

CASTLE A M & CO  
Form 424B5  
May 24, 2007

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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration Number 333-142337**

**Prospectus Supplement  
(To Prospectus dated May 11, 2007)**

**4,347,826 Shares**

**Common Stock**

This is a public offering of common stock of A. M. Castle & Co. We are selling 2,347,826 shares of common stock and the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus supplement are selling an additional 2,000,000 shares. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholders.

Our common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange under the symbol CAS. Our common stock has been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CAS. We intend to delist our common stock from the Chicago Stock Exchange and no longer trade on the American Stock Exchange. On May 23, 2007, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the American Stock Exchange was \$34.08 per share.

**Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

	<b>Per Share</b>	<b>Total</b>
Public offering price	\$ 33.00	\$ 143,478,258
Underwriting discount	\$ 1.8975	\$ 8,250,000
Offering proceeds to us, before expenses	\$ 31.1025	\$ 73,023,258
Offering proceeds to selling stockholders, before expenses	\$ 31.1025	\$ 62,205,000

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We have granted the underwriters an option for a period of 30 days to purchase up to 652,174 additional shares of our common stock on the same terms and conditions set forth above to cover over-allotments, if any.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares of common stock to purchasers on or about May 29, 2007.

*Joint Book-Running Lead Managers*

**William Blair & Company**

**Jefferies & Company**

**KeyBanc Capital Markets**

**Davenport & Company LLC**

The date of this prospectus supplement is May 23, 2007.

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**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Offers to sell, and solicitations of offers to buy, shares of our common stock are being made only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current as of the respective dates such information is presented. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.**

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**Market data and industry statistics used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are based on independent industry publications and other publicly available information. Neither we nor the underwriters have independently verified, and neither we nor the underwriters guarantee, the accuracy of any of this information. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on this information.**

**Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, in this prospectus supplement:**

**A. M. Castle, the Company, we, us and our refer to A. M. Castle & Co. and its subsidiaries;**

**Transtar refers to Transtar Intermediate Holdings #2, Inc. and its subsidiaries, a leading supplier of high performance aluminum alloys to the aerospace and defense industries, which we acquired on September 5, 2006;**

**the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus assumes that the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional shares of common stock.**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more information, some of which may not apply to this offering or may have been updated in the first part of this prospectus. If the description of this offering or any other matter varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Because this is only a summary, it does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read the entire prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus carefully, especially Risk Factors beginning on page S-6, the Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information with respect to the Transtar acquisition, incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, and our consolidated financial statements and related notes, incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision.*

**Our Company**

We believe that we are a leading distributor and provider of processed specialty metals and plastics to a wide range of commercial customers serving principally the North American market, but with a significantly growing global presence. We focus on engineered and specialized grades of materials including specialty stainless steel, aluminum, high performance nickel alloys and titanium, in a variety of forms such as bars, tubing, extrusions, plates, sheets and coil. We perform processing services to meet customer requirements, such as cutting, grinding, shearing, heat treating, burning and annealing. We also distribute a wide variety of plastics and offer value-added plastics services such as cutting, bending and forming.

We operate as an intermediary between our diversified customer base and primary materials producers. We purchase metals and plastics from many producers in large lots that we hold in distribution centers until sold, usually in smaller quantities and often with some value-added processing services performed. Our ability to provide quick delivery of a wide variety of specialty metals and plastics products, together with our processing capabilities, reduces our customers need to order the large quantities required by producing mills or to perform additional material processing services. As a result, our services are an integral component of our customers' supply chain management.

Our diversified customer base includes Fortune 500 companies as well as thousands of medium and smaller sized firms, with no single customer representing more than 3% of our 2006 net sales. We distribute metals across a broad range of industries including aerospace and defense, oil and gas, mining and heavy earth-moving equipment, power generation and transportation. We distribute plastics to a variety of retail, marine, transportation and general manufacturing customers. We serve our customers from 62 metals and plastic service centers in North America and Europe.

We significantly expanded our capabilities and customer base in the aerospace and defense market through our acquisition of Transtar in September 2006. Transtar is a leading supplier of high-performance aluminum alloys in the aerospace and defense industries, supporting the ongoing requirements of those markets with a broad range of inventory, processing and supply chain services. As a result of this acquisition, we have expanded access to aerospace

customers and avenues to cross-sell our other products into this growth market. The acquisition expanded our customer base and deepened our relationships with large aluminum mills, giving us increased access to product which is currently in high demand and in short supply. In addition, the acquisition provides us with the benefits of greater access to certain inventories and purchasing synergies, as well as processing and distribution facilities in Europe and an existing platform to sell to markets in Asia and other international markets. Transtar is included in our Metals segment.

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### **Industry Overview**

Metals service centers act as supply chain intermediaries between primary metals producers, which necessarily deal in bulk quantities of metals in order to achieve economies of scale, and end-users in a variety of industries that require specialized metal products in significantly smaller quantities. Service centers manage the differences in lead times that exist in the supply chain. While Original Equipment Manufacturers, which we refer to as OEMs, and other customers often demand delivery within hours, the lead time required by primary metals producers can be as long as several months. Metals service centers also add value to their customers by aggregating purchasing, warehousing and distribution across a number of end users and by processing metals to meet specific customer needs. Metals service centers accounted for approximately one quarter of U.S. steel shipments in 2005 based on volume and generated more than \$115 billion in net sales in 2005 according to purchasing.com.

### **Our Competitive Strengths**

*Broad Product Offerings.* We have the ability to act as a one-stop shop for our customers, who are looking for one source for a broad array of standard and specialty products. We offer a breadth of specialty grades of metals, alloys and plastics, and are able to meet very tight specifications for our customers.

*Leading Presence in the Global Aerospace Market.* We believe we are one of a limited number of companies capable of servicing the needs of global aerospace firms due to the aerospace industry's exacting performance standards and its need for global distribution capabilities.

*Global Reach.* We can deliver products to customers in markets around the world, enabling us to serve our global customers effectively and efficiently.

*Comprehensive Processing Capabilities.* Approximately half of our volume in both metals and plastics is processed to precise specifications as dictated by our customers' wide-ranging needs.

*Extensive Supplier Relationships.* The scale of our materials purchases enables us to achieve purchasing leverage with our primary suppliers to ensure availability and competitive pricing.

*Inventory Management Expertise.* Investing in technology systems to manage our inventory has enabled us to reduce our days' sales in inventory, increase capital investment in our distribution capabilities and provide supply chain solutions to our customers to create a stronger value proposition.

*Veteran Management Team.* Our management team has an average of over 20 years of industry experience and an average tenure with us of 15 years.

### **Our Growth Strategy**

*Expand Our Specialty Products and Services.* We are focused on becoming the foremost provider of specialty metals products and services and specialty supply chain solutions for targeted industries.

*Invest in Specific Market Segments.* Using the Transtar acquisition as a model, we expect to continue developing industry-leading positions in specific high-growth market segments where we can leverage our specialty expertise to service customers with complex needs.



*Establish a Global Market Position.* We plan to build upon our strong presence in North America and further expand our global reach by leveraging our scalable platform to follow our OEM customers into select international markets.

*Capture Expected Benefits and Opportunities with Transtar.* We plan to continue to cross-sell into Transtar's strong aerospace and defense customer base and to leverage purchasing power with Transtar's suppliers.

### **Our Corporate Information**

We were originally incorporated in Illinois in 1890 and reincorporated in Delaware in 1966. In 2001, we reincorporated in Maryland by merging into a subsidiary incorporated in Maryland. Our corporate and executive offices are located at 3400 N. Wolf Road, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131, and our telephone number at that address is (847) 455-7111. We maintain a website at [www.amcastle.com](http://www.amcastle.com). The information contained in our website is not a part of, and is not incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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**This Offering**

Common stock offered by us 2,347,826 shares

Common stock offered by the selling stockholders 2,000,000 shares

Common stock to be outstanding after this offering 21,368,911 shares

Use of proceeds We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of shares by us in this offering to repay a portion of our indebtedness under our senior credit facility, which we incurred in connection with our acquisition of Transtar, and for general working capital purposes. Under the terms of our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, we are required to fully repay our term loan with a portion of the proceeds that we will receive from this offering. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common stock by the selling stockholders. See Use of Proceeds.

American Stock Exchange symbol and proposed New York Stock Exchange symbol CAS

The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering is based on 19,021,085 shares outstanding as of May 23, 2007 and:

excludes 425,588 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options at a weighted average exercise price of \$9.17 per share;

excludes 1,375,544 additional shares of common stock that are reserved for future grants, awards or sale under our stock plans; and

includes 1,801,223 shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of our Series A Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series A Preferred Stock. All of our Series A Preferred Stock will be converted into common stock immediately prior to the completion of this offering.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus assumes the underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional shares of common stock from us.

