

CORE MOLDING TECHNOLOGIES INC

Form 10-K

March 13, 2015

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001 12505

CORE MOLDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 31-1481870

(State or other jurisdiction (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
incorporation or organization)

800 Manor Park Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228-0183

(Address of principal executive office) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (614) 870-5000

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
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Common Stock, par value \$0.01	NYSE MKT LLC
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Preferred Stock purchase rights, par value \$0.01	NYSE MKT LLC
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Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

(Title of class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was

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required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☒ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

As of June 30, 2014, the aggregate market value of the registrant's voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$78,233,896, based upon the closing sale price of \$13.00 on the NYSE MKT LLC on June 30, 2014, the last business day of registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. As of the close of business on March 13, 2015, the number of shares of registrant's common stock outstanding was 7,562,012.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's 2015 definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the registrant's fiscal year are incorporated herein by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

CORE MOLDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I

<u>Item 1. Business</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>17</u>

Part II

<u>Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchase of Equity Securities</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	<u>53</u>

Part III

<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships, Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>54</u>

Part IV

<u>Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>55</u>
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Signatures 56

Index to Exhibits 58

Exhibit 23

Exhibit 24

Exhibit 31(a)

Exhibit 31(b)

Exhibit 32(a)

Exhibit 32(b)

EX-101 INSTANCE DOCUMENT

EX-101 SCHEMA DOCUMENT

EX-101 CALCULATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 LABEL LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 PRESENTATION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

EX-101 DEFINITION LINKBASE DOCUMENT

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS OF CORE MOLDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

In 1996, RYMAC Mortgage Investment Corporation (“RYMAC”) incorporated Core Molding Technologies, Inc. (“Core Molding Technologies” or the “Company”), formerly known as Core Materials Corporation before changing its name on August 28, 2002, for the purpose of acquiring the Columbus Plastics unit of Navistar, Inc. (“Navistar”), formerly known as International Truck & Engine Corporation. On December 31, 1996, RYMAC merged with and into the Company, with the Company as the surviving entity. Immediately after the merger, the Company acquired substantially all the assets and liabilities of the Columbus Plastics unit from Navistar in return for a secured note, which has been repaid, and 4,264,000 shares of newly issued common stock of the Company. On July 18, 2007, the Company entered into a stock repurchase agreement with Navistar, pursuant to which the Company repurchased 3,600,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, from Navistar. On August 16, 2013, Navistar sold its remaining 664,000 shares of common stock in a series of open market sales.

In 1998, the Company opened a second compression molding plant located in Gaffney, South Carolina as part of the Company’s growth strategy to expand its customer base. This facility provided the Company with additional capacity and a strategic location to serve both current and prospective customers.

In October 2001, the Company incorporated Core Composites Corporation as a wholly owned subsidiary under the laws of the State of Delaware. This entity was established for the purpose of holding and establishing operations for Airshield Corporation’s assets, which the Company acquired on October 16, 2001 (the “Airshield Asset Acquisition”) as part of the Company’s diversified growth strategy. Airshield Corporation was a privately held manufacturer and marketer of fiberglass reinforced plastic parts primarily for the truck and automotive aftermarket industries. The Company purchased substantially all of the assets of Airshield Corporation through the United States Bankruptcy Court as Airshield Corporation had been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since March 2001.

In conjunction with establishment of operations for the assets acquired in the Airshield Asset Acquisition, the Company established a Mexican subsidiary and leased a production facility in Mexico. In October 2001, the Company (5% owner) and Core Composites Corporation (95% owner) incorporated Corecomposites de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V. (“Corecomposites”) in Matamoros, Mexico. Corecomposites was organized to operate under a maquiladora program whereby substantially all products produced are exported back to Core Composites Corporation which sells such products to United States based external customers. In June of 2009, the Company completed construction and took occupancy of a new production facility in Matamoros, Mexico that replaced its leased facility.

In September 2004, the Company formed Core Automotive Technologies, LLC (“Core Automotive”), a Delaware limited liability company and wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. This entity was formed for the purpose of establishing operations and holding assets acquired from Keystone Restyling, Inc., which the Company acquired as part of its diversified growth strategy in September, 2004. Keystone Restyling, Inc. was a privately held manufacturer and marketer of fiberglass reinforced plastic parts primarily for the automotive and light truck aftermarket industries. The Company’s facility in Matamoros, Mexico provides manufacturing services for Core Automotive Technologies.

