

Rockwood Holdings, Inc.
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April 08, 2013

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

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- Definitive Proxy Statement
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ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC.
100 Overlook Center
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
To Be Held On May 21, 2013

April 8, 2013

To our stockholders:

On behalf of your board of directors, we are pleased to invite you to attend the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. (the "Company"). The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at our offices located at 100 Overlook Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

At the meeting, you will be asked to:

- (1) Elect the two Class II directors listed herein to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified;
- (2) Ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013;
- (3) Consider a stockholder proposal relating to the vote required to elect directors, if presented at the annual meeting; and
- (4) Transact any other business properly brought before the meeting.

Stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 28, 2013 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting. To assure your representation at the meeting, please execute and return the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Seifi Ghasemi
Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer

This proxy statement is first being mailed to stockholders on or about April 8, 2013.

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ROCKWOOD HOLDINGS, INC.
100 Overlook Center
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

PROXY STATEMENT
For the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held On
May 21, 2013

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROCKWOOD'S ANNUAL MEETING

We are providing this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. for use at Rockwood's 2013 annual meeting of stockholders and at any adjournment of the annual meeting. You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting, which will be held at our offices located at 100 Overlook Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. local time. For driving directions to our offices, please call (609) 514-0300.

Stockholders Entitled to Vote

The record date for the annual meeting is March 28, 2013. Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on that date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. As of March 28, 2013, there were 79,124,466 shares of common stock outstanding.

Required Vote

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares outstanding on the record date is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting. Each stockholder is entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy, for each share of common stock held as of the record date on each matter to be voted upon. Abstentions and broker non-votes are included in determining whether a quorum is present. A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary power with respect to that item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote in the election of directors at the annual meeting. Thus, an abstention or broker non-vote will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on election of directors at the annual meeting. Each of the other proposals requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the subject matter. In determining the results of the proposal for ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP and the stockholder proposal relating to the vote required to elect directors, abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against the respective proposal. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of these proposals.

The vote on the proposal for the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP is advisory in nature and is non-binding.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 21, 2013.

We have elected to provide access to our proxy materials both by sending you this full set of proxy materials, including a proxy card, and by notifying you of the availability of our proxy materials on the internet. **This proxy statement and our 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders are available at our website at http://www.rockwoodspecialties.com/rock_english/ir/irdownload.asp which may be moved to <http://www.rockwoodspecialties.com/english/ir/publications.php> at a later date. In addition, in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") rules, you may access our proxy statement at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/774415>, which does not have "cookies" that identify visitors to the site.**

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Delaware law and Rockwood's certificate of incorporation and by-laws govern the vote on each proposal. The board of directors' recommendation is set forth together with the description of each item in this proxy statement. In summary, the board of directors' recommendations and approval requirements are:

**Proposal 1.
Election of Directors**

The first item to be voted on is the election of the two Class II directors listed herein to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The board of directors has nominated two people as directors, each of whom is currently serving as a director of Rockwood.

You may find information about these nominees Seifi Ghasemi and Sheldon Erikson beginning on page 5.

You may vote in favor of both nominees, withhold your votes as to both nominees, or withhold your votes as to a specific nominee. Assuming a quorum is present, each share of common stock may be voted for as many nominees as there are directors to be elected. Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Stockholders may not cumulate their votes. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on election of directors at the annual meeting.

The board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR each director nominee listed herein.

**Proposal 2.
Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The second item to be voted on is the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Rockwood's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

You may find information about this proposal beginning on page 7.

You may vote in favor of the proposal, vote against the proposal, or abstain from voting. Assuming a quorum is present, the proposal will pass if approved by a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matter. Abstentions will have the same effect as votes against the proposal. We believe that there can be no broker non-votes with respect to Proposal 2 because brokers should have discretion under current stock exchange rules to vote uninstructed shares on Proposal 2.

The board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Rockwood's independent registered public accounting firm.

**Proposal 3.
Stockholder Proposal Relating to the Vote Required to Elect Directors**

The third item to be voted on is a stockholder proposal relating to the vote required to elect directors, if presented at the annual meeting.

You may find information about this proposal beginning on page 7.

You may vote in favor of the proposal, vote against the proposal, or abstain from voting. Assuming a quorum is present, the proposal will pass if approved by a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the matter. Abstentions will have the same

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effect as votes against the proposal and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote on the proposal, as brokers are not permitted to vote uninstructed shares on this matter.