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The following table presents a summary of our historical consolidated financial data. When you read this summary consolidated financial data, it is important that you read along with it the historical financial statements and related notes, as well as the section titled Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. In September 2006, we completed our acquisition of Transtar. For financial information about Transtar, please see the consolidated financial statements of Transtar for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2005 and the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial information for the six month period ended June 30, 2006 and the years ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, which are incorporated by reference hereto. We have derived the statement of operations data and statement of cash flows data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 and the balance sheet data at December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2006 from our consolidated financial statements, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>			<b>Quarter Ended</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>March 31,</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Dollars in millions, except share data)</b>				
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA:</b>					
Net sales	\$ 761.0	\$ 959.0	\$ 1,177.6	\$ 279.2	\$ 375.4
EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	45.4	84.8	110.0	29.8	34.9
Net income	15.4	38.9	55.1	16.0	15.8
Diluted earnings per share	0.82	2.11	2.89	0.86	0.81
Cash dividends declared per common share			0.24	0.06	0.06
Interest expense, net	9.0	7.3	8.3	1.1	4.3
Discount on sale of accounts receivable	0.9	1.1			
Loss on extinguishment of debt		4.9			
Provision for income taxes	11.3	23.2	33.3	10.2	9.9
Net income applicable to common stock	14.5	37.9	54.2	15.8	15.6
<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS DATA:</b>					
Capital expenditures	5.3	8.7	12.9	5.0	2.2

	<b>At December 31,</b>		<b>At March 31,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>As Adjusted for Offering<sup>(2)</sup></b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA:</b>				
Total assets	\$ 423.7	\$ 655.1	\$ 712.3	\$ 712.3
Long-term debt	80.1	102.9	101.2	74.2
Total debt	80.1	226.1	226.9	154.4
Stockholders' equity	175.5	215.9	232.5	305.1

(1) EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, discount on sale of accounts receivable, taxes, depreciation and amortization and debt extinguishment expense.

- (2) Adjusted to reflect the impact of this offering and the application of the net proceeds as if this offering occurred on March 31, 2007 based on the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement.

The financial statements included in this prospectus supplement contain a non-GAAP disclosure, EBITDA, which consists of income before provision for income taxes plus depreciation and amortization, discount on sale of accounts receivable, debt extinguishment expense and interest expense, less interest income. EBITDA is presented as a supplemental disclosure because this measure is widely used by the investment community for evaluation purposes and provides the reader with additional information in analyzing the Company's operating results. EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to net income

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or any other item calculated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or U.S. GAAP, or as an indicator of operating performance. Our definition of EBITDA used here may differ from that used by other companies. A reconciliation of EBITDA to net income is provided per SEC requirements.

	<b>For the Year Ended</b>			<b>For the Three</b>	
	<b>December 31,</b>			<b>Months</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Ended March 31,</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Dollars in millions)</b>				
<b>EBITDA RECONCILIATION:</b>					
Net income	\$ 15.4	\$ 38.9	\$ 55.1	\$ 16.0	\$ 15.8
Depreciation and amortization expense	8.8	9.4	13.3	2.4	4.9
Interest expense, net	9.0	7.3	8.3	1.1	4.3
Loss on extinguishment of debt		4.9			
Discount on sale of accounts receivable	0.9	1.1			
Provision for income taxes	11.3	23.2	33.3	10.2	9.9
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>\$ 45.4</b>	<b>\$ 84.8</b>	<b>\$ 110.0</b>	<b>\$ 29.8</b>	<b>\$ 34.9</b>

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**RISK FACTORS**

*Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the following factors, as well as the other information contained in this prospectus supplement as well as the accompanying prospectus, before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to any of these risks, and you may lose all or part of your investment in our common stock.*

**Risks Related to Our Business**

*Our future operating results depend on a number of factors beyond our control, such as the prices for metals, which could cause our results to be adversely affected.*

The prices we pay for raw materials, both metals and plastics, and the prices we charge for products, may fluctuate depending on many factors not in our control, including general economic conditions (both domestic and international), competition, production levels, import duties and other trade restrictions, and currency fluctuations. To the extent metals prices decline, we would generally expect to experience lower sales and possibly lower net income, depending on the timing of the price changes. To the extent we are not able to pass on to our customers any increases in our raw materials prices, our results of operations may be adversely affected. In addition, because we maintain substantial inventories of metals in order to meet the just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers, a reduction in our selling prices could result in lower profit margins or, in some cases, losses, either of which would reduce our profitability.

*We service industries that are highly cyclical, and any downturn in our customers' industries could reduce our revenue and profitability.*

Many of our products are sold to customers in industries that experience significant fluctuations in demand based on economic conditions, energy prices, consumer demand and other factors beyond our control. As a result of this volatility in the industries we serve, when one or more of our customers' industries experiences a decline, we may have difficulty increasing or maintaining our level of sales or profitability if we are not able to divert sales of our products to customers in other industries. We have made a strategic decision to focus sales resources on certain industry segments, specifically the aerospace and defense and oil and gas segments. As a result, there is some risk that adverse business conditions in these segments could be detrimental to our sales. We are also particularly sensitive to market trends in the manufacturing sector of the North American economy.

*We may not be able to realize the benefits we anticipate from the Transtar acquisition.*

We may not be able to realize the benefits we anticipate from the Transtar acquisition. Achieving those benefits depends on the timely, efficient and successful execution of a number of events, including our ability to successfully complete the integration of Transtar's businesses. Factors that could affect our ability to achieve these benefits include:

difficulties in integrating and managing personnel, financial reporting and other systems used by Transtar's businesses;

the failure of Transtar's businesses to perform in accordance with our expectations;

any future goodwill impairment charges that we may incur with respect to the assets of Transtar;

failure to achieve anticipated synergies between our business units and the business units of Transtar; and  
the loss of Transtar's customers.

If Transtar's businesses do not operate as we anticipate, it could materially harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, as a result of the Transtar acquisition, we assumed all of Transtar's liabilities. We may learn additional information about Transtar's business that adversely affects us, such as unknown or contingent liabilities, issues relating to internal controls over financial reporting and issues

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relating to compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act or other applicable laws. As a result, we cannot assure you that the Transtar acquisition will provide us with the benefits we anticipate or will not, in fact, harm our business. Among other things, if Transtar's liabilities are greater than projected, or if there are obligations of Transtar of which we were not aware at the time of completion of the acquisition, our business could be materially adversely affected.

***A substantial portion of our sales are concentrated in the aerospace and defense industries and thus our financial performance is highly dependent on the conditions of those industries.***

A substantial portion of our sales are concentrated to customers in the aerospace and defense industries. The segment results are directly tied to the economic conditions in the aerospace and defense industries. These industries tend to be highly cyclical, and capital spending by airlines, aircraft manufacturers, governmental agencies and defense contractors may be influenced by a variety of factors including current and predicted traffic levels, aircraft fuel pricing, labor issues, competition, the retirement of older aircraft, regulatory changes, the issuance of contracts, terrorism and related safety concerns, general economic conditions, worldwide airline profits and backlog levels. Additionally, a significant amount of work that we perform under contract in these industries tends to be for a few large customers. A reduction in capital spending in the aerospace or defense industries could have a significant effect on the demand for our products, which could have an adverse effect on our financial performance or results of operations.

***Our substantial indebtedness could restrict our operating flexibility, adversely affect our financial position, decrease our liquidity and impair our ability to operate our business.***

As of March 31, 2007, we had \$226.9 million in total indebtedness. We incurred approximately \$147.0 million in bank borrowings in connection with our acquisition of Transtar. As of March 31, 2007, after giving effect to this offering, we would have had approximately \$154.4 million in indebtedness. Our high level of debt could adversely affect our operating flexibility and adversely affect our financial position in several significant ways, including the following:

a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations will be dedicated to paying interest and principal on our debt and, therefore, will not be available for other purposes;

our ability to borrow additional funds or capitalize on significant business opportunities may be limited; and

a portion of our debt will be subject to fluctuating interest rates, which could adversely affect our profits if interest rates increase.

***We are vulnerable to interest rate fluctuations on our indebtedness, which could hurt our operating results.***

We are exposed to various interest rate risks that arise in the normal course of business. We finance our operations with fixed and variable rate borrowings. Market risk arises from changes in variable interest rates. Under our revolving credit facility, our interest rate on borrowings is subject to changes based on fluctuations in the LIBOR and prime rates of interest.