In August 2005, the Company formed Core Composites Cincinnati, LLC, (“Core Composites Cincinnati”) a Delaware limited liability company and wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. This entity was formed for the purpose of establishing operations and holding assets acquired from the Cincinnati Fiberglass Division of Diversified Glass Inc., which the Company acquired in August, 2005. The Cincinnati Fiberglass Division of Diversified Glass, Inc. was a privately held manufacturer and distributor of fiberglass reinforced plastic components supplied primarily to the

heavy-duty truck market. As a result of this acquisition, the Company leases a manufacturing facility in Batavia, Ohio.

In July 2011, the Company formed Core Specialty Composites, LLC ("Core Specialty Composites"), a Delaware limited liability company and wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, which leased a facility in Warsaw, Kentucky to produce parts for customers outside of the Company's traditional markets. Due to changing market conditions for products manufactured at the Warsaw facility the Company terminated its lease and closed its Warsaw facility in October 2012.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS OF CORE MOLDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Certain statements under this caption of this Annual Report on Form 10-K constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. As a general matter, forward-looking statements are those focused upon future plans, objectives or performance as opposed to historical items and include statements of anticipated events or trends and expectations and beliefs relating to matters not historical in nature. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and are subject to uncertainties and factors relating to Core Molding Technologies' operations and business environment, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond Core Molding Technologies' control. These uncertainties and factors could cause Core Molding Technologies' actual results to differ materially from those matters expressed in or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Core Molding Technologies believes that the following factors, among others, could affect its future performance and cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements made in this report: business conditions in the plastics, transportation, marine and commercial product industries; federal and state regulations (including engine emission regulations); general economic, social and political environments in the countries in which Core Molding Technologies operates; safety and security conditions in Mexico; dependence upon certain major customers as the primary source of Core Molding Technologies' sales revenues; efforts of Core Molding Technologies to expand its customer base; the actions of competitors, customers, and suppliers; failure of Core Molding Technologies' suppliers to perform their obligations; the availability of raw materials; inflationary pressures; new technologies; regulatory matters; labor relations; the loss or inability of Core Molding Technologies to attract and retain key personnel; federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations; the availability of capital; the ability of Core Molding Technologies to provide on-time delivery to customers, which may require additional shipping expenses to ensure on-time delivery or otherwise result in late fees; risk of cancellation or rescheduling of orders; management's decision to pursue new products or businesses which involve additional costs, risks or capital expenditures; and other risks identified from time to time in Core Molding Technologies' other public documents on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those described in Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Core Molding Technologies and its subsidiaries operate in the plastics market in a family of products known as "reinforced plastics." Reinforced plastics are combinations of resins and reinforcing fibers (typically glass or carbon) that are molded to shape. Core Molding Technologies is a manufacturer of sheet molding compound ("SMC") and molder of fiberglass reinforced plastics. The Company specializes in large-format moldings and offers a wide range of fiberglass processes, including compression molding of SMC, glass mat thermoplastics ("GMT") and bulk molding compounds ("BMC"); spray-up, hand-lay-up, and resin transfer molding ("RTM"). Additionally, the Company offers reaction injection molding ("RIM"), utilizing dicyclopentadiene technology. Core Molding Technologies operates four production facilities in Columbus, Ohio; Batavia, Ohio; Gaffney, South Carolina; and Matamoros, Mexico.

Reinforced plastics compete largely against metals and have the strength to function well during prolonged use. Management believes that reinforced plastic components offer many advantages over metals, including:

- heat resistance;
- corrosion resistance;
- lighter weight;
- lower cost;
- greater flexibility in product design;
- part consolidation for multiple piece assemblies;
- lower initial tooling costs for lower volume applications;
- high strength-to-weight ratio; and

- dent-resistance in comparison to steel or aluminum.

