

MYERS INDUSTRIES INC
Form 10-K
March 14, 2016

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)

OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED December 31, 2015

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 001-08524

MYERS INDUSTRIES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

OHIO 34-0778636
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer Identification Number)

incorporation or organization)

1293 S. MAIN STREET, AKRON, OHIO 44301 (330) 253-5592

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code) (Telephone Number)

Securities Registered Pursuant to Name of Each Exchange

Section 12(b) of the Act: On which registered:
Common Stock, Without Par Value New York Stock Exchange

(Title of Class)

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the closing sale price on the New York Stock Exchange as of June 30, 2015: \$588,922,537

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of registrant's common stock as of February 29, 2016: 29,546,342 Shares of Common Stock, without par value.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

Portions of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for its 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

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PART I

ITEM 1. Business

(a) General Development of Business

Myers Industries, Inc. (the “Company”) was founded in Akron, Ohio, in 1933. The terms “Myers Industries,” “Company,” “we,” “us,” or “our” wherever used herein refer to the Company, unless the context indicates to the contrary. Since then, the Company has grown from a small storefront distributing tire service supplies into an international manufacturing and distribution enterprise. In 1971, the Company went public, and the stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol MYE.

Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, the Company manufactures a diverse range of polymer products for industrial, agricultural, automotive, commercial and consumer markets. Myers Industries is a leader in the manufacturing of plastic reusable material handling containers and pallets, and plastic fuel tanks. Other principal product lines include plastic storage and organization containers, rubber tire repair products and custom plastic and rubber products.

The Company is also the largest wholesale distributor of tools, equipment and supplies for the tire, wheel and undervehicle service industry in the United States. The distribution products range from tire balancers and alignment systems to valve caps, tire repair tools and other consumable service supplies.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company operated 15 manufacturing facilities, 19 sales offices, four distribution centers and three distribution branches located throughout North, Central and South America; had approximately 15,500 manufactured products and over 12,500 distributed products; and had approximately 2,360 employees.

Serving customers around the world, products and related services from Myers Industries’ brands provide a wide range of performance benefits to customers in diverse niche markets. Some of these benefits include increasing productivity, driving green initiatives, lowering material handling costs, improving product quality, reducing labor costs, shortening assembly times, eliminating solid waste and increasing profitability.

The Company’s business strategy is focused on sustainable, profitable growth guided by five key operating principles: 1) Customer Dedication, 2) Innovation, 3) Operations Excellence, 4) Organization Development, and 5) Financial Strength. Applying these principles to our business, the Company emphasizes:

- Industry-leading innovation of niche, high margin products;
- Being the low-cost provider of certain commodity products where our brands excel;
- Achieving leadership in key product areas through breadth of offering, consistent quality and superior customer service;
- Operations excellence initiatives to reduce costs and improve productivity within our manufacturing and distribution footprint;
- Leveraging brand equity and capabilities to grow business with existing customers and cultivate new ones, particularly in emerging growth markets where we can deliver the greatest value and achieve the best returns;
- Investing in new technologies and processes to reinforce customer dedication and market strength across our key business segments;
- Succession plans through our management teams at all levels in the Company, ensuring the right people are in the right positions to grow for organizational development; and
- Selective acquisitions as opportunities arise to enhance our leadership in key markets and add to shareholder value.

The Company continually reviews its segments and brands for strategic fit and growth potential. The review process is dedicated to furthering innovation and brand leadership in our markets, building strong customer relationships and positioning the Company for strong financial performance.

(b) Financial Information About Segments

The response to this section of Item 1 is contained in the Industry Segments footnote of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 8 of this report.

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(c)Description of Business

The Company conducts its business activities in two distinct business segments, Material Handling and Distribution, consistent with the manner in which our Chief Operating Decision Maker evaluates performance and makes resource allocation decisions.

During the second quarter of 2014, the Company's Board of Directors approved the commencement of the sale process to divest its Lawn and Garden business to allow it to focus resources on its core growth platforms. The divestiture of the Lawn and Garden business was completed in February 2015. The Lawn and Garden business served the North American horticulture market with plastic products such as seedling trays, nursery products, hanging baskets, custom print containers as well as decorative resin planters. The operating results for the Lawn and Garden business are classified as discontinued operations in the Consolidated Statements of Operations under Item 8 of this report.