***Disruptions in the supply of raw materials could adversely affect our ability to meet our customer demands and our revenues and profitability.***

We have few long-term contracts to purchase metals. Our top 10 suppliers accounted for 45% of our 2006 purchases with no single supplier accounting for more than 9% of our purchases. Accordingly, if for any reason our primary suppliers of metals should curtail or discontinue their delivery of raw materials to us at competitive prices and in a



timely manner, our business could suffer. Unforeseen disruptions in our supply bases could materially impact our ability to deliver products to customers. The number of available suppliers could be reduced by factors such as industry consolidation and bankruptcies affecting steel and metal producers. If we are unable to obtain sufficient amounts of raw materials from our traditional suppliers, we

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may not be able to obtain such raw materials from alternative sources at competitive prices to meet our delivery schedules, which could have an adverse impact on our revenues and profitability.

***Our industry is highly competitive, which may force us to lower our prices and may have an adverse effect on net income.***

The principal markets that we serve are highly competitive and highly fragmented. Competition is based principally on price, service, quality, production capabilities, inventory availability and timely delivery. Competition in the various markets in which we participate comes from a large number of value-added metals processors and service centers on a regional and local basis, some of which have greater financial resources than we do and some of which have more established brand names in the local markets we serve. We also compete to a lesser extent with primary metals producers who typically sell to very large customers requiring shipments of large volumes of metal. Increased competition could force us to lower our prices or to offer increased services at a higher cost to us, which could reduce our gross margins and net income.

***Our business could be adversely affected by a disruption to our primary distribution hub.***

Our largest facility, in Franklin Park, Illinois, serves as a primary distribution center that ships product to our other facilities as well as external customers. This same facility also serves as our headquarters and houses our primary information systems. Our business could be adversely impacted by a major disruption at this facility in the event of:

damage to or inoperability of our warehouse or related systems;

a prolonged power or telecommunication failure;

a natural disaster such as fire, tornado or flood;

a work stoppage; or

an airplane crash or act of war or terrorism on-site or nearby, as the facility is located within seven miles of O'Hare International Airport (a major U.S. airport) and lies below certain take-off and landing flight patterns.

We have data storage and retrieval procedures that include off-site system capabilities. However, a prolonged disruption of the services and capabilities of our Franklin Park facility could adversely impact our financial performance. Additionally, we are in the process of implementing a new information technology system and any disruption relating to the implementation may have an adverse affect on our financial performance.

***We operate in international markets, which expose us to a number of risks.***

We serve and operate in certain international markets, which expose us to political, economic and currency related risks. We operate in Canada, Mexico, France, the United Kingdom and Asia. An act of war or terrorism could disrupt international shipping schedules, cause additional delays in importing our products into the United States or increase the costs required to do so. Fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar versus foreign currencies could reduce the value of these assets as reported in our financial statements, which could reduce our stockholders' equity. If we do not adequately anticipate and respond to these risks and the other risks inherent in international operations, it could have a material adverse effect on our operating results.

***Ownership of our stock is concentrated, which may limit stockholders' ability to influence corporate matters.***

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Patrick J. Herbert, III, one of our directors, may be deemed to beneficially own 29.2% of our common stock after giving effect to the sale of the shares in this offering. This percentage assumes the conversion of all of our Series A Preferred Stock into common stock. Accordingly, Mr. Herbert and his affiliates will retain the voting power to substantially control the outcome of matters requiring a stockholder vote, including the

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election of directors and the approval of significant corporate matters. Such a concentration of control could adversely affect the market price of our common stock or prevent a change in control.

*Some of our workforce is represented by labor unions, which may lead to work stoppages.*

Approximately 284 of our employees are unionized, which represented approximately 14.1% of our employees at December 31, 2006. We cannot predict how stable our relationships with these labor unions will be or whether we will be able to meet union requirements without impacting our financial condition. The unions may also limit our flexibility in dealing with our workforce. Work stoppages and instability in our union relationships could negatively impact the timely production of our products, which could strain relationships with customers and cause a loss of revenues that would adversely affect our results of operations.

*We could incur substantial costs in order to comply with, or to address any violations under, environmental and employee health and safety laws, which could significantly increase our operating expenses and reduce our operating income.*

Our operations are subject to various environmental statutes and regulations, including laws and regulations governing materials we use. In addition, certain of our operations are subject to federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations that impose limitations on the discharge of pollutants into the air and water and establish standards for the treatment, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. Our operations are also subject to various employee safety and health laws and regulations, including those concerning occupational injury and illness, employee exposure to hazardous materials and employee complaints. Certain of our facilities are located in industrial areas, have a history of heavy industrial use and have been in operation for many years and, over time, we and other predecessor operators of these facilities have generated, used, handled and disposed of hazardous and other regulated wastes. Currently pending and current or future unknown cleanup obligations at these facilities, or at off-site locations at which materials from our operations were disposed of, could result in future expenditures that cannot be currently quantified but which could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

*Antidumping and other duties could be imposed on us, our suppliers and our products.*

The imposition of an antidumping or other increased duty on any products that we import could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition. For example, under United States law, an antidumping duty may be imposed on any imports if two conditions are met. First, the Department of Commerce must decide that the imports are being sold in the United States at less than fair value. Second, the International Trade Commission, or the ITC, must determine that a United States industry is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of the imports. The ITC's determination of injury involves a two-pronged inquiry: first, whether the industry is materially injured and second, whether the dumping, and not other factors, caused the injury. The ITC is required to analyze the volume of imports, the effect of imports on United States prices for like merchandise, and the effects the imports have on United States producers of like products, taking into account many factors, including lost sales, market share, profits, productivity, return on investment and utilization of production capacity.

*Increases in energy prices would increase our operating costs and we may be unable to pass these increases on to our customers in the form of higher prices, which may reduce our profitability.*

We use energy to process and transport our products. Our operating costs increase if energy costs, including electricity, gasoline and natural gas, rise. During periods of higher energy costs, we may not be able to recover our operating cost increases through price increases without reducing demand for our products. In addition, we generally do not hedge our exposure to higher prices via energy futures contracts. Increases in energy prices will increase our operating costs and may reduce our profitability if we are unable to pass the increases on to our customers.



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***We may not be able to retain or expand our customer base if the United States manufacturing industry continues to erode.***

Our customer base primarily includes manufacturing and industrial firms in the United States, some of which are, or have considered, relocating production operations outside the United States or outsourcing particular functions to locations outside the United States. Some customers have closed as they were unable to compete successfully with foreign competitors. The majority of our facilities are located in the United States and, to the extent our customers close or relocate operations to locations where we do not have a presence, we could lose all or a portion of their business.

***Any prolonged disruption to our service centers could harm our business.***

Our service centers permit us to process standardized products in large volumes while maintaining low operating costs. Any prolonged disruption in the operations of any of these facilities, whether due to labor or technical difficulties, destruction or damage to any of the facilities or otherwise, could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

***Our operating results are subject to the seasonal nature of our customers' businesses.***

A portion of our customers experience seasonal slowdowns. Our revenues in the months of July, November and December traditionally have been lower than in other months because of a reduced number of shipping days and holiday or vacation closures for some customers. Consequently, our sales in the first two quarters of the year are usually higher than in the third and fourth quarters. Analysts and investors may inaccurately estimate the effects of seasonality on our results of operations in one or more future quarters and, consequently, our operating results may fall below analysts' and investors' expectations.

***We may face product liability claims that are costly and create adverse publicity.***

If any of the products we sell cause harm to any of our customers, we could be exposed to product liability lawsuits. If we were found liable under product liability claims, we could be required to pay substantial monetary damages. Further, even if we successfully defended ourselves against this type of claim, we could be forced to spend a substantial amount of money in litigation expenses, our management could be required to spend valuable time in the defense against these claims and its reputation could suffer, any of which could harm our business.

**Risks Relating to this Offering**

***Our stock price may be volatile, and you may not be able to resell your shares at or above the offering price.***

The price of our common stock after this offering may fluctuate widely, depending on many factors, including:

differences between our actual financial and operating results and those expected by investors and analysts;

the liquidity of our stock;

changes in analysts' recommendations or projections;

the operating results of other companies in the metals distribution industry;

the occurrence of natural disasters which cause a shortage of metals or other building materials; and  
changes in general economic or market conditions.

In addition, renewed terrorist attacks, or threats of attacks, may contribute to global unrest, an economic slowdown and to instability in the U.S. and other global equity markets. All of these factors may increase the volatility of our stock price and could have an adverse effect on your investment in our common stock. As a

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result, our common stock may trade at prices significantly below the offering price, and you could lose a significant part of your investment in the event you choose to sell your shares.