The largest markets for reinforced plastics are transportation (automotive and truck), agriculture, construction, marine, and industrial applications. The Company currently has four manufacturing facilities producing reinforced plastic products. Our manufacturing facilities utilize various production processes; however, end products are similar and are not unique to a facility or customer base. Operating decision makers (officers of the Company) are headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and oversee all manufacturing operations for all products as well as oversee customer relationships with all customers. The Company supplies reinforced plastic products to truck manufacturers, automotive suppliers, and manufacturers of marine and other commercial products. In general, product growth and diversification are achieved in several different ways: (1) resourcing of existing reinforced plastic product from another supplier by an original equipment manufacturer (“OEM”); (2) obtaining new reinforced plastic products through a selection process in which an OEM solicits bids; (3) successful marketing of reinforced plastic products for

Table of Contents

previously non-reinforced plastic applications; (4) successful marketing of reinforced plastic products to OEMs outside of our traditional markets; (5) development of new materials, technology and processes to meet current or prospective customer requirements; and (6) acquiring an existing business. The Company's efforts continue to be directed towards all six areas.

MAJOR COMPETITORS

The Company believes that it is one of the three largest compounders and molders of reinforced plastics using the SMC, spray-up, hand-lay-up, and RTM molding processes in the United States. The Company faces competition from a number of other molders including, most significantly, Molded Fiber Glass Companies, Continental Structural Plastics, Ashley Industrial Molding, Sigma Industries and The Composites Group. The Company believes that it is well positioned to compete based primarily on manufacturing capability and location, product quality, engineering capability, cost, and delivery. However, the industry remains highly competitive and some of the Company's competitors have greater financial resources, research and development facilities, design engineering, manufacturing, and marketing capabilities.

MAJOR CUSTOMERS

The Company has four major customers, Navistar, Volvo Group ("Volvo"), PACCAR Inc. ("PACCAR") and Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation of America ("Yamaha"), in 2014. Major customers are defined as customers whose current year sales individually consist of more than ten percent of total sales during any annual or interim reporting period in the current year. The loss of a significant portion of sales to Navistar, Volvo, PACCAR, or Yamaha would have a material adverse effect on the business of the Company.

The North American truck market in which Navistar, Volvo, and PACCAR compete is highly competitive and the demand for heavy and medium-duty trucks is subject to considerable volatility as it moves in response to cycles in the overall business environment and is particularly sensitive to the industrial sector, which generates a significant portion of the freight tonnage hauled. Truck demand also depends on general economic conditions, among other factors.

Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation of America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A., is a top manufacturer of recreational vehicles including golf carts, all terrain vehicles, personal watercraft and side by side utility vehicles. Demand in the recreational vehicle market is typically influenced by the rapid introduction of new models creating a short product lifecycle, the brand recognition of the various competitors, general economic conditions, and seasonal effects, among other factors.

Relationship with Navistar

The Company has historically had a Comprehensive Supply Agreement with Navistar that provides for the Company to be the primary supplier of Navistar's original equipment and service requirements for fiberglass reinforced parts, as long as the Company remains competitive in cost, quality, and delivery. The Company's current Comprehensive Supply Agreement with Navistar is effective through October 31, 2018.

The Company makes products for Navistar's Springfield, Ohio; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Escobedo, Mexico assembly plants, as well as aftermarket products for service distribution centers. The Company works closely on new product development with Navistar's engineering and research personnel. Some of the products sold to Navistar include hoods, roofs, air deflectors, cab extenders, fender extensions, splash panels, and other components. Sales to Navistar amounted to approximately 29%, 33% and 39% of total sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Relationship with Volvo

The Company makes products for Volvo's New River Valley (Dublin, Virginia) and Macungie, Pennsylvania assembly plants, as well as aftermarket products for service distribution centers. The Company works closely on new product development with Volvo's engineering and research teams. Products sold to Volvo include hoods, roofs, sunvisors, air deflectors and other components. Sales to Volvo amounted to approximately 28%, 9% and 4% of total sales for 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Relationship with PACCAR

The Company makes products for PACCAR's Chillicothe, Ohio; Denton, Texas; Renton, Washington; St. Therese (Canada); and Mexicali, Mexico assembly plants, as well as aftermarket products for service distribution centers. The Company also works closely on new product development with PACCAR's engineering and research personnel. Products sold to PACCAR include

Table of Contents

hoods, roofs, back panels, air deflectors, air fairings, fenders, splash panels, and other components. Sales to PACCAR amounted to approximately 21% of total sales in 2014 and approximately 35% of total sales in both 2013 and 2012.