In our Material Handling Segment, we design, manufacture, and market a variety of plastic and metal products. These range from plastic reusable material handling containers and small parts storage bins to plastic RV tanks and parts, marine tanks and parts, portable plastic fuel tanks and water containers, portable marine fuel containers, ammunition containers, storage totes, shipping containers, beverage crates and metal carts and cabinets.

The Distribution Segment is engaged in the distribution of tools, equipment and supplies used for tire, wheel and undervehicle service on passenger, heavy truck and off-road vehicles and the manufacturing of tire repair materials and custom rubber products.

Information regarding the revenues of each segment classified as continuing operations is contained in the Industry Segments footnote of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 8 of this report.

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The following table summarizes the key attributes of our business segments for the year ended December 31, 2015:

Material Handling Segment

| Net Sales | Key Product Areas | Product Brands | Key Capabilities & Services | Representative Markets |
|--------------|---|---|--|--|
| \$414 69% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Plastic Reusable Containers & Pallets · Plastic Storage & Organizational Products · Plastic Carts · Metal Carts · Metal Cabinets · Wooden Dollies · Custom Products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Akro-Mils™ · Jamco Products · Buckhorn® · Novel do Nordeste S.A. · Myers do Brasil™ · Ameri-Kart® · Scepter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Product Design · Prototyping · Product Testing · Material Formulation · Injection Molding · Structural Foam Molding · Metal Forming · Stainless Steel Forming · Wood Fabrication · Powder Coating · Material Re grind & Recycling · Plastic Blow Molding · Plastic Rotational Molding · Thermoforming · Infrared Welding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Agriculture · Automotive · Commercial · Food Processing · Food Distribution · Healthcare · Industrial · Manufacturing · Retail Distribution · Wholesale Distribution · Consumer · Recreational Vehicle · Marine · Military · Food & Beverage · Custom |

Distribution Segment

| Net Sales | Key Product Areas | Product Brands | Key Capabilities & Services | Representative Markets |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|
| \$188 31% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tire Valves & Accessories · Tire Changing & Balancing Equipment · Lifts & Alignment Equipment · Service Equipment · Hand Tools · Tire Repair & Retread Equipment & Supplies · Brake, Transmission & Allied Service Equipment & Supplies · Highway Markings · Industrial Rubber · General Shop Supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Myers Tire Supply® · Myers Tire Supply International™ · Patch Rubber Company® · Elrick · Fleetline · MTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Broad Sales Coverage · Local Sales · Four Strategically Placed Distribution Centers · International Distribution · Personalized Service · National Accounts · Product Training · Repair/Service Training · New Products/Services "Speed to Market" · Rubber Mixing · Rubber Compounding · Rubber Calendaring · Tiered Product Offerings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Retail Tire Dealers · Truck Tire Dealers · Auto Dealers · Commercial Auto & Truck Fleets · General Repair & Services Facilities · Tire Retreaders · Tire Repair · Governmental Agencies · Telecommunications · Industrial · Road Construction · Mining |

Segments Overview

Material Handling Segment

The Material Handling Segment manufactures highly engineered polymer packaging containers, storage and safety products, and specialty molded parts. The brands within this segment include Buckhorn[®], Akro-Mils[™], Jamco Products, Ameri-Kart[®], Scepter, Myers do Brasil[™] and Novel[®].

Buckhorn's reusable containers and pallets are used in closed-loop supply chain systems to help customers improve product protection, increase handling efficiencies, reduce freight costs and eliminate solid waste and disposal costs. Buckhorn offers products to replace costly single use cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, and steel containers. The product line is among the broadest in the industry and includes injection-molded and structural foam-molded constructions. Buckhorn's product lines include hand-held containers used for inventory control, order management and transportation of retail goods; collapsible and fixed-wall bulk transport containers for light and heavy-duty tasks; intermediate bulk containers for the storage and transport of food, liquid, powder, and granular products; plastic pallets designed to work with smaller Buckhorn containers; and specialty boxes designed for storage of

items such as seed and cheese. Buckhorn also produces a wide variety of specialty products designed for niche applications and custom products designed according to exact customer specifications.