***We have various mechanisms in place that may prevent a change in control that stockholders may otherwise consider favorable.***

In addition to the high concentration of insider ownership described above, our charter and by-laws and the Maryland General Corporation Law, or the MGCL, include provisions that may be deemed to have antitakeover effects and may delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt that stockholders might consider to be in their best interests. For example, the MGCL, our charter and bylaws require the approval of the holders of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter to amend our charter (unless our Board of Directors has unanimously approved the amendment, in which case the approval of the holders of a majority of such votes is required), contain certain advance notice procedures for nominating candidates for election to our Board of Directors, and permit our Board of Directors to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. Furthermore, we are subject to the anti-takeover provisions of the MGCL that prohibit us from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person first becomes an interested stockholder, unless the business combination or stockholder interest is approved in a prescribed manner. The application of these and certain other provisions of our charter could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of the Company, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

***If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports about our business or publish negative reports, our stock price and trading volume could decline and affect the price at which you could sell your shares.***

The trading market for our common stock may be affected by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. We do not have any control over these analysts. If one or more of the analysts who cover us publish negative reports about us, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of us or fail to regularly publish reports about us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline. The occurrences could affect the price you could receive from the sale of your shares.

***We may issue additional shares of common stock, which could affect the market price of our common stock and result in dilution of your holdings.***

We may issue additional shares of common stock either in stock offerings or in connection with acquisitions of other businesses. Issuances of a substantial number of shares of common stock, or the perception that such issuances could occur, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock, and any issuance of our common stock will dilute the percentage ownership held by our common stockholders prior to issuance.



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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

The matters discussed in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus that are forward-looking statements are based on current management expectations that involve substantial risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in, or implied by, these forward-looking statements. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as aim, anticipate, believe, could, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, project, should, continue, will likely result, would and other words and terms of similar meaning in conjunction with a discussion of future operating or financial performance or future events. You should read statements that contain these words carefully, because they discuss our future expectations, contain projections of our future results of operations or of our financial position or state other forward-looking information.

The factors listed under Risk Factors, as well as any cautionary language in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, provide examples of risks, uncertainties and events that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, those described above under the heading Risk Factors and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Before you invest in our common stock, you should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect.

Forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or as indicated in the statement. Forward-looking statements included in the accompanying prospectus speak only as of the date of the prospectus. Except as required under federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not have any intention, and do not undertake, to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date of this prospectus supplement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. As a result of these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or that may be made elsewhere from time to time by, or on behalf of, us. All forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements.

**Table of Contents****USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate that our net proceeds from the sale of shares by us in this offering will be approximately \$72.5 million, after deducting the estimated offering expenses payable by us. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders.

We intend to use the net proceeds we receive from this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness under our senior credit facility, which we incurred in connection with our acquisition of Transtar, and for general working capital purposes. Under the terms of our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, we are required to fully repay our term loan with a portion of the proceeds that we will receive from this offering. The indebtedness that we expect to repay includes \$27.0 million of the term loan and \$45.5 million of the revolving loan under our senior credit facility. These loans mature in 2011 and currently bear interest at 1.75% over LIBOR. Amounts repaid under the revolving loan may be redrawn from time to time for general corporate purposes, including acquisitions.

**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange under the symbol CAS. Our common stock has been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CAS. We intend to delist our common stock from the Chicago Stock Exchange and no longer trade on the American Stock Exchange. On May 23, 2007 the approximate number of shareholders of record was 1,162. The table below sets forth the high and low sales prices for our common stock on the American Stock Exchange for the periods indicated.

Quarter	2005		2006		2007	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
First Quarter	\$ 11.35	\$ 17.25	\$ 22.16	\$ 31.31	\$ 22.72	\$ 30.85
Second Quarter	11.05	16.11	23.61	44.25	28.64 <sup>(1)</sup>	35.71 <sup>(1)</sup>
Third Quarter	13.88	17.97	25.34	34.86		
Fourth Quarter	15.02	24.52	24.15	34.20		

(1) From April 1, 2007 to May 23, 2007.

As of May 23, 2007, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the American Stock Exchange was \$34.08 per share.

**DIVIDEND POLICY**

We paid no dividends in 2005. We have declared and paid a dividend of \$0.06 per share on our common stock in each of the quarters of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007. Our current dividend policy anticipates the payment of quarterly dividends in the future. The declaration and payment of dividends to holders of common stock will be in the discretion of our Board of Directors, will be subject to contractual restrictions contained in our then-existing credit facilities and will be dependent upon our future earnings, cash flows, financial condition and capital requirements, general business conditions, legal, tax, regulatory and other factors our Board of Directors deems relevant. In addition, under the terms of our charter, so long as any shares of our Series A Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we may not pay or declare dividends on our common stock unless we are current on our Series A Preferred Stock dividends, in which case we

may pay cash dividends with respect to our common stock in an amount not to exceed \$0.50 per share per year. Upon the conversion of all of the Series A Preferred Stock, the existing limitation on dividends in excess of \$0.50 per share of common stock will no longer exist.

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**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of March 31, 2007:

on an actual basis; and

as adjusted to reflect the completion of this offering and the application of our net proceeds from this offering, including the repayment of a portion of the indebtedness incurred in connection with the Transtar acquisition.

You should read the data set forth below in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

	<b>As of March 31, 2007</b>	
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>As Adjusted<sup>(1)</sup></b>
	<b>(In thousands, except share data)</b>	
Short-term debt	\$ 125,749	\$ 80,226
Current portion of long-term obligations	12,844	6,844
Long-term obligations:		
Senior Notes	67,338	67,338
Term loan	21,000	
	\$ 226,931	\$ 154,408
<b>Stockholders' equity:</b>		
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 30,000,000 shares authorized; 17,085,091 shares issued and outstanding; 21,234,140 shares issued and outstanding, as adjusted <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 170	\$ 212
Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 10,000,000 shares authorized; 12,000 shares issued and outstanding; no shares issued and outstanding as adjusted	11,239	
Additional paid-in-capital	70,994	154,764
Deferred unearned compensation	(1,157)	(1,157)
Retained earnings	175,194	175,144
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(17,895)	(17,895)
Treasury shares, at cost	(6,006)	(6,006)
Total stockholders' equity	232,539	305,062
Total capitalization	\$ 459,470	\$ 459,470

(1) Upon the completion of this offering and as presented on an as adjusted basis, approximately \$27.0 million outstanding under our term loan and \$45.5 million outstanding under our revolving loan will be repaid.

- (2) The number of shares of outstanding common stock includes the shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock. All of our Series A Preferred Stock will be converted into common stock immediately prior to the completion of this offering.

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

*The following discussion and analysis was contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2007. You should read the following discussion in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus and incorporated herein by reference. The following discussion of our historical consolidated financial statements covers periods before the consummation of this offering and the application of the proceeds from this offering. Accordingly, the discussion does not reflect the impact that this offering will have on us. See the information provided in Risk Factors, Capitalization, Liquidity and Capital Resources and elsewhere in this prospectus for further discussion relating to the impact of this offering on us. In addition to historical information, this discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations. Factors that could cause such differences include those described in Risk Factors and elsewhere in this prospectus.*

**Executive Overview**

2006 marked several major accomplishments for us including record financial results, the launch of a new strategy for our metals business and the largest acquisition in our history.

***Acquisition of Transtar***

On September 5, 2006, we acquired all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Transtar Intermediate Holdings #2, Inc. (Transtar), a wholly owned subsidiary of H.I.G. Transtar Inc. The results of Transtar's operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements since that date. Transtar is included in our Metals segment.

Transtar is a leading supplier of high performance aluminum alloys to the aerospace and defense industries, supporting the on-going requirements of those markets with a broad range of inventory, processing and supply chain services. As a result of the acquisition, we have expanded our access to aerospace customers and avenues to cross-sell our other products into this high-growth market. The acquisition also provides us with the benefits of deeper access to certain inventories and purchasing synergies, as well as providing us with an existing platform to markets in Asia and other international markets.

The aggregate purchase price, net of cash acquired, was \$175.6 million which includes the assumption of \$0.7 million of foreign debt and \$0.6 million of capital leases of Transtar. An escrow in the amount of \$18 million funded from the purchase price was established to satisfy H.I.G. Transtar Inc.'s indemnification obligations under the Stock Purchase Agreement. The purchase price is subject to adjustment based on a final calculation of Transtar's working capital at the date of acquisition. See Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for additional information relating to the acquisition of Transtar.

