacement
Wafer Reclaim	France	Greasque	Owned	Wafer reclaim
	Germany	Erlangen	Leased	Wafer reclaim
	United Kingdom	Riddings(2)	Leased	Wafer reclaim
	U.S.A.	Prescott, AZ	Leased	Wafer reclaim
		Providence, RI(2)	Owned	Wafer reclaim
Specialty Chemicals				
Surface Treatment	Australia	Bayswater North	Owned	Automotive and advanced technologies
		Girraween	Leased	Aerospace and advanced technologies
	Brazil	São Paulo	Leased	Automotive technologies and advanced technologies
	Canada	Bramalea, Ontario	Owned	Advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
	China	Chonggin	Leased	Automotive and advanced technologies
		Shanghai	Leased	Automotive and advanced technologies
	France	Sens	Owned	Automotive technologies and advanced technologies
		Soissons	Owned	Aerospace
	Germany	Mönchengladbach	Owned	Performance products
		Langelshiem(3)	Owned	Automotive technologies, advanced technologies and aerospace
	India	JV in Worli	Owned	Automotive and Advanced Technology
		JV in Pune	Owned	Automotive and Advanced Technology

- (2) We expect to close these facilities in the first quarter of 2006.
- (3) This facility is shared by both business divisions of the Speciality Chemicals segment.

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Segment	Country	Locations	Leased/Owned	Major Applications/Industry
	Italy	Guissano	Leased	Automotive technologies, advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
	Mexico	JV in Roveceto in Piano Mexico City	Leased Leased	Performance Products Automotive technologies, advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
	The Netherlands	Oss	Owned	Automotive technologies and advanced technologies
	Poland	Warszawa	Leased	Automotive and advanced technologies
	Singapore	Singapore	Leased	Advanced technologies and aerospace
	South Africa	Boksburg	Owned	Automotive technologies and advanced technologies
	Spain	Canovelles	Owned	Automotive technologies, advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
	Sweden	Bålsta	Owned	Automotive technologies and advanced technologies
	Switzerland	Dintikon	Leased	Advanced technologies and performance products
	Turkey	Istanbul	Owned	Automotive and advanced technologies
	United Kingdom	Bletchley	Leased	Automotive technologies, advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
	U.S.A.	La Mirada, CA	Leased	Advanced technologies and aerospace, performance products
		Romulus, MI	Owned	Automotive technologies, advanced technologies, aerospace and performance products
Fine Chemicals	Austria	Arnoldstein	Leased	Metal sulphides
	Chile	La Negra	Owned	Lithium-carbonate and lithium chloride
	Germany	Langelsheim(3)	Owned	Butyl-Lithium, lithium-hydroxide, specialty products, metal and battery, lithium-hydrides, cesium and special metals and accelerators
	Taiwan	Taichung	Owned	Butyl-Lithium
	U.S.A.	Silver Peak, NV	Owned	Lithium-carbonate and lithium hydroxide
		New Johnsonville, TN	Owned	Butyl-Lithium and specialty products
		Kings Mountain, NC	Owned	Metal and battery
Titanium Dioxide Pigments				
Titanium Dioxide	Germany	Duisburg(4)	Owned	Fibers, plastics, paints, coatings and paper
Functional Additives	China	JV in China	Leased	Plastics
	Germany	Duisburg(4)	Owned	Coatings, plastics, fibers, paper, pharmaceuticals, PVC stabilizers and glass fiber reinforced plastics
Water Chemistry	Germany	Duisburg(4)	Owned	Flocculants
		Ibbenbueren	Leased	Flocculants
		Schwarzheide	Leased	Flocculants

(3) This facility is shared by both business divisions of the Specialty Chemicals segment.

(4) This facility is shared by all three business divisions of the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment.

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Segment	Country	Locations	Leased/Owned	Major Applications/Industry
Advanced Ceramics				
	China	Suzhou	Leased	General industry
	Czech Republic	Sumperk	Owned	General industry
		Dolni Rychnov	Owned	Electronics
	Germany	Plochingen	Owned	Medical, automotive and general industry
		Ebersbach	Owned	Automotive, electronics and general industry
		Lauf	Owned	Automotive, electronics and general industry
		Marktredwitz	Owned	Electronic, automotive and general industry
	Malaysia	Seremban	Owned	Medical
	South Korea	Suwon	Leased	Electronics
	United Kingdom	Colyton	Owned	Electronics
	U.S.A.	Laurens, SC	Owned	Automotive, electronics and general industry
Groupe Novasep				
DNNSC	Germany	Leverkusen-Schlebusch	Owned	Pharmaceutical, agrochemical and others
		Troisdorf	Owned	Agrochemical
Finorga	France	Chasse-sur-Rhone	Owned	Pharmaceutical and others
		Mourenx	Owned	Pharmaceutical
Rohner	Switzerland	Pratteln	Owned	Pharmaceutical, agrochemical and others
Novasep	France	Pompey	Leased	Pharmaceuticals and equipment engineering and manufacturing
		LeMans	Owned	Pharmaceuticals
		Epone	Owned	Equipment engineering and manufacturing
		Saint-Maurice de Boynost	Leased	Equipment engineering and manufacturing
	U.S.A.	Boothwyn, PA	Leased	Pharmaceuticals and equipment engineering and manufacturing

