

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES CO
Form 10-K
February 28, 2007
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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, 2006

Commission File No. 1-15579

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

25-0668780
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

121 Gamma Drive

RIDC Industrial Park

O Hara Township

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
(Address of principal executive offices)

15238
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 412-967-3000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

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Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, no par value	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether 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

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 and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in the definitive proxy statement 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, or a non-accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

As of February 16, 2007, there were outstanding 36,015,416 shares of common stock, no par value, not including 2,749,012 shares held by the Mine Safety Appliances Company Stock Compensation Trust. The aggregate market value of voting stock held by non-affiliates as of June 30, 2006 was approximately \$1.3 billion.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the May 10, 2007 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference into Part III.

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Forward-Looking Statements		

This report may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our or our industry's actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These risks and other factors include, but are not limited to, those listed in this report under Risk Factors, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and elsewhere in this report. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by words such as may, will, should, expects, intends, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, potential, continue or the negative of these terms or other comparable words. These statements are only predictions and are not guarantees of future performance. Therefore, actual events or results may differ materially from those expressed or forecast in these forward-looking statements.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We are under no duty to update publicly any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this report whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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PART I

Item 1. Business

Overview Mine Safety Appliances Company was incorporated in Pennsylvania in 1914. We are a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated products that protect people's health and safety. Sophisticated safety products typically integrate any combination of electronics, mechanical systems, and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life threatening situations. Our comprehensive line of safety products is used by workers around the world in the fire service, homeland security, construction, and other industries, as well as the military. This broad product offering includes self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBAs, gas masks, gas detection instruments, head protection, respirators, thermal imaging cameras, fall protection, and ballistic body armor. We also provide a broad offering of consumer and contractor safety products through retail channels.

We dedicate significant resources to research and development, which allows us to produce innovative, sophisticated safety products that are often first to market and exceed industry standards. Our global product development teams include cross-geographic and cross-functional members from various areas throughout the company, including research and development, marketing, sales, operations, and quality management. Our engineers and technical associates work closely with the safety industry's leading standards-setting groups and trade associations, such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, and the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, to develop industry product requirements and standards and anticipate their impact on our product lines.

Segments We tailor our product offerings and distribution strategy to satisfy distinct customer preferences that vary across geographic regions. We believe that we best serve these customer preferences by organizing our business into the following three geographic segments: North America, Europe, and International. Segment information is presented in the note entitled "Segment Information" in Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

Because our financial statements are stated in U.S. dollars, currency fluctuations may affect our results of operations and financial position and may affect the comparability of our results between financial periods.

Principal Products We manufacture and sell a comprehensive line of sophisticated safety products to protect workers around the world in the fire service, homeland security, construction, and other industries, as well as the military. We also provide a broad offering of consumer contractor safety products through retail channels. Our products protect people against a wide variety of hazardous or life-threatening situations. The following is a brief description of each of our principal product categories:

Respiratory protection. Respiratory protection products are used to protect against the harmful effects of contamination caused by dust, gases, fumes, volatile chemicals, sprays, micro-organisms, fibers, and other contaminants. We offer a broad and comprehensive line of respiratory protection products, including:

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, or SCBAs. SCBAs are used by first responders, petrochemical plant workers, and anyone entering an environment deemed immediately dangerous to life and health. SCBAs are also used by first responders to protect against exposure to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear, or CBRN, agents.

Filtering respirators. Filtering respirators cover a broad class of respirators for many hazardous applications, including:

full face gas masks for the military and first responders exposed to known and unknown concentrations of dangerous gases, chemicals, vapors, and particulates;

half-mask respirators for industrial workers, painters, and construction workers exposed to known concentrations of gases, vapors, and particulates;

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powered-air purifying respirators for industrial, hazmat, and remediation workers who have longer term exposures to hazards in their work environment; and

dust and pollen masks for maintenance workers, contractors, and at-home consumers exposed to nuisance dusts, allergens, and other particulates.

Gas masks. We have supplied gas masks to the U.S. military for several decades. The latest versions of these masks are currently in use by the U.S. military in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. Our commercial version of this gas mask, the Millennium, was developed based on the MCU-2/P, the gas mask currently used by the U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Navy.

Escape hoods. Our Response Escape Hood is used by law enforcement personnel, government workers, chemical and pharmaceutical workers, and anyone needing to escape from unknown concentrations of a chemical, biological or radiological release of toxic gases and vapors. The hood gives users head and upper neck coverage and respiratory protection to help them escape from threatening situations quickly and easily.

Hand-held and permanent instruments. Our hand-held and permanent instruments include gas detection instruments and thermal imaging cameras. Our gas detection instruments are used to detect the presence or absence of various gases in the air. These instruments can be either hand-held or permanently installed. Typical applications of these instruments include the detection of the lack of oxygen in confined spaces or the presence of combustible or toxic gases. Our hand-held thermal imaging cameras are used by firefighters to see downed victims through dense smoke, or to detect the source of the fire.

Single- and multi-gas hand-held detectors. Our single- and multi-gas detectors provide portable solutions for detecting the presence of oxygen, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and combustible gases, either singularly or all four gases at once. Our hand-held portable instruments are used by chemical workers, oil and gas workers, utility workers entering confined spaces, or anywhere a user needs protection to continuously monitor the quality of the atmosphere they are working in and around.

Thermal imaging cameras. Our infrared thermal imaging cameras, or TICs, are used in the global fire service market. TICs detect sources of heat in order to locate firefighters and other people trapped inside burning or smoke-filled structures. TICs can also be used to identify hot spots. Recently, we introduced the Evolution[®] 5200 and Evolution[®] 5200 HD² Thermal Imaging Cameras, which combine the functionality and durability required by the fire service with features and performance capabilities not found in other small format TICs.

Multi-point permanently installed gas detection systems. Our comprehensive line of gas monitoring systems is used to continuously monitor for combustible and toxic gases and oxygen deficiency in virtually any gas detection application where continuous monitoring is required. Our systems are used for gas detection in pulp and paper, refrigerant monitoring, petrochemical, and general industrial applications. One of our newest lines, the SafeSite Hazardous Gas Detection System, designed and developed for homeland security applications, combines the technologies and features from our line of permanent and portable gas detection offerings. The SafeSite System detects and communicates the presence of toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents. With up to 16 monitoring stations, wirelessly connected to a base station, the SafeSite System allows law enforcement officials to rapidly deploy and set up perimeter gas sensing sentinels that continuously monitor the air for toxic gases at large public events, in subways or at federal facilities, and continuously report their status to incident command.

Flame detectors and open-path infrared gas detectors. Our line of flame and combustible gas detectors is used for plant-wide monitoring of toxic gas concentrations and for detecting the presence of flames. These systems utilize infrared optics to detect potentially hazardous conditions across distances as far as 120 meters, making them suitable for use in such places as offshore oil rigs, storage vessels, refineries, pipelines, and ventilation ducts. First used in the oil and gas industry, our systems currently have broad applications in petrochemical facilities, the transportation industry, and in pharmaceutical production.

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Eye, face, hearing, and head protection. Eye, face, hearing, and head protection is used in work environments where hazards present a danger to the eye, face, hearing, and head, such as dust, flying particles, metal fragments, chemicals, extreme glare, optical radiation, and items dropped from above. Our basic categories of these products are:

Industrial hard hats. Our broad line of hard hats include full-brim hats and traditional hard hats, available in custom colors and with custom logos. These hard hats are used by plant, steel and construction workers, miners and welders.

Fire helmets. Our fire service products include leather, traditional, modern, and specialty helmets designed to satisfy the preferences of firefighters across geographic regions. Our CairnsHELMET is the number one helmet in the North American fire service market based on 2006 sales. Similarly, our Gallet firefighting helmet has a number one market position in Europe based on 2006 sales.

Military helmets. The Advanced Combat Helmet is used by the military for ballistic head protection. It was originally designed for the Special Forces of the U.S. military and has now been designated as the basis of issue by the U.S. Army.

Eye, face, and hearing protection. We manufacture and sell a broad line of hearing protection products, non-prescription protective eyewear, and face shields, used in a variety of industries.

Body protection.

Fall protection. Our broad line of fall protection equipment includes the following: confined space equipment; harnesses/fall arrest equipment; lanyards; and lifelines.

Ballistic body armor. Our MSA Paraclete Releasable Assault Vest and Releasable Modular Vest are used primarily by the U.S. military, including Special Forces Units. Our ForceField Body Armor line features two concealable ballistic vests and one over-the-uniform tactical vest designed for SWAT applications.

Customers Our customers generally fall into three categories: industrial and military end-users, distributors, and retail consumers. In North America, we make nearly all of our non-military sales through our distributors. In our Europe and International segments, we make our sales through both indirect and direct sales channels. Our U.S. military customers, which are comprised of multiple U.S. government entities, including the Department of Defense, accounted for approximately 8% of our 2006 sales. The year-end backlog of orders under contracts with U.S. government agencies was \$33.1 million in 2006, \$57.9 million in 2005, and \$80.8 million in 2004.

Industrial and military end-users Examples of the primary industrial and military end-users of our core products are listed below:

Products	Primary End-Users
Respiratory Protection	First Responders; General Industry Workers; Military Personnel
Gas Detection	Oil, Gas, Petrochemical and Chemical Workers; First Responders; Hazmat, and Confined Space Workers
Head, Eye and Face, and Hearing Protection	Construction Workers and Contractors; First Responders; General Industry Workers; Military Personnel
Thermal Imaging Cameras	First Responders

Sales and Distribution Our sales and distribution team consists of distinct marketing, field sales and customer service organizations for our three geographic segments: North America, Europe, and International. We believe our sales and distribution team, totaling over 400 dedicated associates, is the largest in our industry. In

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most geographic areas, our field sales organizations work jointly with select distributors to call on end-users, educating them about hazards, exposure limits, safety requirements, and product applications, as well as specific performance requirements of our products. In our International segment and Eastern Europe where distributors are not well established, our sales associates work with and sell directly to end-users. Our development of relationships with end-users is critical to increasing the overall demand for our products.

The in-depth customer training and education provided by our sales associates to our customers are critical to ensure proper use of many of our products, such as SCBAs and gas detection instruments. As a result of our sales associates working closely with end-users, they gain valuable insight into customers' preferences and needs. To better serve our customers and to ensure that our sales associates are among the most knowledgeable and professional in the industry, we place significant emphasis on training our sales associates with respect to product application, industry standards and regulations, sales skills and sales force automation.

We believe our sales and distribution strategy allows us to deliver a customer value proposition that differentiates our products and services from those of our competitors, resulting in increased customer loyalty and demand.

In areas where we use indirect selling, we promote, distribute, and service our products to general industry through select authorized national, regional, and local distributors. Some of our key distributors include Airgas, W.W. Grainger Inc., Fisher Safety, and Hagemeyer. In North America, we distribute fire service products primarily through specially trained local and regional distributors who provide advanced training and service capabilities to volunteer and paid municipal fire departments. In our Europe and International segments, we primarily sell to and service the fire service market directly. Because of our broad and diverse product line and our desire to reach as many markets and market segments as possible, we have over 4,000 authorized distributor locations worldwide.

We market consumer products under the MSA Safety Works brand through a dedicated sales and marketing force. We serve the retail consumer through various channels, including distributors, such as Orgill Bros., hardware and equipment rental outlets, such as United Rentals, and retail chains, such as The Home Depot and TrueValue.

Competition We believe the worldwide personal protection equipment market, including the sophisticated safety products market in which we compete, generates annual sales in excess of \$13 billion. The industry supplying this market is broad and highly fragmented with few participants able to offer a comprehensive line of safety products. Generally, global demand for safety products has been stable or growing because purchases of these products are non-discretionary since they protect workers in hazardous and life-threatening work environments and because their use is often mandated by government and industry regulations. Moreover, safety products industry revenues reflect the need to consistently replace many safety products that have limited life spans due to normal course wear-and-tear or because they are one-time use products by design.

The safety products market is highly competitive, with participants ranging in size from small companies focusing on a single type of personal protection equipment to a few large multinational corporations which manufacture and supply many types of sophisticated safety products. Our main competitors vary by region and product. We believe that participants in this industry compete primarily on the basis of product characteristics (such as functional performance, agency approvals, design and style), price, brand name recognition and service.

We believe we compete favorably within each of our operating segments as a result of our high quality and cost-efficient product offering and strong brand trust and recognition.

Research and Development To maintain our position at the forefront of protective equipment technology, we operate three sophisticated research and development facilities. We believe our dedication and commitment to innovation and research and development allow us to produce innovative sophisticated safety products that are

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often first to market and exceed industry standards. In 2006, 2005, and 2004, on a global basis, we spent approximately \$26.0 million, \$21.9 million, and \$22.6 million, respectively, on research and development. Our engineering groups operate primarily in the United States and Germany, and to a lesser extent in France and Sweden. Our global product development teams include cross-geographic and cross-functional members from various areas throughout the company, including research and development, marketing, sales, operations, and quality management. These teams are responsible for setting product line strategy based on their understanding of the markets and the technologies, opportunities and challenges they foresee in each product area. These teams present their strategies, new product development portfolios, and resource allocation recommendations to our Global Product Leadership Council, made up of executives from our global operations. The council refines the recommendations and presents them to our senior executive team, which consists of the chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and presidents of our North American, European, and International segments. The senior executive team then establishes resource allocation, corporate alignment, and strategic direction.

We believe our team-based, cross-geographic and cross-functional approach to new product development is a source of competitive advantage. Our approach to the new product development process allows us to tailor our product offerings and product line strategies to satisfy distinct customer preferences and industry regulations that vary across our three geographic segments.

We believe another important aspect of our approach to new product development is that our engineers and technical associates work closely with the safety industry's leading standards-setting groups and trade associations, such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, and the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, to develop industry product requirements and standards and anticipate their impact on our product lines. For example, nearly every consensus standard-setting body around the world that impacts our product lines has one of our key managers as a voting member. Key members of our management team understand the impact that these standard-setting organizations have on our new product development pipeline and devote time and attention to anticipating a new standard's impact on our net sales and operating results. Because of our technological sophistication, commitment to and membership on global standard-setting bodies, resource dedication to research and development and unique approach to the new product development process, we believe we are well-positioned to anticipate and adapt to the needs of changing product standards and gain the approvals and certifications necessary to meet new government and multinational product regulations.