***Recent Market and Pricing Trends***

In 2006, our primary markets exhibited continued strong underlying demand. Consolidated net sales for 2006 of \$1,177.6 million were \$218.6 million, or 22.8%, higher than 2005. The acquisition of Transtar contributed \$77.9 million of the total net sales increase. Material price increases accounted for 8.0% of the growth with volume and product mix accounting for the balance of the year-over-year sales growth. The aerospace, oil and gas, mining and

heavy equipment sectors were especially robust. Metals material pricing increased an average of 8.6% in 2006. Nickel-based product pricing was particularly high, increasing 21% during 2006. The overall 2006 metals supply was generally steady and reliable, with the exception of nickel steels and certain aerospace aluminum alloys, which continue to be rapidly consumed by the aerospace, oil and gas industries. Suppliers' delivery lead times stretched in some cases to 22 weeks by year-end 2006 for certain nickel steels. We believe that our strong presence in the nickel steels marketplace niche and our relationships with primary nickel steels suppliers have us well-positioned to competitively service customer

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demand for these products. Select pricing for nickel sheet rose during 2006 and conversely, certain carbon steel prices have declined, but the overall mix of products within the Metals segment resulted in lower price volatility than in 2005.

Our Plastics segment reported 6.8% sales growth in 2006. Volume increased 3.9% and material price increases accounted for the balance of the year-over-year sales growth. Demand for our plastic products comes from different markets than those within the Metals segment, and tends to be more stable and less cyclical than our Metals segment historically. Plastic material prices were at high levels as 2006 came to a close. It is difficult to determine how long they will remain at the year-end 2006 levels. We will continue to assess our growth initiatives for this segment and may consider further geographic expansion alternatives as we have in the last few years.

***Current Business Outlook***

Historically, management has used the Purchaser's Managers Index, or PMI, provided by the Institute of Supply Management (website is [www.ism.ws](http://www.ism.ws)) as one data point for tracking general demand trends in our customer markets. The following table shows PMI trends from the first quarter of 2004 through the first quarter of 2007. Generally, an index above 50.0 indicates continuing growth in the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy. As the data indicates, the U.S. manufacturing economy was still growing at a modest pace as of the first quarter of 2007. Our revenue growth has historically improved over these same quarters. However, our first quarter 2007 volume growth on a consolidated basis, excluding Transtar, is approximately 5% less than the same quarter in 2006. We experienced our highest volume growth rate in the first quarter of 2006 versus any other quarter in recent years. Our first quarter 2007 volume, excluding Transtar, was up slightly versus each of the prior three quarters.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Qtr 1</b>	<b>Qtr 2</b>	<b>Qtr 3</b>	<b>Qtr 4</b>
2004	62.4	62.4	59.5	57.6
2005	55.7	53.2	55.8	57.2
2006	55.6	55.2	53.8	50.9
2007	50.8			

A favorable PMI suggests that demand for our products and services should continue at their current high levels at least in the near-term. Though the PMI does offer some insight, management typically relies on our relationships with our supplier and customer base to assess continuing demand trends. We continued to enjoy favorable pricing for our products through the first quarter of 2007. Projected 2007 demand in the aerospace and oil and gas markets remain bullish, and general economic indicators do not currently suggest that a significant downturn in the Metals business is on the near-term horizon. The forecasted 2007 demand in the North American durable goods manufacturing sector, which is a leading economic indicator, continues to exhibit requirements above 2006 levels.

**Results of Operations: Year-to-Year Comparisons and Commentary**

Our discussion of comparative period results is based upon the following components of our consolidated statements of operations.

*Net Sales* We derive our revenues from the sale and processing of metals and plastics. Pricing is established with each customer order and includes charges for the material, processing activities and delivery. The pricing varies by product line and type of processing. We typically do not enter into any long-term fixed price arrangements with a customer without obtaining a similar agreement with our suppliers. Such arrangements are typical of customers in the aerospace and defense markets.



*Cost of Materials* Cost of materials consists of the costs we pay suppliers for metals, plastics and related inbound freight charges. It excludes depreciation and amortization which are included in Other operating costs and expenses discussed below. We account for inventory primarily on a last-in-first-out ( LIFO ) basis. LIFO adjustments are calculated as of December 31 of each year. Interim estimates of the year-end LIFO charge or credit are determined based on inflationary or deflationary purchase cost trends and

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estimated year-end inventory levels. Interim LIFO estimates may require significant year-end adjustments. See Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

*Other operating costs and expenses* Other operating costs and expenses primarily consist of (1) warehouse, processing and delivery expenses, which include occupancy costs, compensation and employee benefits for warehouse personnel, processing, shipping and handling costs; (2) selling expenses, which include compensation and employee benefits for sales personnel, (3) general and administrative expenses, which include compensation for executive officers and general management, expenses for professional services primarily attributable to accounting and legal advisory services, data communication and computer hardware and maintenance; and (4) depreciation and amortization expenses, which include depreciation for all owned property and equipment, and amortization of various long-lived intangible assets.

**First Quarter 2007 Results Compared to First Quarter 2006**

Our consolidated results by business segment are summarized in the following table for the quarter ended March 31, 2007 and 2006. Our first quarter 2007 net income included a \$0.9 million after-tax charge for the write-off of our investments in information technology systems, which were under development and are included in our Metals segment reporting. During the quarter, we signed an agreement to purchase Oracle's ERP system in support of our strategic growth initiative, leading to the accelerated write-off of our investment in our current systems.

**Operating Results by Segment**

	Quarter Ended March 31,		Fav/(Unfav) %	
	2007	2006	Fav/(Unfav)	Change
	(Dollars in millions)			
Net Sales				
Metals	\$ 346.6	\$ 250.7	\$ 95.9	38.3%
Plastics	28.8	28.5	0.3	1.1
Total Net Sales	\$ 375.4	\$ 279.2	\$ 96.2	34.4%
Cost of Materials				
Metals	\$ 250.0	\$ 177.1	\$ 72.9	41.2%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	72.1%	70.6%	(1.5)%	
Plastics	19.5	19.0	0.5	2.6%
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	67.7%	66.7%	(1.0)%	
Total Cost of Materials	\$ 269.5	\$ 196.1	\$ 73.4	37.4%
<i>% of Total Net Sales</i>	71.8%	70.2%	(1.6)%	
Other Operating Costs and Expenses				
Metals	\$ 66.3	\$ 47.1	\$ 19.2	40.8%
Plastics	7.8	7.7	0.1	1.3
Other	2.8	2.2	0.6	27.3
Total Other Operating Costs & Expense	\$ 76.9	\$ 57.0	\$ 19.9	34.9%
<i>% of Total Net Sales</i>	20.5%	20.4%	(0.1)%	

Operating Income				
Metals	\$ 30.3	\$ 26.5	\$ 3.8	14.3%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	8.7%	10.6%	(1.9)%	
Plastics	1.5	1.8	(0.3)	(16.7)%
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	5.2%	6.3%	(1.1)%	
Other	(2.8)	(2.2)	(0.6)	(27.3)%
Total Operating Income	\$ 29.0	\$ 26.1	\$ 2.9	11.1%
<i>% of Total Net Sales</i>	7.7%	9.3%	(1.6)%	

*Other* Operating loss includes the costs of executive, finance and legal departments, and other corporate activities which support both of our Metals and Plastics segments.

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***Acquisition of Transtar***

On September 5, 2006, we acquired all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Transtar Intermediate Holdings #2, Inc. (Transtar), a wholly owned subsidiary of H.I.G. Transtar Inc. The results of Transtar's operations have been included in our consolidated financial statements since that date. These results and the assets of Transtar are included in our Metals segment. For more information regarding the acquisition of Transtar, refer to our 2006 Annual Report on Form 10-K. In order to present a consistent quarter-over-quarter analysis of financial condition and results of operation, we are disclosing herein the incremental impact of our recent acquisition.

***Net Sales***

Our consolidated net sales of \$375.4 million increased 34.4%, or \$96.2 million, versus the first quarter of 2006. Transtar added \$72.8 million of net sales for the quarter and the remaining \$302.6 million of net sales were \$23.4 million, or 8.4%, ahead of the same quarter last year. Our metals segment sales of \$346.6 million were \$95.9 million, or 38.3%, ahead of last year. Of the 38.3% sales increase, 29.0% was attributable to Transtar and 14.4% was attributable to increased material pricing, offset by a 5.1% decline in volume.

Plastics segment sales of \$28.8 million were \$0.3 million, or approximately 1.1%, stronger than the same quarter of 2006. Volume and material pricing in the plastics segment were essentially flat versus the first quarter of 2006.

***Cost of Materials***

Consolidated first quarter 2007 costs of materials (exclusive of depreciation) increased \$73.4 million, or 37.4%, to \$269.5 million. The acquisition of Transtar contributed \$50.8 million of the increase. The balance of the increase was due to higher material costs from suppliers, typically in the form of surcharges.

***Other Operating Expenses and Operating Income***

Total consolidated operating expenses of \$76.9 million increased \$19.9 million, or 34.9%, versus the first quarter of last year on a 34.4% increase in net sales. The Transtar acquisition added \$15.9 million of the increase, the systems write-off accounted for \$1.4 million, and general inflation on wages, benefits and other variable expenses account for the balance of the change.

