

Polymer Holdings LLC
Form 424B4
December 17, 2009
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(4)
Registration No. 333-162248

Prospectus

10,294,118 Shares

Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.
Common Stock

This is our initial public offering, and no public market currently exists for our common stock. Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. is offering 10,294,118 shares of common stock.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. The initial public offering price of the common stock is \$13.50 per share. Our common stock has been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KRA .

We have granted the underwriters the right to purchase up to 1,544,117 shares of common stock at the offering price less the underwriting discount if the underwriters sell more than 10,294,118 shares of common stock in this offering. The underwriters can exercise this right at any time and from time to time, in whole or in part, within 30 days after the offering.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 15.

	Price to Public	Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Proceeds, Before Expenses, to Issuer
Per Share	\$ 13.50	\$ 0.8775	\$ 12.6225
Total	\$ 138,970,593	\$ 9,033,088.545	\$ 129,937,504.455

Delivery of the shares of common stock will be made on or about December 22, 2009.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Credit Suisse

BofA Merrill Lynch

Morgan Stanley

Oppenheimer & Co.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

KeyBanc Capital Markets

The date of this prospectus is December 16, 2009.

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or to which we have referred you. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. The information in this document may only be accurate on the date of this document.

Information contained in our web site does not constitute part of this prospectus.

The KRATON name, our logo and other trademarks mentioned in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

We obtained the industry and market data used throughout this prospectus from our own internal estimates and research as well as from industry and general publications and research, surveys and studies conducted by third parties.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Summary</u>	Page 1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	15
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	31
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	32
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	33
<u>Capitalization</u>	34
<u>Dilution</u>	35
<u>Selected Consolidated Financial Information</u>	36
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	38
<u>Industry</u>	59
<u>Business</u>	64
	Page
<u>Management and Board of Directors</u>	85
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	92
<u>Principal Stockholders</u>	124
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions</u>	127
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	130
<u>Description of Certain Indebtedness</u>	133
<u>Shares Eligible for Future Sale</u>	137
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders</u>	139
<u>Underwriting</u>	142
<u>Legal Matters</u>	148
<u>Experts</u>	148
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	148
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

The following summary includes basic information about our company and this offering. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. For a more comprehensive understanding of our company and this offering, you should read this entire prospectus.

On or prior to the completion of the offering, we will convert our company from a Delaware limited liability company (Polymer Holdings LLC) into a Delaware corporation (Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.).

In this prospectus, unless we indicate otherwise or the context requires:

Polymer Holdings, our company, we, our, ours and us refer to Polymer Holdings LLC and its consolidated subsidiaries prior to the conversion, and to Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries after the conversion;

Kraton refers to Kraton Polymers LLC; and

the SBC industry refers to the elastomeric styrenic block copolymers industry and does not include the high styrene or rigid SBC business.

Our Company

General

We believe we are the world's leading producer of styrenic block copolymers (SBCs) as measured by 2008 sales and volumes. We market our products under the widely recognized KRATON® brand. Our estimates indicate that sales of our products, in the end-use markets we target, constituted 34% of global SBC revenue in 2008, approximately 3.1 times larger than our nearest competitor. SBCs are highly-engineered synthetic elastomers that we invented and commercialized over 40 years ago, which enhance the performance of numerous end-use products, imparting greater flexibility, resilience, strength, durability and processability. We focus on the end-use markets we believe offer the highest growth potential and greatest opportunity to differentiate our products from competing products. Within these end-use markets, we believe that we provide our customers with a broad portfolio of highly-engineered and value-enhancing polymers that are critical to the performance of our customers' products. We seek to maximize the value of our product portfolio by introducing innovations that command premium pricing and by consistently upgrading from lower margin products. As the industry leader, we maintain significant competitive advantages, including a 40-year proven track record of innovation; world-class technical expertise; customer, geographical and end-use market diversity; and industry-leading customer service capabilities. These advantages are supported by a global infrastructure and a long history of successful capital investments and operational excellence.

Our SBC products are found in many everyday applications, including disposable baby diapers, the rubberized grips of toothbrushes, razor blades, power tools and in asphalt formulations used to pave roads. We believe that there are many untapped uses for our products, and we will continue to develop new applications for SBCs. Since January 1, 2008, we have been awarded 161 patents for new products or applications, which we believe will allow us to drive volume and revenue growth and expand our margins. We also develop, manufacture and market niche, non-SBC products that we believe have high growth potential, such as isoprene rubber latex, or IRL. IRL is a highly-engineered, reliable synthetic substitute for natural rubber latex. We believe the versatility of IRL offers significant opportunities for new, high-margin applications. Our IRL products, which are used in applications such as surgical gloves, have not been found to contain the proteins present in natural latex and are, therefore, not known to cause allergies. We believe we produce the highest purity IRL globally and that we are the only significant third-party supplier of the product. Our IRL business has grown at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 23% by volume from 2005 to 2008.

Table of Contents

We currently offer approximately 800 products to more than 700 customers in over 60 countries worldwide, and we manufacture our polymers on four continents (North America, Europe, South America and Asia). Our products are typically developed using our proprietary, and in many cases patent-protected, technology and require significant engineering, testing and certification. We are widely regarded as the industry's leading innovator and cost-efficient manufacturer in our end-use markets. We work closely with our customers to design products that meet application-specific performance and quality requirements. We expect these innovations to drive our organic growth, sustain our leadership position, expand our market share, improve our margins and produce a high return on invested capital. For example, in 2008, we developed a family of environmentally-friendly products to replace materials like polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, for medical packaging applications and wire and cable applications in electronics and automobiles.

Over the past several years, we have implemented a range of strategic initiatives designed to enhance our profitability and end-use market position. These include fixed asset investments to expand our capacity in high value products, enhance productivity at our existing facilities and significantly reduce our fixed cost structure through head count reductions, production line closures at our Pernis, the Netherlands, facility and system upgrades. During this period, we have shifted our portfolio to higher-margin products, substantially exited low-margin businesses such as footwear and implemented smart pricing strategies that have improved our overall margins and return on invested capital. We believe these initiatives provide us with a strong platform to drive growth, create significant operating leverage and position us to benefit from volume recovery in our end-use markets.

We believe that starting in late 2008 the global economic downturn, and associated reduction in customer and end-user inventory levels, caused an unprecedented slowdown across the industry. We experienced sales volume decline across all of our end-use markets, including the traditionally more stable consumer and medical applications. We believe that a significant factor in this decline was inventory de-stocking. The trend began to reverse itself in June 2009, as demand patterns began to shift towards recovery.

We generated total operating revenue of \$1.2 billion and \$717.3 million for the twelve and nine months ended December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, respectively, on volume of 313 kilotons and 199 kilotons, respectively. For the same periods, we generated net income of \$28.4 million and \$1.2 million and Adjusted EBITDA of \$152.0 million and \$56.3 million, respectively. We define Adjusted EBITDA and reconcile it to net income in footnote 3 under Summary Summary of Consolidated Financial Information and Other Data. We report under one operating segment.

Table of Contents

Our Industry Focus

The global demand for SBCs in 2008 exceeded 1,400 kilotons, resulting in sales of approximately \$4.0 billion. According to management estimates, between 2001 and 2007, SBC demand for non-footwear applications grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 9.0%, or approximately 2.7 times global real GDP. In 2008, the SBC market contracted along with the global economy, reducing the 2001 to 2008 growth rate to 6.8%.

2008 Global SBC Consumption by Volume

SBCs are primarily sold into four end-uses: (1) Advanced Materials (compounding, personal care and polymer systems); (2) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; (3) Paving and Roofing; and (4) Footwear. Due to the higher selling prices in the Advanced Materials, Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and Paving and Roofing end-uses relative to the Footwear end-use, the market share by end-use on a revenue basis is meaningfully different than on a volume basis.

2008 Global SBC Consumption by End-Use Market⁽¹⁾

Table of Contents

Kraton focuses on the high-value end-use markets.

2008 Global SBC Consumption by End-Use Market - Kraton vs. Industry⁽⁴⁾

There are two major types of SBCs: hydrogenated styrenic block copolymers, or HSBCs, and unhydrogenated styrenic block copolymers, or USBCs.

HSBCs. HSBC products are significantly more complex to produce than USBC products and, consequently, generate higher margins and generally command selling prices between two and three times those for USBCs. We believe our 47% end-use market share of 2008 HSBC sales leads the industry and is more than twice the size of our closest competitor. The HSBC class of products, which is typically more durable than USBC products, is primarily used in higher value-added Advanced Materials and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings applications. We estimate that HSBCs accounted for approximately 12% of worldwide SBC industry sales in 2008.

HSBCs are primarily used in our Advanced Materials and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use markets, to impart improved performance characteristics such as:

stretch properties in disposable diapers and adult incontinence products;

soft feel in numerous consumer products such as the handles for razor blades, power tools and automobile interiors;

impact resistance for demanding engineering plastic applications;

flexibility for wire and cable plastic outer layers; and

improved flow characteristics for many industrial and consumer sealants and lubricating fluids.

USBCs. We believe that our 30% market share of 2008 USBC sales, excluding Footwear, leads the industry, and is approximately 2.2 times that of our closest competitor in terms of 2008 sales. In 2008, we estimate that USBCs represented approximately 88% of worldwide SBC industry sales volumes and were used primarily in Footwear, Paving and Roofing and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use.

USBCs are used in all our end-use markets in a range of products to impart desirable characteristics, such as:

resistance to temperature and weather extremes in roads and roofing;

resistance to cracking, reduced sound transmission and better drainage in porous road surfaces;

Table of Contents

impact resistance for consumer plastics; and

increased processing flexibility in materials used in disposable diapers and adhesive applications, such as packaging tapes and labels.

Our End-Use Markets

We believe we hold the number one market position, based on 2008 sales and volume, in each of our targeted end-use markets. We have aligned our commercial activities to serve three core end-use markets that we believe have the highest growth and profitability potential: (1) Advanced Materials; (2) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; and (3) Paving and Roofing. We also serve a fourth end-use market, an Emerging Businesses category, which primarily includes our high-growth IRL business.