Patents and Intellectual Property We own and have obtained licenses to significant intellectual property, including a number of domestic and foreign patents, patent applications and trademarks related to our products, processes and business. Although our intellectual property plays an important role in maintaining our competitive position in a number of markets that we serve, no single patent, or patent application, trademark or license is, in our opinion, of such value to us that our business would be materially affected by the expiration or termination thereof, other than the MSA trademark. Our patents expire at various times in the future not exceeding 20 years. Our general policy is to apply for patents on an ongoing basis in the United States and other countries, as appropriate, to perfect our patent development. In addition to our patents, we have also developed or acquired a substantial body of manufacturing know-how that we believe provides a significant competitive advantage over our competitors.

Raw Materials and Suppliers Nearly all components of our products are formulated, machined, tooled, or molded in-house from raw materials. For example, we rely on integrated manufacturing capabilities for breathing apparatus, gas masks, ballistic helmets, hard hats, and circuit boards. The primary raw materials that we source from third parties include rubber, chemical filter media, eye and face protective lenses, air cylinders, certain metals, electronic components, and ballistic resistant and non-ballistic fabrics. We purchase these materials both domestically and internationally, and we believe our supply sources are both well established and reliable. We have close vendor relationship programs with the majority of our key raw material suppliers. Although we generally do not have long-term supply contracts, we have not experienced any significant problems in obtaining adequate raw materials.

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Employees As of December 31, 2006, we had approximately 4,900 employees, approximately 2,600 of whom were employed by our Europe and International segments. None of our U.S. employees are subject to the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement. Some of our employees outside the United States are members of unions. We have not experienced a work stoppage in over 10 years and believe our relations with our employees are good.

Available Information We post the following filings on the Investor Relations page on our Web site at www.msanet.com as soon as reasonably practicable after they have been electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission: our annual reports on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. All such filings on our Investor Relations Web page are available to be viewed on this page free of charge. Information contained on our Web site is not part of this annual report on Form 10-K or our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

A reduction in the spending patterns of government agencies could materially and adversely affect our net sales, earnings and cash flow.

The demand for our products sold to the fire service market, the homeland security market, and to U.S. government agencies, including the Department of Defense, is, in large part, driven by available government funding. For example, the level of government funding in these areas increased significantly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, fueling the demand for many of our products such as SCBAs, gas masks, and Advanced Combat Helmets, and declined in 2005 and 2006, as government funding priorities changed. Approximately 8% of our net sales for the year ended December 31, 2006 were made directly to U.S. military customers. Government budgets are set annually and we cannot assure you that government funding will be sustained at the same level in the future. A significant reduction in available government funding in the future could materially and adversely affect our net sales, earnings and cash flow.

The markets in which we compete are highly competitive, and some of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do. The competitive pressures faced by us could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The safety products market is highly competitive, with participants ranging in size from small companies focusing on single types of safety products, to large multinational corporations that manufacture and supply many types of safety products. Our main competitors vary by region and product. We believe that participants in this industry compete primarily on the basis of product characteristics (such as functional performance, agency approvals, design and style), price, brand name trust and recognition, and customer service. Some of our competitors have greater financial and other resources than we do and our cash flows from operations could be adversely affected by competitors' new product innovations, technological advances made to competing products and pricing changes made by us in response to competition from existing or new competitors. We may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors and the competitive pressures faced by us could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

If we fail to introduce successful new products or extend our existing product lines, we may lose our market position and our financial performance may be materially and adversely affected.

In the safety products market, there are frequent introductions of new products and product line extensions. If we are unable to identify emerging consumer and technological trends, maintain and improve the competitiveness of our products and introduce new products, we may lose our market position, which could have a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Although we continue to invest significant resources in research and development and market research, continued product development and marketing efforts are subject to the risks inherent in the development of new products and product line

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extensions, including development delays, the failure of new products and product line extensions to achieve anticipated levels of market acceptance, and the cost of failed product introductions.

Product liability claims could have a materially adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

We face an inherent business risk of exposure to product liability claims arising from the alleged failure of our products to prevent the types of personal injury or death against which they are designed to protect. Although we have not experienced any material uninsured losses due to product liability claims, it is possible that we could experience material losses in the future. In the event any of our products prove to be defective, we could be required to recall or redesign such products. In addition, we may voluntarily recall or redesign certain products that could potentially be harmful to end users. A successful claim brought against us in excess of available insurance coverage, or any claim or product recall that results in significant expense or adverse publicity against us, could have a materially adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

Our ability to market and sell our products is subject to existing regulations and standards. Changes in such regulations and standards or our failure to comply with them could materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

Most of our products are required to meet performance and test standards designed to protect the health and safety of people around the world. Our inability to comply with these standards may materially and adversely affect our results of operations. Changes in regulations could reduce the demand for our products or require us to reengineer our products, thereby creating opportunities for our competitors. Regulatory approvals for our products may be delayed or denied for a variety of reasons that are outside of our control. Additionally, market anticipation of significant new standards, such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for breathing apparatus which was recently promulgated and is due to become effective August 31, 2007, can cause customers to accelerate or delay buying decisions.

We have significant international operations, and we are subject to the risks of doing business in foreign countries.

We have business operations in over 30 foreign countries. In 2006, approximately 47% of our net sales were made by operations located outside the United States. Our international operations are subject to various political, economic, and other risks and uncertainties, which could adversely affect our business. These risks include the following:

unexpected changes in regulatory requirements;

currency exchange rate fluctuations;

changes in trade policy or tariff regulations;

changes in tax laws and regulations;

intellectual property protection difficulties;

difficulty in collecting accounts receivable;

complications in complying with a variety of foreign laws and regulations, some of which conflict with U.S. laws;

trade protection measures and price controls;

trade sanctions and embargos;

nationalization and expropriation;

increased international instability or potential instability of foreign governments;

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the need to take extra security precautions for our international operations; and

costs and difficulties in managing culturally and geographically diverse international operations.

Any one or more of these risks could have a negative impact on the success of our international operations, and thereby materially and adversely affect our business as a whole.

Our future results are subject to availability of, and fluctuations in the costs of, purchased components and materials due to market demand, currency exchange risks, material shortages, and other factors.

We depend on various components and materials to manufacture our products. Although we have not experienced any difficulty in obtaining components and materials, it is possible that any of our supplier relationships could be terminated. Any sustained interruption in our receipt of adequate supplies could have a materially adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully manage price fluctuations due to market demand, currency risks or material shortages, or that future price fluctuations will not have a materially adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

If we lose any of our key personnel or are unable to attract, train and retain qualified personnel, our ability to manage our business and continue our growth would be negatively impacted.

Our success depends in large part on the continued contributions of our key management, engineering, and sales and marketing personnel, many of whom are highly skilled and would be difficult to replace. Our success also depends on the abilities of new personnel to function effectively, both individually and as a group. If we are unable to attract, effectively integrate and retain management, engineering or sales and marketing personnel, then the execution of our growth strategy and our ability to react to changing market requirements may be impeded, and our business could suffer as a result. Competition for personnel is intense, and we cannot assure you that we will be successful in attracting and retaining qualified personnel. In addition, we do not currently maintain key person life insurance.

We are subject to various environmental laws and any violation of these laws could adversely affect our results of operations.

We are subject to federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing discharges to air and water, handling and disposal practices for solid and hazardous wastes, and the maintenance of a safe workplace. These laws impose penalties for noncompliance and liability for response costs and certain damages resulting from past and current spills, disposals, or other releases of hazardous materials. We could incur substantial costs as a result of noncompliance with or liability for cleanup pursuant to these environmental laws. We have identified several known and potential environmental liabilities, which we do not believe are material. Environmental laws have changed rapidly in recent years, and we may be subject to more stringent environmental laws in the future. If more stringent environmental laws are enacted, these future laws could have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our inability to successfully identify, consummate and integrate future acquisitions, or to realize anticipated cost savings and other benefits could adversely affect our business.

One of our key operating strategies is to selectively pursue acquisitions. Any future acquisitions will depend on our ability to identify suitable acquisition candidates and successfully consummate such acquisitions. Acquisitions involve a number of risks including:

failure of the acquired businesses to achieve the results we expect;

diversion of our management's attention from operational matters;

our inability to retain key personnel of the acquired businesses;

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risks associated with unanticipated events or liabilities;

potential disruption of our existing business; and

customer dissatisfaction or performance problems at the acquired businesses.

If we are unable to integrate or successfully manage businesses that we may acquire in the future, we may not realize anticipated cost savings, improved manufacturing efficiencies and increased revenue, which may result in materially adverse short- and long-term effects on our operating results, financial condition and liquidity. Even if we are able to integrate the operations of our acquired businesses into our operations, we may not realize the full benefits of the cost savings, revenue enhancements or other benefits that we may have expected at the time of acquisition. In addition, even if we achieve the expected benefits, we may not be able to achieve them within the anticipated time frame, and such benefits may be offset by costs incurred in integrating the companies and increases in other expenses.

Because we derive a significant portion of our sales from the operations of our foreign subsidiaries, future exchange rate fluctuations may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition, and may affect the comparability of our results between financial periods.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, our operations in our Europe and International segments accounted for 24% and 21% of our net sales, respectively. The results of our foreign operations are reported in the local currency and then translated into U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rates for inclusion in our consolidated financial statements. The exchange rates between some of these currencies and the U.S. dollar have fluctuated significantly in recent years, and may continue to do so in the future. In addition, because our financial statements are stated in U.S. dollars, such fluctuations may affect our results of operations and financial position, and may affect the comparability of our results between financial periods. We cannot assure you that we will be able to effectively manage our exchange rate risks or that any volatility in currency exchange rates will not have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our continued success depends on our ability to protect our intellectual property. If we are unable to protect our intellectual property, our net sales could be materially and adversely affected.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to obtain and enforce patents, maintain trade secret protection and operate without infringing on the proprietary rights of third parties. We have been issued patents and have registered trademarks with respect to many of our products, but our competitors could independently develop similar or superior products or technologies, duplicate any of our designs, trademarks, processes or other intellectual property or design around any processes or designs on which we have or may obtain patents or trademark protection. In addition, it is possible that third parties may have, or will acquire, licenses for patents or trademarks that we may use or desire to use, so that we may need to acquire licenses to, or to contest the validity of, such patents or trademarks of third parties. Such licenses may not be made available to us on acceptable terms, if at all, and we may not prevail in contesting the validity of third party rights.

In addition to patent and trademark protection, we also protect trade secrets, know-how, and other confidential information against unauthorized use by others or disclosure by persons who have access to them, such as our employees, through contractual arrangements. These agreements may not provide meaningful protection for our trade secrets, know-how or other proprietary information in the event of any unauthorized use, misappropriation or disclosure of such trade secrets, know-how or other proprietary information. If we are unable to maintain the proprietary nature of our technologies, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Properties**

Our principal executive offices are located at 121 Gamma Drive, RIDC Industrial Park, O Hara Township, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15238 in a 93,000 square-foot building owned by us. We own or lease our primary facilities located in seven states in the United States and in a number of other countries. We believe that all of our facilities, including the manufacturing facilities, are in good repair and in suitable condition for the purposes for which they are used. See Note 20 to the consolidated financial statements for information concerning certain planned facility consolidations.

The following table sets forth a list of our primary facilities:

Location	Function	Square Feet	Owned or Leased
North America			
Murrysville, PA	Manufacturing	295,000	Owned
Cranberry Twp., PA	Office, Research and Development, and Manufacturing	212,000	Owned
Evans City, PA	Manufacturing	194,000	Leased
St. Pauls, NC	Manufacturing	144,000	Leased
Jacksonville, NC	Manufacturing	107,000	Owned
Pittsburgh, PA	Office	93,000	Owned
Pittsburgh, PA	Distribution	81,000	Leased
Cranberry Twp., PA	Research and Development	68,000	Owned
Sparks, MD	Office, Research and Development, and Manufacturing	52,000	Leased
Englewood, CO	Manufacturing	41,000	Leased
Clifton, NJ	Manufacturing	41,000	Owned
Mexico City, Mexico	Distribution and Manufacturing	41,000	Leased
Englewood, CO	Distribution	15,000	Leased
Newport, VT	Manufacturing	12,000	Leased
Bowling Green, KY	Office, Research and Development, and Manufacturing	7,000	Leased
Toronto, Canada	Distribution	5,000	Leased
Europe			
Berlin, Germany	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	340,000	Leased
Chatillon sur Chalaronne, France	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	94,000	Owned
Glasgow, Scotland	Office and Manufacturing	25,000	Leased
Milan, Italy	Office, Research and Development, and Distribution	25,000	Owned
Mohammedia, Morocco	Manufacturing	24,000	Owned
Vernamo, Sweden	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	17,000	Leased
Glasgow, Scotland	Distribution	6,000	Leased
International			
Wuxi, China	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	92,000	Owned
Johannesburg, South Africa	Office, Manufacturing, and Distribution	89,000	Leased
Sao Paulo, Brazil	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	60,000	Owned
Sydney, Australia	Office, Research and Development, Manufacturing, and Distribution	57,000	Owned
Lima, Peru	Office and Distribution	34,000	Owned
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Office and Distribution	8,600	Owned

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Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing discharges to air and water, handling and disposal practices for solid and hazardous wastes, and the maintenance of a safe workplace. There are no current or expected legal proceedings or expenditures with respect to environmental matters that would materially affect our operations.

Various lawsuits and claims arising in the normal course of business are pending against us. These lawsuits are primarily product liability claims. We are presently named as a defendant in approximately 2,500 lawsuits primarily involving respiratory protection products allegedly manufactured and sold by us. Collectively, these lawsuits represent a total of approximately 16,750 plaintiffs. Approximately 90% of these lawsuits involve plaintiffs alleging they suffer from silicosis, with the remainder alleging they suffer from other or combined injuries, including asbestosis. These lawsuits typically allege that these conditions resulted in part from respirators that were negligently designed or manufactured by us. Consistent with the experience of other companies involved in silica and asbestos-related litigation, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of asserted claims that could potentially involve us. We cannot determine our potential maximum liability for such claims, in part because the defendants in these lawsuits are often numerous, and the claims generally do not specify the amount of damages sought.