Legal Proceedings

We are involved in legal proceedings from time to time in the ordinary course of our business, including with respect to product liability, intellectual property and environmental matters. In addition, we may be required to make indemnity payments in connection with certain product liability and environmental claims. See "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business Environmental Indemnities We may be subject to environmental indemnity claims relating to properties we have divested," "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business Product Liability Due to the nature of our business and products, we may be liable for damages arising out of product liability claims" and "Risk Factors Risk Factors Relating to Our Business Product Liability Due to the nature of our business and products, we may be liable for damages arising out of certain indemnity claims." Although we do not believe that there is any other individual legal proceeding that is likely to have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition, we cannot predict the outcome of any litigation or the potential for future litigation.

MANAGEMENT

Set forth below is certain information regarding our directors and executive officers. The information given is as of December 31, 2004.

Name	Age	Position
Seifi Ghasemi	60	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Robert J. Zatta	55	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Thomas J. Riordan	55	Senior Vice President, Law & Administration
Brian F. Carroll	33	Director
Todd A. Fisher	39	Director
Edward A. Gilhuly	45	Director
Perry Golkin	51	Director
Douglas L. Maine	56	Director ⁽¹⁾
Alex Morey	37	Director
Susan Schnabel	43	Director
Fredrik Sjödin	30	Director

(1)

We expect that Mr. Maine will become a director prior to the pricing of this offering.

Seifi Ghasemi has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Rockwood Holdings and Rockwood Specialties Group since November 2001. From 1997 to 2001 he was with GKN, plc, a \$6.0 billion per year global industrial company. He served as a Director of the Main Board of GKN, plc and was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GKN Sinter Metals, Inc and Hoeganes Corporation. Before that, for 18 years, Mr. Ghasemi was with the BOC Group, plc, a \$7 billion per year global industrial gas company. He was a Director of the Main Board of the BOC Group, plc; President, BOC Gases Americas and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BOC Process Plants, LTD and Cryostar. Mr. Ghasemi has a Masters of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.

Robert J. Zatta has been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Rockwood Holdings and Rockwood Specialties Group since April 2001. Prior to joining Rockwood, he spent 12 years with the Campbell Soup Company, where he held several significant financial management positions, including his final position as Vice President responsible for Corporate Development and Strategic Planning. Prior to joining Campbell Soup Company in 1990, he worked for General Foods Corporation and Thomas J. Lipton, Inc. Mr. Zatta has a B.S. in Business Administration and a M.B.A. in Finance.

Thomas J. Riordan has been Senior Vice President, Law & Administration of Rockwood Holdings and Rockwood Specialties Group since 2000 and prior to that was Vice President, Law & Administration since 1992. Mr. Riordan joined Laporte in 1989 from UOP, where from 1975 to 1989 he held various positions, most recently Chief Litigation Counsel. Prior to 1975, Mr. Riordan was within Operations Management at Time, Inc. Mr. Riordan has a B.A. in Liberal Arts, a M.B.A. and a J.D., is admitted to the Illinois Bar and is a member of the American Bar Association, and has taken part in the Wharton/Laporte Business Program.

Brian F. Carroll has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since 2000 and an executive of KKR since 1995. Prior to joining KKR, Mr. Carroll was with Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation. Mr. Carroll is a member of the Board of Directors of The Boyds Collection, Ltd. and Sealy Inc. Mr. Carroll has a B.S. from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.B.A. from Stanford University.

Todd A. Fisher has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since 2000, a member of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. LLC, which serves as a general partner of KKR since January 2001 and an executive of KKR since 1993. Prior to joining KKR, he was with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in its Corporate Finance Department. Mr. Fisher is a member of the Board of Directors of Accuride

Corporation, Alea Group Holdings (Bermuda) Ltd, Bristol West Holdings, Inc., Duales System Deutschland AG and Koninklijke Vendex KBB BV. Mr. Fisher has a B.A. from Brown University, a M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and a M.B.A. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Edward A. Gilhuly has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since 2000. Mr. Gilhuly has been a member of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.L.C., which is the general partner of KKR, since 1996. Prior thereto, he was a general partner of KKR. Mr. Gilhuly is a member of the Board of Directors of Demag Holdings S.a.r.l., Medcath Corporation, Legrand SA and Wincor Nixdorf AG. Mr. Gilhuly has a B.A. from Duke University and a M.B.A. from Stanford University.