Akro-Mils material handling products provide customers everything they need to store, organize and transport a wide range of goods while increasing overall productivity and profitability. Serving industrial and commercial markets, Akro-Mils products range from AkroBins® — the industry's leading small parts bins — to Super-Size AkroBins, metal panel and bin hanging systems, metal storage cabinet and bin systems, wire shelving systems, plastic and metal transport carts and a wide variety of custom storage and transport products. Akro-Mils products deliver storage and organization solutions in a wide variety of applications, from creating assembly line workstations to organizing medical supplies and retail displays. Emphasis is placed on product bundling and customizing systems to create specific storage and organization configurations for customers' operations.

Jamco Products is well established in industrial and commercial markets with its wide selection of welded steel service carts, platform trucks, mobile work centers, racks and cabinets for plastic bins, safety flammable cabinets, medical cylinder carts and more. Jamco Products strong product offering, relationships with industrial distributors and reputation for quality and service complements Myers Industries' existing Akro-Mils business.

Ameri-Kart is an industry leading manufacturer and thermoformer of rotational-molded water, fuel and waste handling tanks, plastic trim and interior parts used in the production of seat components, consoles, and other applications throughout the recreational vehicle, marine, and industrial markets. In addition to standard marine parts, Ameri-Kart is well respected within the marine market for its patented Enviro-Fill® overfill prevention system ("OPS") technology and is the industry's only turnkey provider of an integrated, Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA")-compliant marine fuel tank and patented Enviro-Fill diurnal system.

Scepter is a leading producer of portable plastic fuel containers, portable marine fuel tanks and water containers, ammunition containers and storage totes. Scepter was the first provider of Jerry Cans to North America which offer safe, reliable transportation and storage of fuel for the consumer market. Scepter also manufactures a variety of molded products for military applications from high quality containers to safely store and transport large caliber ammunition, to military specified portable fuel and water canisters and their accessories. Scepter's in-house product engineering and state of the art mold capabilities complements Myers Industries' Material Handling Segment through an increased product offering and global reach.

Myers do Brazil and Novel are leading designers and manufacturers of reusable plastic shipping containers, plastic pallets, crates and totes used for closed-loop shipping and storage in Brazil's automotive, distribution, food, beverage and agriculture industries. With manufacturing facilities strategically located throughout Brazil, Myers is uniquely positioned to support customers throughout Latin America.

Distribution Segment

Our Distribution Segment includes the Myers Tire Supply® and Myers Tire Supply International™ and Patch Rubber Company® brands. Within the Distribution Segment we source and manufacturer top of the line products for the tire, wheel and undervehicle service industry.

Myers Tire Supply is the largest U.S. distributor and single source for tire, wheel and undervehicle service tools, equipment and supplies. We buy and sell approximately 12,500 different items — everything that professionals need to service passenger, truck and off-road tires, wheels and related components. Independent tire dealers, mass merchandisers, commercial auto and truck fleets, auto dealerships, tire retreaders and general repair facilities rely on our broad product selection, rapid availability and personal service to be more productive and profitably grow their business.

While the needs and composition of our distribution markets constantly change, we adapt and deliver the new products and services that are crucial to our customers' success. The new product pipeline is driven by a thorough understanding of the market and its customers' needs. Myers Tire Supply in turn works closely with its suppliers to develop innovative products and services to meet these needs.

Patch Rubber Company manufactures one of the most comprehensive lines of tire repair and retreading products in the United States. Service professionals rely on our extensive product selection and quality for safe, cost-effective repairs to passenger, truck and off-road tires. Products include the plug that fills a puncture, the cement that seals the plug, the tire innerliner patch and the final sealing compound. Patch brand repair products maintain a strong position in the tire service markets including sales through our Distribution Segment's sales network. Patch Rubber also employs its rubber calendaring and compounding expertise to create a diverse portfolio of products outside of the tire repair market, such as reflective highway marking tapes. Our rubber-based tape and symbols provide the durability and brightness that construction professionals demand to replace paint for marking road repair, intersections and hazardous areas. Compared with traditional highway paint, the tape stock is easier to apply, more reflective and longer lasting.