Consolidated operating income of \$29.0 million (7.7% of sales) is \$2.9 million higher than the first quarter of last year largely reflecting continued top line growth.

***Other Income and Expense, Income Taxes and Net Income***

Equity in earnings of joint venture of \$0.9 million was \$0.3 million lower than in 2006, reflecting weaker automotive industry-related sales at our joint venture, Kreher Steel.

Our financing costs, which consist primarily of interest expense, were \$4.3 million in the first quarter of 2007 which was \$3.2 million higher than the same period in 2006. The primary driver of higher interest expense was our increased borrowings related to the acquisition of Transtar in September 2006.

Consolidated net income applicable to common stock was \$15.6 million, or \$0.81 per diluted share, in the first quarter of 2007 versus a consolidated net income applicable to common stock of \$15.8 million, or \$0.86 per diluted share, in the corresponding period of 2006. Transtar contributed \$3.7 million to net income during the quarter. First quarter

2007 net income included a \$0.9 million after-tax charge (\$0.04 per diluted share) for the write-off of our prior investment in information technology systems.

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**Table of Contents****2006 Results Compared to 2005**

Consolidated results by business segment are summarized in the following table for years 2006 and 2005.

**Operating Results by Segment**

	Year Ended December 31,			% Change
	2006	2005	Fav/(Unfav) (Dollars in millions)	
Net Sales				
Metals	\$ 1,062.6	\$ 851.3	\$ 211.3	24.8%
Plastics	115.0	107.7	7.3	6.8
Total Net Sales	\$ 1,177.6	\$ 959.0	\$ 218.6	22.8%
Cost of Materials				
Metals	\$ 762.3	\$ 603.9	\$ (158.4)	(26.2)%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	<i>71.7%</i>	<i>70.9%</i>	<i>(0.8)%</i>	
Plastics	76.9	73.3	(3.6)	(4.9)%
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	<i>66.9%</i>	<i>68.1%</i>	<i>1.2%</i>	
Total Cost of Materials	\$ 839.2	\$ 677.2	\$ (162.0)	(23.9)%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>71.3%</i>	<i>70.6%</i>	<i>(0.7)%</i>	
Other Operating Costs and Expenses				
Metals	\$ 205.3	\$ 172.0	\$ (33.3)	(19.4)%
Plastics	30.8	28.9	(1.9)	(6.5)
Other	9.8	9.7	(0.1)	
Total Other Operating Costs & Expenses	\$ 245.9	\$ 210.6	\$ (35.3)	(16.8)%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>20.9%</i>	<i>22.0%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	
Operating Income				
Metals	\$ 95.0	\$ 75.3	\$ 19.7	26.2%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	
Plastics	7.3	5.6	1.7	30.4%
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	<i>6.3%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>	
Other	(9.8)	(9.7)	0.1	1.0%
Total Operating Income	\$ 92.5	\$ 71.2	\$ 21.3	29.9%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	

*Other* includes costs of executive, legal and finance departments which are shared by both of our segments.

***Net Sales***

Our consolidated 2006 net sales of \$1,177.6 million increased \$218.6 million, or 22.8%, versus 2005. The acquisition of Transtar contributed \$77.9 million of the total net sales increase. Material price increases accounted for 8.0% of the growth with volume and product mix accounting for the balance of the year-over-year sales growth.

Metals segment sales during 2006 of \$1,062.6 million were 24.8% or \$211.3 million higher than 2005. Material price increases accounted for 8.8% of the growth with volume and product mix accounting for the balance of the year-over-year sales growth. The aerospace, oil and gas, mining and heavy equipment sectors were especially robust.

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Plastics segment sales during 2006 of \$115.0 million were 6.8% or \$7.3 million higher than 2005. Volume increased approximately 3.9% during 2006, while material price increases contributed to the balance of the year-over-year sales growth.

***Cost of Materials***

Consolidated 2006 cost of materials (exclusive of depreciation) increased \$162.0 million, or 23.9%, to \$839.2 million. The acquisition of Transtar contributed \$55.4 million.

***Other Operating Expenses and Operating Income***

On a consolidated basis, other operating costs and expenses increased \$35.3 million, or 16.8%, over 2005 due to the inclusion of \$19.4 million of Transtar's other operating expenses and in support of higher overall customer demand. However, other operating expense declined as a percent of sales from 22.0% in 2005 to 20.9% in 2006 as we were able to leverage our expenses over higher sales.

2006 operating income of \$92.5 million was \$21.3 million, or 29.9%, ahead of last year. Solid underlying demand strengthened our operating income. Our 2006 operating profit margin (defined as operating income divided by net sales) increased to 7.9% from 7.4% in 2005.

***Other Income and Expense, Income Taxes and Net Income***

Interest expense of \$8.3 million in 2006 increased \$1.0 million versus 2005 on increased borrowings necessitated by the acquisition of Transtar. See Liquidity and Capital Resources.

Income tax expense increased to \$33.3 million from \$23.2 million in 2005. Our effective tax rate was 39.6% in 2006 and 40.1% in 2005.

Equity in earnings of our joint venture, Kreher Steel, was \$4.3 million in 2006, the same as 2005.

Consolidated net income applicable to common stock of \$54.2 million, or \$2.89 earnings per diluted share in 2006 compared favorably to \$37.9 million, or \$2.11 earnings per diluted share in 2005.



**Table of Contents****2005 Results Compared to 2004**

Consolidated results by business segment are summarized in the following table for years 2005 and 2004.

**Operating Results by Segment**

	Year Ended December 31,			% Change
	2005	2004	Fav/(Unfav) (Dollars in millions)	
Net Sales				
Metals	\$ 851.3	\$ 671.2	\$ 180.1	26.8%
Plastics	107.7	89.8	17.9	19.9
Total Net Sales	\$ 959.0	\$ 761.0	\$ 198.0	26.0
Cost of Materials				
Metals	\$ 603.9	\$ 482.7	\$ (121.2)	(25.1)%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	<i>70.9%</i>	<i>71.9%</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	
Plastics	73.3	60.7	(12.6)	(20.8)
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	<i>68.1%</i>	<i>67.6%</i>	<i>(0.5)%</i>	
Total Cost of Materials	\$ 677.2	\$ 543.4	\$ (133.8)	(24.6)%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>70.6%</i>	<i>71.4%</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	
Other Operating Costs and Expenses				
Metals	\$ 172.0	\$ 155.4	\$ (16.6)	10.7%
Plastics	28.9	23.6	(5.3)	22.5
Other	9.7	7.1	(2.6)	36.6
Total Other Operating Costs & Expenses	\$ 210.6	\$ 186.1	\$ (24.5)	13.2%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>22.0%</i>	<i>24.5%</i>	<i>2.5%</i>	
Operating Income				
Metals	\$ 75.3	\$ 33.1	\$ 42.2	127.5%
<i>% of Metals Sales</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	
Plastics	5.6	5.5	0.1	1.8%
<i>% of Plastics Sales</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>	<i>(0.9)%</i>	
Other	(9.7)	(7.1)	(2.6)	36.6%
Total Operating Income	\$ 71.2	\$ 31.5	\$ 39.7	126.0%
<i>% of Total Sales</i>	<i>7.4%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	

*Other* includes costs of executive, legal and finance departments which are shared by both of our segments.

***Net Sales***

Our consolidated 2005 net sales of \$959.0 million were up \$198.0 million, or 26.0%, versus 2004. Volume increased 6% and material price increases accounted for the balance of the year-over-year sales growth.

Metals segment 2005 sales of \$851.3 million were 26.8%, or \$180.1 million, ahead of 2004. Volume increased 6% during 2005 and the balance of the sales growth was due to higher pricing. The aerospace, oil and gas, mining and construction equipment, and truck and railroad equipment sectors were especially robust.

Plastics segment 2005 sales of \$107.7 million were \$17.9 million, or 19.9%, higher than 2004. Volume increased approximately 2% during 2005 while material price increases contributed the balance of year-over-year sales growth. The business experienced some softness in its retail point-of-purchase display and

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shelving markets during the third-quarter of 2005, affecting its year-over-year growth comparisons. The business rebounded back to historical levels by year-end 2005.

### ***Cost of Materials***

Consolidated 2005 cost of materials (exclusive of depreciation) increased \$133.8 million, or 24.6%, versus 2004.

### ***Other Operating Expenses and Operating Income***

On a consolidated basis, 2005 other operating expenses increased \$24.5 million, or 13.2%, versus 2004 in support of higher overall customer demand. However, other operating expense declined as a percent of sales from 24.5% in 2004 to 22.0% in 2005, as we were able to leverage our sales growth.