The following table describes our three core end-use markets together with our Emerging Businesses and other end-use markets and their approximate relative sizes:

End-Use Markets	Revenue Mix ⁽¹⁾	Our End-Use Market Position ⁽²⁾	Our End-Use Market Share ⁽²⁾	Our Relative End-Use Market Share ⁽³⁾	Industry Compound Annual Growth Rate ⁽⁴⁾	Selected Applications/Products
Advanced Materials	30%	#1	37%	2.2X	8.0%	Soft touch for consumer products (tooth brushes and razor blades) and power tools Impact resistant engineering plastics Automotive components Elastic films for disposable diapers and adult incontinence branded products Skin care products and lotions Disposable food packaging Medical packaging films and tubing, often to replace PVC
Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings	32%	#1	41%	2.6X	5.2%	Tapes and labels Non-woven and industrial adhesives Industrial and consumer weather sealants
Paving and Roofing	31%	#1	28%	1.9X	7.1%	Asphalt modification for performance roadways Asphalt modification for roofing felts and shingles
Emerging Businesses ⁽⁵⁾	3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.7%	Surgical gloves Condoms
Other Markets ⁽⁶⁾	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lubricants and fuel additives High styrenics packaging

- (1) Based on 2008 sales of \$1,171.3 million (excludes by-product sales which are reported as other revenues).
- (2) Management estimates, based on 2008 sales.
- (3) Management estimates, versus next largest competitor based on 2008 sales.
- (4) Management estimates of volume growth, 2001 to 2008, except for Emerging Businesses, which is 2005 to 2008.

Table of Contents

- (5) The Emerging Businesses end-use market primarily includes our IRL business as well as other businesses and products that are under development. We believe that we are the only major third-party supplier of IRL, and therefore end-use market position, end-use market share and relative end-use market share metrics are not meaningful.
- (6) Our Other Markets end-use market is not directly comparable to our three core and Emerging Businesses end-use markets because it includes a mix of products ranging from lubricants and fuel additives to high styrenics packaging to footwear products. Therefore, we cannot estimate end-use market position, end-use market share, relative end-use market share or industry compound annual growth rate.

Our Competitive Strengths

The following competitive strengths help us to sustain our market leadership position and contribute to our ability to generate superior margins and strong cash flow. We expect these strengths to support our growth in the future:

The Market Leader in SBCs

We believe we hold the number one global market position based on 2008 sales and volumes, including a 34% market share of revenues in the end-use markets we target. Our Belpre, Ohio facility is the largest in terms of production capacity and the most product-diversified SBC plant in the world, and we believe it is the largest HSBC plant as well in terms of production capacity. We believe our Wesseling, Germany plant is a world scale and cost efficient facility. As the pioneer of SBCs over 40 years ago, we believe our KRATON® brand is widely recognized for our industry leadership, and we are particularly well-regarded for our process technology expertise and long track record of market-driven innovation.

Growth Through Innovation and Technological Know-how

SBC production and product development requires complex and specific expertise, which we believe many of our competitors are unable to replicate. As the industry pioneer, Kraton maintains a constant focus on enhancing the value-added attributes of our products and on developing new applications for SBCs. At December 31, 2008, we had approximately 1,176 granted patents and approximately 447 pending patent applications. Our Vision 20/20 program, introduced earlier this year, targets generating 20% of revenues by 2011 from new products or applications introduced in the prior five years. In 2008, we generated 13.5% of our sales from innovation driven revenue. We believe that our new product innovation will allow us to drive increases in our volume, expand product contribution margins and increase our customers' reliance on Kraton's products and technical expertise. For example, for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, IRL represented 3.5% of revenues. Our sales of IRL from 2005 to 2008 grew at 23% by volume and are earning a unit contribution margin in excess of the company as a whole.

Diverse Global Manufacturing Capabilities and End-Use Market Exposures

We operate manufacturing facilities on four continents (North America, Europe, South America and Asia) producing what we believe to be the highest quality grades available of USBC and HSBC and high purity IRL. We believe we are the only SBC producer with this breadth of technical capabilities and global footprint, selling approximately 800 products in over 60 countries. Since 2003, we have successfully completed plant expansions totaling 60 kilotons of capacity, giving us a total capacity of 436 kilotons, at a total cost of less than \$50 million. Our manufacturing and product footprint allow revenue diversity, both geographically and by end-use market. We believe our scale and footprint make us an attractive customer for our monomer suppliers which, in turn, allows us to offer a high degree of supply security to customers.

Table of Contents

Long-Standing, Strong Customer Relationships Supported by Leading Service Offering

We sell our products to over 700 customers, many of which we have had relationships with for 15 years or more. Our customers are broad-based, with no single customer accounting for more than 5% of our sales in 2008 (our top 10 customers represented 26% of sales in 2008). Our customers' manufacturing processes are typically calibrated to the performance specifications of our products. Given the technical expertise and investment required to develop these formulations and the lead times required to replace them, we believe our customers face high switching costs. We believe our customers view our products as being high value-added, even though our products generally represent a small proportion of the overall cost of the finished product. Leveraging our global infrastructure, we believe we offer our customers a best-in-class service level that aligns us to their respective business models, through on demand order delivery and product development specifically designed for each customer's needs.

Experienced Management Team with a Track Record of Growth and Productivity Improvements

Our senior management team has an average industry experience of over 25 years, most of which is with some of the world's leading companies, including General Electric, Koch Industries and Chevron Phillips Chemical. Since early 2008, when the current executive team was put in place, we have instituted a number of strategic initiatives designed to enhance productivity, reduce costs and capital intensity, expand margins and drive innovation-led growth.

Our Business Strategy

Building on these competitive strengths, we are focused on achieving profitable top-line growth and improving margins through the introduction of highly-engineered, high value-added products to drive strong and sustainable cash flow.

Driving Growth and Margin Expansion Through Innovation

We have a 40-year track record of innovation dating back to our development of the first SBCs. Our research and development effort is focused on end-use markets and new product developments that we believe offer higher growth as well as opportunities to develop highly-differentiated products for our customers, thus yielding higher margin potential. We work very closely with our longstanding customer base to produce products that solve their specific technical requirements. For example, to address an industry trend to eliminate PVC from applications such as medical packaging and wire and cable, we have developed and commercialized a series of

Table of Contents

custom-designed polymers and compounds. In addition to this innovation-led growth, we believe that there are a number of end-use market dynamics that drive growth in our business such as: (1) the effect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on our paving business; (2) the general demand by customers for higher value-added products with better performance characteristics; and (3) the effect of an economic recovery on roofing applications.

Pursue Smart Pricing

In late 2007, we undertook a comprehensive review of our entire product portfolio, including both product-specific and customer-specific profitability analysis. As a result, we took a variety of actions including reducing or eliminating our exposure to lower margin business and increasing our prices to reflect the significant value-added benefits of our products to our customers' products. For example, since the end of 2007, we have increased our unit contribution margins (the excess of the sale price of a unit of product over the variable cost to produce that unit) by more than 50%. We will continue to pursue pricing strategies that reflect the contribution to the end product of our high value and complex product offerings for which limited substitutes exist.

Invest in Key Growth Initiatives

As part of this offering, we plan to use some proceeds to fund high priority, high return strategic projects that will continue to allow us to more effectively and more efficiently serve our customers' needs. One such project is the development of additional capacity in our IRL business to serve the rapid growth and to better capture the high margins that exist in this product line.

Continue to Pursue Operational Efficiencies

We have a history of implementing continuous process and cost improvement plans that have resulted in a significant reduction in our cost position and an improvement in the way we run our business. Since the beginning of 2007, we have implemented cost saving initiatives that have reduced costs by over \$55 million, on an annual basis. In addition, on December 31, 2009, we will be exiting our Pernis facility in its entirety, which we expect will result in an additional \$12 million in annual cost savings. Through these actions, we have created substantial operating leverage in our business model. We believe this demonstrates our management team's ability to successfully manage the business in a downturn and position us for significant growth and margin expansion in a global economic recovery. For a discussion of the costs associated with the Pernis exit, see Management's Discussion and Analysis Recent Developments.

Corporate and Other Information

We currently conduct our business through a Delaware limited liability company, Polymer Holdings LLC, and its consolidated subsidiaries. Prior to the closing of this offering, we will convert into a Delaware corporation to be named Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.

Our principal executive offices are located at 15710 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77032, and our telephone number is (281) 504-4700. Our corporate website address is www.kraton.com. We do not incorporate the information contained on, or accessible through, our corporate website into this prospectus, and you should not consider it part of this prospectus.

On or prior to the closing of this offering, TJ Chemical Holdings LLC, or TJ Chemical, will be merged into (and not survive the merger with) Kraton (for further details on this transaction, see Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Reorganization Transactions), at which time we will be owned directly by affiliates of TPG Capital, L.P. and J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, a private equity division of JPMorgan Chase & Co. On December 23, 2003, Polymer Holdings acquired all the outstanding equity interests of Kraton from Ripplewood Chemical Holding LLC. The acquisition was funded, including transaction fees and expenses, in part through proceeds from the issuance of senior subordinated notes and borrowings under the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility.

Table of Contents

Principal Stockholders

Following this offering and after giving effect to the merger of TJ Chemical into Kraton (see Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Reorganization Transactions), certain affiliates of TPG Capital, L.P., which we refer to collectively as TPG, will own approximately 38.8% of our common stock (approximately 36.8% pursuant to a full exercise of the underwriters over-allotment option) and certain affiliates of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, which we refer to collectively as JPMP, will own approximately 25.8% of our common stock (approximately 24.6% pursuant to a full exercise of the underwriters over-allotment option). Together TPG and JPMP will own, in the aggregate, approximately 64.6% of our common stock (approximately 61.4% if the underwriters over-allotment option is exercised in full).

TPG Capital, L.P.