With some limited exceptions, we maintain insurance against product liability claims. We also maintain a reserve for uninsured product liability based on expected settlement charges for pending claims and an estimate of unreported claims derived from experience, sales volumes and other relevant information. We evaluate our exposures on an ongoing basis and make adjustments to the reserve as appropriate. Based on information currently available, we believe that the disposition of matters that are pending will not have a materially adverse effect on our financial condition.

In the normal course of business, we make payments to settle product liability claims and related legal fees that are covered by insurance. We record receivables for the portion of these payments that we believe to be probable of recovery from insurance carriers. The net balance of receivables from insurance carriers was \$18.4 million and \$5.0 million at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. We evaluate the collectibility of these receivables on an ongoing basis and make adjustments as appropriate.

Table of Contents**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

No matters were submitted to a vote of our security holders during the fourth quarter of 2006.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following sets forth the names and ages of our executive officers indicating all positions held during the past five years:

Name	Age	Principal Occupations or Employment During Past Five Years
John T. Ryan III	63	Chairman of the Board of Directors; Chief Executive Officer since October 1991.
James H. Baillie	60	Vice President; President, MSA Europe since March 1999.
Joseph A. Bigler	57	Vice President since January 1998; primarily responsible for North American sales and distribution.
Kerry M. Bove	48	Vice President since August 2000; primarily responsible for North American manufacturing operations and materials management and the optimization of global manufacturing operations.
Rob Cañizares M.	57	Vice President; President, MSA International since January 2003. Prior to that time, Mr. Cañizares was senior vice president of global sales and service group of Trane Company.
Ronald N. Herring, Jr.	46	Vice President since January 2004; primarily responsible for North American marketing, research and engineering, and quality assurance. Prior to that time, Mr. Herring served as the general manager of the safety products division, and as the director of marketing for the safety products division.
William M. Lambert	48	Vice President; President, MSA North America since January 2003. Prior to that time, Mr. Lambert was vice president and general manager of the safety products division.
Douglas K. McClaine	49	Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel since May 2005; and served as secretary and general counsel since July 2002. Prior to that time, Mr. McClaine was associate general counsel.
Stephen C. Plut	47	Vice President, Chief Information Officer since May 2005. Prior to that time, Mr. Plut was chief information officer.
Paul R. Uhler	48	Vice President since May 2006. Prior to that time, Mr. Uhler served as director of human resources and corporate communications, and as manager of the Murrysville, PA Plant.
Dennis L. Zeitler	58	Vice President; Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer since November 2000.

Table of Contents**PART II****Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MSA. Stock price ranges and dividends declared were as follows:

	Price Range of Our		
	Common Stock High	Common Stock Low	Dividends
Year ended December 31, 2005			
First Quarter	\$ 53.00	\$ 36.25	\$ 0.10
Second Quarter	47.29	33.89	0.14
Third Quarter	50.18	38.13	0.14
Fourth Quarter	42.60	35.18	0.14
Year ended December 31, 2006			
First Quarter	\$ 44.16	\$ 36.18	\$ 0.14
Second Quarter	44.00	38.62	0.18
Third Quarter	41.19	34.05	0.18
Fourth Quarter	39.09	34.98	0.18

On February 16, 2007, there were 391 registered holders of our shares of common stock.

The information appearing in Part III below regarding common stock issuable under our equity compensation plans is incorporated herein by reference.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum
				Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1 - October 31, 2006				2,114,802
November 1 - November 30, 2006	140,000	\$ 36.62	140,000	2,072,982
December 1 - December 31, 2006	60,000	36.81	60,000	1,982,179

On November 2, 2005, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to \$100 million of common stock from time to time in private transactions and on the open market. The share purchase program has no expiration date. The maximum shares that may yet be purchased is calculated based on the dollars remaining under the program and the respective month-end closing share price.

We do not have any other share purchase programs.

Table of Contents**Comparison of Five-Year Cumulative Total Return**

Set forth below is a line graph and table comparing the cumulative total returns (assuming reinvestment of dividends) for the five years ended December 31, 2006 of \$100 invested on December 31, 2001 in each of Mine Safety Appliances Company's common stock, the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index, and the Russell 2000 Index. Because our competitors are principally privately held concerns or subsidiaries or divisions of corporations engaged in multiple lines of business, we do not believe it feasible to construct a peer group comparison on an industry or line-of-business basis. The Russell 2000 Index, while including corporations both larger and smaller than MSA in terms of market capitalization, is composed of corporations with an average market capitalization similar to us.

	2001	2002	Value at December 31,		2005	2006
			2003	2004		
MSA	\$ 100.00	\$ 81.71	\$ 218.14	\$ 421.90	\$ 305.06	\$ 314.35
S&P 500	100.00	77.90	100.26	111.19	116.63	135.10
Russell 2000	100.00	79.50	117.10	138.53	144.91	171.68

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements, including the respective notes thereto, as well as the section entitled Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K.

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	<i>(In thousands, except as noted)</i>				
Statement of Income Data:					
Net sales	\$ 913,714	\$ 907,912	\$ 852,509	\$ 696,473	\$ 564,426
Other income	5,384	4,058	5,004	1,724	2,271
Cost of products sold	568,410	558,921	518,174	427,632	349,936
Selling, general and administrative	215,663	201,367	198,714	174,701	144,641
Research and development	26,037	21,928	22,648	20,897	19,459
Restructuring and other charges	6,981				
Interest	6,228	5,484	3,845	4,564	4,769
Currency exchange losses (gains)	3,139	474	264	(3,356)	(191)
Provision for income taxes	28,722	42,013	42,821	24,835	16,870
Net income from continuing operations	63,918	81,783	71,047	48,924	31,213
Net income from discontinued operations				2,685	3,864
Gain on sale of discontinued operations after tax				13,658	
Net income	63,918	81,783	71,047	65,267	35,077
Earnings per Share Data:					
Basic per common share continuing operations (in dollars)	\$ 1.76	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.33	\$.85
Diluted per common share continuing operations (in dollars)	1.73	2.19	1.86	1.31	.85
Dividends paid per common share (in dollars)	.68	.52	.37	.26	.22
Weighted average common shares outstanding basic	36,366	36,560	37,111	36,730	36,512
Balance Sheet Data:					
Working capital	\$ 289,424	\$ 246,367	\$ 270,593	\$ 207,216	\$ 138,182
Working capital ratio	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.4
Net property	120,651	116,209	123,716	120,560	130,407
Total assets	898,620	725,357	734,110	643,885	579,765
Long-term debt	112,541	45,834	54,463	59,915	64,350
Common shareholders' equity	436,926	381,470	376,679	306,867	288,009
Equity per common share (in dollars)	12.13	10.44	10.09	8.31	7.86

Note:

Cost of products sold, selling, general and administrative expenses, and research and development expenses include noncash pension income.

Noncash pension income, pre-tax	\$ 4,147	\$ 6,104	\$ 7,188	\$ 8,845	\$ 13,125
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Working capital at December 31, 2003 and 2002 excludes assets held for sale.

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Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

*The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and other financial information included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K. This discussion may contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates, assumptions, and projections about our industry, business, and future financial results. Our actual results could differ materially from the results contemplated by these forward-looking statements due to a number of factors, including those discussed in the sections of this annual report entitled *Forward-Looking Statements* and *Risk Factors*.*

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We are a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated products that protect people's health and safety. Sophisticated safety products typically integrate any combination of electronics, mechanical systems, and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life threatening situations. Our comprehensive lines of safety products are used by workers around the world in the fire service, homeland security, construction, and other industries, as well as the military.

In recent years, we have concentrated on specific initiatives intended to help improve our competitive position and profitability, including:

identifying and developing promising new markets;

focusing on innovation and new product introductions;

further strengthening relationships with major distributors;

optimizing factory performance and driving operational excellence;

positioning international business to capture significant growth opportunities; and

pursuing strategic acquisitions.

We tailor our product offerings and distribution strategy to satisfy distinct customer preferences that vary across geographic regions. We believe that we best serve these customer preferences by organizing our business into three geographic segments: North America, Europe, and International. Each segment includes a number of operating companies. In 2006, approximately 55%, 24%, and 21% of our net sales were made by our North America, Europe, and International segments, respectively.

North America. Our largest manufacturing and research and development facilities are located in the United States. We serve our North American markets with sales and distribution functions in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Europe. Our European segment includes well-established companies in most Western European countries and more recently established operations in a number of Eastern European locations. Our largest European companies, based in Germany and France, develop, manufacture, and sell a wide variety of products. Operations in other European countries focus primarily on sales and distribution in their respective home country markets. While some of these companies may perform limited production, most of their sales are of products that are manufactured in our plants in Germany, France, and the U.S., or are purchased from third party vendors.

International. Our International segment includes operating entities located in Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, some of which are in developing regions of the world. Principal manufacturing operations are located in Australia, Brazil, South Africa, and China. These companies develop and manufacture products that are sold primarily in each company's home country and regional markets. The other companies in the International segment focus

primarily on sales and distribution in their respective home country markets. While

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some of these companies may perform limited production, most of their sales are of products that are manufactured in our plants in the U.S., Germany, and France, or are purchased from third party vendors.

We believe that our financial performance in recent years is the result of initiatives that have allowed us to anticipate and respond quickly to market requirements, particularly in the North American fire service, homeland security, construction and industrial markets, as well as the military, and reflects our ability to quickly bring to market products that comply with changing industry standards and to create new market demand with innovative products.

ACQUISITIONS

In September 2006, we acquired Paraclete Armor and Equipment, Inc. (Paraclete) of St. Pauls, North Carolina. Paraclete is a rapidly growing innovator and developer of advanced ballistic body armor used by military personnel, including Special Forces units of the U.S. military. Paraclete's most recent product development—the AV2007 Tactical Body Armor System—represents the next generation of advanced body armor. The vest features a modular design that allows 23 vest configurations, enabling users to tailor the degree of protection based on specific mission or task requirements. The vest employs state-of-the-art materials for enhanced protection against fragmentation and small arms projectiles. We believe that the acquisition of Paraclete enhances our existing line of ballistic body armor and strategically positions us to provide a broad range of ballistic protective equipment to both the military and law enforcement markets.

In January 2006, we took steps to ensure our compliance with South African Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) requirements by forming a new South African holding company in which Mineworkers Investment Company (MIC) of Johannesburg, South Africa holds a 25.1% ownership interest. Compliance with BEE, a South African government program similar to Affirmative Action in the United States, is key to achieving meaningful growth in South Africa, particularly in the mining industry. At the same time, we acquired Select Personal Protective Equipment (Select PPE) of South Africa, an established supplier of multi-brand safety equipment and solutions to the South African mining industry. Our existing South African company, MSA Africa, and Select PPE are operating independently under the newly-established South African holding company. We believe that our new South African operating structure significantly improves our market presence and expertise in serving the mining industry and provides significant growth opportunities in the region.

In September 2005, we acquired Microsensor Systems, Inc. of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Microsensor Systems is a world leader in surface acoustic wave-based chemical sensing technology used to detect chemical warfare agents. We believe the acquisition of Microsensor Systems significantly strengthens our position as a premier provider of leading edge detection technology, while expanding our product offerings in the homeland security, emergency responder, law enforcement, military and industrial markets.

In June 2004, we acquired Sordin AB of Varnamo, Sweden, a leading manufacturer of passive and electronic hearing protection designed for the industrial, law enforcement, and military markets. We believe the acquisition of Sordin enhances our position as a provider of modern, leading-edge hearing protective devices. Many of Sordin's products are compatible with our other safety products, including our flagship V-Gard® Hard Hat. Sordin also developed the modular integrated communications system currently being used with the Advanced Combat Helmet that we manufacture for the U.S. Army.

Table of Contents**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Year Ended December 31, 2006 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2005**

Net sales. Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2006 were \$913.7 million, an increase of \$5.8 million, or 1%, from \$907.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005.

			Dollar	Percent
			Increase	Increase
	2006	2005	(Decrease)	(Decrease)
	<i>(In millions)</i>			
North America	\$ 503.4	\$ 566.5	\$ (63.1)	(11)%
Europe	219.2	180.5	38.7	21
International	191.1	160.9	30.2	19

Net sales of the North American segment were \$503.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, a decrease of \$63.1 million, or 11%, compared to \$566.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. Our shipments of Advanced Combat Helmets and communications systems to the military were approximately \$48.3 million lower than in the 2005, reflecting the completion of certain contracts. Gas mask sales were approximately \$28.8 million lower in the year ended December 31, 2006, on lower shipments of military masks, as well as commercial masks to the homeland security market. Our 2006 sales of self-contained breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras were \$11.1 million and \$6.6 million lower, respectively, than in the prior year reflecting ongoing delays in the release of fire department funding made available through the U.S. Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The first grants under the 2006 AFG program were not announced until early October and less than half of the expected funds were released by year-end. In 2005, AFG grants were announced in August and were mostly completed by the end of the year. Our sales of instruments and head protection improved approximately \$18.4 million and \$7.5 million, respectively, on increased demand in construction and industrial markets. Sales of ballistic protection products, including those made by Paraclete, which we acquired in September 2006, were \$7.0 million higher than in the year ended December 31, 2005.

Net sales by European operations were \$219.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$38.7 million, or 21%, from \$180.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. Local currency sales in Europe for the year ended December 31, 2006 were \$35.9 million higher than in 2005. The increase reflects strong shipments of disposable respirators in Germany and France, gas masks and self-rescuer canisters to the German Army, chemical suits to the Slovakian Army, and breathing apparatus and fire helmets in Western European markets. The favorable effect of a stronger euro increased sales when stated in U.S. dollars by approximately \$2.8 million.

Net sales by International operations were \$191.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$160.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of \$30.2 million, or 19%. The sales increase was primarily in South Africa, where local currency sales were up \$27.2 million, primarily from Select PPE, which we acquired in January 2006. Local currency sales were up approximately \$5.8 million in our South American companies, reflecting improved economic conditions and focused sales initiatives. Our sales in the Middle East were approximately \$3.6 million lower than in the year ended December 31, 2005. In 2005, our Middle East sales benefited from a large one-time breathing apparatus order. Currency exchange effects on International segment sales when stated in U.S. dollars were not significant.