The board of directors unanimously recommends a vote AGAINST the stockholder proposal relating to the vote required to elect directors.

OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING

As of the date of this proxy statement, the board of directors was not aware of any other business to be presented for a vote of the stockholders at the annual meeting. If any other matters are properly presented for a vote, the people named as proxies will have discretionary authority, to the extent permitted by law, to vote on such matters according to their best judgment.

PROXIES AND VOTING PROCEDURES

Your vote is important and you are encouraged to vote your shares promptly.

How Proxies are Voted

You may vote by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card or by voting in person at the annual meeting. Mailed proxy cards must be received by May 20, 2013. Each proxy will be voted as directed. However, if a proxy solicited by the board of directors does not specify how it is to be voted, it will be voted as the board of directors recommends that is, FOR the election of the two nominees for Class II director named in this proxy statement, FOR the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Rockwood's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and AGAINST the stockholder proposal relating to the vote required to elect directors. If any other matters are properly presented at the annual meeting for consideration, such as consideration of a motion to adjourn the annual meeting to another time or place, the persons named as proxies will have discretion to vote on those matters according to their best judgment to the same extent as the person delivering the proxy would be entitled to vote. As of the date of this proxy statement, we did not anticipate that any other matters would be raised at the annual meeting.

How to Revoke or Change Your Proxy

If you submit a proxy and then wish to change your vote or vote in person at the annual meeting, you will need to revoke the proxy that you have submitted. You can revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by delivery of a properly executed, later-dated proxy or a written revocation of your proxy. A later-dated proxy or written revocation of your proxy must be received before the annual meeting by the Corporate Secretary of Rockwood, Thomas J. Riordan, at Rockwood Holdings, Inc., 100 Overlook Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, or it must be delivered to the Corporate Secretary at the annual meeting before proxies are voted. You will be able to change your proxy as many times as you wish prior to its being voted at the annual meeting, and the last proxy received chronologically will supersede any prior proxies.

Method and Cost of Proxy Solicitation

This proxy solicitation is being made on behalf of Rockwood and the expense of preparing, printing and mailing this proxy statement is being paid by us. Proxies may be solicited by officers, directors and employees of Rockwood in person, by mail, telephone, facsimile or other electronic means. We will not specifically compensate those persons for their solicitation activities. In accordance with the regulations of the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), we will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their expense incurred in sending proxies and proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common stock.

Stockholder Director Nominations and Proposals for the 2014 Annual Meeting

Pursuant to Rockwood's by-laws, stockholders may present director nominations and proposals that are proper subjects for consideration at an annual meeting. Rockwood's by-laws require all stockholders who intend to nominate persons for election to the board of directors or make proposals at an annual meeting to give timely notice thereof in writing to the Corporate Secretary of Rockwood, Thomas J. Riordan, at Rockwood Holdings, Inc., 100 Overlook Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. Our by-laws require advance notice by any stockholder who proposes director nominations or any other business for consideration at a stockholders' meeting. To be timely, notice to our Corporate Secretary must be received at the above address not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the date on which Rockwood first mailed its proxy materials for the previous year's annual meeting, after which point a stockholder proposal will be considered untimely. In the event that the date of the 2014 annual meeting is changed by more than 30 days from the anniversary date of the previous year's meeting, stockholder notice must be so delivered not earlier than 120 days prior to the 2014 annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to the 2014 annual meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the 2014 annual meeting is first made. However, if the number of directors to be elected to the board of directors of Rockwood is increased and there is no public announcement by Rockwood naming all of the nominees for director or specifying the size of the increased board of directors at least 100 calendar days prior to the anniversary of the mailing of proxy materials for the prior year's annual meeting, then a stockholder notice only with respect to nominees for any new positions created by such increase must be received by the Corporate Secretary of Rockwood not later than the close of business on the 10th calendar day following such public announcement. Please refer to our by-laws for certain other related requirements.

If any stockholder wishes to propose a matter for consideration at our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, the proposal should be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to our Corporate Secretary at the address in the previous paragraph. To be eligible under the SEC's stockholder proposal rule (Rule 14a-8(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) for inclusion in our 2014 annual meeting proxy statement and form of proxy card, a proposal must be received by our Corporate Secretary on or before December 9, 2013.