Relationship with Yamaha

The Company manufactures sheet molding compound and products for Yamaha's assembly plant located in Newnan, GA. The Company also works closely on new product and material development with Yamaha's engineering and research personnel. Products include sheet molding compound and various molded components to support the assembly of personal watercraft. Sales to Yamaha amounted to approximately 10%, 9%, and 8% of total sales in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

OTHER CUSTOMERS

The Company also produces products for other truck manufacturers, the automotive industry, marine industry, commercial product industries, automotive aftermarket industries, and various other customers. Sales to these customers individually were all less than 10% of total annual sales. Sales to these customers amounted to approximately 13% of total sales in 2014 and 14% of total sales in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

All of the Company's product is sold to U.S. based customers is U.S. dollars. The following table provides information related to the Company's sales by country, based on the ship to location of customers' production facilities, for the years ended December 31:

	2014	2013	2012
United States	\$123,317,000	\$95,063,000	\$115,226,000
Mexico	47,772,000	45,069,000	43,358,000
Canada	4,115,000	3,993,000	3,866,000
Total	\$175,204,000	\$144,125,000	\$162,450,000

The following table provides information related to the location of the Company's property, plant and equipment, net, as of December 31:

	2014	2013
United States	\$31,674,000	\$24,285,000
Mexico	30,321,000	32,193,000
Total	\$61,995,000	\$56,478,000

PRODUCTS

Sheet Molding Compound ("SMC")

SMC is primarily a combination of resins, fiberglass, fillers, and catalysts compounded and cured in sheet form, which is then used to manufacture compression-molded products, as discussed below. The Company also sells SMC to other molders.

The Company incorporates a sophisticated computer program in the process of compounding various complex SMC formulations tailored to meet customer needs. The program provides for the control of information during various production processes and data for statistical batch controls.

Closed Molded Products

The Company manufactures reinforced plastic products using compression molding and resin transfer molding process methods of closed molding.

Compression Molding - Compression molding is a process whereby SMC or GMT is molded to form by matched die steel molds through which a combination of heat and pressure are applied via a molding press. This process produces high quality, dimensionally consistent products. This process is typically used for high volume products. Higher volumes justify the customer's investment in matched die steel molds.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, the Company owned 17 compression-molding presses in its Columbus, Ohio facility; 17 presses in its Matamoros, Mexico facility; and 10 presses in its Gaffney, South Carolina facility. The Company's compression molding presses range in size from 250 to 4,500 tons. The Company installed two new presses in each of its Columbus and Gaffney facilities in 2014 to support the Company's new business award from Volvo in 2013 and to provide capacity for future growth.

Large platen, high tonnage presses (2,000 tons or greater) provide the ability to mold very large reinforced plastic parts. The Company believes that it possesses a significant portion of the large platen, high tonnage molding capacity in the industry. To enhance the surface quality and the paint finish of our products, the Company uses both in-mold coating and vacuum molding processes. In-mold coating is the process of injecting a liquid over the molded part surface and then applying pressure at elevated temperatures during an extended molding cycle. The liquid coating serves to fill and/or bridge surface porosity as well as provide a barrier against solvent penetration during subsequent top-coating operations.

Vacuum molding is the removal of air during the molding cycle for the purpose of reducing the amount of surface porosity. The Company believes that it is among the industry leaders in in-mold coating and vacuum molding applications, based on the size and complexity of parts molded.

Resin Transfer Molding ("RTM") - This process employs two molds, typically a core and a cavity, similar to matched die molding. The composite is produced by placing glass mat, chopped strand, or continuous strand fiberglass in the mold cavity in the desired pattern. Parts used for cosmetic purposes typically have a gel coat applied to the mold surface. The core mold is then fitted to the cavity, and upon a satisfactory seal, a vacuum is applied. When the proper vacuum is achieved, the resin is injected into the mold to fill the part. Finally, the part is allowed to cure and is then removed from the mold and trimmed to shape. Fiberglass reinforced products produced from the RTM process exhibit a high quality surface on both sides of the part and excellent part thickness. The multiple insert tooling technique can be utilized in the RTM process to improve throughput based upon volume requirements.