TPG is a leading private investment firm with approximately \$45 billion of assets under management as of September 30, 2009. The firm was founded in 1992 and is led by David Bonderman and James G. Coulter. Through its global buyout platform, TPG Capital, the firm generally makes significant investments in companies through acquisitions and restructurings across a broad range of industries throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Notable investments include Alltel Corp., Avaya, Inc., Burger King Holdings, Inc., Continental Airlines, Inc., Energy Future Holdings Corp. (formerly, TXU Corp.), Graphic Packaging International Corp., Grohe AG, Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., J Crew Group, Inc., Neiman Marcus Group, Inc., ON Semiconductor Corp., Seagate Technology, Shenzhen Development Bank Co., Ltd. and Texas Genco, LLC.

JPMorgan Partners

J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC is a private equity division of JPMorgan Chase & Co. (NYSE: JPM), one of the largest financial institutions in the United States. JPMP has invested over \$15 billion worldwide in industrial, consumer, media, energy, financial services, healthcare and technology companies since its inception in 1984. In August 2006, the buyout and growth equity investment professionals of JPMP separated from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and formed CCMP Capital Advisors, LLC, or CCMP Capital, a global private equity firm specializing in buyout and growth equity investments. CCMP Capital has offices in New York, Texas and London. CCMP Capital advises JPMP on its portfolio of private equity investments, including the investment in our company; other notable investments include AMC Entertainment, Inc., Aramark Holdings Corporation, Grupo Corporative Ono, S.A., Jetro JMDH Holdings, Inc., Noble Environmental Power, LLC, QCE Holdings, LLC (Quiznos Sub), Warner Chilcott Holdings Co. and PQ Corporation.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock we are offering 10,294,118 shares.

Common stock to be outstanding after this offering 29,709,114 shares.

Use of proceeds We estimate that our net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$126.1 million, after deducting estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses.

We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering to repay a portion of the senior secured credit facility. We expect to use the remaining net proceeds for general corporate purposes, including to fund strategic capital projects such as alternative production capabilities for Isoprene Rubber, the development of additional capacity in our Isoprene Rubber Latex business, and/or the continuation of our upgrade of certain systems and operating controls at our Belpre, Ohio facility. See Use of Proceeds.

Underwriters' option to purchase additional shares We may sell up to 1,544,117 additional shares if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option.

Dividend policy We have not previously declared or paid any dividends or distributions on our common stock. We currently expect to retain future earnings, if any, for use in the operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. We are currently prohibited from paying cash dividends on our common stock by the covenants in the senior secured credit facility and may be further restricted by the terms of future debt or preferred securities. See Dividend Policy.

Risk factors Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our common stock.

New York Stock Exchange symbol KRA

The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after the offering is based on 19,414,996 shares of common stock outstanding after our conversion to a corporation and 10,294,118 shares to be sold in the offering.

The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering does not take into account an aggregate of 4,350,000 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the Polymer Holdings LLC Equity Incentive Plan and 1,594,962 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the TJ Chemical Option Plan in connection with the settlement of options outstanding as of the closing of this offering, based on the Conversion Ratio (as defined in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis) of 1:13.5120.

In addition, except as otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus:

assumes the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option; and

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

gives effect to our conversion from a Delaware limited liability company to a Delaware corporation prior to the closing of this offering.

Table of Contents**Summary of Consolidated Financial Information and Other Data**

The table below sets forth our selected consolidated historical financial data for the periods indicated. The summary consolidated historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus. The summary financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 and as of September 30, 2009, have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus. The unaudited consolidated financial statements include, in the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, that management considers necessary for the fair presentation of the consolidated financial information set forth in those statements. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year.

The selected financial information and other data presented below should be read in conjunction with the information contained in Use of Proceeds, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended	
	2008	2007	2006	September 30,	2008
				2009	2008
				(unaudited)	(unaudited)
	(in thousands)				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Operating Revenues					
Sales	\$ 1,171,253	\$ 1,066,044	\$ 1,015,766	\$ 682,061	\$ 947,925
Other(1)	54,780	23,543	32,355	35,235	46,472
Total operating revenues	1,226,033	1,089,587	1,048,121	717,296	994,397
Cost of Goods Sold	971,283	938,556	843,726	602,633	788,618
Gross Profit	254,750	151,031	204,395	114,663	205,779
Operating Expenses					
Research and development expenses	27,049	24,865	24,598	15,115	21,129
Selling, general and administrative	101,431	69,020	73,776	56,585	73,578
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	53,162	51,917	43,574	41,582	40,880
Total operating expenses	181,642	145,802	141,948	113,282	135,587
Gain on Extinguishment of Debt				23,831	
Equity in Earnings in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures(2)	437	626	168	305	314
Interest Expense, Net	36,695	43,484	66,637	24,783	27,696
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	36,850	(37,629)	(4,022)	734	42,810
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	8,431	6,120	29,814	(485)	7,396
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)	\$ 1,219	\$ 35,414

- (1) Other revenues include the sale of by-products generated in the production of polyisoprene rubber, or IR, and styrene-isoprene-styrene, or SIS.
- (2) Represents our 50% joint venture interest in Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K., which is accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

Table of Contents

	Year ended December 31, 2008	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
Pro forma income per common share(1)		
Basic	\$ 1.46	\$ 0.06
Diluted	\$ 1.45	\$ 0.06
Shares used to compute basic pro forma income per share(2)	19,414,996	19,414,996
Shares used to compute diluted pro forma income per share(2)	19,592,190	19,592,190

- (1) Pro forma to reflect the conversion of our company from a limited liability company to a corporation prior to the closing of this offering.
(2) Calculated based on number of common shares that would have been outstanding as of December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, assuming our conversion into a corporation.

	Year ended December 31,		Nine months ended
	2008	2007 (in thousands)	September 30, 2009 (unaudited)
Balance Sheet Data			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 101,396	\$ 48,277	\$ 22,365
Total assets	1,031,874	984,894	939,880
Total debt	\$ 575,316	\$ 538,686	\$ 485,815

	Fiscal Year			Nine months ended	
	2008	2007	2006 (in thousands)	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2008
Other Data					
EBITDA(1)(3)	\$ 126,707	\$ 57,772	\$ 106,189	\$ 67,099	\$ 111,386
Adjusted EBITDA(2)(3)	152,048	68,310	121,908	56,314	123,497

- (1) EBITDA represents net income before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. We present EBITDA because it is used by management to evaluate operating performance. We consider EBITDA an important supplemental measure of our performance and believe it is frequently used by investors and other interested parties in the evaluation of companies in our industry. We also use EBITDA for the following purposes: our executive compensation plan bases incentive compensation payments on our EBITDA performance; and the senior secured credit facilities and the senior subordinated notes use EBITDA (with additional adjustments) to measure our compliance with covenants such as leverage and interest coverage.

EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation, or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. Some of these limitations are:

EBITDA does not reflect our cash expenditures, or future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments;

EBITDA does not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs;

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

EBITDA does not reflect the significant interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debts;

although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and EBITDA does not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and

other companies in our industry may calculate EBITDA differently than we do, limiting its usefulness as a comparative measure.

Table of Contents

Because of these and other limitations, EBITDA should not be considered as a measure of discretionary cash available to us to invest in the growth of our business. We compensate for these limitations by relying primarily on our GAAP results and using EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA only supplementally. See the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows included in our financial statements included elsewhere in this prospectus.

- (2) We present Adjusted EBITDA as a further supplemental measure of our performance and because we believe these additional adjustments provide additional and helpful information to securities analysts, investors and other interested parties evaluating our performance. We prepare Adjusted EBITDA by adjusting EBITDA to eliminate the impact of a number of items we do not consider indicative of our ongoing operating performance. We explain how each adjustment is derived and why we believe it is helpful and appropriate in the subsequent footnote. You are encouraged to evaluate each adjustment and the reasons we consider it appropriate for supplemental analysis. As an analytical tool, Adjusted EBITDA is subject to all the limitations applicable to EBITDA. In addition, in evaluating Adjusted EBITDA, you should be aware that in the future we may incur expenses similar to the adjustments in this presentation. Our presentation of Adjusted EBITDA should not be construed as an inference that our future results will be unaffected by unusual or non-recurring items.
- (3) We reconcile Net Income/(Net Loss) to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA as follows:

	Fiscal Year			Nine months ended	
	2008	2007	2006 (in thousands)	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2008
Net Income/(Net Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)	\$ 1,219	\$ 35,414
<i>Plus</i>					
Interest expense, net	36,695	43,484	66,637	24,783	27,696
Income tax expense	8,431	6,120	29,814	(485)	7,396
Depreciation and amortization expenses	53,162	51,917	43,574	41,582	40,880
EBITDA(a)	\$ 126,707	\$ 57,772	\$ 106,189	\$ 67,099	\$ 111,386

	Fiscal Year			Nine months ended	
	2008	2007	2006 (in thousands)	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2008
EBITDA(a)	\$ 126,707	\$ 57,772	\$ 106,189	\$ 67,099	\$ 111,386
<i>Add (deduct):</i>					
Sponsor fees and expenses	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500
Restructuring and related charges(b)	13,671	5,633	11,142	7,533	9,482
Other non-cash expenses(c)	9,670	2,905	2,577	4,013	1,129
Gain on extinguishment of debt(d)				(23,831)	
Adjusted EBITDA(a)	\$ 152,048	\$ 68,310	\$ 121,908	\$ 56,314	\$ 123,497

- (a) EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA in the first nine months of 2009 were negatively impacted by approximately \$30.9 million due to the sale of inventory produced when raw material costs were higher than the then current replacement cost. This large effect in the first nine months of 2009, which is included in EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA amounts reflected above, was a result of the dramatic and swift decline in raw material costs from record high levels in the fourth quarter of 2008 (where the negative impact was approximately \$2.3 million). Conversely, in the first nine months of 2008, EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, as reflected above, were positively impacted by approximately \$39.5 million due to the sale of inventory produced when raw material costs were lower than the then current

replacement cost.