Cost of products sold. Cost of products sold was \$568.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$9.5 million, or 2%, from \$558.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Cost of products sold and operating expenses include net periodic pension benefit costs and credits. Excluding \$4.8 million in special termination benefits, which is reported in restructuring and other charges, pension credits, combined with pension costs, resulted in net pension credits for the year ended December 31, 2006 of \$4.1 million, of which approximately \$2.2 million was included in cost of products sold, \$1.6 million in

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selling general and administrative expenses, and \$0.3 million in research and development expenses. Net pension credits for the year ended December 31, 2005 were \$6.1 million, of which approximately \$3.7 million was included in cost of products sold, \$2.2 million in selling, general and administrative expenses, and \$0.2 million in research and development expenses. The recognition of pension income in the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 is primarily the result of the exceptional investment performance of the MSA Non-Contributory Pension Plan for the Employees, or the MSA Pension Plan, over the past ten years. During that period, the investment performance of the MSA Pension Plan has ranked among the top 1% of all U.S. pension funds according to a comparison of fund performance as computed by Yanni Partners, an independent investment consulting firm. Future net pension credits can be volatile depending on the future performance of plan assets, changes in actuarial assumptions regarding such factors as the selection of discount rates and rates of return on plan assets, changes in the amortization levels of actuarial gains and losses, plan amendments affecting benefit pay-out levels, and profile changes in the participant populations being valued. Changes in any of these factors could cause net pension credits to change. To the extent net pension credits decline in the future, our net income would be adversely affected.

Gross profit. Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$345.3 million, a decrease of \$3.7 million, or 1%, from \$349.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The ratio of gross profit to sales decreased to 37.8% in 2006 compared to 38.4% in 2005. The lower gross profit ratio in 2006 was primarily related to lower margins in the International and European segments where sales grew significantly.

Selling, general and administrative expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2006 were \$215.7 million, an increase of \$14.3 million, or 7%, from \$201.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. Selling, general and administrative expenses were 23.6% of sales in 2006 compared to 22.2% of sales in 2005. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses includes \$2.3 million of incremental stock compensation expense in the North American segment, related to our adoption of FAS No. 123R, Share Based Payment, on January 1, 2006. FAS No. 123R requires the recognition of compensation expense for the estimated fair value of stock option grants and immediate expense recognition for restricted stock awards and stock options that are granted to participants who are eligible for retirement. The incremental stock compensation expense relates to restricted stock awards and stock option grants made to officers, key management employees, and directors in 2006. The fair value of the 2006 stock option grants and restricted stock awards was \$4.9 million, of which \$2.8 million was expensed during the year ended December 31, 2006. The remaining \$2.1 million of fair value will generally be expensed over the remainder of the three year vesting periods. Excluding the incremental stock compensation expense, selling, general and administrative expenses in North America were down \$0.8 million, reflecting the absence of depreciation expense in 2006 on computer systems that were fully depreciated during the fourth quarter of 2005, partially offset by higher selling and administrative expenses. Local currency selling, general and administrative expenses in the European and International segments were up \$12.2 million, including a \$4.9 million increase in South Africa, related to the January 2006 acquisition of Select PPE. The remainder of the selling, general and administrative expense increase in the European and International segments was primarily due to additional selling expenses associated with generating and supporting higher sales and currency exchange rate effects, when stated in U.S. dollars.

Research and development expenses. Research and development expenses were \$26.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, an increase of \$4.1 million, or 19%, from \$21.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. Higher research and development expenses during the year ended December 31, 2006 occurred in North America and reflect our continued focus on developing innovative new products.

Depreciation and amortization expense. Depreciation and amortization expense, which is reported in cost of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses, and research and development expenses, was \$22.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, a decrease of \$2.2 million, or 9%, from \$24.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The primary reason for lower depreciation expense was the previously-discussed decrease in depreciation of computer systems.

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Restructuring and other charges. During the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded charges of \$7.0 million, primarily related to our Project Outlook reorganization in North America. Project Outlook was designed to ensure that our North American management teams, employees, product design processes, and operational functions are fully aligned with our strategic goals and the needs of our customers. The plan, which was largely completed by the end of the second quarter, included the reorganization of business and support functions in our North American operations that is resulting in a higher degree of collaboration, focus and efficiency. A significant portion of the Project Outlook cost reductions has been realized through a focused voluntary retirement incentive program (VRIP). In February 2006, approximately 60 employees retired under the terms of the VRIP. Project Outlook charges include \$5.3 million for VRIP retirees (including \$4.8 million in non-cash special termination benefits), \$0.7 million in severance costs related to additional staffing reductions, and \$0.5 million related to the relocation of various employee work groups within the new organizational structure. The remaining \$0.5 million of charges in 2006 was severance costs related to our plan to discontinue manufacturing operations in Britain.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$6.2 million, an increase of \$0.7 million, or 14%, from \$5.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase reflects higher borrowings during the current year.

Currency exchange adjustments. During the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded currency exchange losses of \$3.1 million compared to losses of \$0.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The currency exchange losses during the current year were primarily related to the South African rand. Currency exchange losses during the year ended December 31, 2005 were primarily due to the weakening of the euro.

Other income. Other income for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$5.4 million, an increase of \$1.3 million, or 33%, from \$4.1 million in 2005. The increase was primarily due to gains on the sale of real property and higher interest income.

Income tax provision. The provision for income taxes as a percent of income before taxes was 31.0% for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to 33.9% for the year ended December 31, 2005. Our provision for income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2006 includes one-time benefits of \$1.2 million and \$0.8 million related to adjustments to prior year additional extra-territorial income exclusions and research and development credits, respectively. Our 2005 provision for income taxes included a one-time benefit of approximately \$2.0 million, primarily related to the release of previously-established reserves taken on research and development credits claimed for the years 1995 through 2001. Excluding these discrete items, our effective tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 were 33.2% and 35.6%, respectively. The effective tax rate in both years was lower than the statutory rate primarily due to research and development credits, extraterritorial income exclusions, and non-U.S. income. Compared to prior years, the 2006 effective tax rate also benefits from a more favorable state income tax apportionment.

We have not provided deferred U.S. income taxes on undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries, which amounted to \$137.2 million as of December 31, 2006. These earnings are considered to be reinvested for an indefinite period of time. It is not practicable to determine the deferred tax liability on these undistributed earnings.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 provided a limited opportunity through 2005 to repatriate the undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries at a U.S. tax cost that could be lower than the normal tax cost on such distributions. During 2005, we repatriated \$23.2 million of dividends, \$21.0 million of which qualified under these provisions. The resulting impact of these dividends on our income tax expense was not material.

The determination of annual income tax expense takes into consideration amounts which may be needed to cover exposures for open tax years. We have resolved all matters with the IRS related to our federal income tax returns through 2002. We believe that we have made adequate provision for income taxes and interest which may

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become payable or receivable for years not yet settled. We do not expect any materially adverse impact on earnings to result from the resolution of matters related to open tax years.

Net income. Net income for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$63.9 million, a decrease of \$17.9 million, or 22%, from net income for the year ended December 31, 2005 of \$81.8 million. Basic earnings per share of common stock was \$1.76 in 2006 compared to \$2.24 in 2005.

North American segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$42.7 million, a decrease of \$21.4 million, or 34%, from \$64.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The decrease in North American net income was primarily due to lower sales.

European segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$8.9 million, an increase of \$2.6 million, or 40%, from \$6.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase was primarily related to the previously-discussed sales improvement.

International segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$13.1 million, an increase of \$1.4 million, or 12%, from \$11.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The improvement in International segment net income was primarily related to the previously-discussed sales growth.

Year Ended December 31, 2005 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2004

Net sales. Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2005 were \$907.9 million, an increase of \$55.4 million, or 6%, from \$852.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. Our net sales increased in all segments as follows:

			Dollar	Percent
	2005	2004	Increase	Increase
	<i>(In millions)</i>			
North America	\$ 566.5	\$ 557.1	\$ 9.4	2%
Europe	180.5	167.3	13.2	8
International	160.9	128.1	32.8	26

Net sales of the North American segment were \$566.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of \$9.4 million, or 2%, compared to \$557.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The sales increase in the year ended December 31, 2005 was due to higher shipments of Advanced Combat Helmets and related communication systems, head protection, and instruments, partially offset by lower shipments of SCBAs and gas masks. Our shipments of Advanced Combat Helmets and communications systems to the military improved during 2005 by approximately \$8.3 million and \$11.5 million, respectively, reflecting continued government funding to support the war on terrorism. Our sales of head protection, instruments, and fall protection were up approximately \$10.7 million, \$6.5 million, and \$3.4 million, respectively, on increased demand in construction and industrial markets. In the fire service market, our SCBA sales were down approximately \$13.3 million compared to 2004. We believe that the decrease in SCBA sales was primarily due to delays in 2005 federal funding to local fire departments under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Our 2005 SCBA sales rebounded late in the year after this funding was released to local fire departments. Gas mask sales were approximately \$17.1 million lower than in 2004. The decrease in gas mask sales in 2005 reflects lower shipments of military masks, as well as commercial masks to the homeland security market, following very strong demand in 2004. During 2004, we saw significant demand for gas masks in the homeland security market. Although we saw significant interest and demand for the Evolution 5200 thermal imaging camera, sales of TICs were flat year-to-year due to production delays caused by a parts supply issue with a key vendor that was not resolved until the third quarter of 2005.

Net sales by European operations were \$180.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of \$13.2 million, or 8%, from \$167.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. Approximately \$6.1 million of

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the sales increase related to hearing protection sales by MSA Sordin, which we acquired in June 2004. Local currency sales by other companies throughout Europe improved approximately \$4.1 million during 2005, on several large breathing apparatus orders for the fire service and police markets. Approximately \$3.0 million of the European segment sales increase was due to favorable exchange rate effects on the translation of local currency sales to U.S. dollars.

Net sales by International operations were \$160.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005 compared to \$128.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2004, an increase of \$32.8 million, or 26%. Local currency sales were up approximately \$6.0 million in our South American companies, reflecting improved economic conditions and focused sales initiatives. Our sales in the Middle East were approximately \$5.8 million higher during 2005, primarily due to a large breathing apparatus order. Operations in China and Australia reported sales increases of approximately \$5.4 million and \$4.5 million, respectively, for the year. Approximately \$5.5 million of the 2005 increase in International segment sales, when stated in U.S. dollars, was related to the favorable effect of stronger international currencies, particularly the Brazilian real, Australian dollar, and South African rand.

Cost of products sold. Cost of products sold was \$558.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, an increase of \$40.7 million, or 8%, from \$518.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Cost of products sold and operating expenses include net periodic pension benefit costs and credits. Pension credits, combined with pension costs, resulted in net pension credits for the year ended December 31, 2005 of \$6.1 million, of which approximately \$3.7 million was included in cost of products sold, \$2.2 million in selling general and administrative expenses, and \$0.2 million in research and development expenses. Net pension credits for the year ended December 31, 2004 were \$7.2 million, of which approximately \$4.4 million was included in cost of products sold, \$2.5 million in selling, general and administrative expenses, and \$0.3 million in research and development expenses.

Gross profit. Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$349.0 million, an increase of \$14.7 million, or 4%, from \$334.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The ratio of gross profit to sales decreased to 38.4% in 2005 compared to 39.2% in 2004. The lower gross profit ratio in 2005 was primarily due to sales mix changes in North America, on proportionately lower sales of higher margin SCBAs and gas masks and proportionately higher sales of Advanced Combat Helmets and communication systems to the U.S. military at gross margins that are generally lower than our margins on commercial sales.

Selling, general and administrative expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2005 were \$201.4 million, an increase of \$2.7 million, or 1%, from \$198.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. Selling, general and administrative expenses were 22.2% of sales in 2005 compared to 23.3% of sales in 2004. North American segment selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2005 were approximately \$3.7 million lower than in 2004, reflecting the favorable effect of cost control efforts. Exchange effects related to the strengthening of international currencies, particularly the euro, Brazilian real, and Australian dollar, increased selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2005 by approximately \$2.8 million. The remainder of the increase during 2005 reflects higher local currency expenses in the European and International segments, on higher sales volumes, and includes an increase of approximately \$1.3 million at MSA Sordin, which was acquired in June 2004.

Research and development expenses. Research and development expenses were \$21.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2005, a decrease of \$0.7 million, or 3%, from \$22.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The decrease occurred primarily in North America and was due to the previously-mentioned cost control efforts.

Depreciation and amortization expense. Depreciation and amortization expense, which is reported in cost of sales, selling, general and administrative expenses, and research and development expenses, was \$24.3 million

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for the year ended December 31, 2005, a decrease of \$1.2 million, or 5%, from \$25.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The decrease was primarily due to lower depreciation on Advanced Combat Helmet production equipment and our enterprise-wide system software.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$5.5 million, an increase of \$1.7 million, or 43%, from \$3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The increase was primarily related to higher short term borrowings during the year ended December 31, 2005. Interest expense in 2004 was favorably affected by a realized gain of \$0.7 million on an interest rate swap transaction that we terminated.

Currency exchange adjustments. During the year ended December 31, 2005, we recorded currency exchange losses of \$0.5 million compared to losses of \$0.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. Currency exchange losses in 2005 were primarily related to euro-denominated assets held by us, and reflected a weakening of that currency during 2005. The currency exchange loss during 2004 was primarily due to losses on forward exchange contracts that we entered into to hedge our exposure to movements in euro exchange rates, partially offset by some strengthening of the euro.

Other income. Other income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$4.1 million, a decrease of \$0.9 million, or 19%, from \$5.0 million in 2004. During the year ended December 31, 2005, we recognized a gain of approximately \$0.7 million on the sale of idle production equipment in Germany and interest income of approximately \$0.5 million related to settled issues in the IRS audits of tax years 1995 through 2001. In 2004, we recognized approximately \$1.1 million of interest income with respect to settled issues in the audits of tax years 1995 through 2001.