Our Other operating segment includes expenses related to executive, financial and legal services that benefit both of our operating segments. The \$2.6 million increase in expense as compared to the prior year is primarily attributable to our long-term management incentive programs that were initiated in 2005.

Total 2005 operating income of \$71.2 million was \$39.7 million, or 126.0%, ahead of 2004. Solid underlying demand coupled with a lower, previously restructured cost base, strengthened our operating profits. Our 2005 operating profit margin increased to 7.4% from 4.1% in 2004.

### ***Other Income and Expense, Income Taxes and Net Income***

Interest expense of \$7.3 million in 2005 declined \$1.6 million versus the prior year on lower overall borrowings and reduced interest rates, stemming from our debt refinancing in the second half of 2005. As part of the refinancing of our long-term notes in the fourth quarter of 2005, we recorded a \$4.9 million pre-tax charge related to the early termination of our former note agreements.

Income tax expense increased to \$23.2 million in 2005 from \$11.3 million in 2004 due to higher taxable income.

Equity in earnings of our joint venture, Kreher Steel, was \$4.3 million in 2005, as compared to \$5.2 million in 2004. During 2004, Kreher's product lines experienced escalating material costs as compared to declining material costs in 2005.

Consolidated net income applicable to common stock of \$37.9 million, or \$2.11 earnings per diluted share in 2005 compared favorably to \$14.5 million, or \$0.82 per diluted share, in 2004.

### ***Liquidity and Capital Resources***

Our principal sources of liquidity are earnings from operations, management of working capital and the \$210 million amended senior credit facility.

## **First Quarter 2007**

Cash from operating activities in the first quarter of 2007 was \$4.5 million. Working capital, excluding the current portion of long-term debt, of \$121.4 million was up \$18.0 million since the beginning of the year. Trade receivables of \$189.9 million were up \$28.9 million due to increased sales. Receivable days sales outstanding declined 4.2 days from December 31, 2006 to a level of 43.1 days reflecting strong collections during the quarter. Inventory at net book value of \$237.5 million, including last-in, first-out reserves of \$143.0 million, increased \$35.1 million from December,

2006. Days sales in inventory of 121.7 days reflects higher receipts of nickel and aluminum materials in the first quarter.

Available revolving credit capacity is primarily used to fund working capital needs. As of March 31, 2007, we had outstanding borrowings of \$108.5 million under our U.S. Revolver and had availability of \$53.7 million. Our Canadian subsidiary had \$0.5 million in outstanding borrowings under the Canadian Revolver and availability of \$9.4 million at March 31, 2007.

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We paid a cash dividend to our shareholders of \$0.06 per common share, or \$1.0 million, during the first quarter of 2007. We also paid \$0.2 million in preferred stock dividends during the first quarter of 2007. Capital expenditures in the first quarter of 2007 were \$2.2 million, reflecting typical equipment replacement and upgrades. Despite increased working capital levels, we reduced our debt, net of cash position, by \$1.1 million since the beginning of the year.

Our principal payments on long-term debt, including the current portion of long-term debt, required over the next few years are summarized below:

	<b>Year Ending December 31, (Dollars in thousands)</b>	
2007 (for the nine months April 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007)	\$	11,131
2008		12,998
2009		16,470
2010		13,220
2011		12,140
2012 and beyond		35,223
Total debt	\$	101,182

As of March 31, 2007, we remain in compliance with the covenants of our financial agreements, which require us to maintain certain funded debt-to-capital ratios, working capital-to-debt ratios and a minimum equity value as defined within the agreement.

**Commitments and Contingencies**

At March 31, 2007, we had \$5.3 million of irrevocable letters of credit outstanding, \$1.7 million of which were for compliance with the insurance reserve requirements of our workers' compensation insurance carrier. The remaining \$3.6 million was in support of our outstanding industrial revenue bonds.

We are the defendant in several lawsuits arising out of the conduct of our business. These lawsuits are incidental and occur in the normal course of our business affairs. It is our opinion, based on current knowledge, that no uninsured liability will result from the outcome of this litigation that would have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

**Year End 2006**

Net cash from operating activities in 2006 was \$29.8 million, driven by strong earnings; however, increased inventory levels to support the growth of our business along with higher payments for income taxes reduced net cash from operating activities when compared to the \$57.9 million in cash generated in 2005.

In 2006 we continued our concerted efforts to manage our investment in inventory. The following chart depicts the improvements in inventory turns, as measured by average days' sales in inventory (DSI) since 2004.

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Average DSI	116.7	119.3	120.3

As a result of the acquisition of Transtar, accounts receivable increased \$35.2 million, inventories increased \$60.6 million, accounts payable increased \$20.5 million and long-term deferred tax liabilities increased \$28.7 million.

In September 2006, we entered into a \$210 million amended senior credit facility with our lending syndicate. This facility replaced our \$82.0 million revolving credit facility entered into in July, 2005. The amended senior credit facility provides for (i) a \$170 million revolving loan (the U.S. Revolver ) to be drawn on by us from time to time, (ii) a \$30 million term loan (the U.S. Term Loan and with the U.S. Revolver, the U.S. Facility ) and (iii) a Cdn. \$11.1 million revolving loan (approximately \$9.9 million in U.S. dollars)

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(the Canadian Facility ) to be drawn on by our Canadian subsidiary from time to time (collectively the Amended Senior Credit Facility ). The revolving loans and term loans mature in 2011.

We used the proceeds from the \$30 million U.S. Term Loan and \$117 million of the amount available under the U.S. Revolver along with approximately \$30 million of cash on hand to finance the acquisition of Transtar. The year-over-year reduction in cash balances is primarily attributable to our use of cash on hand to fund a portion of the acquisition price.

Available revolving credit capacity is primarily used to fund working capital needs. As of December 31, 2006, we had outstanding borrowings of \$108.0 million under the U.S. Revolver and had availability of \$54.7 million. There were no outstanding borrowings under the Canadian Facility.

As of December 31, 2006, we remained in compliance with the covenants of our credit agreements, which require us to maintain certain funded debt-to-capital and working capital-to-debt ratios, and a minimum book value of equity, as defined in the our credit agreements. A summary of covenant compliance is shown below.

	<b>Required</b>	<b>Actual 12/31/06</b>
Debt-to-Capital Ratio <sup>(a)</sup>	< 0.55	0.43
Working Capital-to-Debt Ratio	> 1.00	1.43
Book Value of Equity <sup>(a)</sup>	\$171.2 million	\$237.2 million

(a) In accordance with our Amended Senior Credit Facility, we are permitted to add back to Stockholders' Equity the \$21.3 million pension amount included in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income for loan covenant compliance purposes. See our Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity and Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for detailed information regarding the pension adjustment.

As of December 31, 2006, we had \$12.0 million in outstanding trade acceptances with varying maturity dates ranging up to 120 days. The weighted average interest rate was 6.88%. A trade acceptance is a form of debt instrument having a definite maturity and obligation to pay and which has been accepted by an acknowledgement by the company upon whom it is drawn. As of December 31, 2006, we had \$111.3 million of short-term debt which includes the \$108 million revolver and excludes the \$12.0 million in trade acceptances. See Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for more information.

In 2006, we reinstated a dividend on our common stock. When combined with the dividend paid on our preferred stock, we paid \$5.0 million in dividends in 2006 versus \$1.0 million, on the preferred stock only, in 2005.

Management believes we will be able to generate sufficient cash from operations and planned working capital improvements (principally from reduced inventories) to fund our ongoing capital expenditure programs, fund future dividend payments and meet our debt obligations.

**Capital Expenditures**

Capital expenditures for 2006 were \$12.9 million as compared to \$8.7 million in 2005. During 2006, the expenditures included spending associated with our new Birmingham, Alabama facility (\$3.3 million) and our ongoing business

system replacement initiative (\$2.3 million), along with typical equipment replacement and upgrades.

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**Table of Contents*****Contractual Obligations and Other Commitments***

At December 31, 2006, our contractual obligations, including estimated payments by period, were as follows:

<b>Payments Due In</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Less Than</b>	<b>One to</b>	<b>Three to</b>	<b>More</b>
		<b>One Year</b>	<b>Three Years</b>	<b>Five Years</b>	<b>Than Five Years</b>
<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>					
Long-Term Debt Obligations	\$ 101,383	\$ 12,055	\$ 28,802	\$ 25,305	\$ 35,221
Interest Payments on Debt Obligations <sup>(a)</sup>	30,708	6,818	10,915	6,851	6,124
Capital Lease Obligations	1,502	779	666	56	1
Operating Lease Obligations	67,795	15,006	25,071	16,311	11,407
Purchase Obligations <sup>(b)</sup>	226,415	218,018	8,397		
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	6,319	6,319			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 434,122</b>	<b>\$ 258,995</b>	<b>\$ 73,851</b>	<b>\$ 48,523</b>	<b>\$ 52,753</b>

(a) Interest payments on debt obligations represent interest on all of our outstanding as of December 31, 2006. The interest payment amounts related to the variable rate component of our debt assume that interest will be paid at the rates prevailing at December 31, 2006. Future interest rates may change, and therefore, actual interest payments could differ from those disclosed in the table above.