Table of Contents

- (b) 2008 costs consist primarily of severance and retention costs associated with the restructuring of our Westhollow Technical Center and our research and technical services organizations, senior management changes in the first quarter and workforce reductions in the fourth quarter; 2007 costs are primarily costs in connection with the shutdown of our SIS plant in Pernis; and 2006 costs consist primarily of severance and other costs in connection with the rationalization of our facility in Belpre, Ohio and our U.S. headquarters, and charges related to a reorganization of our activities in Asia-Pacific and Belgium. All periods also reflect costs associated with evaluating merger and acquisition transactions and potential debt refinancing.

Restructuring and related charges discussed above were recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Operations, as follows.

	Fiscal Year			Nine months ended	
	2008	2007	2006	September 30, 2009	September 30, 2008
Cost of goods sold	\$	\$ 2,438	\$ 5,495	\$ 6,307	\$
Research and development	\$ 2,301	\$ 345	\$ 1,341	\$	\$ 2,301
Selling, general and administrative	\$ 11,370	\$ 2,850	\$ 4,306	\$ 1,226	\$ 7,181
Total restructuring and related charges	\$ 13,671	\$ 5,633	\$ 11,142	\$ 7,533	\$ 9,482

- (c) For all periods, consists primarily of non-cash compensation, asset impairment charges and losses on the sale of fixed assets. For 2008 and 2009, also reflects the non-cash adjustment to lower inventory from first in first out cost to market value.
- (d) 2009 reflects the non-recurring cash gain related to bond repurchases.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Buying shares of our common stock involves risk. You should consider carefully the risks and uncertainties described below, together with all of the other information in this prospectus, including the financial statements and the related notes appearing at the end of this prospectus, before deciding to purchase shares of our common stock.

Risk Factors Relating to our Business

Conditions in the global economy and capital markets may adversely affect the company's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Our products are sold in markets that are sensitive to changes in general economic conditions, such as automotive and construction products. Downturns in general economic conditions can cause fluctuations in demand for our products, product prices, volumes and margins. A decline in the demand for our products or a shift to lower-margin products due to deteriorating economic conditions could adversely affect sales of our products and our profitability and could also result in impairments of certain of our assets.

Our business and operating results have been and will continue to be affected by the global recession, including the turbulence in the credit markets, dislocations in the housing and commercial real estate markets, fluctuating commodity prices, volatile exchange rates and other challenges currently affecting the global economy and our customers. Although the effects of the global recession on our business appear to be easing, there can be no assurance that this trend will continue. If the global recession continues for significant future periods or deteriorates significantly, our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

LyondellBasell Industries and Shell Chemicals provide significant operating and other services under agreements that are important to our business. The failure of LyondellBasell or Shell Chemicals to perform their obligations, or the termination of these agreements, could adversely affect our operations.

Prior to February 28, 2001, we were operated by Shell Chemicals, the chemicals operations unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group. Shell Chemicals continues to provide services that are important to our business. In addition, we have service agreements with LyondellBasell Industries, or LyondellBasell, the successor to another Shell Chemicals business. We are a party to:

operating agreements pursuant to which LyondellBasell (in Berre, France and Wesseling, Germany) and Shell Chemicals (in Pernis, the Netherlands) operate and maintain our European manufacturing facilities and employ and provide almost all of the staff for those facilities;

site services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements pursuant to which LyondellBasell and/or Shell Chemicals provide utilities and site services to our European manufacturing facilities and to one research and development facility; and

lease agreements pursuant to which we lease our European manufacturing facilities from LyondellBasell and Shell Chemicals. In January 2009, the U.S. operations of LyondellBasell along with one of its European holding companies, Basell Germany Holdings GmbH, filed for voluntary reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. LyondellBasell is one of our major suppliers of raw materials and also operates our plants at Berre, France and Wesseling, Germany. The bankruptcy of LyondellBasell and any resulting restructuring of LyondellBasell's

Table of Contents

operations may adversely affect LyondellBasell's ability to provide services to us. To date, our operations have not been negatively impacted. However, we cannot predict the effect, if any, that LyondellBasell's bankruptcy will ultimately have upon our business in general, or our relationship with LyondellBasell in particular.

Under the terms of the above agreements, either party is permitted to terminate the applicable agreement in a variety of situations. Should Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell fail to provide these services or should any operating agreement be terminated, we would be forced to obtain these services from third parties or provide them ourselves. Similarly, if in connection with or independent from the termination of an operating agreement, Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell terminates a facility lease, we would be forced to relocate our manufacturing facility. From time to time, as part of our ongoing business operations, we discuss potential changes in the terms of our various agreements with Shell Chemicals and/or LyondellBasell, based upon changes in market conditions or other factors. Any agreed changes to any of these contractual arrangements are not binding until the execution of formal documentation. The failure of Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell to perform their obligations under, or the termination of, any of these contracts could adversely affect our operations and, depending on market conditions at the time of any such termination, we may not be able to enter into substitute arrangements in a timely manner, or on terms as favorable to us.

Under certain of these agreements, we are required to indemnify Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell in certain circumstances, including in certain circumstances for loss and damages resulting from Shell Chemicals' or LyondellBasell's negligence in performing their obligations.

The failure of our raw materials suppliers to perform their obligations under long-term supply agreements, or our inability to replace or renew these agreements when they expire, could increase our cost for these materials, interrupt production or otherwise adversely affect our results of operations.

Our manufacturing processes use three primary raw materials: styrene, butadiene and isoprene. We use styrene in the production of almost all of our polymer products. We use butadiene in the production of SBS (styrene-butadiene-styrene) grades of USBCs and SEBS (styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) grades of HSBCs. We use isoprene in the production of SIS (styrene-isoprene-styrene) grades of USBCs, SEPS (styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene) grades of HSBCs and polyisoprene rubber, or IR. We have entered into long-term supply agreements with Shell Chemicals, LyondellBasell and others to supply our raw material needs in the United States and Europe. As these contracts expire, we may be unable to renew these contracts or obtain new long-term supply agreements on terms favorable to us, which may significantly impact our operations.

On December 13, 2007, we received a termination notice from Shell Chemicals for isoprene supply to our Pernis facility effective December 31, 2009. We recently amended the contract governing our U.S. supply of isoprene with Shell Chemicals to terminate on or after December 31, 2009 on one month prior notice by either party. Isoprene is primarily produced and consumed, by manufacturers, captively for the production of isoprene rubber, which is primarily used in the manufacture of rubber tires. As a result, there is limited non-captive isoprene available for purchase in the markets in which we operate. Future isoprene requirements for our IR products will be met by our overall isoprene sourcing strategies. We may not be able to obtain isoprene required for our operations at our Pernis facility or alternate locations on terms favorable to us or at all. Our U.S. butadiene supply agreement with Shell Chemicals expired as of April 30, 2009. We currently access butadiene at competitive rates, recently entered into a butadiene supply contract with a new supplier for 2010 and are engaged in efforts with several other suppliers to purchase ongoing and continuing supplies of butadiene. If we are unable to enter into agreements with alternative suppliers, we may not be able to meet our U.S. butadiene supply requirements in a timely manner or on favorable terms.

In addition, most of our long-term contracts contain provisions that allow our suppliers to limit the amount of raw materials shipped to us below the contracted amount in certain circumstances. During 2009, Shell Chemicals and other butadiene producers have limited supply at times due to raw material shortages and operational problems, and we have satisfied our butadiene needs by supplementing with spot market purchases. If we are required to obtain alternate sources for raw materials because Shell Chemicals or any other supplier is

Table of Contents

unwilling or unable to perform under raw material supply agreements or if a supplier terminates its agreements with us, we may not be able to obtain these raw materials from alternative suppliers in a timely manner or be able to enter into long-term supply agreements on terms as favorable to us. A lack of availability of raw materials could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

If the availability of isoprene is limited, we may be unable to produce some of our products in quantities demanded by our customers, which could have an adverse effect on our sales of products requiring isoprene.

Isoprene is not widely available, and the few isoprene producers tend to use their production for captive manufacturing purposes or sell only limited quantities into the world chemicals market. The major producers of isoprene are Goodyear, Shell Chemicals, Nippon Zeon, Braskem, several Chinese producers and various Russian manufacturers. Currently, Shell Chemicals is our major supplier of isoprene in the United States and Europe. In Japan, we obtain the majority of our isoprene requirements from JSR Corporation, or JSR, on a commercial supply basis and from alternative suppliers as needed. In Brazil, isoprene is obtained from a local third party supplier. These suppliers may not be able to meet our isoprene requirements, and we may not be able to obtain substitute supplies of isoprene from alternative suppliers in a timely manner or on favorable terms.

Because there is limited non-captive isoprene availability, the market for isoprene is thin and prices are particularly volatile. Prices for isoprene are determined by the supply and prices of natural and synthetic rubber, crude oil and natural gas prices and existing supply and demand in the market. Market prices for isoprene increased significantly during the second half of 2008 as energy prices peaked in the third quarter. Following the collapse of energy pricing in late 2008, isoprene prices receded in the first half of 2009 due to lower costs and weaker demand. A significant factor contributing to higher prices was the extreme tightness in the market caused by operational problems of some key producers and reduced availability of crude C5 inputs for the extraction units. Although improved producer operation mitigated this risk in 2008, weak ethylene demand and light (ethane versus naphtha) ethylene inputs have limited isoprene production for some of the suppliers. In addition to this limit due to ethylene inputs, operational problems could return in the future. A lack of availability of isoprene could have an adverse effect on our results of operations if we are unable to produce products containing isoprene.

If the availability of butadiene is limited, we may be unable to produce some of our products in quantities demanded by our customers, which could have an adverse effect on plant utilization and our sales of products requiring butadiene.

The North American market is structurally short of butadiene and has relied on imports of crude C4 and/or butadiene to balance demand. Historically, the European market has been better balanced and provided exports to North America. Currently, Shell Chemicals is our major supplier of butadiene in the United States, and LyondellBasell is our major butadiene supplier in Europe. In January 2009, the U.S. operations of LyondellBasell along with one of its European holding companies, Basell Germany Holdings GmbH, filed for voluntary reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. To date the U.S. bankruptcy has not negatively impacted our supply of butadiene in Europe. The quantity of butadiene available in any one region is dependent on the cracking inputs of olefins plants, ethylene demand, inter-regional demand for butadiene and demand for other oil derivatives. Suppliers may not be able to meet our butadiene requirements, and we may not be able to obtain substitute supplies of butadiene from alternative suppliers in a timely manner or on favorable terms.