**PROPOSAL ONE
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The first agenda item to be voted on is the election of two Class II directors to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

General Information

The board of directors currently consists of five directors, and is divided into three classes Class I, Class II and Class III. Directors are generally elected for three-year terms on a staggered term basis, so that each year the term of office of one class will expire and the terms of office of the other classes will extend for additional periods of one and two years, as applicable. The term of office for current Class II directors expires at the 2013 annual meeting. The term of office for Class III and Class I directors will expire at the 2014 and 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, respectively.

The full board of directors has considered and nominated this year's nominees to serve for a three-year term expiring at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders. It is intended that the proxies delivered pursuant to this solicitation will be voted in favor of the election of the nominees designated below, except in cases of proxies bearing contrary instructions. We have inquired of the nominees and confirmed that they will serve if elected. If, for any reason, any nominee becomes unavailable for election and the board of directors selects a substitute nominee, the proxies will be voted for the substitute nominee selected by the board of directors. The board of directors has no reason to believe that any of the named nominees is not available or will not serve if elected.

The nominees are current directors of Rockwood, and a description of the background of each is set forth below. Immediately thereafter is a description of the background of each of the existing directors whose terms of office extend beyond the annual meeting.

Nominees for Election at the Annual Meeting

Name	Age	Position	Class
Seifi Ghasemi	68	Director	II
Sheldon Erikson	71	Director	II

Seifi Ghasemi has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Rockwood and our subsidiary, Rockwood Specialties Group, Inc., since November 2001. From 1997 to 2001 he was with GKN, plc, a \$6.0 billion revenue 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 BOC Group, plc, a \$7.0 billion revenue per year global industrial gas company, which is now part of Linde AG. He was a director of the Main Board of BOC Group, plc, President, BOC Gases Americas and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BOC Process Plants, Ltd. and Cryostar. Mr. Ghasemi also serves on the board of directors of EnerSys and serves as Chairman of the Electrification Coalition, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit group of business leaders committed to reducing oil dependence through the deployment of electric vehicles on a mass scale. Mr. Ghasemi has a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.

Sheldon R. Erikson has been a director of Rockwood since November 2005. Mr. Erikson is currently a director and was the Chairman of the Board of Cameron International Corporation, a global manufacturer, provider and servicer of petroleum equipment from 1996 to 2011 and served as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 to 2008. He was Chairman of the Board from 1988 to 1995, and President from 1987 to 1995, of The Western Company of North America, an international petroleum service company. He serves on the board of directors of Endeavour International Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and development company headquartered in Houston, Texas

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with operations in the United States and United Kingdom North Sea. He serves as Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee and is a member of the Compensation Committee. He also serves on the boards of directors of the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association and the National Association of Manufacturers. Mr. Erikson studied at the University of Illinois and has a M.B.A. from Harvard University.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE.

Directors Whose Terms Do Not Expire This Year

Name	Age	Position	Class
Douglas L. Maine	64	Director	III
Nance K. Dicciani	65	Director	I
J. Kent Masters	52	Director	I

Douglas L. Maine has been a director of Rockwood since August 2005. 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, General Manager of Consumer Products Industry in 2003 and retired in 2005. Mr. Maine also serves on the boards of directors of Alliant Techsystems, Inc. and Broadsoft, Inc., and is Audit Committee Chairman of both companies' boards. Mr. Maine is a Limited Partner and Senior Advisor with Brown Brothers Harriman. Mr. Maine has a B.S. from Temple University and a M.B.A. from Hofstra University.

Nance K. Dicciani has been a director of Rockwood since June 2008 and lead independent director since October 2009. From 2001 until her retirement in April 2008, Dr. Dicciani was the President and Chief Executive of Honeywell International Inc.'s \$4.9 billion revenue specialty materials business. Prior to joining Honeywell in 2001, she was with Rohm and Haas Company, serving as Senior Vice President and Business Group Executive of chemical specialties and Director, European Region. In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Dicciani to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Dr. Dicciani also serves on the boards of directors of Praxair Inc. and Halliburton Co. and the board of Trustees of Villanova University. Dr. Dicciani earned degrees in chemical engineering, including a B.S. from Villanova University, an M.S. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She also earned a M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