(b) Purchase obligations consist of raw material purchases made in the normal course of business.

(c) The other category is comprised of deferred revenues that represent commitments to deliver products.

The above table does not include \$16.3 million of other non-current liabilities recorded on our Consolidated Balance Sheets, as summarized in Notes 4 and 5 to the consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus. These non-current liabilities consist of liabilities related to our non-funded supplemental pension plan and postretirement benefit plans for which payment periods cannot be determined. Non-current liabilities also include the deferred gain on the sale of assets, which are principally the sale-leaseback transactions disclosed in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus. The cash outflows associated with these transactions are included in the operating lease obligations above.

We have a number of long-term contracts to purchase certain quantities of material with certain suppliers. In each case of such a long-term obligation, we have an irrevocable purchase agreement from our customer for the same amount of material over the same time period.

***Pension Funding***

Our funding policy on our defined benefit pension plan is to satisfy the minimum funding requirements of Employee Retirement Income Security Act ( ERISA ). Future funding requirements are dependent upon various factors outside our control including, but not limited to, fund asset performance and changes in regulatory or accounting

requirements. Based upon factors known and considered as of December 31, 2006, we do not anticipate any cash contributions to be made to the pension plans in 2007.

***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements***

With the exception of letters of credit and sales-leaseback financing on certain equipment used in the operation of the business, it is not our general practice to use off-balance sheet arrangements, such as third-party special-purpose entities or guarantees to third parties.

Our obligations associated with our leased equipment are disclosed under the Contractual Obligations and Other Commitments section above.

See Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for more details on our outstanding letters of credit.

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***Critical Accounting Policies***

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and include amounts that are based on management's estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses during the periods presented. The following is a description of our accounting policies that management believes are the most important to understanding our financial results:

***Inventory*** Over ninety percent of our inventories are valued using the LIFO method. Under this method, the current value of materials sold is recorded as Cost of Materials rather than the actual cost in the order in which it was purchased. This means that older costs are included in inventory, which may be higher or lower than current replacement costs. This method of valuation is subject to year-to-year fluctuations in cost of material sold, which is influenced by the inflation or deflation existing within the metals or plastics industries. The use of LIFO for inventory valuation was chosen to better match replacement cost of inventory with the current pricing used to bill customers.

***Retirement Plans*** We value retirement plan assets and liabilities based on assumptions and valuations established by management following consultation with our independent actuary. Future valuations are subject to market changes, which are not in our control and could differ materially from the amounts currently reported. Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus discloses the assumptions used by management.

***Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets Impairment*** SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, establishes accounting and reporting standards for goodwill and other intangible assets. Under these standards, goodwill is not amortized, but rather is subject to an annual impairment test. The carrying value of goodwill is evaluated annually during the first quarter of each fiscal year or when certain triggering events occur which require a more current valuation. The valuation is based on the comparison of an entity's discounted cash flow (equity valuation) to its carrying value. If the carrying value exceeds the equity valuation, the goodwill is deemed impaired. The equity valuation is based on historical data and management estimates of future cash flow. Since the estimates are forward looking, actual results could differ materially from those used in the valuation process.

Our recorded intangible assets were substantially acquired as part of the Transtar acquisition and consist primarily of customer relationships. The initial values of the intangible assets were based on a discounted cash flow valuation using assumptions made by management as to future revenues from select customers, the level and pace of attrition in such revenues over time and assumed operating income amounts generated from such revenues. These intangible assets are amortized over their useful lives as estimated by management, which are generally 11 years for customer relationships. Furthermore, when certain conditions or certain triggering events occur, a separate test of impairment, similar to the impairment test for goodwill is performed and if the intangible asset is deemed impaired, such asset will be written down to its fair value.

***Stock-Based Compensation*** We offer stock-based compensation to executive and other key employees, as well as to directors. Stock-based compensation expense is recorded over the vesting period based on the grant date fair value of the stock award. For stock option grants, we determine the grant date fair value of the award utilizing a Black-Scholes valuation model based on assumptions of the risk-free interest rate, expected term of the option, volatility and expected dividend yield. See Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus for a discussion of the specific assumptions made by management. Stock-based compensation expense for our long-term incentive plan is recorded using the fair value based on the grant date market price of the our common stock. In recording stock-based compensation expense for the long-term incentive plan, management also must estimate the probable number of shares which will ultimately vest. The actual number of shares that will vest may

differ from management's estimate.

*Income Taxes* We adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) Interpretation No. 48 (FIN 48), Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes an interpretation of FASB No. 109 as of January 1, 2007. See Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-Q filing for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2007 for more information regarding the Company's adoption of FIN 48.

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***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

A description of recent other accounting pronouncements is included in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements under the caption "Significant Accounting Policies" included elsewhere in this prospectus.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

We are exposed to interest rate, commodity price, and foreign exchange rate risks that arise in the normal course of business.

**Interest Rate Risk** We finance our operations with fixed and variable rate borrowings. Market risk arises from changes in variable interest rates. Under the U.S. Revolver and the Canadian Facility, our interest rate on borrowings is subject to changes based on fluctuations in the LIBOR and prime rates of interest. Based on our variable rate debt instruments at December 31, 2006, if interest rates were to increase hypothetically by 25 basis points, 2006 interest expense would have increased by approximately \$0.2 million in 2006.

**Commodity Price Risk** Our raw material costs are comprised primarily of engineered metals and plastics. Market risk arises from changes in the price of steel, other metals and plastics. Although average selling prices generally increase or decrease as material costs increase or decrease, the impact of a change in the purchase price of materials is more immediately reflected in our cost of materials than in our selling prices.

**Foreign Exchange Rate Exposure** We conduct operations in foreign countries, including Canada, Mexico, France and the United Kingdom. However, changes in the value of the U.S. dollar as compared to foreign currencies would not have a material impact on our reported earnings.

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**BUSINESS**

**Overview**

We believe that we are a leading distributor and provider of processed specialty metals and plastics to a wide range of commercial customers serving principally the North American market, but with a significantly growing global presence. We focus on engineered and specialized grades of materials including specialty stainless steel, aluminum, high performance nickel alloys and titanium, in a variety of forms such as bars, tubing, extrusions, plates, sheets and coil. We perform processing services to meet customer requirements, such as cutting, grinding, shearing, heat treating, burning and annealing. We also distribute a wide variety of plastics and offer value-added plastics services such as cutting, bending and forming.

We operate as an intermediary between our diversified customer base and primary materials producers. We purchase metals and plastics from many producers in large lots that we hold in distribution centers until sold, usually in smaller quantities and often with some value added processing services performed. Our ability to provide quick delivery of a wide variety of specialty metals and plastics products, together with our processing capabilities, reduces our customers need to order the large quantities required by producing mills or to perform additional material processing services. As a result, our services are an integral component of our customers' supply chain management.

Our diversified customer base includes Fortune 500 companies as well as thousands of medium and smaller sized firms, with no single customer representing more than 3% of our 2006 net sales. We distribute metals across a broad range of industries including aerospace and defense, oil and gas, mining and heavy earth-moving equipment, power generation and transportation. We distribute plastics to a variety of retail, marine, transportation and general manufacturing customers. We serve our customers from 62 metals and plastic service centers in North America and Europe.

We significantly expanded our capabilities and customer base in the aerospace and defense market through our acquisition of Transtar in September 2006. Transtar is a leading supplier of high-performance aluminum alloys in the aerospace and defense industries, supporting the ongoing requirements of those markets with a broad range of inventory, processing and supply chain services. As a result of this acquisition, we have expanded access to aerospace customers and avenues to cross-sell our other products into this growth market. The acquisition expanded our customer base and deepened our relationships with large aluminum mills, giving us increased access to product which is currently in high demand and in short supply. The acquisition provides us with the benefits of greater access to certain inventories and purchasing synergies, as well as processing and distribution facilities in Europe and an existing platform to sell to markets in Asia and other international markets. Transtar is included in our Metals segment.

**Industry Overview**

***Metals Service Centers***

Metals service centers act as supply chain intermediaries between primary metals producers, which necessarily deal in bulk quantities of metals in order to achieve economies of scale, and end-users in a variety of industries that require specialized metal products in significantly smaller quantities. Service centers manage the differences in lead times that exist in the supply chain. While OEMs and other customers often demand delivery within hours, the lead time required by primary metals producers can be as long as several months. Metals service centers also add value to their c