Increases in the costs of our raw materials could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations if those costs cannot be passed onto our customers.

Our results of operations are directly affected by the cost of our raw materials. Our three principal raw materials (styrene, butadiene and isoprene) together represented approximately 52% of our total cost of goods sold in 2008. As a result of the significant portion of our cost of goods sold represented by these three monomers, our gross profit and margins could be adversely affected by changes in the cost of these raw materials if we are unable to pass the increases on to our customers.

Table of Contents

Our end-use markets are highly competitive, and we may lose market share to other producers of styrenic block copolymers or to producers of other products that can be substituted for our products.

Our industry is highly competitive and we face significant competition from large international producers, as well as from smaller regional competitors. Our competitors may improve their competitive position in our core end-use markets by successfully introducing new products, improving their manufacturing processes or expanding their capacity or manufacturing facilities. If we are unable to keep pace with our competitors' product and manufacturing process innovations, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Our most significant competitors are Asahi Chemical, Chi Mei, Dexco Polymers, Dynasol Elastomers, Korea Kumho P.C., Kuraray Company, Lee Chang Yung, LG Chemical, Polimeri Europa, Sinopec, Taiwan Synthetic Rubber Corporation and Zeon Corporation. Kuraray Company, Dynasol Elastomers, Korea Kumho P.C. and Sinopec have all expanded HSBC capacity over the last 3 years. Several competitors, including Dynasol, Lee Chang Yung and Sinopec, have expanded USBC capacity over the last 3 years.

In addition, competition between styrenic block copolymers and other products within the end-use markets in which we compete is intense. Increased competition from existing or newly developed non-SBC products may reduce demand for our products in the future and our customers may decide on alternate sources to meet their requirements.

In the Advanced Materials end-use market, our products compete against a wide variety of chemical and non-chemical alternatives, including thermoplastic vulcanizates, ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber, known as EPDM, thermoplastic polyolefin elastomers and thermoplastic polyurethanes, known as TPUs. The choice between these materials is influenced by performance characteristics, ease of use, desired aesthetics and total end-product cost. In addition, competing materials include spandex, natural rubber, polyvinyl chloride polymers and compounds, polyolefins, polyethylene terephthalate, known as PET, nylon and polycarbonate, based on performance, ease of use, desired aesthetics and total end-product cost.

In the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market, SBC products primarily compete with acrylics, silicones, solvent-based rubber systems and thermoplastic polyolefin elastomers. The choice between these materials is influenced by bond strength, specific adhesion, consistent performance to specification, processing speed, hot-melt application, resistance to water and total end-product cost.

In the Paving and Roofing end-use market, our products primarily compete with atactic polypropylene, styrene butadiene rubber and unmodified asphalts. The choice between these materials is influenced by total end-product performance, cost and ease of use. If we are unable to successfully compete with other producers of styrenic block copolymers or if other products can be successfully substituted for our products, our sales may decline.

If we are not able to continue the technological innovation and successful commercial introduction of new products, our customers may turn to other producers to meet their requirements.

Our industry and the end-use markets into which we sell our products experience periodic technological change and ongoing product improvements.

In addition, our customers may introduce new generations of their own products or require new technological and increased performance specifications that would require us to develop customized products. Innovation or other changes in our customers' product performance requirements may also adversely affect the demand for our products. Our future growth will depend on our ability to gauge the direction of the commercial and technological progress in all key end-use markets, and upon our ability to successfully develop, manufacture and market products in such changing end-use markets. We need to continue to identify, develop and market

Table of Contents

innovative products on a timely basis to replace existing products in order to maintain our profit margins and our competitive position. We may not be successful in developing new products and technology that successfully compete with such materials and our customers may not accept any of our new products. If we fail to keep pace with evolving technological innovations or fail to modify our products in response to our customers' needs, then our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected as a result of reduced sales of our products.

Our business relies on intellectual property and other proprietary information and our failure to protect our rights could harm our competitive advantages with respect to the manufacturing of some of our products.

Our success depends to a significant degree upon our ability to protect and preserve our intellectual property and other proprietary information of our business. However, we may be unable to prevent third parties from using our intellectual property and other proprietary information without our authorization or independently developing intellectual property and other proprietary information that is similar to ours, particularly in those countries where the laws do not protect our proprietary rights to the same degree as in the United States. The use of our intellectual property and other proprietary information by others could reduce or eliminate any competitive advantage we have developed, cause us to lose sales or otherwise harm our business. If it becomes necessary for us to litigate to protect these rights, any proceedings could be burdensome and costly, and we may not prevail. In addition, we acquired a significant number of patents from Shell Chemicals. Pursuant to the agreements with Shell Chemicals relating to their contribution of these patents to us and our ownership of these patents, Shell Chemicals retained for itself fully-transferable and exclusive licenses to their use outside of the elastomers business, as well as fully-transferable non-exclusive licenses within the field of elastomers for certain limited uses in non-competing activities. Shell Chemicals is permitted to sublicense these rights. Shell Chemicals also retains the right to enforce these patents outside the elastomers field and recover any damages resulting from these actions.

Any patents, issued or applied for, may not provide us with any competitive advantage and may be challenged by third parties. Our competitors also may attempt to design around our patents or copy or otherwise obtain and use our intellectual property and other proprietary information. Moreover, our competitors may already hold or have applied for patents in the United States or abroad that, if enforced or issued, could possibly prevail over our patent rights or otherwise limit our ability to manufacture or sell one or more of our products in the United States or abroad. From time to time, we oppose the issuance of patent applications in the United States and other jurisdictions that we consider overbroad or otherwise invalid in order to maintain the necessary freedom to operate fully in our various business lines without the risk of being sued for patent infringement. In general, competitors or other parties may, from time to time, assert issued patents or other intellectual property rights against us. If we are legally determined, at some future date, to infringe or violate the intellectual property rights of another party, we may have to pay damages, stop the infringing use, or attempt to obtain a license agreement with the owner of such intellectual property. With respect to our pending patent applications, we may not be successful in securing patents for these claims. Our failure to secure these patents may limit our ability to protect inventions that these applications were intended to cover. In addition, the expiration of a patent can result in increased competition with consequent erosion of profit margins.

It is our policy to enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees and third parties to protect our unpatented proprietary manufacturing expertise, continuing technological innovation and other trade secrets, but our confidentiality agreements could be breached or may not provide meaningful protection for our trade secrets or proprietary manufacturing expertise. Adequate remedies may not be available in the event of an unauthorized use or disclosure of our trade secrets and manufacturing expertise. Violations by others of our confidentiality agreements and the loss of employees who have specialized knowledge and expertise could harm our competitive position and cause our sales and operating results to decline as a result of increased competition. In addition, others may obtain knowledge of our trade secrets through independent development or other access by legal means.

We have registered and applied for certain service marks and trademarks, and will continue to evaluate the registration of additional service marks and trademarks, as appropriate. The applicable governmental authorities

Table of Contents

may not approve our pending applications. A failure to obtain trademark registrations in the United States and in other countries could limit our ability to obtain and retain our trademarks and impede our marketing efforts in those jurisdictions. Moreover, third parties may seek to oppose our applications or otherwise challenge the resulting registrations. In the event that our trademarks are successfully challenged, we could be forced to rebrand our products, which could result in loss of brand recognition and could require us to devote resources to advertising and marketing new brands.

The failure of our patents, trademarks or confidentiality agreements to protect our intellectual property and other proprietary information, including our processes, apparatuses, technology, trade secrets, trade names and proprietary manufacturing expertise, methods and compounds, could have a material adverse effect on our competitive advantages over other producers.

Our products may infringe the intellectual property rights of others, which may cause us to incur unexpected costs or prevent us from selling our products.

We continually seek to improve our business processes and develop new products and applications. Many of our competitors have a substantial amount of intellectual property that we must continually monitor to avoid infringement. Although it is our policy and intention not to infringe valid patents, we cannot guarantee that our processes and products do not and will not infringe issued patents (whether present or future) or other intellectual property rights belonging to others, including, without limitation, situations in which our products, processes or technologies may be covered by patent applications filed by other parties in the United States or abroad. From time to time, we oppose patent applications that we consider overbroad or otherwise invalid in order to maintain the necessary freedom to operate fully in our various business lines without the risk of being sued for patent infringement. If, however, patents are subsequently issued on any such applications by other parties, or if patents belonging to others already exist that cover our products, processes or technologies, we could, possibly, be liable for infringement or have to take other remedial or curative actions to continue our manufacturing and sales activities with respect to one or more products. We may also be subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of our business, including claims of alleged infringement of the patents, trademarks and other intellectual property rights of third parties by us or our licensees in connection with their use of our products. Intellectual property litigation is expensive and time-consuming, regardless of the merits of any claim, and could divert our management's attention from operating our business. If we were to discover that our processes, technologies or products infringe the valid intellectual property rights of others, we might need to obtain licenses from these parties or substantially re-engineer our products in order to avoid infringement. We may not be able to obtain the necessary licenses on acceptable terms, or at all, or be able to re-engineer our products successfully. Moreover, if we are sued for infringement and lose, we could be required to pay substantial damages and/or be enjoined from using or selling the infringing products or technology. Any of the foregoing could cause us to incur significant costs and prevent us from selling our products.

Our business is subject to seasonality that may affect our quarterly operating results and impact the market price of our common stock.

Seasonal changes and weather conditions typically affect the Paving and Roofing end-use market. In particular, sales volumes for paving products generally rise in the warmer months and generally decline during the colder months of fall and winter. Roofing product sales volumes tend to be more consistent throughout the year. Abnormally cold or wet seasons may cause reduced purchases from our Paving and Roofing customers. However, because seasonal weather patterns are difficult to predict, we cannot accurately estimate fluctuations in our quarterly Paving and Roofing sales in any given year. If Paving and Roofing results cause our operating results to fall below the periodic expectations of financial analysts or investors, the market price of our common stock may decline.