Perry Golkin has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since 2000. Mr. Golkin has been an executive with KKR and a general partner of KKR since 1995. In 1996, he became a member of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.L.C. which serves as the general partner of KKR. Mr. Golkin is also a member of the Board of Directors of Bristol West Holdings, Inc., PRIMEDIA, Inc., Alea Group Holdings (Bermuda) Ltd, Willis Group Holdings Limited and Walter Industries, Inc. Mr. Golkin has a B.S., M.S. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Douglas L. Maine is expected to become a Director of Rockwood Holdings prior to the pricing of this offering. Mr. Maine joined International Business Machines, in 1998 as Chief Financial Officer following a 20 year career with MCI, where he was Chief Financial Officer from 1992-1998. He was named General Manager of ibm.com in 2000 and General Manager of Consumer Products Industry in 2003 and retired in 2005. Mr. Maine has a B.S. from Temple University and a M.B.A. from Hofstra University.

Alex Morey has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since July 2004. Mr. Morey is a Director of Credit Suisse First Boston's Alternative Capital Division (CSFB-ACD), based in London. Since January 2005, Mr. Morey has been responsible for CSFB's European private equity fund investment activities. Prior to this, Mr. Morey was a Director of DLJ Merchant Banking, another group within CSFB-ACD, which he joined in 1996. Previously, Mr. Morey was an Assistant Director with Arthur Andersen Corporate Finance which he joined in 1993 after spending five years with Price Waterhouse. Mr. Morey graduated with a B.Sc. from Cardiff University in 1988 and is a Chartered Accountant.

Susan Schnabel has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since July 2004. Ms. Schnabel joined DLJ's Investment Banking Division in 1990 and DLJ Merchant Banking in 1998. In 1997, she left DLJ's Investment Banking Division to serve as Chief Financial Officer of PETsMART, a high growth specialty retailer of pet products and supplies, and joined DLJ Merchant Banking in her present capacity in 1998. Ms. Schnabel is a director of DeCrane Aircraft Holdings, Inc., and Environmental Systems Products, Inc. Ms. Schnabel received a B.S. from Cornell University in 1983 and a M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1988.

Fredrik Sjödin has been a Director of Rockwood Holdings since 2003 and an executive of KKR since 2000. Prior to joining KKR, Mr. Sjödin was with Salomon Brothers International Ltd. Mr. Sjödin has a M.Sc. from the Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden and the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University.

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Set forth below is certain information regarding certain key employees of our subsidiaries. The information is given as of December 31, 2004.

Name	Age	Position
Stephen B. Ainscough	58	President <i>Timber Treatment Chemicals</i>
Stephen M. D'Onfro	46	President <i>Water Treatment Chemicals</i>
Monika Engel-Bader	45	President <i>Fine Chemicals</i>
Robert Gingue	60	President <i>Specialty Compounds</i>
Wolf-Dieter Griebler	59	President <i>Titanium Dioxide Pigments</i>
Alexander Loh	50	Vice President, Human Resources of Rockwood Specialties Group
Roger-Marc Nicoud	42	President <i>Groupe Novasep</i>
Bruce R. Olson	52	President <i>Surface Treatment and Electronic Chemicals</i>
Ronald L. Rapaport	60	President <i>Color Pigments and Services</i>
Vernon Sumner	53	President <i>Clay-based Additives</i>
Ulf D. Zimmermann	55	President <i>Advanced Ceramics</i>

Stephen B. Ainscough has been President of the Timber Treatment Chemicals business line since 1990. Mr. Ainscough originally joined Laporte in 1970, and spent five years with Interlox Chemicals Ltd. before rejoining Laporte in 1985. Mr. Ainscough has a B.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry, a degree in Business Administration and has taken part in the Wharton/Laporte Business Program.

Stephen M. D'Onfro has been President of the Water Treatment Chemicals business line since 1997. Mr. D'Onfro joined the Gary Corporation in 1987, which became a part of the Laporte group as AlphaGary following an acquisition in 1993, where he was the Chief Financial Officer and General Manager. Mr. D'Onfro joined the Gary Corporation from Price Waterhouse, where he was a Manager in their Comprehensive Financial Services group. Mr. D'Onfro has a B.Sc. in Accounting, earned his C.P.A. certificate and has taken part in the Wharton/Laporte Business Program.

Monika Engel-Bader has been President of the Fine Chemicals business line since February 2004. Prior to joining Dynamit Nobel AG, Mrs. Engel-Bader spent 15 years with Celanese (former Hoechst AG) in various positions, including as Vice President of Ticona, the technical Polymer Division of Celanese since 2002. Engel-Bader has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Mainz in Germany, and a degree from the University of Economics, Cologne.

Robert Gingue has been President of the Specialty Compounds segment since 1997. Mr. Gingue joined the Gary Corporation in 1979, where he was Vice President and General Manager. Mr. Gingue has a B.Sc. in Polymer Technology, an Associates degree in Mechanical Engineering, and has taken part in the Wharton/Laporte Business Program.

Wolf-Dieter Griebler has been President of the Titanium Dioxide Pigments segment since 1999. Dr. Griebler joined mg technologies ag in 1980 and has served in various positions, including as the president of the Executive Board of Sachtleben Chemie GmbH, the Titanium Dioxide Pigments business segment of Dynamit Nobel AG since 1998. Dr. Griebler has a degree in Chemistry from the University of Marburg in Germany.