J. Kent Masters has been a director of Rockwood since May 2007. Mr. Masters was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Foster Wheeler AG, a global engineering and construction contractor and power equipment supplier, on October 1, 2011. Mr. Masters was also elected to the board of directors of Foster Wheeler AG in November 2011. Prior to joining Foster Wheeler, Mr. Masters was a member of the executive board of Linde AG, a global leader in manufacturing and sales of industrial gases, with responsibility for the Americas, Africa and the South Pacific since 2006. Prior to joining Linde AG, Mr. Masters was a member of the board of directors of BOC Group, plc, a global industrial gas company, which was acquired by Linde AG in 2006. At BOC Group, plc, he served as President, Process Gas Solutions-Americas, from 2002-2005, and as Chief Executive, Industrial and Special Products, from 2005 until 2006. Mr. Masters was the non-executive Chairman of African Oxygen Limited from 2005 until 2011. Mr. Masters has a B.Sc. degree in chemical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and a M.B.A. from New York University.

**PROPOSAL TWO
RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT
REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The second agenda item to be voted on is the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Rockwood's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

The audit committee of the board of directors has appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP to audit our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. We are asking our stockholders to ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. Deloitte & Touche LLP has been the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company since before our initial public offering in 2005.

Even if the appointment is ratified, the audit committee may in its discretion select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of Rockwood and our stockholders. If the appointment is not ratified by our stockholders, the audit committee will reconsider the appointment.

A representative of Deloitte & Touche LLP is expected to attend the annual meeting and be available to respond to appropriate questions. The representative will be afforded an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS ROCKWOOD'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013.

**PROPOSAL THREE
STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE VOTE
REQUIRED TO ELECT DIRECTORS**

There is one stockholder proposal included in this year's proxy statement for stockholder consideration, if properly presented at the annual meeting. It is submitted by the California State Teachers' Retirement System ("CalSTRS"), located at 100 Waterfront Place, MS-04, West Sacramento, California 95605. CalSTRS has advised the Company that it plans to introduce the following resolution at the annual meeting. We have been notified that CalSTRS is the beneficial owner of 235,219 shares of Rockwood's common stock as of November 27, 2012.

Director Election Majority Vote Standard Proposal

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the shareholders of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. hereby request that the Board of Directors initiate the appropriate process to amend the Company's articles of incorporation and/or bylaws to provide that director nominees shall be elected by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast at an annual meeting of shareholders, with a plurality vote standard retained for contested director elections, that is, when the number of director nominees exceeds the number of board seats.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

In order to provide shareholders a meaningful role in director elections, the Company's current director election standard should be changed from a plurality vote standard to a majority vote standard. The majority vote standard is the most appropriate voting standard for director elections where only

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board nominated candidates are on the ballot, and it will establish a challenging vote standard for board nominees to improve the performance of individual directors and entire boards. Under the Company's current voting system, a nominee for the board can be elected with as little as a single affirmative vote, because "withheld" votes have no legal effect. A majority vote standard would require that a nominee receive a majority of the votes cast in order to be re-elected and continue to serve as a representative for the shareholders.

In response to strong shareholder support a substantial number of the nation's leading companies have adopted a majority vote standard in company bylaws or articles of incorporation. In fact, more than 80% of the companies in the S&P 500 have adopted majority voting for uncontested elections. We believe the Company needs to join the growing list of companies that have already adopted this standard.

CalSTRS is a long-term shareholder of the Company and we believe that accountability is of utmost importance. We believe the plurality vote standard currently in place at the Company completely disenfranchises shareholders and makes the shareholder's role in director elections meaningless. Majority voting in director elections will empower shareholders with the ability to remove poorly performing directors and increase the directors' accountability to the owners of the Company, its shareholders. In addition, those directors who receive the majority support from shareholders will know they have the backing of the very shareholders they represent. We therefore ask you to join us in requesting that the Board of directors promptly adopt the majority vote standard for director elections.

Please vote FOR this proposal.

Rockwood's Statement in Response

One of the primary strengths of Rockwood is the continuity of vision and strong performance that have resulted from the diligent and positive manner in which the directors have guided the Company. Rockwood stockholders have benefited from the outstanding leadership the board of directors has provided the Company since its initial public offering in 2005. Over this period through March 31, 2013, the Company has delivered an average annual return to stockholders of 17.29% versus the S&P 500's 5.57% percent return over a comparable period.