Income tax provision. Our effective income tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2005 was 33.9% compared to 37.6% for the year ended December 31, 2004. In June 2005, we received communication from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that their audits of our federal income tax returns for the years 1995 through 2001 were substantially complete, with no adverse adjustments to research and development credits that we claimed during the period covered by the examinations. On the basis of this communication, our provision for income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2005 included a one-time benefit of approximately \$2.0 million, primarily related to the release of previously-established reserves taken on research and development credits claimed in those years. In 2004, we made unfavorable adjustments to prior years' taxes at approximately \$1.1 million.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 provided a limited opportunity through 2005 to repatriate the undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries at a U.S. tax cost that could be lower than the normal tax cost on such distributions. During 2005, we repatriated \$23.2 million of dividends, \$21.0 million of which qualified under these provisions. The resulting impact of these dividends on our income tax expense was not material.

Net income. Net income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$81.8 million, an increase of \$10.8 million, or 15%, over net income for the year ended December 31, 2004 of \$71.0 million. Basic earnings per share of common stock improved to \$2.24 in 2005 compared to \$1.91 in 2004.

North American segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$64.1 million, an increase of \$7.5 million, or 13%, from \$56.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The improvement in North American net income was primarily due to the previously-discussed sales growth, cost controls and a lower effective income tax rate.

European segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$6.3 million, an increase of \$2.5 million, or 68%, from \$3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The increase included approximately \$1.1 million of income related to Sordin which we acquired in June 2004. The remainder of the improvement was primarily related to the previously-discussed sales improvement.

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International segment net income for the year ended December 31, 2005 was \$11.7 million, an increase of \$1.1 million, or 10%, from \$10.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The improvement in International segment net income was primarily related to the previously-discussed sales growth.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our main sources of liquidity are cash generated from operations and borrowing capacity. Our principal liquidity requirements are for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, and principal and interest payments on outstanding indebtedness.

Cash and cash equivalents increased \$16.5 million during 2006 compared to decreasing \$31.7 million during 2005.

Operations provided cash of \$62.8 million in 2006 compared to providing \$80.6 million in 2005. Lower cash flow from operations during 2006 was primarily due to the decrease in net income and an increase in noncurrent assets. Trade receivables were \$174.6 million at December 31, 2006 and \$169.4 million at December 31, 2005. The increase in trade receivables during 2006 was primarily related to acquisitions and currency translation. Trade receivables expressed in number of days sales outstanding were 70 days at December 31, 2006 and 68 days at December 31, 2005. Inventories were \$137.2 million at December 31, 2006 and \$119.7 million at December 31, 2005. Over two-thirds of the increase in inventory was related to currencies translation and acquisitions. On a FIFO basis, inventories measured against cost of products sold turned 3.2 times in 2006 and 3.5 times in 2005. Cash flow from operations in 2005 was \$31.7 million higher than in 2004, reflecting less use of cash for working capital, particularly inventory.

Discontinued operations provided \$2.1 million of cash in 2004, primarily through collection of trade receivables that were reported as assets held for sale at December 31, 2003.

Our investing activities used cash of \$50.1 million in 2006, compared with using \$37.3 million in 2005. During 2006 and 2005, we used cash of approximately \$22.7 million and \$21.7 million, respectively, for property additions, primarily production equipment in the U.S. Acquisitions and other investing activities during 2006 and 2005 used cash of \$31.3 million and \$17.0 million, respectively. In 2006, we used net cash of approximately \$21.8 million to acquire Paraclete and \$7.9 million to acquire Select PPE. In 2005, we used net cash of approximately \$12.8 million for the acquisition of Microsensor Systems Inc. and \$2.2 million for additional consideration on the Sordin acquisition.

Financing activities provided cash of \$1.4 million in 2006 compared to using cash of \$72.6 million in 2005. In December 2006, we borrowed \$60.0 million in private placement debt, primarily to replace short term borrowing made during the year to fund acquisitions and treasury stock purchases. During 2006 and 2005, we used cash of \$29.9 million and \$58.0 million, respectively, to purchase treasury shares. In the current year, we made dividend payments of \$24.8 million, compared to \$19.1 million in 2005. Dividends paid on our common stock during 2006 (our 89th consecutive year of dividend payment) were \$0.68 per share. Dividends paid on our common stock in 2005 and 2004 were \$0.52 and \$0.37, per share, respectively.

In April 2004, we entered into an eight year interest rate swap agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, we receive a fixed interest rate of 8.39% and pay a floating interest rate based on LIBOR. The notional amount of the swap is initially \$20.0 million and declines \$4.0 million per year beginning in 2008. The interest rate swap has been designated as a fair value hedge of a portion of our fixed rate 8.39% Senior Notes.

The fair value of the interest rate swap at December 31, 2006, has been recorded as a liability of \$0.9 million that is included in other noncurrent liabilities, with an offsetting reduction in the carrying value of the long-term debt.

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As a result of entering into the interest rate swap, we have increased our exposure to interest rate fluctuations. Differences between the fixed rate amounts received and the variable rate amount paid are recognized in interest expense on an ongoing basis. This rate difference resulted in an increase in interest expense of approximately \$0.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2006 and reductions in interest expense of \$0.1 million during 2005 and \$0.3 million during 2004.

Long-term debt, including the current portion at December 31, 2006 was \$114.6 million, or 21% of total capital. For purposes of this calculation, total capital is defined as long-term debt plus the current portion of long-term debt and shareholders' equity.

Our long-term debt obligations at December 31, 2006 and 2005 were as follows:

	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
U.S.		
Industrial development debt issues payable through 2022, 5.46%	\$ 6,750	\$ 10,750
Series B Senior Notes payable through 2006, 7.69%		4,000
Senior Notes payable through 2012, 8.39%	39,089	39,070
Senior Notes payable through 2022, 5.41%	60,000	
Notes payable through 2011, net of unamortized discount of \$1,306	8,694	
Other		50
International		
Various notes payable through 2008, 5.80%	38	98
Total	114,571	53,968
Amounts due within one year	2,030	8,134
Long-term debt	112,541	45,834

Approximate maturities of these obligations are \$2.0 million in 2007, \$10.0 million in 2008, \$10.8 million in 2009, \$12.0 million in 2010, \$8.7 million in 2011, and \$71.1 million thereafter. Some debt agreements require us to maintain certain financial ratios and minimum net worth and contain restrictions on the total amount of debt. We were in compliance with our debt covenants as of December 31, 2006.

Short-term bank lines of credit amounted to \$80.6 million of which \$80.3 million was unused at December 31, 2006. Generally, these short-term lines of credit are renewable annually. There are no significant commitment fees or compensating balance requirements. Short-term borrowings with banks, which exclude the current portion of long-term debt, were \$0.3 million and \$0.7 million at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The average month-end balance of total short-term borrowings during 2006 was \$19.7 million. The maximum month-end balance of \$62.6 million occurred at October 31, 2006. The weighted average interest rates of short-term borrowings at December 31, 2006 and 2005 were 5% and 6%, respectively.

We believe our sources of liquidity currently available from our cash reserves on hand, cash flow from operations, and borrowing capacity are sufficient to meet our principal liquidity requirements for at least the next 12 months.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE SECURITIZATION

In August 2004, we terminated our securitization arrangement with a financial institution under which Mine Safety Funding Corporation, a consolidated wholly-owned bankruptcy remote subsidiary, could sell up to \$30.0 million of eligible accounts receivable to a multi-seller asset-backed commercial paper issuer. We terminated this arrangement because we no longer required the source of funding that the securitization provided.

Table of Contents**CUMULATIVE TRANSLATION ADJUSTMENTS**

The year-end position of the U.S. dollar relative to international currencies resulted in a translation gain of \$10.1 million being credited to the cumulative translation adjustments shareholders' equity account in 2006, compared to a loss of \$11.1 million in 2005 and a gain of \$8.9 million in 2004. Translation gains in 2006 were primarily related to the strengthening of the euro. Translation losses in 2005 were primarily due to a weakening of the euro. Translation gains in 2004 were primarily due to the strengthening of the euro, Australian dollar, and South African rand.

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We are obligated to make future payments under various contracts, including debt and lease agreements. Our significant cash obligations as of December 31, 2006 were as follows:

	Total	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Thereafter
	<i>(In millions)</i>						
Long-term debt*	\$ 114.6	\$ 2.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.8	\$ 12.0	\$ 8.7	\$ 71.1
Operating leases	27.0	7.9	5.8	4.7	4.2	2.8	1.6
Take or pay supply contract	2.5	1.5	1.0				
Totals	144.1	11.4	16.8	15.5	16.2	11.5	72.7

* Future interest payments are not included in the table above.

We expect to make net contributions of \$1.7 million to our pension plans in 2007.

We have purchase commitments for materials, supplies, services, and property, plant and equipment as part of our ordinary conduct of business.

In September 2006, we acquired Paraclete. Under the terms of the asset purchase agreement, we issued a \$10.0 million note payable to the former owners of Paraclete. The note is non-interest bearing and is payable in five annual installments of \$2.0 million beginning September 1, 2007. We recorded the note at a fair value of \$8.5 million at the time of issuance. The discount of \$1.5 million is being amortized over the term of the note.

During 2003, we sold our real property in Berlin, Germany for \$25.7 million, resulting in a gain of \$13.6 million. At the same time, we entered into an eight year agreement to lease back the portion of the property that we occupy. Under sale-leaseback accounting, \$12.1 million of the gain was deferred and is being amortized over the term of the lease.

In 2003, we entered into a lease agreement with BASF pertaining to that portion of the Callery Chemical site that is occupied by our Evans City, Pennsylvania manufacturing operations. The initial term of the lease was one year, with a renewal option for five successive one year periods. In September 2006, we exercised our third one year renewal option.

Various lawsuits and claims arising in the normal course of business are pending against us. These lawsuits are primarily product liability claims. We are presently named as a defendant in approximately 2,500 lawsuits primarily involving respiratory protection products allegedly manufactured and sold by us. Collectively, these lawsuits represent a total of approximately 16,750 plaintiffs. Approximately 90% of these lawsuits involve plaintiffs alleging they suffer from silicosis, with the remainder alleging they suffer from other or combined injuries, including asbestosis. These lawsuits typically allege that these conditions resulted in part from respirators that were negligently designed or manufactured by us. Consistent with the experience of other companies involved in silica and asbestos-related litigation, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of asserted claims that could potentially involve us. We cannot determine our potential maximum liability for such claims, in part because the defendants in these lawsuits are often numerous, and the claims generally do not specify the amount of damages sought.

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With some limited exceptions, we maintain insurance against product liability claims. We also maintain a reserve for uninsured product liability based on expected settlement charges for pending claims and an estimate of unreported claims derived from experience, sales volumes and other relevant information. We evaluate our exposures on an ongoing basis and make adjustments to the reserve as appropriate. Based on information currently available, we believe that the disposition of matters that are pending will not have a materially adverse effect on our financial condition.

In the normal course of business, we make payments to settle product liability claims and related legal fees that are covered by insurance. We record receivables for the portion of these payments that we believe to be probable of recovery from insurance carriers. The net balance of receivables from insurance carriers was \$18.4 million and \$5.0 million at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. We evaluate the collectibility of these receivables on an ongoing basis and make adjustments as appropriate.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the related disclosures. We evaluate these estimates and judgments on an on-going basis based on historical experience and various assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. However, different amounts could be reported if we had used different assumptions and in light of different facts and circumstances. Actual amounts could differ from the estimates and judgments reflected in our financial statements.

We believe that the following are the more critical judgments and estimates used in preparation of our financial statements.

Accounting for contingencies. We accrue for contingencies in accordance with FAS No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies, when we believe that it is probable that a liability or loss has been incurred and the amount can be reasonably estimated. Contingencies relate to uncertainties that require our judgment both in assessing whether or not a liability or loss has been incurred and in estimating the amount of the probable loss. Significant contingencies affecting our financial statements include pending or threatened litigation, including product liability claims, and product warranties.

Product liability. We face an inherent business risk of exposure to product liability claims arising from the alleged failure of our products to prevent the types of personal injury or death against which they are designed to protect. We accrue for our estimates of the probable costs to be incurred in the resolution of product liability claims. These estimates are based on actuarial valuations, past experience, and our judgments regarding the probable outcome of pending and threatened claims. Due to uncertainty as to the ultimate outcome of pending and threatened claims, as well as the incidence of future claims, it is possible that future results could be materially affected by changes in our assumptions and estimates related to product liability matters. Our product liability expense averaged less than 1% of net sales during the three years ended December 31, 2006.

Product warranties. We accrue for the estimated probable cost of product warranties at the time that sales are recognized. Our estimates are principally based on historical experience. We also accrue for our estimates of the probable costs of corrective action when significant product quality issues are identified. These estimates are principally based on our assumptions regarding the cost of corrective action and the probable number of units to be repaired or replaced. Our product warranty obligation is affected by product failure rates, material usage, and service delivery costs incurred in correcting a product failure. Due to the uncertainty and potential volatility of these factors, it is possible that future results could be materially affected by changes in our assumptions or the effectiveness of our strategies related to these matters. Our product warranty expense averaged less than 2% of net sales during the three years ended December 31, 2006.

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Income taxes. We account for income taxes in accordance with FAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, which requires that deferred tax assets and liabilities be recognized using enacted tax rates for the effect of temporary differences between the book and tax basis of recorded assets and liabilities. FAS No. 109 also requires that deferred tax assets be reduced by valuation allowances if it is more likely than not that some portion of the deferred tax asset will not be realized.

We record valuation allowances to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts that we estimate are probable to be realized. When assessing the need for valuation allowances, we consider projected future taxable income and prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. Should a change in circumstances lead to a change in our judgments about the realizability of deferred tax assets in future years, we would adjust the related valuation allowances in the period that the change in circumstances occurs, along with a corresponding charge or credit to income. There were no valuation allowances as of December 31, 2006.

We record an estimated income tax liability based on our best judgment of the amounts likely to be paid in the various tax jurisdictions in which we operate. The tax liabilities ultimately paid are dependent on a number of factors, including the resolution of tax audits, and may differ from the amounts recorded. Tax liabilities are adjusted through income when it becomes probable that the actual liability differs from the amount recorded.