Alexander Loh has been our Vice President, Human Resources of Rockwood Specialties Group since the Dynamit Nobel acquisition and a member of the Executive Board of Dynamit Nobel AG since 1998. Mr. Loh joined mg technologies ag in 1995 and served in several positions, including as Head of Global Human Resources. He has a degree in Economics from the University of Tübingen in Germany.

Roger-Marc Nicoud has been the President of our Groupe Novasep segment since December 2004. Mr. Nicoud is the founder and has been the President of Groupe Novasep SAS since 1995. Prior to forming Novasep, he worked for Separex from 1987 to 1995 where he was a research engineer and managing director. In addition, from 1993 to 1995, Mr. Nicoud was a Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Nancy (France). In 1995, Mr. Nicoud formed

Novasep, which in December 2004 was combined with our segment formerly known as the Custom Synthesis segment. Mr. Nicoud holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering.

Bruce R. Olson has been President of Surface Treatment and Electronic Chemicals business lines since September 2004. Prior to joining Rockwood, Mr. Olson spent four years with Bayer AG in Leverkusen, Germany during which he held the positions of Business Unit Manager Polymer Additives, Business Group General Manager Specialty Products, and Member of the Board of Management Bayer Chemicals. Before joining Bayer AG, Mr. Olson spent 22 years with Air Products in various sales, marketing, and general management positions. Mr. Olson has a B.S. from Valparaiso University and a M.B.A. from Lehigh University.

Ronald L. Rapaport has been President of the Color Pigments and Services business line since 1998. Mr. Rapaport joined Rockwood Pigment NA, Inc. in 1978, which became part of Laporte following an acquisition in 1992. Mr. Rapaport served as a Naval Supply Officer from 1967 to 1971. Mr. Rapaport has a B.S. in Accounting, a M.B.A. from the University of Michigan, has been a C.P.A., and has taken part in the Wharton/Laporte Business Program.

Vernon Sumner has been President of the Clay-based Performance Additives business line since 2001. Previously, he was President and General Manager of Air Products Polymers LP. Mr. Sumner has a degree in Chemistry and a M.B.A. from Lehigh University and spent 27 years in various management roles with Air Products.

Ulf D. Zimmermann has been President of the Advanced Ceramics business segment since 2001. Dr. Zimmerman had been President of the Westfalia Separator AG, a GEA AG Group Company, which became a part of mg technologies ag in 1998 by an acquisition since 1996. He has also been a member of the Executive Board of Dynamit Nobel AG since 2001. Dr. Zimmermann has a degree in Engineering and Business Administration from the University of Berlin in Germany.

Board of Directors

Composition of the Board of Directors

Our board of directors currently consists of eight directors. Prior to the pricing of this offering, our board of directors is expected to consist of nine directors, including one independent director, Douglas L. Maine. Under the stockholders' agreement we entered into with affiliates of KKR and DLJMB in connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, DLJMB will have the right to designate a director to our board of directors so long as they own at least 10% of our outstanding common stock. See "Related Party Transactions Agreements with KKR, DLJMB and/or Management Stockholders' Agreement with Affiliates of KKR and DLJMB."

Upon the closing of this offering, our board of directors will be divided into three classes. The members of each class will serve for a three-year term. The classes will be comprised as follows:

Edward A. Gilhuly, Susan Schnabel and Fredrik Sjödin will be Class I directors whose terms expire at the 2006 annual meeting of stockholders;

Seifi Ghasemi, Perry Golkin and Alex Morey will be Class II directors whose terms expire at the 2007 annual meeting of stockholders; and

Brian F. Carroll, Todd A. Fisher and Douglas L. Maine will be Class III directors whose terms expire at the 2008 annual meeting of stockholders.

Any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the three classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class will consist of one-third of our directors. This classification of our board of directors may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of our company.

We intend to avail ourselves of the "controlled company" exception under the New York Stock Exchange rules which eliminates the requirements that we have a majority of independent directors on our board of directors and that we have compensation and nominating and corporate

governance committees composed entirely of independent directors, but retains the requirement that we have an audit committee composed entirely of independent members and consisting of at least three members within one year of the offering. Consequently, we will add an additional independent member within 90 days of the offering and a third independent member within one year of the offering. We intend to remove a current member at the time each of these two independent members are added.

Committees of the Board of Directors

Audit Committee. Our audit committee currently consists of Brian F. Carroll, Todd A. Fisher and Alex Morey. We expect Douglas L. Maine, an independent director, to replace Todd A. Fisher prior to the pricing of this offering and serve as chairperson. We expect a second new independent member to replace Alex Morey within 90 days thereafter and a third new independent member to replace Brian F. Carroll within one year thereafter so that all of our audit committee members will be independent as such term is defined in Rule 10A-3(b)(i) under the Exchange Act and under the NYSE Rule 303(A).