Unintended and Adverse Consequences. A failure to receive a majority approval could result in unintended and adverse consequences. For example, this standard could result in an insufficient number of independent directors being elected to satisfy the NYSE listing standards or securities laws' requirements. In such events, we could be incapable of taking important corporate action until the situation was resolved. In addition to potentially forcing the Company into technical noncompliance with listing standards, given the small size of the current board, a vacancy could force the remaining independent directors to be overburdened with committee service, as even the failure of the vote of one of our independent directors would leave the Company with only three remaining independent directors, all of whom would be required to serve on each of the three standing committees: the audit, compensation and corporate governance and nominating committees. Further, the implementation of a majority voting standard may increase Rockwood's costs in connection with its annual meetings. Rockwood may be required to take additional actions, such as conducting telephone solicitation campaigns, second mailings or other vote-getting strategies, to obtain the required vote to elect directors, all of which would result in increased spending for routine elections. The board believes these expenditures would be a poor use of Rockwood and stockholder resources.

Uncertainty of Application. The rules governing plurality voting are well understood by stockholders. In plurality voting for the election of directors, the nominees with the most votes are elected. By contrast, in a majority voting system, the result is uncertain if one or more of the director nominees fails to receive a majority of the votes cast. Further, the Shareholder Proposal

does not address what would occur if the candidate fails to receive the requisite majority vote. Under Delaware law and Rockwood's Bylaws, the possible scenarios include an incumbent director remaining in office until a successor is elected and qualified, the board electing a director to fill the vacancy, or the position remaining vacant. Accordingly, if the proposal were adopted, stockholders would have no greater assurance that the person selected to fill the position would be any more satisfactory than the person who failed to receive the majority vote or the board could have vacancies for an indefinite period of time. All of these alternatives, in the view of the board, are less desirable than the ability of the board to address a low approval rating for an individual director, should that circumstance arise.

Thorough Process. The Company's corporate governance and nominating committee has a thorough and proven director selection process to identify strong nominees committed to serving the Company and its stockholders. Currently, with the exception of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, all directors are independent as defined under the NYSE listing standards. Withhold votes allow stockholders to express their views in a meaningful way without affecting our fundamental governance structure or limiting the flexibility that is necessary for the board to act efficiently. Stockholders should not underestimate the impact that a significant withhold vote would have under our current plurality vote standard. If one or more of our directors were to receive a significant withhold vote in an election, the board would take that into consideration in determining whether such directors should be re-nominated for election. In addition, stockholders are always free to express any concerns directly to the independent members of the board through the communication procedures described under "Corporate Governance and Related Matters Director Candidate Recommendations by Stockholders" in this Proxy Statement.

The Company has an excellent history of electing board directors by a substantial majority. In the past three years, every director nominee has received an affirmative vote greater than 94 percent of the shares voted through the plurality process. The proponent's statement that a director may be elected by a single vote is improbable especially in light of the Company's past voting results. In fact, the adoption of a majority voting standard would not have affected the outcome of the election of directors in any of the years since Rockwood has been a public company. The Company's stockholders have an excellent history of electing strong and independent directors by plurality voting.

Lack of Consensus Regarding Majority Voting: In light of the uncertainties described above, the legal community, shareholder advocates, governance experts, public companies and other groups are still debating whether the purported benefits of such a standard outweigh the risks and are considering how to deal with the practical difficulties of implementing a majority voting standard. The discussions surrounding the adoption of the Dodd-Frank Act, for example, included discussions about whether majority voting should be made mandatory for all public companies. Congress did not, however, mandate majority voting as part of the Dodd-Frank Act, supporting our view that concerns and questions regarding majority voting remains.

For the reasons stated above, the board believes electing directors under a plurality vote process is best for the ongoing success of the Company and its stockholders.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "AGAINST" THE STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE VOTE REQUIRED TO ELECT DIRECTORS.

OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this proxy statement, we know of no business that will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting other than the items referred to above. If any other matter is

properly brought before the annual meeting for action by stockholders, proxies in the enclosed form returned to Rockwood will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the board of directors, or in the absence of such a recommendation, in accordance with the judgment of the proxy holder.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RELATED MATTERS

Director Independence

Currently, in accordance with NYSE rules, the audit, the compensation, and the corporate governance and nominating committees are each comprised entirely of independent directors. The board of directors has determined that Nance K. Dicciani, Sheldon R. Erikson, Douglas L. Maine and J. Kent Masters are independent directors within the meaning of applicable NYSE listing standards and the applicable provisions of the Exchange Act.