Our substantial level of indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the senior secured credit facility and the senior subordinated notes.

We have substantial indebtedness. As of September 30, 2009, after giving effect to this offering and the use of proceeds therefrom, our total indebtedness would have been \$385.9 million. Our indebtedness consists principally of the senior secured credit facility, which had \$322.6 million outstanding as of September 30, 2009,

Table of Contents

and the 8.125% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014, or the senior subordinated notes, which had \$163.0 million outstanding as of September 30, 2009. The senior secured credit facility is payable in consecutive equal quarterly installments in an aggregate annual amount equal to 1.0% of the original principal amount and with the remaining balance payable in four equal quarterly installments commencing on September 30, 2012 and ending on May 12, 2013. The senior subordinated notes mature on January 14, 2014. In addition, subject to restrictions in the senior secured credit facility and the indenture governing the senior subordinated notes, Kraton and its subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness.

As a result of our substantial indebtedness:

our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements or other general corporate purposes may be impaired;

we must use a substantial portion of our cash flow to pay principal of and interest on our indebtedness which will reduce the funds available to us for other purposes;

we are more vulnerable to economic downturns and adverse industry conditions;

our ability to capitalize on business opportunities and to react to competitive pressures, as compared to our competitors, may be compromised; and

our ability to borrow additional funds or to refinance indebtedness may be limited.

The ability for us to pay principal of and interest on indebtedness, fund working capital, and make anticipated capital expenditures depends on our future performance, which is subject to general economic conditions and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. There can be no assurance that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future borrowings will be available under the senior secured revolving credit facility to fund liquidity needs in an amount sufficient to enable us to service indebtedness. Furthermore, if we decide to undertake additional investments in existing or new facilities, this will likely require additional capital, and there can be no assurance that this capital will be available.

Our debt instruments, including the senior secured credit facility and the indenture governing the senior subordinated notes, impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us.

The senior secured credit facility and the indenture governing the senior subordinated notes impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions limit our ability, the ability of Kraton and the ability of its subsidiaries to, among other things:

incur additional indebtedness;

pay dividends or make certain other restricted payments and investments;

create liens or other encumbrances; and

transfer or sell certain assets or merge or consolidate with another entity.

These restrictions could limit our ability to plan for or react to market conditions or meet extraordinary capital needs or otherwise restrict corporate activities. Our ability to comply with these covenants may be affected by events beyond our control, and any material deviations from

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

our forecasts could require us to seek waivers or amendments of covenants, alternative sources of financing or reductions in expenditures. We may not be able to obtain such waivers, amendments or alternative financings, or if we obtain them, they may not be on terms acceptable to us.

A deterioration in our results of operations may cause us not to be in compliance with the financial covenants in the senior secured credit facility. Under the terms of the senior secured credit facility, as amended, we are subject to certain financial covenants, including maintenance of a minimum interest rate coverage ratio and a maximum leverage ratio. Our ability to continue to comply with the financial ratios is subject to changes in our results of operations and financial position including but not limited to: the prices for raw materials; the sales of products; our ability to successfully implement selected selling price increases; our ability to reduce costs; and our availability of cash to reduce existing indebtedness. We generated net income of \$28.4 million for the year ended

Table of Contents

December 31, 2008 and net income of \$1.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and a net loss of \$43.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. Furthermore, our earnings were insufficient to cover our fixed charges for the year ended December 31, 2007 by approximately \$37.6 million. As of September 30, 2009, we were in compliance with the applicable financial ratios in the senior secured credit facility. We may not be able to maintain these ratios or avail ourselves of the equity cure provisions of the senior secured credit facility in future periods.

A breach of any of the covenants or restrictions contained in any of our existing or future financing agreements and instruments, including our inability to comply with the required financial covenants in the senior secured credit facility, could result in an event of default under those agreements. Such a default could allow the lenders under our financing agreements to discontinue lending, to accelerate the related debt and to declare all borrowings outstanding thereunder to be due and payable. In addition, the lenders could terminate any commitments they had made to supply us with further funds.

We may be liable for damages based on product liability claims brought against our customers in our end-use markets.

Many of our products provide critical performance attributes to our customers – products that are sold to consumers who could potentially bring product liability suits in which we could be named as a defendant. The sale of these products involves the risk of product liability claims. If a person were to bring a product liability suit against one of our customers, this customer may attempt to seek contribution from us. A person may also bring a product liability claim directly against us. A successful product liability claim or series of claims against us in excess of our insurance coverage for payments, for which we are not otherwise indemnified, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. While we endeavor to protect ourselves from such claims and exposures in our contractual negotiations, there can be no assurance that our efforts in this regard will ultimately protect us from any such claims.

As a global business, we are exposed to local business risks in different countries, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

We have significant operations in foreign countries, including manufacturing facilities, research and development facilities, sales personnel and customer support operations. Currently, we operate, or others operate on our behalf, facilities in Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Japan, in addition to our operations in the United States. Our offshore operations are subject to risks inherent in doing business in foreign countries, including, but not necessarily limited to:

new and different legal and regulatory requirements in local jurisdictions;

export duties or import quotas;

domestic and foreign customs and tariffs or other trade barriers;

potential staffing difficulties and labor disputes;

managing and obtaining support and distribution for local operations;

increased costs of transportation or shipping;

credit risk and financial conditions of local customers and distributors;

potential difficulties in protecting intellectual property;

risk of nationalization of private enterprises by foreign governments;

potential imposition of restrictions on investments;

potentially adverse tax consequences, including imposition or increase of withholding and other taxes on remittances and other payments by subsidiaries;

Table of Contents

foreign currency exchange restrictions and fluctuations; and

local political and social conditions, including the possibility of hyperinflationary conditions and political instability in certain countries.

We may not be successful in developing and implementing policies and strategies to address the foregoing factors in a timely and effective manner at each location where we do business. Consequently, the occurrence of one or more of the foregoing factors could have a material adverse effect on our international operations or upon our financial condition and results of operations.

Chemical manufacturing is inherently hazardous, which could result in accidents that disrupt our operations or expose us to significant losses or liabilities.

The hazards associated with chemical manufacturing and the related storage and transportation of raw materials, products and wastes exist in our operations and the operations of other occupants with whom we share manufacturing sites. These hazards could lead to an interruption or suspension of operations and have an adverse effect on the productivity and profitability of a particular manufacturing facility or on us as a whole. These potential risks include, but are not necessarily limited to:

pipeline and storage tank leaks and ruptures;

explosions and fires;

inclement weather and natural disasters;

terrorist attacks;

mechanical failure; and

chemical spills and other discharges or releases of toxic or hazardous substances or gases.

These hazards may result in personal injury and loss of life, damage to property and contamination of the environment, which may result in a suspension of operations and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties, including governmental fines, expenses for remediation and claims brought by governmental entities or third parties. The loss or shutdown of operations over an extended period at our Belpre facility, which is our largest manufacturing facility, or any of our other major operating facilities could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Although we maintain property, business interruption and casualty insurance of the types and in the amounts that we believe are customary for the industry, we are not fully insured against all potential hazards incidental to our business.

Regulation of our employees exposure to butadiene could require material expenditures or changes in our operations.

Butadiene is a known carcinogen in laboratory animals at high doses and is being studied for its potential adverse health effects. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration limits the permissible employee exposure to butadiene. Future studies on the health effects of butadiene may result in additional regulations or new regulations in Europe that further restrict or prohibit the use of, and exposure to, butadiene. Additional regulation of butadiene could require us to change our operations, and these changes could affect the quality of our products and materially increase our costs.

Compliance with extensive environmental, health and safety laws could require material expenditures, changes in our operations or site remediation.

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Materials such as styrene, butadiene and isoprene, which are used in the manufacture of our products, can represent potentially significant health and safety concerns. Our products are also used in a variety of end-uses that have specific regulatory requirements such as those relating to products that have contact with food or medical end-uses.

Table of Contents

We use large quantities of hazardous substances and generate hazardous wastes in our manufacturing operations. Consequently, our operations are subject to extensive environmental, health and safety laws and regulations at both the national and local level in multiple jurisdictions. Many of these laws and regulations have become more stringent over time and the costs of compliance with these requirements may increase, including costs associated with any necessary capital investments. In addition, our production facilities require operating permits that are subject to renewal and, in some circumstances, revocation. The necessary permits may not be issued or continue in effect, and any issued permits may contain significant new requirements. The nature of the chemical industry exposes us to risks of liability due to the use, production, management, storage, transportation and sale of materials that are heavily regulated or hazardous and can cause contamination or personal injury or damage if released into the environment.

We operate coal-burning boilers at our facility in the United States that could be subject to legislation and regulation affecting the emissions of greenhouse gases. While the impact of any such legislation or regulation is currently speculative, any such legislation or regulation, if enacted, may have an adverse effect on our operations or financial condition.

We have health and safety management programs in place to help assure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and with internal policies and procedures, as appropriate. Each facility has developed and implemented specific critical occupational health, safety, environmental and loss control programs. Compliance with environmental laws generally increases the costs of transportation and storage of raw materials and finished products, as well as the costs of storage and disposal of wastes. We may incur substantial costs, including fines, damages, criminal or civil sanctions and remediation costs, or experience interruptions in our operations for violations arising under these laws or permit requirements.

Management at our facility at Belpre, Ohio has identified several occupied buildings that are closer to the manufacturing process than would be consistent with industry guidelines required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. A \$7.6 million project is underway to relocate these facilities, and this cost is included in our projected future capital expenditures. However, such costs may vary with changes in regulations or risk management strategy. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

We may be subject to losses due to lawsuits arising out of environmental damage or personal injuries associated with chemical manufacturing.