Our audit committee will be responsible for (1) selecting the independent auditors, (2) approving the overall scope of the audit, (3) assisting the board in monitoring the integrity of our financial statements, the independent accountant's qualifications and independence, the performance of the independent accountants and our internal audit function and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (4) annually reviewing an independent auditors' report describing the auditing firms' internal quality-control procedures, any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditing firm, (5) discussing the annual audited financial and quarterly statements with management and the independent auditor, (6) discussing earnings press release, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies, (7) discussing policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, (8) meeting separately, periodically, with management, internal auditors and the independent auditor, (9) reviewing with the independent auditor any audit problems or difficulties and managements' response, (10) setting clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditors, (11) handling such other matters that are specifically delegated to the audit committee by the board of directors from time to time and (12) reporting regularly to the full board of directors.

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for the audit committee which will be available on our website.

Compensation Committee

Our compensation committee currently consists of Brian Carroll, Todd A. Fisher, and Susan Schnabel. Our compensation committee is responsible for (1) reviewing key employee compensation policies, plans and programs, (2) reviewing and approving the compensation of our executive officers, (3) reviewing and approving employment contracts and other similar arrangements between us and our executive officers, (4) reviewing and consulting with the chief executive officer on the selection of officers and evaluation of executive performance and other related matters, (5) administration of stock plans and other incentive compensation plans and (6) such other matters that are specifically delegated to the compensation committee by the board of directors from time to time.

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for the compensation committee which will be available on our website.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

Immediately prior to the closing of this offering, we will form a corporate governance and nominating committee that will consist of Brian F. Carroll, Todd A. Fisher and Susan Schnabel. The

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corporate governance and nominating committee will be responsible for (1) developing corporate governance guidelines, (2) developing and recommending criteria for selecting new directors, (3) overseeing evaluations of the board of directors and its members, (4) screening and recommending to the board of directors individuals qualified to become executive officers and (5) handling such other matters that are specifically delegated to the corporate governance and nominating committee by the board of directors from time to time.

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for the corporate governance and nominating committee which will be available on our website.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation. The compensation levels of our executive officers are currently determined by our compensation committee as described above. None of our executive officers has served as a director or member of the compensation committee, or other committee serving an equivalent function, of any entity of which an executive officer is expected to serve as a member of our compensation committee.

Director and Executive Compensation

Director Compensation

We pay \$30,000 annually as compensation for our non-management directors for fulfilling their duties as directors, together with reimbursement of expenses. Our management director is not separately compensated for his services as a director.

After this offering, we expect to pay each non-management director an annual retainer of \$75,000. In addition, we expect to pay an additional annual retainer of \$25,000 and \$12,500 to the chairman of the audit committee and each member of our audit committee, respectively. We also expect to grant each non-management director stock options and/or restricted stock awards under the stock plan.

Executive Compensation

The following table shows all compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to our chief executive officer and our other two executive officers during the years 2004, 2003 and 2002 whose salary and bonus exceeded \$100,000. We refer to them as the "named executive officers."

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long-Term Compensation			All Other Compensation
		Salary	Bonus	Other Annual Compensation (1)	Restricted Stock Award(2)	Securities Underlying Options(#)	LTI Payouts (\$)	
Seifi Ghasemi Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	2004	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 3,207,899	\$ 230,736	\$ 277,778		\$	1,120,130(3)
	2003	1,037,500	648,690	46,732	333,335			608,280(3)
	2002	1,000,000	1,421,727	49,364	333,335			3,204,280(3)
Robert J. Zatta Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2004	396,938	831,487	29,053				20,850(4)
	2003	368,313	149,685	27,662				18,000(4)
	2002	351,250	328,064	32,949				17,500(4)
Thomas J. Riordan Senior Vice President, Law & Administration	2004	313,500	656,978	31,449				43,156(5)
	2003	290,500	118,062	4,239				42,725(5)
	2002	276,500	258,754	22,496				31,694(5)

(1) For each of Mr. Ghasemi, Mr. Zatta, and Mr. Riordan, the amounts for 2004, 2003 and 2002 include gross up and taxable portion of company-provided basic life insurance and auto allowances. The amounts for Mr. Ghasemi include a car allowance of \$32,724 for 2004 and approximately \$36,000 for 2003 and 2002. The amount for Mr. Ghasemi in 2004 includes \$192,000 (four payments of \$48,000) in lieu of contributions into his supplemental pension pursuant to the terms of Mr. Ghasemi's amended employment agreement. See "Employment and Other Agreements Agreements with Seifi Ghasemi." The amounts include car allowances for Mr. Zatta of \$26,168 for 2004, and \$30,000 for 2003 and 2002; and car allowances of \$30,288, \$3,500 and \$20,000 for Mr. Riordan for 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

(2) These restricted stock units (payable in shares of our common stock) were granted under Mr. Ghasemi's employment agreement with us and are fully vested. See "Employment and Other Agreements Agreements with Seifi Ghasemi."

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Amounts reported represent the dollar value of the aggregate restricted stock units held by Mr. Ghasemi which vested during the respective years.