Raw Materials & Suppliers — Manufacturing and Distribution Segments

The Company purchases substantially all of its raw materials from a wide range of third-party suppliers. These materials are primarily polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene plastic resins, as well as synthetic and natural rubber. Most raw materials are commodity products and available from several domestic suppliers. We believe that the loss of any one supplier or group of suppliers would not have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our Distribution Segment purchases substantially all of its components from third-party suppliers and has multiple sources for its products.

Competition

Competition in our Material Handling Segment is substantial and varied in form and size from manufacturers of similar products and of other products which can be substituted for those produced by the Company. In general, most direct competitors with the Company's brands are private entities. Myers Industries maintains strong brand presence and market positions in the niche sectors of the markets it serves. The Company does not command substantial, overall market presence in the broad market sectors.

Competition in our Distribution Segment is generally comprised of small companies, regional players and national auto parts chains where product offerings may overlap. Within the overall tire, wheel and undervehicle service market, Myers Industries is the largest U.S. distributor of tools, equipment and supplies offered based on national coverage.

Customer Dependence

In 2015, 2014 and 2013, there were no customers that accounted for more than five percent of total net sales. Myers Industries serves thousands of customers who demand value through product selection, innovation, quality, delivery and responsive personal service. Our brands foster satisfied, loyal customers who have recognized our performance through numerous supplier quality awards.

Employees

As of December 31, 2015, Myers Industries had a total of approximately 2,360 full-time and part-time employees. Of these, approximately 1,800 were employed in the Company's Material Handling Segment and the Distribution Segment employed approximately 500. The Company's corporate offices had approximately 60 employees.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had approximately 500 employees represented by labor unions. Collective bargaining agreements between us and these labor unions expire March 2016, June 2016 and November 2016, representing approximately 100, 200 and 200 employees, respectively. We consider our relationship with our employees generally to be satisfactory.

Backlog

The backlog of orders for our operations is estimated to have been approximately \$44 million at December 31, 2015 and approximately \$41 million at December 31, 2014. Our backlog is scheduled for delivery within the succeeding 12 months. During periods of shorter lead times, backlog may not be a meaningful indicator of future sales. Accordingly, we do not believe our backlog data and comparisons thereof, as of different dates, reliably indicate future sales or shipments.

(d) Financial Information About Geographic Areas

The response to this section of Item 1 is contained in the Industry Segments footnote of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements under Item 8 of this report.

(e) Available Information

Filings with the SEC. As a public company, we regularly file reports and proxy statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), such as:

- * annual reports on Form 10-K;
- * quarterly reports on Form 10-Q;
- * current reports on Form 8-K; and
- * proxy statements on Schedule 14A.

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Anyone may read and copy any of the materials we file with the SEC at its Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Information regarding operations of the Public Reference Room may also be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an internet website that contains our reports, proxy and information statements, and our other SEC filings; the address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

Also, we make our SEC filings available free of charge on our own internet site as soon as reasonably practicable after we have filed with the SEC. Our internet address is <http://www.myersindustries.com>. The content on the Company's website is available for informational purposes only and is not incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K.

Corporate Governance. We have a Code of Business Conduct for our employees and members of our Board of Directors. A copy of this Code is posted on our website in the section titled "Investor Relations". We will satisfy any disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or waiver from, any provision of this Code with respect to our executive officers or directors by disclosing the nature of that amendment or waiver.

Our website also contains additional information about our corporate governance policies, including the charters of our standing board committees. Any of these items are available in print to any shareholder who requests them. Requests should be sent to Corporate Secretary, Myers Industries, Inc., 1293 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

This Form 10-K and the information we are incorporating by reference contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of federal securities laws, including information regarding the Company's financial outlook, future plans, objectives, business prospects and anticipated financial performance. You can identify these statements by the fact that they include words such as "will," "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "plan," or variations of these words or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are not statements of historical facts and represent only our current expectations regarding such matters. These statements inherently involve a wide range of known and unknown uncertainties. The Company's actual actions and results could differ materially from what is expressed or implied by these statements. Specific factors that could cause such a difference include those set forth below and other important factors disclosed previously and from time to time in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Given these factors, as well as other variables that may affect our operating results, you should not rely on forward-looking statements, assume that past financial performance will be a reliable indicator of future performance, nor use historical trends to anticipate results or trends in future periods. We expressly disclaim any obligation or intention to provide updates to the forward-looking statements and the estimates and assumptions associated with them.

Risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the applicable statements include:

Any significant increase in the cost of raw materials or disruption in the availability of raw materials could adversely affect our performance.

Our ability to manage our cost structure can be adversely affected by movements in commodity and other raw material prices. Our primary raw materials include plastic resins, colorants and natural and synthetic rubbers. Plastic resins in particular are subject to substantial short term price fluctuations, including those arising from supply shortages and changes in the price of natural gas, crude oil and other petrochemical intermediates from which resins are produced, as well as other factors. Over the past several years, we have at times experienced rapidly increasing resin prices. The Company's revenue and profitability may be materially and adversely affected by these price fluctuations.

Market conditions may limit our ability to raise selling prices to offset increases in our raw material input costs. If we are unsuccessful in developing ways to mitigate raw material cost increases, we may not be able to improve productivity or realize our ongoing cost reduction programs sufficiently to help offset the impact of these increased raw material costs. As a result, higher raw material costs could result in declining margins and operating results.

Changes in raw material availability may also occur due to events beyond our control, including natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes and hurricanes. Our specific molding technologies and/or product specifications can limit our ability to locate alternative suppliers to produce certain products.

We may incur inherent risks associated with our strategic growth initiatives.

Our growth initiatives include internal growth driven by strong brands and new product innovation; development of new, high-growth markets and expansion in existing niche markets; strengthened customer relationships through value-added initiatives and key product partnerships; investments in new technology and processes to reinforce market strength and capabilities in key business groups; consolidation and rationalization activities to further reduce costs and improve productivity within our manufacturing and distribution footprint; an opportunistic and disciplined approach to strategic, bolt-on acquisitions to accelerate growth in our market positions; and potential divestitures of businesses with non-strategic products or markets.

While this is a continuous process, all of these activities and initiatives have inherent risks and there remain significant challenges and uncertainties, including economic and general business conditions that could limit our ability to

achieve anticipated benefits associated with announced strategic initiatives and affect our financial results. We may not achieve any or all of these goals and are unable to predict whether these initiatives will produce significant revenues or profits.

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We may not realize the improved operating results that we anticipate from past and recent acquisitions or from acquisitions we may make in the future and we may experience difficulties in integrating the acquired businesses or may inherit significant liabilities related to such businesses.

We explore opportunities to acquire businesses that we believe are related to our core competencies from time to time, some of which may be material to us. We expect such acquisitions will produce operating results consistent with our other operations; however, we may be unable to achieve the benefits expected to be realized from our acquisitions. In addition, we may incur additional costs and our management's attention may be diverted because of unforeseen expenses, difficulties, complications, delays and other risks inherent in acquiring businesses, including the following:

- we may have difficulty integrating the acquired businesses as planned, which may include integration of systems of internal controls over financial reporting and other financial and administrative functions;
- we may have delays in realizing the benefits of our strategies for an acquired business;
- we may not be able to retain key employees necessary to continue the operations of an acquired business;
- acquisition costs may be met with cash or debt, increasing the risk that we will be unable to satisfy current financial obligations; and
- acquired companies may have unknown liabilities that could require us to spend significant amounts of additional capital.

Our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected by a downturn in the general markets or the general economic environment.

We operate in a wide range of geographies, primarily North America, Central America and South America. Worldwide and regional economic, business and political conditions, including changes in the economic conditions of the broader markets and in our individual niche markets, could have an adverse effect on one or both of our operating segments.

We operate in a very competitive business environment.

Both of our segments participate in markets that are highly competitive. We compete primarily on the basis of product quality, product performance, value, and supply chain competency. Our competitive success also depends on our ability to maintain strong brands, customer relationships and the belief that customers will need our products and services to meet their growth requirements. The development and maintenance of such brands requires continuous investment in brand building, marketing initiatives and advertising. The competition that we face in all of our markets — which varies depending on the particular business segment, product lines and customers — may prevent us from achieving sales, product pricing and income goals, which could affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Our operations depend on our ability to maintain continuous, uninterrupted production at our manufacturing facilities, which are subject to physical and other risks that could disrupt production.