We face the risk that individuals could, in the future, seek damages for personal injury due to exposure to chemicals at our facilities or to chemicals otherwise owned or controlled by us. We may be subject to future claims with respect to workplace exposure, workers' compensation and other matters that are filed after the date of our acquisition of Shell Chemicals' elastomers business. While Shell Chemicals has agreed to indemnify us for certain claims brought with respect to matters occurring before our separation from Shell Chemicals in February 2001, those indemnity obligations are subject to limitations, and we cannot be certain that those indemnities will be sufficient to satisfy claims against us. In addition, we face the risk that future claims would fall outside of the scope of the indemnity due either to the limitations on the indemnity or to their arising from events and circumstances occurring after February 2001.

Some environmental laws could impose on us the entire cost of clean-up of contamination present at a facility even though we did not cause the contamination. These laws often identify the site owner as one of the parties that can be jointly and severally liable for on-site remediation, regardless of fault or whether the original activity was legal at the time it occurred. For example, our Belpre, Ohio facility is the subject of a required remediation program to clean up past contamination at the site and at an adjacent creek and we are a party to that site clean-up order. While Shell Chemicals has posted financial assurance of \$5.2 million for this program and has taken the lead in implementing the program, we may incur costs and be required to take action under this program. Similarly, the Shell Chemicals indemnity for remediation at the Belpre facility may not cover all claims that might be brought against us.

Table of Contents

Our Paulinia, Brazil facility also has on-site contamination resulting from past operations of Shell Chemicals. The indemnity from Shell Chemicals covers claims related to certain specified areas within the plant, and we may be required to undertake and pay for remediation of these and other areas. The indemnity coverage from Shell Chemicals is limited in time and amount and we cannot rely upon it to cover possible future claims for on-site contamination separate from the areas specified in the indemnity. The Paulinia facility is also adjacent to a former Shell Chemicals site where we believe past manufacturing of hydrocarbons resulted in significant contamination of soil and groundwater and required relocation of nearby residents. It is our understanding that the Shell Chemicals portion of the site has changed ownership several times, which may impact financial responsibility for contamination on the site. While we are not aware of any significant contamination at our Paulinia facility, we could potentially be the subject of claims related to pesticide contamination and effects at some point in the future.

In general, there is always the possibility that a third-party plaintiff or claimant, or governmental or regulatory authority, could seek to include us in an action or claim for damages, clean-up, or remediation pertaining to events or circumstances occurring or existing at one or more of our sites prior to the time of our ownership or occupation of the applicable site. In the event that any of these actions or claims were asserted against us, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

Regulatory and statutory changes applicable to us or our customers could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We and many of the applications for the products in the end-use markets in which we sell our products are regulated by various national and local rules, laws and regulations. Changes in any of these areas could result in additional compliance costs, seizures, confiscations, recall or monetary fines, any of which could prevent or inhibit the development, distribution and sale of our products. For example, changes in environmental regulations restricting the use of disposable diapers could cause a decline in sales to producers of that product. In addition, we benefit from certain trade protections, including anti-dumping protection. If we were to lose these protections, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

We are subject to customs, international trade, export control, antitrust, zoning and occupancy and labor and employment laws that could require us to modify our current business practices and incur increased costs.

We are subject to numerous regulations, including customs and international trade laws, export control, antitrust laws and zoning and occupancy laws that regulate manufacturers generally and/or govern the importation, promotion and sale of our products, the operation of factories and warehouse facilities and our relationship with our customers, suppliers and competitors. If these regulations were to change or were violated by our management, employees, suppliers, buying agents or trading companies, the costs of certain goods could increase, or we could experience delays in shipments of our goods, be subject to fines or penalties, or suffer reputational harm, which could reduce demand for our products and hurt our business and negatively impact results of operations. In addition, changes in federal and state minimum wage laws and other laws relating to employee benefits could cause us to incur additional wage and benefits costs, which could negatively impact our profitability.

Legal requirements are frequently changed and subject to interpretation, and we are unable to predict the ultimate cost of compliance with these requirements or their effects on our operations. We may be required to make significant expenditures or modify our business practices to comply with existing or future laws and regulations, which may increase our costs and materially limit our ability to operate our business.

Our relationship with our employees could deteriorate, which could adversely affect our operations.

As a manufacturing company, we rely on our employees and good relations with our employees to produce our products and maintain our production processes and productivity. As of September 30, 2009, we employed

Table of Contents

approximately 805 full-time employees. A significant number of our non-U.S. employees are subject to arrangements similar to collective bargaining arrangements. With respect to these employees, we may not be able to negotiate labor agreements on satisfactory terms, and actions by our employees may disrupt our business. Although we have historically maintained a good relationship with our employees, if these workers were to engage in a strike, work stoppage or other slowdown, our operations could be disrupted or we could experience higher labor costs. In addition, if our other employees were to become unionized, in particular our employees at our Belpre, Ohio facility, we could experience significant operating disruptions and higher ongoing labor costs, which could adversely affect our business and financial condition and results of operations. Because many of the personnel who operate our European facilities are employees of Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell, relations between Shell Chemicals and its employees or LyondellBasell and its employees may also adversely affect our business and financial condition and results of operations.

Loss of key personnel or our inability to attract and retain new qualified personnel could hurt our business and inhibit our ability to operate and grow successfully.

Our success in the highly competitive markets in which we operate will continue to depend to a significant extent on our key employees. We are dependent on the expertise of our executive officers. Loss of the services of any of our executive officers could have an adverse effect on our prospects. We may not be able to retain our key employees or to recruit qualified individuals to join our company. The loss of key employees could result in high transition costs and could disrupt our operations.

Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may significantly impact our results of operations and may significantly affect the comparability of our results between financial periods.

Our operations are conducted by subsidiaries in many countries. The results of the operations and the financial position of these subsidiaries are reported in the relevant foreign currencies and then translated into U.S. dollars at the applicable exchange rates for inclusion in our consolidated financial statements. The main currencies to which we are exposed, besides the U.S. dollar, are the Euro, Japanese Yen and Brazilian Real. The exchange rates between these currencies and the U.S. dollar in recent years have fluctuated significantly and may continue to do so in the future. A depreciation of these currencies against the U.S. dollar will decrease the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts derived from these operations reported in our consolidated financial statements and an appreciation of these currencies will result in a corresponding increase in such amounts. Because many of our raw material costs are determined with respect to the U.S. dollar rather than these currencies, depreciation of these currencies may have an adverse effect on our profit margins or our reported results of operations. Conversely, to the extent that we are required to pay for goods or services in foreign currencies, the appreciation of such currencies against the U.S. dollar will tend to negatively impact our results of operations. In addition, currency fluctuations may affect the comparability of our results of operations between financial periods.

We incur currency transaction risk whenever we enter into either a purchase or sale transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity. Beginning in 2008, we began implementing hedging strategies to minimize our exposure to certain foreign currency fluctuations. Given the volatility of exchange rates, there can be no assurance that we will be able to effectively manage our currency transaction risks or that any volatility in currency exchange rates will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

We generally do not have long-term contracts with our customers, and the loss of customers could adversely affect our sales and profitability.

With some exceptions, our business is based primarily upon individual sales orders with our customers. As such, our customers could cease buying our products from us at any time, for any reason, with little or no recourse. If multiple customers elected not to purchase products from us, our business prospects, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

A decrease in the fair value of pension assets could materially increase future funding requirements of the pension plan.

We sponsor a defined benefit pension plan. The total projected benefit obligation of our defined benefit pension plan exceeded the fair value of the plan assets by approximately \$37.8 million at September 30, 2009. We contributed \$9.0 million to the pension plan in 2008 and, based on the actuarial assumptions used in our consolidated financial statements, are forecasting contributions of approximately \$4.2 million in calendar years 2009 and 2010, respectively. Among the key assumptions inherent in the actuarially calculated pension plan obligation and pension plan expense are the discount rate and the expected rate of return on plan assets. If interest rates and actual rates of return on invested plan assets were to decrease significantly, the pension plan obligation could increase materially. The size of future required pension contributions could result in us dedicating a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to making the contributions which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Risk Factors Relating to this Offering

Concentration of ownership among our principal stockholders may prevent new investors from influencing significant corporate decisions.

Upon consummation of this offering, TPG and JPMP together will own approximately 64.6% of our common stock (approximately 61.4% if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full). Pursuant to a registration rights and shareholders' agreement to be entered into by TPG, JPMP and the company, TPG and JPMP will each have the right to participate in certain dispositions by the other party. TPG and JPMP will also be restricted from transferring common stock without the consent of the other party. Furthermore, each of TPG and JPMP will have the right to elect two directors to the board of directors of the company so long as it owns 10% or more of the outstanding common stock and one director so long as it owns 2% or more of the common stock. See "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" "Registration Rights and Shareholders Agreement." TPG and JPMP together will be able to exercise control over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors, amendment of our certificate of incorporation and approval of significant corporate transactions and will have significant control over our management and policies. The interests of these stockholders may not be consistent with your interests as a stockholder. This control may also have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers, delaying or preventing changes in control or changes in management, or limiting the ability of our other stockholders to approve transactions that they may deem to be in the best interests of our company. In addition, our certificate of incorporation will provide that the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which relate to business combinations with interested stockholders, do not apply to us.

There has been no prior public market for our common stock, and we cannot assure you that an active trading market in our stock will develop or be sustained.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. We cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop or be sustained after this offering. Although we have applied to have our common stock approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange, we do not know whether third parties will find our common stock to be attractive or whether firms will be interested in making a market in our common stock. Also, if you purchase shares of common stock in this offering, you will pay a price that was not established in public trading markets. The initial public offering price of our common stock will be determined through negotiation between us and the representatives of the underwriters and thus may not be indicative of the market price for our common stock after this offering. Consequently, you may not be able to resell your shares above the initial public offering price and may suffer a loss on your investment.

Through their affiliates, certain underwriters for this offering are also creditors of our outstanding indebtedness, and therefore have interests in this offering beyond customary underwriting discounts and commissions.