- (3) For 2004, represents (i) \$384,000 (\$48,000 per month for eight months) into a non-qualified supplemental pension; (ii) a one-time payment of \$200,000 in connection with the termination of the non-qualified supplemental pension; (iii) \$501,000 cumulative net gain on rabbi trust; (iv) \$20,850 in company contributions into a qualified plan and (v) \$14,280 of annual premium paid by us with respect to a life insurance benefit of Mr. Ghasemi. For 2003, represents (i) \$576,000 (\$48,000 per month) into a non-qualified supplemental pension; (ii) \$18,000 in company contributions into a qualified plan and (iii) \$14,280 of annual premium paid by us with respect to life insurance benefit of Mr. Ghasemi. For 2002, represents (i) an initial contribution of \$2.5 million to a non-qualified supplemental pension benefit made in January 2002, (ii) an aggregate contribution of \$576,000 (\$48,000 per month) into the grantor trust established for the benefit of Mr. Ghasemi, plus (iii) an additional contribution of \$96,000 into the trust for November and December 2001 that had been deferred until 2002, and (iv) \$14,280 of annual premium paid by us during 2002 with respect to life insurance for the benefit of Mr. Ghasemi. The contributions to the non-qualified supplemental pension are fully vested. See " Employment and Other Agreements Agreements with Seifi Ghasemi."
- (4) Represents our contributions into various qualified plans.
- (5) Represents our contributions into various qualified and non-qualified plans.

Aggregated Option/SAR Exercises in Last Fiscal Year and FY-End/SAR Values

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise \$(1)	Value Realized \$(1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options/SARs at FY-End (%)		Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options/SARs at FY-End (\$) Exercisable/ Unexercisable
			Exercisable (2)	Unexercisable (2)	
Seifi Ghasemi			246,423	686,222	
Robert J. Zatta			52,022	153,331	
Thomas J. Riordan			75,296	164,282	

- (1) None of the named executive officers exercised any stock options during 2004.
- (2) Effective as of April 29, 2005, when Group's annual report on Form 10-K, was filed, a portion of Mr. Ghasemi's, Mr. Zatta's and Mr. Riordan's unexercisable options became exercisable in the following amounts: 61,605 options for Mr. Ghasemi, 23,684 options for Mr. Zatta, and 27,380 options for Mr. Riordan.

Employment and Other Agreements

Agreements with Seifi Ghasemi

We have entered into an employment agreement, dated as of September 28, 2001, as amended as of August 9, 2004 and September 24, 2004, with Mr. Ghasemi pursuant to which he is serving as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. The agreement automatically renews for successive one-year periods, unless either party gives 60 days advance written notice not to renew the term of the agreement prior to any such extension date. Either party may terminate the agreement at any time; however, Mr. Ghasemi must give at least 180 days advance written notice to terminate his employment (other than in connection with his notice not to renew the terms of the employment agreement, as otherwise described above).

The agreement initially provided Mr. Ghasemi with an annual base salary of \$1,000,000 and as amended, provided Mr. Ghasemi with an annual base salary of \$1,250,000 effective August 1, 2004, and a target annual bonus award equal to 125% of his base salary (subject to our achievement of specified performance targets), both of which may be increased in the discretion of our board of directors.

Pursuant to the first amendment, Mr. Ghasemi's supplemental executive retirement plan, or SERP, and the related rabbi trust, were terminated and the assets were distributed to him. We will continue to make payments of \$48,000 per month to Mr. Ghasemi as a supplemental

pension

benefit. In addition, in connection with the termination of the SERP, Mr. Ghasemi was granted a special one-time payment of \$200,000.

Pursuant to the original agreement, Mr. Ghasemi agreed to purchase a certain number of shares of our common stock, and in connection therewith, received a grant of 68,452 restricted stock units (payable in shares of our common stock) which vest in equal quarterly installments over a three-year period and a grant of time options to purchase a certain number of shares of our common stock which vest over a five-year period. Except in the event of a sale of shares of our common stock by affiliates of KKR giving rise to tag-along or drag-along rights under Mr. Ghasemi's amended and restated sale participation agreement, the shares of common stock underlying vested restricted stock units are issuable upon the later of (i) the date such shares can be sold in the public market without restriction on transfer, which, given this offering, is expected to be November 1, 2006 and (ii) the termination of Mr. Ghasemi's employment. Pursuant to the agreement governing the restricted stock units, if a cash dividend is paid on the outstanding shares of common stock, Mr. Ghasemi will receive, at the time he becomes entitled to receive the shares of our common stock underlying the restricted stock units, an additional number of shares of our common stock equal to the quotient of (a) the product of the amount of the dividend paid with respect to one share of our common stock multiplied by the number of vested restricted stock units then held by Mr. Ghasemi (plus any number of shares of our common stock previously calculated in respect of any other cash dividend) divided by (b) the fair value per share of our common stock at the time the dividend is paid. The number of shares of our common stock issuable is subject to adjustment in the event of a stock dividend, split, combination, recapitalization, change of control or other similar event.