Pensions and other postretirement benefits. We account for our pension and postretirement benefit plans as required under FAS No. 87, Employers Accounting for Pensions, and FAS No. 106, Employers Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other than Pensions. Accounting for the net periodic benefit costs and credits for these plans requires us to estimate the cost of benefits to be provided well into the future and to attribute these costs over the expected work life of the employees participating in these plans. These estimates require our judgment about discount rates used to determine these obligations, expected returns on plan assets, rates of future compensation increases, rates of increase in future health care costs, participant withdrawal and mortality rates, and participant retirement ages. Differences between our estimates and actual results may significantly affect the cost of our obligations under these plans and could cause net periodic benefit costs and credits to change materially from year-to-year. The discount rate assumptions used in determining projected benefit obligations are based on published long-term bond indices. We increased the assumed discount rates in 2006, reflecting an increase in long-term bond rates.

Goodwill. As required by FAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, each year we evaluate for goodwill impairment by comparing the fair value of each of our reporting units with its carrying value. If carrying value exceeds fair value, then a possible impairment of goodwill exists and requires further evaluation. We estimate the fair value of our reporting units using a combination of discounted cash flow analysis and market capitalization based on historical and projected financial information. We apply our best judgment in assessing the reasonableness of the financial projections and other estimates used to determine the fair value of each reporting unit.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In September 2006, the FASB issued FAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements. FAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The provisions of this standard apply to other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements. FAS No. 157 becomes effective on January 1, 2008. Upon adoption, the provisions of FAS No. 157 are to be applied prospectively with limited exceptions. We do not expect that the adoption of this statement will have a material effect on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

In June 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109). This interpretation was issued to clarify the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and

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measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. This interpretation is effective beginning January 1, 2007, with the cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle recorded as an adjustment to opening retained earnings. We are currently evaluating our tax positions and do not anticipate that this interpretation should have a significant effect on our results.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk of adverse changes in the value of a financial instrument caused by changes in currency exchange rates, interest rates, and equity prices. We are exposed to market risks related to currency exchange rates and interest rates.

Currency exchange rate sensitivity. We are subject to the effects of fluctuations in currency exchange rates on various transactions and on the translation of the reported financial position and operating results of our non-U.S. companies from local currencies to U.S. dollars. A hypothetical 10% strengthening or weakening of the U.S. dollar would increase or decrease our reported sales and net income for the year ended December 31, 2006 by approximately \$41.0 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. When appropriate, we may attempt to limit our transactional exposure to changes in currency exchange rates through contracts or other actions intended to reduce existing exposures by creating offsetting currency exposures. At December 31, 2006, contracts for the purpose of hedging cash flows were not significant.

Interest Rate Sensitivity. We are exposed to changes in interest rates primarily as a result of borrowing and investing activities used to maintain liquidity and fund business operations. Because of the relatively short maturities of temporary investments and the variable rate nature of industrial development debt, these financial instruments are reported at carrying values which approximate fair values.

We hold one interest rate swap agreement, which is used to hedge the fair market value on a portion of our 8.39% fixed rate long-term debt. At December 31, 2006, the swap agreement had a notional amount of \$20.0 million and a fair market value in favor of the bank of \$0.9 million. The swap will expire in 2012. The notional amount of the swap declines \$4.0 million per year beginning in 2008. A hypothetical increase of 10% in market interest rates would result in a decrease of approximately \$0.4 million in the fair value of the interest rate swap.

We have \$100.0 million of fixed rate debt which matures at various dates through 2022. The incremental increase in the fair value of fixed rate long-term debt resulting from a hypothetical 10% decrease in interest rates would be approximately \$2.1 million, excluding the impact of outstanding hedge instruments. However, our sensitivity to interest rate declines and the corresponding increase in the fair value of our debt portfolio would unfavorably affect earnings and cash flows only to the extent that we elected to repurchase or retire all or a portion of our fixed rate debt portfolio at prices above carrying values.

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Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

Management's Reports

Management's Report on Responsibility for Financial Reporting

Management of Mine Safety Appliances Company (the Company) is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements included in this annual report. The financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include amounts that are based on the best estimates and judgments of management. The other financial information contained in this annual report is consistent with the financial statements.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect transactions and dispositions of assets; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of the Company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control-Integrated Framework. Based on our assessment and those criteria, management has concluded that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006.

Our management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears herein.

/s/ JOHN T. RYAN III
John T. Ryan III
Chairman of the Board

Chief Executive Office

/s/ DENNIS L. ZEITLER
Dennis L. Zeitler
Vice President and Treasurer

Chief Financial Officer

February 28, 2007

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of Mine Safety Appliances Company:

We have completed integrated audits of Mine Safety Appliances Company's consolidated financial statements and of its internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Our opinions, based on our audits, are presented below.

Consolidated financial statements

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and the related consolidated statements of income, cash flows, and changes in retained earnings and other comprehensive income present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Mine Safety Appliances Company and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2006 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Notes 8 and 11 to the consolidated financial statements, Mine Safety Appliances Company changed the manner in which it accounts for stock-based compensation and defined benefit pension and postretirement benefit plans in 2006.

Internal control over financial reporting

Also, in our opinion, management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on those criteria. Furthermore, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the COSO. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express opinions on management's assessment and on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We conducted our audit of internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. An audit of internal control over financial reporting includes obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting

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includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 28, 2007

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

Year Ended December 31	2006	2005	2004
Net sales	\$ 913,714	\$ 907,912	\$ 852,509
Other income	5,384	4,058	5,004
	919,098	911,970	857,513
Costs and expenses			
Cost of products sold	568,410	558,921	518,174
Selling, general and administrative	215,663	201,367	198,714
Research and development	26,037	21,928	22,648
Restructuring and other charges	6,981		
Interest	6,228	5,484	3,845
Currency exchange losses	3,139	474	264
	826,458	788,174	743,645
Income before income taxes	92,640	123,796	113,868
Provision for income taxes	28,722	42,013	42,821
Net income	63,918	81,783	71,047
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 1.76	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.91
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 1.73	\$ 2.19	\$ 1.86

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET***(In thousands, except share amounts)*

December 31		2006	2005
Assets			
Current Assets	Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 61,296	\$ 44,797
	Trade receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,574 and \$6,041	174,569	169,436
	Inventories	137,230	119,731
	Deferred tax assets	18,577	17,868
	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	25,187	25,394
	Total current assets	416,859	377,226
Property	Land	4,448	4,815
	Buildings	85,269	83,929
	Machinery and equipment	281,965	268,167
	Construction in progress	7,279	4,686
	Total	378,961	361,597
	Less accumulated depreciation	(258,310)	(245,388)
	Net property	120,651	116,209
Other Assets	Prepaid pension cost	211,018	140,575
	Deferred tax assets	29,676	19,364
	Goodwill	79,360	55,654
	Other noncurrent assets	41,056	16,329
	Total	898,620	725,357
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	Notes payable and current portion of long-term debt	\$ 2,340	\$ 8,808
	Accounts payable	39,441	40,935
	Employees compensation	20,931	18,483
	Insurance and product liability	15,588	13,807
	Taxes on income	8,654	7,063
	Other current liabilities	40,481	41,763
	Total current liabilities	127,435	130,859
Long-Term Debt		112,541	45,834
Other Liabilities	Pensions and other employee benefits	110,966	80,656
	Deferred tax liabilities	100,969	75,511
	Other noncurrent liabilities	8,856	10,100
	Total liabilities	460,767	342,960
Shareholders Equity			
	Preferred stock, 4 1/2% cumulative, \$50 par value (callable at \$52.50)	3,569	3,569
	Common stock, no par value (shares outstanding):		

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2006 36,015,416 & 2005 36,545,984)	57,826	50,887
Stock compensation trust	(14,350)	(15,667)
Treasury shares, at cost	(231,299)	(201,312)
Deferred stock compensation	(1,836)	(2,218)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	28,090	(9,571)
Earnings retained in the business	595,853	556,709
 Total shareholders equity	 437,853	 382,397
 Total	 898,620	 725,357

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS***(In thousands)*

Year Ended December 31	2006	2005	2004
Operating Activities			
Net income	\$ 63,918	\$ 81,783	\$ 71,047
Depreciation and amortization	22,147	24,345	25,496
Pensions	(4,147)	(6,104)	(7,188)
Net (gain) loss on sale of investments and assets	(2,081)	(408)	63
Restructuring and other charges	4,843		
Stock-based compensation	3,934	1,356	895
Deferred income taxes	(1,932)	2,294	7,106
Other noncurrent assets and liabilities	(17,883)	(1,674)	(1,159)
Other, net	905	(1,388)	836
Operating cash flow before changes in working capital	69,704	100,204	97,096
Receivables	4,176	(17,080)	(23,519)
Inventories	(5,374)	(1,348)	(27,422)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(6,362)	5,057	5,070
Prepays and other current assets	699	(6,190)	(4,390)
Increase in working capital	(6,861)	(19,561)	(50,261)
Cash flow from continuing operations	62,843	80,643	46,835
Cash flow from discontinued operations			2,061
Cash Flow From Operating Activities	62,843	80,643	48,896
Investing Activities			
Property additions	(22,734)	(21,664)	(27,330)
Property disposals	3,887	1,320	883
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired and other investing	(31,301)	(16,955)	(6,391)
Cash Flow From Investing Activities	(50,148)	(37,299)	(32,838)
Financing Activities			
Proceeds from long-term debt	59,819		
Payments on long-term debt	(8,134)	(4,120)	(5,023)
Proceeds from (payments on) short-term debt	(230)	(1,473)	566
Cash dividends	(24,774)	(19,053)	(13,758)
Company stock purchases	(29,893)	(58,012)	(6,122)
Exercise of stock options	1,900	4,707	4,910
Excess tax benefit related to stock plans	2,703	5,361	4,946
Cash Flow From Financing Activities	1,391	(72,590)	(14,481)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	2,413	(2,502)	1,724
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	16,499	(31,748)	3,301

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Beginning cash and cash equivalents	44,797	76,545	73,244
Ending cash and cash equivalents	61,296	44,797	76,545
Supplemental cash flow information:			
Interest payments	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,315	\$ 4,632
Income tax payments	17,099	34,060	37,329
	See notes to consolidated financial statements.		

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS AND
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In thousands)

	Retained	Accumulated Other Comprehensive	Comprehensive
	Earnings	Income	Income
Balances January 1, 2004	\$ 436,690	\$ (6,037)	
Net income	71,047		\$ 71,047
Cumulative translation adjustments		8,904	8,904
Minimum pension liability adjustments (a)		(1,074)	(1,074)
Comprehensive income			78,877
Common dividends	(13,714)		
Preferred dividends	(44)		
Balances December 31, 2004	493,979	1,793	
Net income	81,783		\$ 81,783
Cumulative translation adjustments		(11,070)	(11,070)
Minimum pension liability adjustments (a)		(294)	(294)
Comprehensive income			70,419
Common dividends	(19,011)		
Preferred dividends	(42)		
Balances December 31, 2005	556,709	(9,571)	
Net income	63,918		\$ 63,918
Cumulative translation adjustments		10,083	10,083
Minimum pension liability adjustments (a)		1,027	1,027
Adoption of FAS No. 158, net of tax of \$16,932		26,551	
Comprehensive income			75,028
Common dividends	(24,732)		
Preferred dividends	(42)		
Balances December 31, 2006	595,853	28,090	

(a) Minimum pension liability adjustments in 2006, 2005, and 2004 are net of income taxes of \$260, \$189, and \$383, respectively. Components of accumulated other comprehensive income are as follows:

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	2006	2005	2004
Cumulative translation adjustments	\$ 3,023	\$ (7,060)	\$ 4,010
Minimum pension liability adjustments		(2,511)	(2,217)
Adoption of FAS No. 158	25,067		
Accumulated other comprehensive income	28,090	(9,571)	1,793

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Principles of Consolidation The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the company and all subsidiaries. Intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

Currency Translation The functional currency of all significant non-U.S. subsidiaries is the local currency. Assets and liabilities of those operations are translated at year-end exchange rates. Income statement accounts are translated using the average exchange rates for the reporting period. Translation adjustments for these companies are reported as a component of shareholders' equity and are not included in income. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses are included in net income for the reporting period.

Cash Equivalents Cash equivalents include temporary deposits with financial institutions and highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Inventories Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Most U.S. inventories are valued on the last-in, first-out (LIFO) cost method. Other inventories are valued on the average cost method or at standard costs which approximate actual costs.

Property and Depreciation Property is recorded at cost. Depreciation is computed using straight-line and accelerated methods over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Expenditures for significant renewals and improvements are capitalized. Ordinary repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Gains or losses on property dispositions are included in income and the cost and related depreciation are removed from the accounts.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives are not amortized, but are subject to impairment write-down tests. We test the goodwill of each of our reporting units for impairment at least annually. For this purpose, we consider our reportable business segments to be our reporting units. Fair value is estimated using discounted cash flow methodologies and market comparable information. Other intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.

Revenue Recognition Revenue from the sale of products is recognized when title, ownership, and the risk of loss have transferred to the customer, which generally occurs either when product is shipped to the customer or, in the case of most U.S. distributor customers, when product is delivered to the customer's delivery site. We establish our shipping terms according to local practice and market characteristics. We do not ship product unless we have an order or other documentation authorizing shipment to our customers. We make appropriate provisions for uncollectible accounts receivable and product returns, both of which have historically been insignificant in relation to our net sales. Certain distributor customers receive price rebates based on their level of purchases and other performance criteria that are documented in established distributor programs. These rebates are accrued as a reduction of net sales as they are earned by the customer.

Shipping and Handling Shipping and handling expenses for products sold to customers are charged to cost of products sold as incurred. Amounts billed to customers for shipping and handling are included in net sales.

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Product Warranties Estimated expenses related to product warranties and additional service actions are charged to cost of products sold in the period in which the related revenue is recognized or when significant product quality issues are identified.

Research and Development Research and development costs are expensed as incurred.

Income Taxes Deferred income taxes are provided for temporary differences between financial and tax reporting. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. If it is more likely than not that some portion or all of a deferred tax asset will not be realized, a valuation allowance is recognized. No provision is made for possible U.S. taxes on the undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries that are considered to be reinvested indefinitely.