We are subject to inherent risks in our diverse manufacturing and distribution activities, including, but not limited to: product quality, safety, licensing requirements and other regulatory issues, environmental events, loss or impairment of key manufacturing or distribution sites, disruptions in logistics and transportation services, labor disputes and industrial accidents. While we maintain insurance covering our manufacturing and production facilities, including business interruption insurance, a catastrophic loss of the use of all or a portion of our facilities due to accident, fire, explosion, or natural disaster, whether short or long-term, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Unexpected failures of our equipment and machinery may also result in production delays, revenue loss and significant repair costs, as well as injuries to our employees. Any interruption in production capability may require us to make large capital expenditures to remedy the situation, which could have a negative impact on our profitability

and cash flows. Our business interruption insurance may not be sufficient to offset the lost revenues or increased costs that we may experience during a disruption of our operations. A temporary or long-term business disruption could result in a permanent loss of customers. If this were to occur, our future sales levels, and therefore our profitability, could be materially adversely affected.

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We derive a portion of our revenues from direct and indirect sales outside the United States and are subject to the risks of doing business in foreign countries.

We currently operate manufacturing, sales and service facilities outside of the United States, particularly in Canada and Brazil. For the year ended December 31, 2015, international net sales accounted for approximately 17% of our total net sales from continuing operations. Accordingly, we are subject to risks associated with operations in foreign countries, including:

- fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
- limitations on the remittance of dividends and other payments by foreign subsidiaries;
- limitations on foreign investment;
- additional costs of compliance with local regulations; and
- in certain countries, higher rates of inflation than in the United States.

In addition, our operations outside the United States are subject to the risk of new and different legal and regulatory requirements in local jurisdictions, potential difficulties in staffing and managing local operations and potentially adverse tax consequences. The costs related to our international operations could adversely affect our operations and financial results in the future.

Our future performance depends in part on our ability to develop and market new products if there are changes in technology, regulatory requirements or competitive processes.

Changes in technology, regulatory requirements and competitive processes may render certain products obsolete or less attractive. Our performance in the future will depend in part on our ability to develop and market new products that will gain customer acceptance and loyalty, as well as our ability to adapt our product offerings and control our costs to meet changing market conditions. Our operating performance would be adversely affected if we were to incur delays in developing new products or if such products did not gain market acceptance. There can be no assurance that existing or future products will be sufficiently successful to enable us to effectively compete in our markets or, should new product offerings meet with significant customer acceptance, that one or more current or future competitors will not introduce products that render our products noncompetitive.

We may not be successful in protecting our intellectual property rights, including our unpatented proprietary know-how and trade secrets, or in avoiding claims that we infringed on the intellectual property rights of others.

In addition to relying on patent and trademark rights, we rely on unpatented proprietary know-how and trade secrets and employ various methods, including confidentiality agreements with employees and consultants, to protect our know-how and trade secrets. However, these methods and our patents and trademarks may not afford complete protection and there can be no assurance that others will not independently develop the know-how and trade secrets or develop better production methods than us. Further, we may not be able to deter current and former employees, contractors and other parties from breaching confidentiality agreements and misappropriating proprietary information and it is possible that third parties may copy or otherwise obtain and use our information and proprietary technology without authorization or otherwise infringe on our intellectual property rights. Additionally, in the future we may license patents, trademarks, trade secrets and similar proprietary rights to third parties. While we attempt to ensure that our intellectual property and similar proprietary rights are protected when entering into business relationships, third parties may take actions that could materially and adversely affect our rights or the value of our intellectual property, similar proprietary rights or reputation. In the future, we may also rely on litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights and contractual rights and, if not successful, we may not be able to protect the value of our intellectual property. Furthermore, no assurance can be given that we will not be subject to claims asserting the infringement of the intellectual property rights of third parties seeking damages, the payment of royalties or licensing fees and/or injunctions against the sale of our products. Any litigation could be protracted and costly and could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations regardless of its outcome.

If we are unable to maintain access to credit financing, our business may be adversely affected.