In connection with the second amendment, Mr. Ghasemi agreed pursuant to the amended and restated management stockholder's agreement to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock, and in connection therewith, was granted a time/performance option to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock. At the same time, Mr. Ghasemi was granted a separate time option to purchase a certain number of shares of our common stock. The time/performance option vests over a five-year period as to 40% of the shares of our common stock subject to the option and vests, as to the remaining 60%, over a five-year period and to the extent certain performance targets are achieved. The time option vests over a period ending January 1, 2008.

Mr. Ghasemi's agreement also provides that if his employment is terminated by us without "cause" (which includes our nonrenewal of the term of the employment agreement as described above), or if he resigns for "good reason," he will be entitled to receive:

accrued but unpaid current compensation and supplemental pension benefit;

continued payment, in equal installments over the 24-month period following any such termination, of an amount equal to two times the sum of (x) his then base salary and (y) the average of his annual bonuses, if any, earned or payable in respect of our two full fiscal years prior to the date of his termination; and

continued monthly supplemental benefit contributions for a period of 12 months following such termination.

Mr. Ghasemi's employment agreement also contains certain restrictive covenants relating to confidentiality, non-competition and non-solicitation.

Agreements with Robert Zatta

We have entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Zatta, dated as of March 21, 2001, as amended as of October 19, 2004, pursuant to which he is serving as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. The agreement provides for an annual base salary, subject to potential

increase on an annual basis, a signing bonus, a company automobile and entitles him to participate in our health, welfare, retirement and bonus programs.

Mr. Zatta's employment agreement may be terminated upon twelve months' prior written notice by us or six months' prior written notice by Mr. Zatta. Mr. Zatta's employment agreement also provides that if his employment is involuntarily terminated, other than for "cause," as defined in the agreement, or he resigns with "good reason," as defined in the agreement, he will be entitled to (i) a lump sum cash payment equal to his three months base salary, (ii) continuation of health care coverage, to the extent applicable for a specified period of time, (iii) continued use of a company car for a period of twelve months, (iv) a severance payment equal to two weeks base salary plus one week salary for each year of service and (v) a further severance payment of three months salary.

Under his employment agreement, Mr. Zatta was entitled to purchase shares of our common stock in accordance with the terms and conditions of the management stockholder's agreement, which he did, and in connection therewith, was granted a time/performance option to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock. In October 2004, Mr. Zatta was granted the right to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock, which he did, and in connection therewith, was granted a time/performance option and a performance option to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock in accordance with the terms and conditions of the amended and restated management stockholder's agreement.

Mr. Zatta's employment agreement also contains certain restrictive covenants relating to confidentiality and non-competition.

Agreements with Thomas Riordan

We have entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Riordan, dated October 13, 1994, pursuant to which he is serving as our Senior Vice President, Law & Administration. The employment agreement provides for base monthly salary, subject to potential increase on an annual basis, a company automobile, and entitles him to participate in our health, welfare, retirement and bonus programs.

Mr. Riordan's employment agreement may be terminated upon twelve months' prior written notice by us or six months' prior written notice by Mr. Riordan. Mr. Riordan's employment agreement also provides that if his employment is involuntarily terminated, other than for "cause," as defined in the agreement, or he resigns with "good reason," as defined in the agreement, he will be entitled to (i) a lump sum cash payment equal to his three months base salary, (ii) continuation of health care coverage, to the extent applicable for a specified period of time, (iii) continued use of a company car for a period of twelve months, (iv) a severance payment equal to two weeks base salary plus one week salary for each year of service and, (v) a further severance payment of three months salary.

Mr. Riordan's employment agreement contains provisions relating to confidential information and covenants not to compete for a period of one year in the event we continue to pay current salary and benefits for that period.

Under the management stockholder's agreement Mr. Riordan entered into in 2001, he purchased shares of our common stock and in connection therewith, was granted a time/performance option to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock. In October 2004, Mr. Riordan was granted the right to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock, which he did, and in connection therewith, was granted a time/performance option and a performance option to purchase an additional number of shares of our common stock in accordance with the terms and conditions of the amended and restated management stockholder's agreement.

Stock Purchase and Option Plan

We have adopted the 2005 Amended and Restated Stock Purchase and Option Plan of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries (formerly the Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Purchase and Option Plan of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries, which was formerly the 2000 Stock Purchase and Option Plan of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries), which provides for the grant of incentive stock options (within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code), options that are not incentive stock options, and various other stock-based grants, including the shares of our common stock sold to, and options granted to the executive officers and other key employees, as described below under "Management Equity Programs." The total shares available for grant under the stock plan are 10,000,000, of which 878,531 shares of common stock have been sold and issued, up to 3,890,654 stock options to purchase shares of common stock and 68,452 shares of common stock underlying the restricted stock units have been granted to date. As of the date of this prospectus, we have granted under the stock plan certain options as incentive stock options to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law and the remainder as non-incentive stock options. The options are generally granted as follows: 50% vest and become exercisable over the passage of time, which we refer to as "time options," assuming the optionee continues to be employed by us, and 50% vest and become exercisable over time based upon the achievement of certain performance targets, which we refer to as "performance options."