Stock-Based Compensation Plans On January 1, 2006, we adopted Statement of FAS No. 123R, Share-Based Payment, which requires that we recognize compensation expense for stock-based compensation based on the grant date fair value. Except for retirement-eligible employees, for whom there is no requisite service period, this expense is recognized ratably over the requisite service periods following the date of grant. For retirement-eligible employees, this expense is recognized at the grant date. We elected the modified prospective application method for adoption and prior period financial statements have not been restated. Prior to January 1, 2006, we accounted for stock-based compensation in accordance with the provisions of APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related interpretations, using the intrinsic value method, which resulted in no compensation expense for stock options.

Derivative Instruments We use derivative instruments to dampen the effects of changes in currency exchange rates and to achieve a targeted mix of fixed and floating interest rates on outstanding debt. We do not enter into derivative transactions for speculative purposes and do not hold derivative instruments for trading purposes. Changes in the fair value of derivative instruments designated as fair value hedges are recorded in the balance sheet as adjustments to the underlying hedged asset or liability. Changes in the fair value of derivative instruments that do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment are recognized in the income statement in the current period.

Note 2 Restructuring and Other Charges

During the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded charges of \$7.0 million (\$4.4 million after tax), primarily related to the Project Outlook reorganization plan in North America, which was completed during the first half of the year.

Project Outlook was designed to ensure that our North American management teams, employees, product design processes, and operational functions are fully aligned with our strategic goals and the needs of our customers. The reorganization of business and support functions in our North American operations is expected to result in cost reductions and a higher degree of collaboration, focus, and efficiency. A significant portion of the cost reductions resulting from Project Outlook is being realized from a focused voluntary retirement incentive program (VRIP) that was completed during the first quarter of 2006. In January 2006, approximately 60 employees elected to retire at the end of February under the terms of the VRIP. Restructuring charges for 2006 include \$5.3 million for VRIP retirees, primarily special termination benefits, \$0.7 million in severance costs related to additional staffing reductions that were made at the end of January 2006, and \$0.5 million related to the relocation of various employee work groups within the new organizational structure.

During the year ended December 31, 2006, we recorded \$0.5 million (\$0.3 million after tax) in severance costs related to our plan to discontinue manufacturing operations in Britain.

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Note 3 Inventories**

	December 31	
	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Finished products	\$ 55,764	\$ 49,073
Work in process	24,203	24,096
Raw materials and supplies	57,263	46,562
Total LIFO inventories	137,230	119,731
Excess of FIFO costs over LIFO costs	42,514	41,604
Total FIFO inventories	179,744	161,335

Inventories stated on the LIFO basis represent 36% of the total inventories at both December 31, 2006 and 2005.

Reductions in certain inventory quantities during 2006 and 2005 resulted in liquidations of LIFO inventories carried at lower costs prevailing in prior years. The effect of these liquidations on cost of sales and net income was not significant in either year.

Note 4 Capital Stock

Common stock, no par value 180,000,000 shares authorized.

Second cumulative preferred voting stock, \$10 par value 1,000,000 shares authorized; none issued.

4 1/2% cumulative preferred nonvoting stock, \$50 par value 100,000 shares authorized; 71,373 shares issued and 52,841 shares (\$1.8 million) held in treasury; no treasury share purchases in 2006, treasury share purchases in 2005 and 2004 of 105 shares, \$5, and 1,182 shares, \$56, respectively (share purchase dollars in thousands).

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Common stock activity is summarized as follows:

	Shares Stock			Dollars (<i>In thousands</i>) Stock		
	Shares Issued	Compensation Trust	Shares in Treasury	Shares Issued	Compensation Trust	Treasury Cost
Balances January 1, 2004	61,740,327	(3,711,231)	(21,101,112)	\$ 31,187	\$ (19,385)	\$ (135,483)
Restricted stock awards		45,098		918	236	
Stock options exercised		519,911		2,197	2,713	
Tax benefit related to stock plans				4,946		
Treasury shares purchased			(151,607)			(6,066)
Balances December 31, 2004	61,740,327	(3,146,222)	(21,252,719)	39,248	(16,436)	(141,549)
Restricted stock awards	42,440	10,438		2,286	54	
Restricted stock awards forfeited			(161)			(6)
Stock options exercised	298,624	134,659		3,992	715	
Tax benefit related to stock plans				5,361		
Treasury shares purchased			(1,281,402)			(58,007)
Balances December 31, 2005	62,081,391	(3,001,125)	(22,534,282)	50,887	(15,667)	(199,562)
Restricted stock awards		47,738		1,674	249	
Restricted stock awards forfeited			(2,346)			(94)
Stock options exercised		204,375		832	1,068	
Stock option expense				1,730		
Tax benefit related to stock plans				2,703		
Treasury shares purchased			(780,335)			(29,893)
Balances December 31, 2006	62,081,391	(2,749,012)	(23,316,963)	57,826	(14,350)	(229,549)

The Mine Safety Appliances Company Stock Compensation Trust was established to fund certain benefit plans, including employee and non-employee directors' stock options and awards. Shares held by the Stock Compensation Trust, and the corresponding cost of those shares, are reported as a reduction of common shares issued. Differences between the cost of the shares held by the Stock Compensation Trust and the market value of shares released for stock-related benefits are reflected in shares issued.

The Shareholder Rights Plan, under which each outstanding share of common stock was granted one-ninth of a preferred share purchase right, expired on February 21, 2007. Under the terms of the Plan, the rights were exercisable for a fraction of a share of preferred stock, only if a person or group acquired or commenced a tender offer for 15% or more of our common stock.

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Note 5 Segment Information**

We are organized into three geographic operating segments: North America, Europe, and International. We are engaged in the manufacture and sale of safety equipment, including respiratory protective equipment, head protection, eye and face protection, hearing protection, safety clothing, industrial emergency care products, mining safety equipment, thermal imaging cameras, and monitoring instruments. Reportable segment information is presented in the following table:

	North			Reconciling	Consolidated
	America	Europe	International	Items	Totals
	<i>(In thousands)</i>				
2006					
Sales to external customers	\$ 503,357	\$ 219,241	\$ 191,116	\$	\$ 913,714
Intercompany sales	39,888	82,936	5,676	(128,500)	
Net income	42,658	8,851	13,087	(678)	63,918
Total assets	609,913	249,073	109,027	(69,393)	898,620
Interest income	1,436	458	937	231	3,062
Interest expense	5,998	88	141	1	6,228
Noncash items:					
Depreciation and amortization	14,200	5,456	2,491		22,147
Pension income (expense)	4,697	(4,569)	(824)		(696)
Equity in earnings of affiliates	(277)		109		168
Income tax provision	17,844	4,908	5,111	859	28,722
Investments in affiliates	221		410		631
Property additions	11,734	6,791	4,209		22,734
Net property	83,540	24,358	12,753		120,651
2005					
Sales to external customers	566,501	180,493	160,918		907,912
Intercompany sales	39,083	70,099	4,831	(114,013)	
Net income	64,149	6,321	11,659	(346)	81,783
Total assets	492,964	200,611	87,513	(55,731)	725,357
Interest income	1,067	301	526	566	2,460
Interest expense	5,295	74	115		5,484
Noncash items:					
Depreciation and amortization	17,138	5,286	1,921		24,345
Pension income (expense)	10,542	(3,762)	(676)		6,104
Equity in earnings of affiliates	(210)		78		(132)
Income tax provision	30,578	7,138	4,663	(366)	42,013
Investments in affiliates	344		301		645
Property additions	12,764	5,924	2,976		21,664
Net property	85,236	20,464	10,509		116,209
2004					
Sales to external customers	557,109	167,300	128,100		852,509
Intercompany sales	29,654	57,453	3,883	(90,990)	
Net income	56,594	3,771	10,571	111	71,047
Total assets	469,555	221,447	80,574	(37,466)	734,110
Interest income	1,613	187	387	527	2,714
Interest expense	3,622	61	162		3,845
Noncash items:					

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Depreciation and amortization	18,682	5,212	1,602		25,496
Pension income (expense)	11,687	(4,002)	(529)	32	7,188
Equity in earnings of affiliates			56		56
Income tax provision	33,910	4,937	3,689	285	42,821
Investments in affiliates	366		209		575
Property additions	16,238	6,440	4,652		27,330
Net property	90,121	23,505	10,090		123,716

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Reconciling items consist primarily of intercompany eliminations and items reported at the corporate level.

Geographic information for sales to external customers, based on country of origin:

	2006	2005 <i>(In thousands)</i>	2004
United States	\$ 500,398	\$ 560,107	\$ 544,707
Germany	99,955	73,903	70,281
Other	313,361	273,902	237,521
Total	913,714	907,912	852,509

Note 6 Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share includes the effect of the weighted average stock options outstanding during the period, using the treasury stock method. Antidilutive options are not considered in computing diluted earnings per share.

	2006	2005 <i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>	2004
Net income	\$ 63,918	\$ 81,783	\$ 71,047
Preferred stock dividends	(42)	(42)	(44)
Income available to common shareholders	63,876	81,741	71,003
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 1.76	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.91
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 1.73	\$ 2.19	\$ 1.86
Basic shares outstanding	36,366	36,560	37,111
Stock options	562	741	1,019
Diluted shares outstanding	36,928	37,301	38,130
Antidilutive stock options	376	195	

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Note 7 Income Taxes**

	2006	2005 <i>(In thousands)</i>	2004
Components of income before income taxes			
U.S. income	\$ 53,488	\$ 112,731	\$ 84,896
Non-U.S. income	42,527	40,764	28,229
Currency translation gains	2,880	106	647
Eliminations	(6,255)	(29,805)	96
Income before income taxes	92,640	123,796	113,868
Provision for income taxes			
Current			
Federal	13,653	23,259	24,016
State	2,663	6,352	4,566
Non-U.S.	14,338	10,108	7,133
Total current provision.	30,654	39,719	35,715
Deferred			
Federal	391	461	3,403
State	(1,161)	219	1,025
Non-U.S.	(1,162)	1,614	2,678
Total deferred provision	(1,932)	2,294	7,106
Provision for income taxes	28,722	42,013	42,821

Reconciliation of the U.S. federal income tax rates to our effective tax rate

	2006	2005	2004
U.S. federal income tax rate	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
State income taxes U.S.	1.3	3.4	3.3
Taxes on non-U.S. income	(0.5)	(1.0)	(0.1)
Research and development credits	(1.0)	(0.9)	(0.9)
Extra-territorial income exclusion	(0.6)	(0.4)	(0.2)
Adjustment of prior years income taxes	(2.2)	(1.6)	1.0
Valuation allowances			(0.5)
Other	(1.0)	(0.6)	
Effective income tax rate	31.0%	33.9%	37.6%

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

	December 31	
	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Components of deferred tax assets and liabilities		
Deferred tax assets		
Postretirement benefits	\$ 17,112	\$ 6,684
Inventory reserves	8,180	6,424
Vacation allowances	1,408	1,272
Net operating losses	1,154	3,803
Post employment benefits	2,150	1,950
Foreign tax credit carryforwards (expiring between 2009 and 2016)	2,789	1,736
Liability insurance	4,318	3,522
Basis of capital assets	4,197	4,383
Intangibles	1,424	1,138
Warranties	2,607	2,593
Other	3,968	4,178
Total deferred tax assets	49,307	37,683
Deferred tax liabilities		
Property, plant and equipment	(20,229)	(18,647)
Pension	(80,365)	(52,647)
Other	(1,946)	(5,134)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(102,540)	(76,428)
Net deferred taxes	(53,233)	(38,745)

Net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$2.9 million, all in non-U.S. tax jurisdictions, have no expiration date.

No deferred U.S. income taxes have been provided on undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries, which amounted to \$137.2 million as of December 31, 2006. These earnings are considered to be reinvested for an indefinite period of time. It is not practicable to determine the deferred tax liability on these undistributed earnings.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 provided a limited opportunity through 2005 to repatriate the undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries at a U.S. tax cost that could be lower than the normal tax cost on such distributions. During 2005, we repatriated \$23.2 million of dividends, \$21.0 million of which qualified under these provisions. The resulting impact of these dividends on our income tax expense was not material.

The determination of income tax expense takes into consideration amounts which may be needed to cover exposures for open tax years. We have resolved all matters with the IRS related to our federal income tax returns through 2002. We believe that we have made adequate provision for income taxes and interest which may become payable or receivable for years not yet settled. We do not expect any materially adverse impact on earnings to result from the resolution of matters related to open tax years.

Note 8 Stock Plans

The 1998 Management Share Incentive Plan provides for grants of stock options and restricted stock awards to eligible key employees through March 2008. The 1990 Non-Employee Directors Stock Option Plan, as amended April 29, 2004, provides for annual grants of stock options and restricted stock awards to eligible

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directors. Stock options are granted at market value option prices and expire after ten years (limited instances of option prices in excess of market value and expiration after five years). Stock options granted in 2006 are exercisable beginning three years after the grant date. Stock options granted in 2005 and earlier years were fully vested as of December 31, 2005. Restricted stock awards are granted without payment to the company and vest three years after the grant date. As of December 31, 2006, there were 916,004 shares and 111,740 shares, respectively, reserved for future grants under the management and directors' plans. We issue Stock Compensation Trust shares or new shares for stock option exercises and restricted stock awards.

On January 1, 2006, we adopted Statement of FAS No. 123R, Share-Based Payment, which requires that we recognize compensation expense for stock-based compensation based on the grant date fair value. Except for retirement-eligible employees, for whom there is no requisite service period, this expense is recognized ratably over the requisite service periods following the date of grant. For retirement-eligible employees, this expense is recognized at the grant date. We have elected the modified prospective application method for adoption and prior periods financial statements have not been restated. Prior to January 1, 2006, we accounted for stock-based compensation in accordance with the provisions of APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees, and related interpretations, using the intrinsic value method, which resulted in no compensation expense for stock options.