The Company's ability to make payments and to refinance our indebtedness, fund planned capital expenditures and acquisitions and pay dividends will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future and retain access to credit financing. This, to some extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

We cannot provide assurance that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operating activities or that future borrowings will be available to us under our credit facilities in amounts sufficient to enable us to service debt, make necessary capital expenditures or fund other liquidity needs. We may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, on or before maturity. We cannot be sure that we would be able to refinance any of our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

The credit facilities contain restrictive covenants and cross default provisions that require us to maintain specified financial ratios. The Company's ability to satisfy those financial ratios can be affected by events beyond our control, and we cannot be assured we will satisfy those ratios. A breach of any of those financial ratio covenants or other covenants could result in a default. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, the lenders could elect to declare the applicable outstanding indebtedness due immediately and payable and terminate all commitments to extend further credit. We cannot be sure that our lenders would waive a default or that we could pay the indebtedness in full if it were accelerated.

If we fail to maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may not be able to accurately report our financial results. As a result, current and potential shareholders could lose confidence in our financial reporting, which would harm our business and the trading price of our common stock.

Internal control systems are intended to provide reasonable assurance regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. Any failure to maintain effective controls or implement required new or improved controls could cause us to fail to meet our periodic reporting obligations or result in material misstatements in our Consolidated Financial Statements, and substantial costs and resources may be required to rectify these internal control deficiencies. If we have an internal control deficiency and our remedial measures are insufficient, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting could be discovered or occur in the future, and our consolidated financial statements may contain material misstatements. See Item 9A – Controls and Procedures for further discussion.

Future claims, litigation and regulatory actions could adversely affect our financial condition and our ability to conduct our business.

While we strive to ensure that our products comply with applicable government regulatory standards and internal requirements and that our products perform effectively and safely, customers from time to time could claim that our products do not meet contractual requirements, and users could be harmed by use or misuse of our products. This could give rise to breach of contract, warranty or recall claims, or claims for negligence, product liability, strict liability, personal injury or property damage. Product liability insurance coverage may not be available or adequate in all circumstances. In addition, claims may arise related to patent infringement, environmental liabilities, distributor terminations, commercial contracts, antitrust or competition law, employment law and employee benefits issues and other regulatory matters. While we have in place processes and policies to mitigate these risks and to investigate and address such claims as they arise, we cannot predict the underlying costs to defend or resolve such claims.

Current and future environmental and other governmental laws and requirements could adversely affect our financial condition and our ability to conduct our business.

Our operations are subject to federal, state, local and foreign environmental laws and regulations that impose limitations on the discharge of pollutants into the air and water and establish standards for the handling, use, treatment, storage and disposal of, or exposure to, hazardous wastes and other materials and require clean up of contaminated sites. Some of these laws and regulations require us to obtain permits, which contain terms and conditions that impose limitations on our ability to emit and discharge hazardous materials into the environment and periodically may be subject to modification, renewal and revocation by issuing authorities. Fines, penalties and other civil or criminal sanctions may be imposed for non-compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and the failure to have or to comply with the terms and conditions of required permits. Certain environmental laws in the United States, such as the federal Superfund law and similar state laws, impose liability for the cost of investigation or remediation of contaminated sites upon the current or, in some cases, the former site owners or operators (or their predecessor entities) and upon parties who arranged for the disposal of wastes or transported or sent those wastes to an off-site facility for treatment or disposal, regardless of when the release of hazardous substances occurred or the lawfulness of the activities giving rise to the release. Such liability can be imposed without regard to fault and, under certain circumstances, can be joint and several, resulting in one party being held responsible for the

entire obligation.

While we have not been required historically to make significant capital expenditures in order to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations, we cannot predict with any certainty our future capital expenditure requirements because of continually changing compliance standards and environmental technology. Furthermore, violations or contaminated sites that we do not know about, including contamination caused by prior owners and operators of such sites, or at sites formerly owned or operated by us or our predecessors in connection with discontinued operations, could result in additional compliance or remediation costs or other liabilities, which could be material.

In that we have been formally notified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) that we are considered to be a potentially responsible party (“PRP”) of the New Idria Mercury Mine, the Company accrued costs related to the EPA claim. As negotiations with the EPA proceed with respect to the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, it is possible that adjustments to the reserved expense will be necessary to reflect new information. Estimates of our liability are based on current facts, laws, regulations and technology. Estimates of our environmental liabilities are further subject to uncertainties regarding the negotiations with EPA, the nature and extent of site contamination, the range of remediation alternatives available, evolving remediation standards, imprecise

engineering evaluation and cost estimates, the extent of remedial actions that may be required, the number and financial condition of other PRPs that may be named as well as the extent of their responsibility for the remediation, and the availability of insurance coverage for these expenses. At this time, we have not accrued for remediation costs in connection with this site as we are unable to estimate the liability, given the circumstances referred to above, including the fact the final remediation strategy has not yet been determined.