Exercise Price. The exercise price of the options is the fair market value of the shares underlying the options on the date of the grant of the option, unless otherwise specified for particular options.

Vesting of Time Options. Time options granted in 2004 generally become exercisable by the holder of the option in installments of 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of the "initial vesting date" which is generally defined as the grant date. Time options granted prior to 2004 vest as follows: 10% in year one, 10% in year two, 25% in year three, 25% in year four and 30% in year five.

Vesting of Performance Options. Performance options generally become exercisable as to 100% of the options on the eighth anniversary of the grant date; however, they will become earlier exercisable as to 20% of the total performance options on December 31 of each fiscal year beginning with the 2004 fiscal year upon the completion of the audit for the then ending period, subject to certain employment restrictions to the extent that we, or a division of ours, as applicable, achieves certain performance targets. Certain option holders have "company-wide performance targets," which targets are based on our achievement of certain implied equity values. Other option holders have "divisional performance targets," which targets are based on a particular division's achievement of annual or cumulative EBITDA. In the event that performance targets are not achieved in any given fiscal year but the cumulative targets are achieved in a subsequent year, the performance option will become exercisable as to the previously unexercisable percentage of the performance options from the missed years, as well as with respect to the percentage of the performance options in respect of the fiscal year in which the performance targets are achieved. Options generally are not exercisable as to any shares following the termination of an optionee's employment with us or our subsidiaries.

Effect of Change in Control. In addition, upon the occurrence of a change in control, as defined in the stock plan, the exercisability of the time options will automatically accelerate with respect to 100% of the shares of our common stock subject to the time options. Immediately prior to a change of control, a ratable portion of unvested performance options will automatically vest if our board of directors makes a good faith determination that the applicable performance target(s) would have been met for the year in which the change of control occurs, but for the change of control. Our board of directors, in its discretion, may further determine to accelerate the vesting of all performance options.

Miscellaneous. The options will only be transferable by will or pursuant to applicable laws of descent and distribution upon the death of the optionee. The stock plan may be amended or terminated by our board of directors at any time.

Management Equity Programs. In connection with the KKR acquisition, we implemented a management equity program, which we refer to as the 2001 management equity program, under which members of our management and certain other employees, including our executive officers, were given the opportunity to purchase shares of our common stock, and were entitled to receive options to purchase additional shares of our common stock, depending upon the initial number of shares each employee purchased. In connection with the 2001 management equity program, 401,103 shares were purchased and options to purchase 1,787,933 shares were granted, net of subsequent redemptions and forfeitures, each at the same price per share paid by affiliates of KKR.

In connection with the Dynamit Nobel acquisition, we implemented a new management equity program, which we refer to as the 2004 management equity program, under which members of our management and certain other employees, including our executive officers, in the United States, Germany and other countries were given the opportunity to purchase shares of our common stock and were entitled to receive options to purchase additional shares of our common stock, depending upon the initial number of shares each employee purchased. In connection with the 2004 management equity program, 477,428 shares were purchased and options to purchase 2,091,852 shares were granted, each at the same price per share paid by affiliates of KKR and DLJMB.

As a result of the 2001 management equity program and the 2004 management equity program, members of our management and certain other employees currently hold approximately 8.8% of the outstanding shares of our common stock and, after giving effect to the offering, will hold approximately 6.4%, in each case, on a fully-diluted basis.

Pursuant to the 2001 management equity program, we made loans to ten employees including Mr. Zatta and Mr. Riordan in order to assist them in purchasing, in whole or in part, their shares of our common stock. The loans are repayable on the earliest to occur of (i) the fifth anniversary of the date the employee purchases his or her shares of our common stock, (ii) certain terminations of employment or (iii) the receipt by the employee of any proceeds from the sale or other disposition of his or her shares of our common stock. We have full recourse against the employees and all of their assets for repayment of the principal of or interest on the loans. The loans are secured by all of an employee's shares of our common stock, including any shares of our common stock obtained upon exercise of any stock options held by the employee. As of March 31, 2005, we had approximately \$0.7 million in outstanding loans made to employees.

The shares of our common stock purchased by the employees, the options granted to the employees and the shares of our common stock an employee may receive upon exercise of an option under both the 2001 management equity program and 2004 management equity program, are subject to transfer restrictions until the fifth anniversary of the date the employees originally purchased their shares of our common stock, and are also subject to our right, prior to such fifth anniversary, to repurchase the shares of our common stock and vested options upon termination of an employee's employment. See "Related Party Transactions Agreements with KKR, DLJMB and/or Management 2001 Management Stockholder's Agreements," and "Related Party Transactions Agreements with KKR, DLJMB and/or Management 2004 Management Stockholder's Agreements."

Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation

provides that no director shall be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws provide that we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law. We are also expressly authorized to advance certain expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements and court costs) and carry directors' and officers' insurance providing indemnification for our directors, officers and employees for some liabilities. We believe that these indemnification provis