When making "independence" determinations, the board of directors broadly considers all relevant facts and circumstances as well as any other facts and considerations specified by the NYSE, our by-laws or by any rule or regulation of any other regulatory body or self-regulatory body applicable to Rockwood. When assessing the materiality of a director's relationship with Rockwood, the board of directors considers the issue not merely from the standpoint of the director, but also from that of persons or organizations with which the director has an affiliation. The board of directors has adopted categorical standards designed to assist them in assessing director independence. The categorical standards can be found in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, which are available on our website at www.rocksp.com in the "Investor Downloads Corporate Governance" section. The categorical standards set forth certain relationships between the Company and the directors and their immediate family members, or entities with which they are affiliated, that the board of directors, in its judgment, has determined to be material or immaterial in assessing director independence. The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines and the categorical standards have been designed to align with the independence standards of the NYSE.

The board of directors has determined that the following relationships will not be considered material relationships that would impair a director's independence:

the director beneficially owns, or is an employee or affiliate of another company or entity that beneficially owns, less than 10% of Rockwood's common stock;

the director is a current employee or an immediate family member of the director is a current executive officer of another company that makes payments to or receives payments from Rockwood for property or services in an amount which does not exceed and has not for each of the last three years exceeded the greater of \$1,000,000 or 2% of the consolidated gross revenues of such other company; and

the director serves as an executive officer, director or trustee of a tax exempt organization, and Rockwood's contributions to such tax exempt organization do not exceed and have not for each of the last three years exceeded the greater of \$1,000,000 or 2% of such tax exempt organization's consolidated gross revenues.

On an annual basis, each member of the board of directors is required to complete a questionnaire designed in part to provide information to assist the board of directors in determining whether the director is independent under NYSE rules and our Corporate Governance Guidelines. In addition, the directors or potential directors have an affirmative duty to disclose to our corporate governance and nominating committee relationships which may impair their independence.

Our corporate governance and nominating committee reviews all relationships and transactions for compliance with the standards described above and makes a recommendation to the board of directors regarding the independence of the directors of the Company. For those directors identified as

independent, the Company and the board of directors are aware of no relationships or transactions with the Company or management.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The board of directors is required to meet at least four times annually or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The board of directors met seven times in 2012, either in person or by telephone. All directors are expected to participate whether in person or by telephone in all meetings of the board of directors. Each incumbent director attended 100% of all board of directors meetings and at least 78% of all applicable committee meetings during 2012. All directors attended the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders held on May 18, 2012. We expect all directors to attend the annual meeting of stockholders.

Board Role in Risk Management

Rockwood is exposed to a number of risks, including geo-political risks, financial risks, strategic risks, operational risks, risks relating to general economic conditions and their effect on certain industries, and risks relating to regulatory and legal compliance. The board of directors oversees the company-wide risk management function of the Company with the assistance of the audit committee, the corporate governance and nominating committee, the compensation committee and a risk management committee comprised of a group of management employees from various functional groups. The senior executives manage and mitigate, to the extent possible, material risks on a day-to-day basis. The roles of each of these director and management committees are as follows:

Audit Committee the audit committee of the board of directors is generally responsible for oversight of the system of compiling and reporting risk and the oversight of material financial risk exposures;

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee the corporate governance and nominating committee of the board of directors is generally responsible for the oversight of certain other material risk exposures, such as compliance risk and safety, health and environmental risk;

Compensation Committee the compensation committee of the board of directors is responsible for the compensation policies and programs and how they relate to risk; and

Risk Management Committee the risk management committee, which is comprised of members of the management team of the Company with backgrounds in finance, operations, legal, regulatory and safety, health and environmental compliance, is responsible for developing an ongoing enterprise risk management system to identify, collect, compile and assess significant exposures. The risk management committee reports directly to the senior executives on a regular basis about the nature of significant risks and, if possible, makes recommendations to manage and mitigate such risks. The risk management committee periodically, or as appropriate, reports material risks to the audit committee, the corporate governance and nominating committee and the board of directors.