We have limited insurance coverage for potential environmental liabilities associated with historic and current operations and we do not anticipate increasing such coverage in the future. We may also assume significant environmental liabilities in acquisitions. Such costs or liabilities could adversely affect our financial situation and our ability to conduct our business.

Environmental regulations specific to plastic products and containers could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business.

Federal, state, local and foreign governments could enact laws or regulations concerning environmental matters that increase the cost of producing, or otherwise adversely affect the demand for, plastic products. Legislation that would prohibit, tax or restrict the sale or use of certain types of plastic and other containers, and would require diversion of solid wastes such as packaging materials from disposal in landfills, has been or may be introduced in the U.S. Congress, in state legislatures and other legislative bodies. While container legislation has been adopted in a few jurisdictions, similar legislation has been defeated in public referenda in several states, local elections and many state and local legislative sessions. There can be no assurance that future legislation or regulation would not have a material adverse effect on us. Furthermore, a decline in consumer preference for plastic products due to environmental considerations could have a negative effect on our business.

Our insurance coverage may be inadequate to protect against potential hazardous incidents to our business.

We maintain property, business interruption, product liability and casualty insurance coverage, but such insurance may not provide adequate coverage against potential claims, including losses resulting from war risks, terrorist acts or product liability claims relating to products we manufacture. Consistent with market conditions in the insurance industry, premiums and deductibles for some of our insurance policies have been increasing and may continue to increase in the future. In some instances, some types of insurance may become available only for reduced amounts of coverage, if at all. In addition, there can be no assurance that our insurers would not challenge coverage for certain claims. If we were to incur a significant liability for which we were not fully insured or that our insurers disputed, it could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Our business operations could be significantly disrupted if members of our senior management team were to leave.

Our success depends to a significant degree upon the continued contributions of our senior management team. Our senior management team has extensive marketing, sales, manufacturing, finance and engineering experience, and we believe that the depth of our management team is instrumental to our continued success. The loss of any of our key executive officers in the future could significantly impede our ability to successfully implement our business strategy, financial plans, expansion of services, marketing and other objectives.

We may be subject to risks relating to our information technology systems.

We rely on information technology systems to process, transmit and store electronic information and manage and operate our business. A breach in security could expose us and our customers and suppliers to risks of misuse of confidential information, manipulation and destruction of data, production downtimes and operations disruptions, which in turn could negatively affect our reputation, competitive position, business, results of operations or cash flows.

An impairment of goodwill would negatively impact our financial results.

At least annually, we perform an impairment test for goodwill. Under current accounting guidance, if the carrying value of goodwill exceeds the estimated fair value, impairment is deemed to have occurred and the carrying value of goodwill is written down to fair value with a charge against earnings. Accordingly, any determination requiring the write-off of a significant portion of goodwill could negatively impact our results of operations. See Critical Accounting Policies within Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition for further discussion of at-risk reporting units.

Unforeseen future events may negatively impact our economic condition.

Future events may occur that would adversely affect the reported value of our assets. Such events may include, but are not limited to, strategic decisions made in response to changes in economic and competitive conditions, the impact of the economic environment on our customer base, or a material adverse change in our relationship with significant customers.

Equity Ownership Concentration

Based solely on the Schedule 13D filed on February 19, 2016, by Gabelli Funds, LLC, GAMCO Asset Management Inc., MJG Associates, Inc., Gabelli Securities, Inc., Teton Advisors, Inc., Gabelli Foundation, Inc., GGCP, Inc., and GAMCO Investors, Inc., (collectively, the “Gamco Group”), for which the Company disclaims any responsibility, beneficially owned 6,934,888 shares of our common stock which represented approximately 23% of the 30,140,159 shares outstanding as reported in our Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015. Combined, these parties may have sufficient voting power to influence actions requiring the approval of our shareholders.

Legal & Regulatory Actions

Changes in laws and regulations and approvals and decisions of courts, regulators, and governmental bodies on any legal claims known or unknown, could have an adverse effect on the Company’s financial results.

ITEM 1B.