Reaction Injection Molding ("RIM") - This is a process whereby a composite is produced through the injection of a two-component thermoset resin system utilizing dicyclopentadiene ("DCPD") technology. DCPD technology involves injecting a liquid compound into matched die aluminum molds to form the part. In this process the mold is prepared, closed and the liquid compound is injected into the tool then cured. Additional finishing is required when the part is designated for top coat painting. The RIM process is an alternative to other closed mold processes for mid-volume parts that require a high level of impact resistance.

Open Molded Products

The Company produces reinforced plastic products using both the hand lay-up and spray-up methods of open molding.

Hand Lay-Up - This process utilizes a shell mold, typically the cavity, where glass cloth, either chopped strand or continuous strand glass mat, is introduced into the cavity. Resin is then applied to the cloth and rolled out to achieve a uniform wet-out from the glass and to remove any trapped air. The part is then allowed to cure and removed from the mold. After removal, the part typically undergoes trimming to achieve the shape desired. Parts used for cosmetic purposes typically have a gel coat applied to the mold surface prior to the lay-up to improve the surface quality of the finished part. Parts produced from this process have a smooth outer surface and an unfinished or rough interior surface. These fiberglass-reinforced products are typically non-cosmetic components or structural reinforcements that are sold externally or used internally as components of larger assemblies.

Spray-Up - This process utilizes the same type of shell mold as hand-lay-up, but instead of using glass cloth to produce the composite part, a chopper/spray system is employed. Glass rovings and resin feed the chopper/spray gun. The resin coated, chopped glass is sprayed into the mold to the desired thickness. The resin coated glass in the mold is then rolled out to ensure complete wet-out and to remove any trapped air. The part is then allowed to cure, is removed from the mold and is then trimmed to the desired shape. Parts used for cosmetic purposes typically have a gel coat applied to the mold surface prior to the resin-coated glass being sprayed into the mold to improve the surface quality of the finished part. Parts produced from this process have a smooth outer surface and an unfinished or rough interior surface.

The Company also has a chain driven robotic gel-coating and spray-up line and a hand spray-up cell at our Batavia, Ohio location. Part sizes weigh from a few pounds to several thousand pounds with surface quality tailored for the end use application.

Assembly, Machining, and Paint Products

Many of the products molded by the Company are assembled, machined, prime painted, or topcoat painted to result in a completed product used by the Company's customers.

Table of Contents

The Company has demonstrated manufacturing flexibility that accommodates a range of low volume hand assembly and machining work, to high volume, highly automated assembly and machining systems. Robotics are used as deemed productive for material handling, machining, and adhesive applications. In addition to conventional machining methods, water-jet cutting technology is also used where appropriate. The Company also utilizes paint booths and batch ovens in its facilities. The Company generally contracts with outside providers for higher volume applications that require top coat paint.

RAW MATERIALS

The principal raw materials used in the compounding of SMC and the closed and open molding processes are polyester, vinyl ester and epoxy resins, fiberglass rovings, and filler. Other significant raw materials include adhesives for assembly of molded components, in-mold coating, gel-coat, prime paint for preparation of cosmetic surfaces, and hardware (steel components). Many of the raw materials used by the Company are crude oil based, natural gas based and downstream components, and therefore, the costs of certain raw materials can be affected by changes in costs of these underlying commodities. Due to fluctuating commodity prices, suppliers are typically reluctant to enter into long-term contracts. The Company generally has supplier alternatives for each raw material, and regularly evaluates its supplier base for certain supplies, repair items, and components to improve its overall purchasing position.

BACKLOG

The Company relies on production schedules provided by its customers to plan and implement production. These schedules are normally provided on a weekly basis and typically considered firm for approximately four weeks. Some customers update these schedules daily for changes in demand, allowing them to run their inventories on a “just in time” basis. The ordered backlog of four weeks of expected shipments, was approximately \$15.6 million (all of which the Company shipped during the first quarter of 2015) and \$14.4 million at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.