Each of these committees along with the senior executives is responsible for periodically reporting to the board of directors the material risks facing the Company and highlighting any new material risks that may have arisen since they last met.

Audit Committee

Our audit committee currently consists of Nance K. Dicciani, Douglas L. Maine and J. Kent Masters. Mr. Maine is the chairperson of our audit committee. The board of directors has determined that all of the members of the audit committee are financially literate and meet the independence requirements mandated by the applicable NYSE listing standards, Section 10A(m)(3) of the Exchange

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Act and our independence standards and that Mr. Maine is an audit committee financial expert. Our audit committee is responsible for:

oversight of the quality and integrity of the Company's financial statements and financial disclosures;

oversight of the financial reporting process;

oversight of the independent auditors' retention/termination, qualifications and independence;

oversight of the Company's internal audit function and the risk management reporting process;

oversight of the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

preparing reports to be included in the Company's proxy statement and reporting regularly to the board of directors; and

performing any functions required to be performed by it and as otherwise appropriate under applicable law, rules or regulations, the Company's by-laws and the resolutions or other directives of the board of directors, including review of any certification required to be reviewed in accordance with applicable law or regulations of the SEC.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the audit committee periodically meets separately in executive session with the managing partner of the audit team from the independent registered public accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, and the management employee responsible for the internal audit function.

The audit committee has adopted a formal policy concerning the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services to be provided by our independent registered public accounting firm. The policy requires that all services to be performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP and its affiliates, including audit services, audit-related services and permitted non-audit services, be pre-approved by the audit committee. Pre-approval is generally provided for up to one year, and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is subject to a budget. Specific services being provided by the independent accountants are regularly reviewed in accordance with the pre-approval policy and the audit committee may pre-approve particular services on a case-by-case basis. The audit committee has delegated the authority to grant pre-approvals to Mr. Maine, the audit committee chair, when the full audit committee is unable to do so. At each subsequent audit committee meeting, the audit committee reviews these pre-approvals, receives updates on the services actually provided by the independent accountants, and management may present additional services for approval. For 2012, the audit committee pre-approved all audit, audit-related and non-audit services performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The audit committee considers the impact of fees for non-audit services on the independence of Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Our audit committee is required to meet at least four times annually or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The committee met nine times in 2012.

Our board of directors has adopted a written charter for the audit committee, which is available on our website at www.rocksp.com in the "Investor Downloads Corporate Governance" section, and upon written request by our stockholders at no cost.

Audit Committee Report

The audit committee reviews Rockwood's financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for expressing an opinion on those audited consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

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In fulfilling its responsibilities, the audit committee has reviewed and discussed the audited consolidated financial statements contained in Rockwood's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 with Rockwood's management and independent registered public accounting firm. The audit committee has also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (*AICPA, Professional Standards*, Vol. 1. AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") in Rule 3200T, including the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements. In addition, the audit committee reviewed and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the auditor's independence from Rockwood and its management, including the matters in the written disclosures and letter which were received by the audit committee from the independent registered public accounting firm, as required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the audit committee concerning independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the audit committee approved the audited consolidated financial statements and recommended to the board of directors that they be included in Rockwood's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 for filing with the SEC. The audit committee has also appointed Deloitte & Touche LLP as Rockwood's independent registered public accounting firm and is presenting its appointment to the stockholders for ratification.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Douglas L. Maine, Chairperson
Nance K. Dicciani
J. Kent Masters

The preceding audit committee report is provided only for the purpose of this proxy statement. This report shall not be incorporated, in whole or in part, in any other Rockwood filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Compensation Committee

The compensation committee (the "Committee") currently consists of Nance K. Dicciani, Sheldon R. Erikson and J. Kent Masters. Mr. Erikson is the chairperson of the Committee. The Committee is comprised solely of independent directors.

The Committee is responsible for:

establishing and reviewing our overall compensation philosophy;

reviewing compensation policies, plans and programs and how they relate to risk;

reviewing and approving the compensation and performance review of our chief executive officer and other executive officers;

reviewing and recommending to the board of directors the compensation of our directors;

reviewing and approving employment contracts and other similar arrangements between us and our chief executive officer and other executive officers;

reviewing and consulting with the chairman and chief executive officer on the selection of officers and evaluation of executive performance and other related matters;

administration of equity plans and other incentive compensation plans; and

such other matters that are specifically delegated to the Committee by the board of directors from time to time.