Stock-based compensation expense was as follows:

	2006	2005	2004
	<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Restricted stock awards	\$ 2,204	\$ 1,356	\$ 895
Stock option grants	1,730		
Total compensation expense before income taxes	3,934	1,356	895
Income tax benefit	1,434	529	349
Total compensation expense, net of income tax benefit	2,500	827	546

We did not capitalize any stock-based compensation expense in 2006, 2005, or 2004.

Prior to January 1, 2006, we did not recognize stock-based compensation expense for stock options. If we had elected to recognize compensation cost based on the fair value of the options at the grant date as prescribed by FAS No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, net income and earnings per share for 2005 and 2004 would have been reduced to the pro forma amounts shown below.

	2005	2004
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Net income as reported	\$ 81,783	\$ 71,047
Fair value of stock options granted, net of tax	(2,565)	(1,781)
Pro forma net income	79,218	69,266
Basic earnings per share:		
As reported	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.91
Pro forma	2.17	1.87
Diluted earnings per share:		
As reported	\$ 2.19	\$ 1.86
Pro forma	2.12	1.82

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Stock option expense for 2006 and the pro forma effect as if FAS No. 123 had been applied for 2005 and 2004 are based on the fair value of stock option grants estimated on the grant dates using the Black-Scholes option pricing model and the following weighted average assumptions for options granted in 2006 and 2005:

	2006	2005	2004
Fair value per option	\$ 16.38	\$ 16.58	\$ 8.63
Risk-free interest rate	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%
Expected dividend yield	1.4%	2.0%	2.0%
Expected volatility	41%	34%	29%
Expected life (years)	5.7	9.9	9.9

The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury Constant Maturity rates as of the grant date converted into an implied spot rate yield curve. Expected dividend yield is based on the most recent annualized dividend divided by the one year average closing share price. Expected volatility is based on the ten year historical volatility using daily stock prices. Expected life in years for 2006 is based on historical stock option exercise data. Prior to 2006, expected life approximated contractual life.

A summary of option activity under the two plans follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Exercisable at Year-end
Outstanding at January 1, 2004	2,015,550	\$ 9.88	
Granted	297,065	25.21	
Exercised	(519,911)	9.45	
Outstanding December 31, 2004	1,792,704	12.55	1,495,639
Granted	194,786	45.68	
Exercised	(433,283)	10.86	
Outstanding December 31, 2005	1,554,207	17.17	1,554,207
Granted	181,527	40.20	
Exercised	(204,375)	9.29	
Outstanding December 31, 2006	1,531,359	20.95	1,349,832

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

For various exercise price ranges, characteristics of outstanding and exercisable stock options at December 31, 2006 were as follows:

Range of Exercise Prices	Shares	Stock Options Outstanding	
		Exercise Price	Weighted-Average Remaining Life
\$ 7.07 - \$ 9.03	264,963	\$ 7.83	4.1 years
\$10.65 - \$13.57	619,287	11.29	5.7
\$25.07 - \$28.06	270,796	25.17	7.2
\$40.08 - \$50.25	376,313	43.04	8.5
\$ 7.07 - \$50.25	1,531,359	20.95	6.4

Range of Exercise Prices	Shares	Stock Options Exercisable	
		Exercise Price	Weighted-Average Remaining Life
\$ 7.07 - \$ 9.03	264,963	\$ 7.83	4.1 years
\$10.65 - \$13.57	619,287	11.29	5.7
\$25.07 - \$28.06	270,796	25.17	7.2
\$44.36 - \$50.25	194,786	45.68	7.9
\$ 7.07 - \$50.25	1,349,832	18.36	6.0

The aggregate intrinsic values of stock options outstanding and stock options exercisable at December 31, 2006 were \$24.5 million and \$25.7 million, respectively.

A summary of restricted stock award activity follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2004	137,559	\$ 12.16
Granted	45,098	25.59
Vested	(3,474)	11.47
Unvested at December 31, 2004	179,183	15.57
Granted	52,878	44.27

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Vested	(62,009)	13.83
Forfeited	(161)	39.16
Unvested at December 31, 2005	169,891	25.10
Granted	47,738	40.29
Vested	(76,813)	12.18
Forfeited	(2,346)	40.08
Unvested at December 31, 2006	138,470	37.26

During the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004, the total intrinsic value of stock options exercised (i.e. the difference between the market price at exercise and the option price paid to exercise the option) was \$6.3 million, \$14.5 million, and \$15.9 million, respectively. The fair values of restricted stock

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

awards vested during the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004 were \$2.9 million, \$2.1 million, and \$1.6 million, respectively.

As of December 31, 2006, there was \$3.1 million of total future unvested stock-based compensation expense, and the weighted average period over which this expense is expected to be recognized was approximately 1.7 years.

Note 9 Accounts Receivable Securitization

In August 2004, we terminated our securitization arrangement with a financial institution under which Mine Safety Funding Corporation, a consolidated wholly-owned bankruptcy remote subsidiary of the company, could sell up to \$30.0 million of eligible accounts receivable to a multi-seller asset-backed commercial paper issuer. We terminated this arrangement because we no longer required the source of funding that the securitization provided.

Note 10 Long-Term Debt

	December 31	
	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
U.S.		
Industrial development debt issues payable through 2022, 5.46%	\$ 6,750	\$ 10,750
Series B Senior Notes payable through 2006, 7.69%		4,000
Senior Notes payable through 2012, 8.39%	39,089	39,070
Senior Notes payable through 2022, 5.41%	60,000	
Note payable through 2011, net of unamortized discount of \$1,306	8,694	
Other		50
International		
Various notes payable through 2008, 5.80%	38	98
Total	114,571	53,968
Amounts due in one year	2,030	8,134
Long-term debt	112,541	45,834

Approximate maturities of these obligations over the next five years are \$2.0 million in 2007, \$10.0 million in 2008, \$10.8 million in 2009, \$12.0 million in 2010, \$8.7 million in 2011, and \$71.1 million thereafter. Some debt agreements require us to maintain certain financial ratios and minimum net worth and contain restrictions on the total amount of debt. We were in compliance with our debt covenants as of December 31, 2006.

Note 11 Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits

We maintain various defined benefit and defined contribution plans covering the majority of our employees. The principal U.S. plan is funded in compliance with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). It is our general policy to fund current costs for the international plans except in Germany and Mexico, where it is common practice and permissible under tax laws to accrue book reserves.

We provide health care benefits and limited life insurance for certain retired employees who are covered by our principal U.S. defined benefit pension plan until they become Medicare-eligible.

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

We adopted FAS No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*, effective December 31, 2006. FAS No. 158 requires an employer to recognize the funded status of each of its defined pension and postretirement benefit plans as a net asset or liability in its statement of financial position with an offsetting amount in accumulated other comprehensive income, and to recognize changes in that funded status in the year in which changes occur through comprehensive income. Upon the adoption of FAS No. 158, additional minimum pension liabilities and related intangible assets are no longer recognized. The provisions of FAS No. 158 are to be applied on a prospective basis; therefore, prior periods presented are not restated. The adoption of FAS No. 158 resulted in the following impacts at December 31, 2006: an increase of \$67.5 million in prepaid pension costs, an increase of \$23.4 million in accrued pension and other postretirement benefit liabilities, and an increase of \$43.5 million (\$26.6 million after-tax) in accumulated other comprehensive income. Additionally, FAS No. 158 requires that we measure the funded status of each of our plans as of year-end beginning December 31, 2008.

Table of Contents**MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

We use a January 1 measurement date for our plans. Information pertaining to defined benefit pension plans and other postretirement benefits plans is provided in the following table.

	Pension Benefits		Other Benefits	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Change in Benefit Obligations				
Benefit obligations at January 1	\$ 286,094	\$ 270,045	\$ 28,518	\$ 26,387
Service cost	9,597	7,843	614	543
Interest cost	16,066	14,985	1,399	1,609
Employee contributions	254	554		
Plan amendments		44	(1,310)	
Actuarial losses (gain)	64	14,515	(1,832)	1,949
Benefits paid	(18,189)	(13,716)	(2,483)	(1,970)
Curtailments	(22)			
Settlements	(393)			
Termination benefits	4,843			
Currency translation effects	8,280	(8,176)		
Benefit obligations at December 31	306,594	286,094	24,906	28,518
Change in Plan Assets				
Fair value of plan assets at January 1	395,291	383,195		
Actual return on plan assets	54,574	25,162		
Employer contributions	2,454	4,029	583	470
Employee contributions	254	554		
Benefits paid	(15,619)	(13,716)	(2,483)	(1,970)
Section 420 transfer to retiree medical plan	(1,900)	(1,500)	1,900	1,500
Reimbursement of German benefits	(2,570)	(1,868)		
Settlements	(520)			
Currency translation effects	1,627	(565)		
Fair value of plan assets at December 31	433,591	395,291		
Funded Status				
Funded status at December 31	126,997	109,197	(24,906)	(28,518)
Unrecognized transition losses	264	300		
Unrecognized prior service cost	690	888	(2,527)	(1,444)
Unrecognized net actuarial (gains) losses	(49,160)	(26,527)	9,650	12,401
Net amount recognized	78,791	83,858	(17,783)	(17,561)
Amounts Recognized in the Balance Sheet Before the Adoption of FAS No. 158				
Prepaid pension cost	143,546	140,575		
Accrued benefit liability	(67,705)	(60,447)	(17,783)	(17,561)
Intangible asset	550	334		
Accumulated other comprehensive income	2,400	3,396		

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Net amount recognized	78,791	83,858	(17,783)	(17,561)
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After the Adoption of FAS No. 158

Noncurrent assets	211,018			
Current liabilities	(3,724)		(1,637)	
Noncurrent liabilities	(80,297)		(23,269)	

Net amount recognized	126,997		(24,906)	
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Amounts Recognized in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

Net actuarial loss (gain)	(49,160)		9,650	
Prior service cost (credit)	690		(2,527)	
Unrecognized net initial obligation (asset)	264			

Total (before tax effects)	(48,206)		7,123	
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Accumulated Benefit Obligations for all Defined Benefit Plans

254,968	233,337
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	Before	FAS No. 158	After
	Application of	Adjustments	Application of
	FAS No. 158 (a)	Adjustments	FAS No. 158
Change due to the adoption of FAS No. 158			
Prepaid pension costs	\$ 143,546	\$ 67,472	\$ 211,018
Intangible asset	550	(550)	
Pension liability	(67,705)	(16,316)	(84,021)
Other benefits liability	(17,783)	(7,123)	(24,906)
Accumulated other comprehensive income before taxes	2,400	(43,483)	(41,083)
Deferred taxes, net	(916)	16,932	16,016
Accumulated other comprehensive income after taxes	1,484	(26,551)	(25,067)

- (a) Includes additional minimum pension liability adjustment under previous guidance of \$1,287, which credited accumulated other comprehensive income by \$1,027 after-tax.

	2006	Pension Benefits 2005	2004	2006	Other Benefits 2005	2004
	<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Components of Net Periodic Benefit Cost (Credit)						
Service cost	\$ 9,597	\$ 7,843	\$ 7,383	\$ 614	\$ 543	\$ 513
Interest cost	16,066	14,985	14,661	1,399	1,609	1,505
Expected return on plan assets	(31,287)	(30,001)	(29,123)			
Amortization of transition amounts	44	43	28			
Amortization of prior service cost	198	270	299	(227)	(227)	(228)
Recognized net actuarial losses (gains)	1,089	496	(661)	820	984	828
Settlement loss	146	260	225			
Termination benefits	4,843					
Net periodic benefit (credit) cost	696	(6,104)	(7,188)	2,606	2,909	2,618

	Pension Benefits 2006	2005	Other Benefits 2006	2005
Assumptions used to determine benefit obligations				
Discount rate	5.7%	5.5%	6.0%	5.8%
Rate of compensation increase	4.4%	3.4%		
Assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost				
Discount rate	5.5%	5.7%	5.8%	6.0%
Expected return on plan assets	8.4%	8.4%		
Rate of compensation increases	4.4%	3.4%		

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The expected return on assets for the 2006 net periodic pension cost was determined by multiplying the expected returns of each asset class (based on historical returns) by the expected percentage of the total portfolio invested in that asset class. A total return was determined by summing the expected returns over all asset classes.

Asset Category	Plan Assets at December 31	
	2006	2005
Equity securities	78.8%	76.8%
Debt securities	17.9%	19.5%
Real estate	0.3%	0.2%
Cash/other	3.0%	3.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Investment policies are determined by the Plan's Investment Committee and set forth in the Plan's Investment Policy. Asset managers are granted discretion for determining sector mix, selecting securities and timing transactions, subject to the guidelines of the Investment Policy. An aggressive, flexible management of the portfolio is permitted. No target asset allocations are set forth in the Investment Policy.

We expect to make net contributions of \$1.7 million to our pension plans in 2007.

For measurement purposes, a 7.5% increase in the costs of covered health care benefits was assumed for the year 2006, decreasing by 0.5% for each successive year to 4.0% in 2013 and thereafter. A one-percentage-point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have increased or decreased the other postretirement benefit obligations and current year plan expense by approximately \$1.4 million and \$0.2 million, respectively.

Expense for defined contribution pension plans was \$4.0 million in 2006, \$3.9 million in 2005, and \$3.8 million in 2004.

On December 31, 2003, the U.S. defined benefit pension plan owned 2,533,500 shares (market value \$67.1 million) of our common stock. During 2004, the pension plan sold all shares of our common stock. During 2004 and 2003, the pension plan received dividends of approximately \$0.2 million and \$4.5 million, respectively, on those shares.

The estimated pension benefits to be paid under our defined benefit pension plans during the next five years are \$14.3 million in 2007, \$15.3 million in 2008, \$15.6 million in 2009, \$16.6 million in 2010, \$17.2 million in 2011, and are expected to aggregate \$104.9 million for the five years thereafter. The estimated other postretirement benefits to be paid during the next five years are \$1.6 million in 2007, \$1.6 million in 2008, \$1.7 million in 2009, \$1.9 million in 2010, \$2.0 million in 2011, and are expected to aggregate \$10.7 million for the five years thereafter.

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MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Note 12 Other Income

	2006	2005	2004
		<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Interest	\$ 3,062	\$ 2,460	\$ 2,714
Dividends			610
Dispositions of assets	2,865		