The Committee may form one or more subcommittees. The Committee shall be entitled to delegate any or all of its responsibilities to any subcommittee of the Committee and each subcommittee may take such actions as may be delegated by the Committee.

The Committee is required to meet at least two times annually, or more frequently, as circumstances dictate. The Committee met seven times in 2012.

Our board of directors has adopted a written charter for the Committee which is available on our website at www.rocksp.com in the "Investor Downloads Corporate Governance" section, and upon written request by our stockholders at no cost.

The Committee reviews and approves our executive compensation program on an annual basis. The Committee has sole discretion and adequate funding to engage consultants in connection with compensation-related matters. In 2012, the Committee retained the firm of Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. ("Cook & Co."), an internationally recognized human resources consultant to assist the Committee in evaluating the compensation of our directors, named executive officers and certain key employees and to assess our compensation program against other companies in our industry and related industries. In connection with its review, Cook & Co. generally evaluated the following elements of our compensation program:

current compensation program for our named executive officers including base salary, annual and long-term incentives, benefits and perquisites and stock ownership guidelines;

a competitive analysis of compensation levels for the Company's eight most senior executives including base salary, annual bonus and long-term incentives;

an assessment of share usage and overhang at Rockwood relative to the current and 3-year average levels among the peer group;

an analysis of the aggregate value of Rockwood's long-term incentive grants on an absolute basis and as a percent of market capitalization and revenue, relative to the current and 3-year average levels among the peer group;

pay for performance alignment; and

the compensation of our board of directors.

Cook & Co. compared these elements of compensation for our named executive officers to our peer group. Cook & Co. also compiled and presented published survey data, which is used as a broader industry reference for compensation of general industrial organizations. This data reflected industry information for functionally comparable positions at organizations of similar size to Rockwood and was referenced by the Committee as general information in evaluating compensation. Specifically, Cook & Co. provided data for public companies of comparable business character and size, including companies in the chemical industry, that include Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Albemarle Corporation, Cabot Corporation, Celanese Corporation, Cytec Industries Inc., Eastman Chemical Company, FMC Corporation, RPM International Inc., Sigma-Aldrich Corporation, W.R. Grace & Co. and The Valspar Corporation. In addition, Cook & Co. compared the compensation of our named executive officers to published compensation survey data for similar executive job descriptions. Finally, Cook & Co. evaluated the compensation of our non-employee directors. After considering the relevant factors, we determined that no conflicts of interest have been raised in connection with the services Cook & Co. performed for the Company in 2012. In 2012, Rockwood paid Cook & Co. \$90,059 for

assessing the amount and form of compensation for our non-employee directors, named executive officers and certain other key executives.

The Committee sets the primary components of compensation for our chairman and chief executive officer based on our overall compensation philosophy and following consultation with Cook & Co. For compensation decisions related to our other named executive officers and key employees, our chairman and chief executive officer makes recommendations to the Committee which, in consultation with Cook & Co., ultimately determines such compensation.

Risk Analysis of Performance-Based Compensation Plans

The vast majority of compensation provided to our named executive officers and key employees is performance-based variable compensation. Our compensation programs encourage our named executive officers and key employees to remain focused on both short- and long-term financial measures. In recent years, under our 2009 Stock Incentive Plan, our equity awards have been, in part, performance-based restricted stock unit awards which vest based on total and relative stockholder return. In addition, the nature of stock option, market stock unit and restricted stock unit awards generally encourage our named executive officers and key employees to focus on sustained stock price appreciation. Similarly, in most years under the 2009 Rockwood Holdings, Inc. Short-Term Incentive Plan ("Short-Term Incentive Plan"), the performance targets measure our financial performance against annual budget targets for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization and certain other adjustments ("Adjusted EBITDA"), as more fully described under Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Definition of Adjusted EBITDA", of Rockwood's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012, and working capital and focus primarily on short-term financial measures. Accordingly, we believe the mix of compensation is such that it does not encourage excessive risk taking. Rockwood also has stock ownership guidelines that require long-term equity ownership by senior executives and "claw-back" provisions related to our annual cash incentive and recent long-term incentive grants that discourage excessive risk taking.

Compensation Committee Report

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on its review and discussion with management, the Committee recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement and incorporated by reference in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.