Certain affiliates of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated are lenders under the senior secured credit facility. We expect to use portions of the net proceeds of

Table of Contents

this offering to repay existing indebtedness under the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility, under which Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is a lender. As a result, such affiliates of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated may receive portions of the proceeds of this offering and have interests beyond customary underwriting discounts and commissions. For more information on the use of the proceeds of this offering, see Use of Proceeds.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and it may trade at prices below the initial public offering price.

The market price of our common stock after this offering may fluctuate significantly from time to time as a result of many factors, including:

investors' perceptions of our prospects;

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

changes in analysts' recommendations or projections;

fluctuations in quarterly operating results;

announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships or divestitures;

changes or trends in our industry;

adverse resolution of new or pending litigation against us;

additions or departures of key personnel;

changes in general economic conditions; and

broad market fluctuations.

Broad market and industry factors may adversely affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. As a result, our common stock may trade at prices significantly below the initial public offering price.

Future sales of our shares could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

If our existing stockholders sell substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market following this offering, or if we issue a large number of shares of our common stock in connection with future business activities, the market price of our common stock could decline significantly. Sales by our existing stockholders might also make it more difficult for us to raise equity capital by selling new common stock at a time and price that we deem appropriate.

Upon completion of this offering we will have 29,709,114 shares of common stock outstanding based on 19,414,996 shares outstanding after our conversion to a corporation and 10,294,118 shares to be sold in the offering. Of these outstanding shares, we expect all of the shares sold in this offering will be freely tradable in the public market. We expect 19,271,702 shares will be restricted securities as defined in the SEC's Rule 144 and may be sold by the holders into the public market from time to time in accordance with and subject to limitation on sales by affiliates under

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Rule 144. All of these restricted shares will be eligible for sale under Rule 144 following expiration of the lockup agreements described below subject to limitation on sales by affiliates.

We, each of our officers, directors and our stockholders, have agreed to a 180-day lockup, meaning that, for a period of 180 days following the date of this prospectus, we and they will not sell shares of our common stock. However, this lockup is subject to several exceptions, and our lead underwriters in their sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to the lockup, at any time without notice.

Table of Contents

Delaware law and some provisions of our organizational documents make a takeover of our company more difficult.

Provisions of our charter and bylaws may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company. A change of control could be proposed in the form of a tender offer or takeover proposal that might result in a premium over the market price for our common stock. In addition, these provisions could make it more difficult to bring about a change in the composition of our board of directors, which could result in entrenchment of current management. For example, our charter and bylaws will:

establish a classified board of directors so that not all members of our board of directors are elected at one time;

require that the number of directors be determined, and any vacancy or new board seat be filled, only by the board;

not permit stockholders to act by written consent (except for TPG and JPMP, as long as they own at least 50% of our outstanding common stock);

not permit stockholders to call a special meeting (except for TPG and JPMP, as long as they own at least 50% of our outstanding common stock);

permit the bylaws to be amended by a majority of the board without shareholder approval, and require that a bylaw amendment proposed by stockholders be approved by 66 ²/₃% of all outstanding shares;

establish advance notice requirements for nominations for elections to our board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholder meetings; and

authorize the issuance of undesignated preferred stock, or blank check preferred stock, by our board of directors without shareholder approval.

Many of our employment agreements, plans and equity arrangements with our executive officers also contain change in control provisions. Under the terms of these arrangements, the executive officers are entitled to receive significant cash payments, immediate vesting of Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units, and continued medical benefits in the event their employment is terminated under certain circumstances within one year following a change in control. Any Supplemental Pension Benefits a participant may have accrued under the Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC Pension Benefit Restoration Plan also vests immediately on a change of control and any amounts accrued under the Kraton Polymers LLC Executive Deferred Compensation Plan are immediately payable upon a change of control. We note that a change in control should not be triggered under these arrangements solely by this offering. See Executive Compensation, for disclosure regarding potential payments to Named Executive Officers following a change in control.

These and other provisions of our organizational documents and Delaware law may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing changes of control or changes in management of our company, even if such transactions or changes would have significant benefits for our stockholders. As a result, these provisions could limit the price some investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

We will be a controlled company within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange rules, and, as a result, we will rely on exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements that provide protection to stockholders of other companies.

Upon completion of this offering, TPG and JPMP together will own more than 50% of the total voting power of our common stock, and we will be a controlled company under the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance listing standards. As a controlled company, an exception under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards will exempt us from the obligation to comply with certain of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance requirements, including the requirements:

that a majority of our board of directors consist of independent directors, as defined under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange;

Table of Contents

that we have a corporate governance and nominating committee that is composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities; and

that we have a compensation committee that is composed entirely of independent directors with a written charter addressing the committee's purpose and responsibilities.

Accordingly, for so long as we are a controlled company, holders of our common stock may not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance requirements.

Your share ownership in our company will be immediately and substantially diluted.

If you purchase shares of our common stock in this offering, you will experience an immediate and substantial dilution of \$4.33 per share because the price that you pay will be substantially greater than the pro forma net tangible book value per share of such stock based on the pro forma net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2009.

We do not expect to pay any dividends for the foreseeable future.

We do not anticipate paying any dividends to our shareholders for the foreseeable future. The senior secured credit facility precludes us from paying cash dividends, and we may be subject to other restrictions on our ability to pay dividends from time to time. In addition, because we are a holding company, our ability to pay dividends depends on our receipt of cash dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries. The terms of certain of the senior subordinated notes substantially restrict our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends. Accordingly, investors must be prepared to rely on sales of their common stock after price appreciation to earn an investment return, which may never occur. Investors seeking cash dividends should not purchase our common stock. Any determination to pay dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our results of operations, financial conditions, contractual restrictions, restrictions imposed by applicable law or the SEC and other factors our board deems relevant.

We are a holding company with nominal net worth and will depend on dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries to pay any dividends.

Polymer Holdings is a holding company with nominal net worth. We do not have any assets or conduct any business operations other than our investments in our subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to pay dividends, if any, will be dependent upon cash dividends and distributions or other transfers from our subsidiaries. Payments to us by our subsidiaries will be contingent upon their respective earnings and subject to any limitations on the ability of such entities to make payments or other distributions to us. In addition, our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to make any funds available to us.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common stock will depend in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us or our business. We do not currently have and may never obtain research coverage by securities and industry analysts. If no securities or industry analysts commence coverage of our company, the trading price for our common stock would be negatively impacted. If we obtain securities or industry analyst coverage and if one or more of the analysts who covers us downgrades our common stock or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of us or fails to publish reports on us regularly, demand for our common stock could decrease, which could cause our stock price and trading volume to decline.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements made under the headings Summary, Business, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Financial Statements and elsewhere in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements that reflect our plans, beliefs, expectations and current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. Forward-looking statements are often characterized by the use of words such as believes, estimates, expects, projects, may, intends, plans or anticipates, or by discussion of strategy, plans or intentions. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements, or industry results, to differ materially from historical results or any future results, performance or achievements expressed, suggested or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

conditions in the global economy and capital markets,

our dependence on LyondellBasell, Shell Chemicals and other suppliers to perform their obligations to us,

failure of our suppliers to perform their obligations under long-term supply agreements, or our inability to replace or renew these agreements when they expire, could increase our cost for these materials and interrupt production,

limited availability or increases in prices of raw materials used in our business,

our substantial level of indebtedness and the operating and financial restrictions imposed by our debt instruments and related indentures,

competitive pressures in the specialty chemicals industry,

our ability to continue technological innovation and successful commercial introduction of new products,

our ability to protect intellectual property and other proprietary information,

losses due to lawsuits arising out of intellectual property infringement and product liability claims,

losses due to lawsuits arising out of environmental damage or personal injuries associated with chemical manufacturing,

compliance with extensive environmental, health and safety laws, including regulation of our employees' exposure to butadiene, could require material expenditures or changes in our operations,

the risk of accidents that could disrupt our operations or expose us to significant losses or liabilities,

governmental regulations and trade restrictions,

exposure to interest rate and currency fluctuations,

acts of war or terrorism in the United States or worldwide, political or financial instability in the countries where our goods are manufactured and sold, and

other risks and uncertainties described in this report and other reports and documents.

These statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and therefore you should not place undue reliance on them.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update them publicly in light of new information or future events.

You should carefully consider the Risk Factors and subsequent public statements, or reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, before making any investment decision with respect to our securities. If any of these trends, risks or uncertainties actually occurs or continues, our business, financial condition or operating results could be materially adversely affected, the trading prices of our securities could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that our net proceeds from the sale of 10,294,118 shares of common stock offered by us will be approximately \$126.1 million or approximately \$145.6 million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full, after deducting underwriting discounts and estimated offering expenses payable by us of approximately \$12.9 million or approximately \$14.2 million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full.

We currently intend to use the net proceeds we receive from this offering to repay a portion of the senior secured credit facility. We expect to use the remaining net proceeds for general corporate purposes, including to fund strategic capital projects such as alternative production capabilities for Isoprene Rubber, the development of additional capacity in our Isoprene Rubber Latex business, and/or the continuation of our upgrade of certain systems and operating controls at our Belpre, Ohio facility.

The senior secured credit facility requires that Kraton prepay outstanding indebtedness in an aggregate amount equal to 50% of the proceeds of an issuance of capital stock by Kraton or us, net of underwriting discounts and commissions and other reasonable costs and expenses associated with this offering. Term loans under the senior secured credit facility are payable in 25 consecutive equal quarterly installments, in an aggregate annual amount equal to 1.0% of the original principal amount of the term loans with the remaining balance payable in four equal quarterly installments commencing on September 30, 2012, and ending on May 12, 2013. The remaining scheduled installments must be reduced on a pro rata basis in connection with the repayment contemplated herein. The term loans bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus 2.00% per annum or, at our option, the base rate plus 1.00% per annum. As of September 30, 2009, we had total indebtedness of \$485.9 million, consisting principally of \$322.6 million of outstanding borrowings under the senior secured credit facility term loan and \$163.0 million of outstanding senior subordinated notes.

Pending use of the net proceeds from this offering described above, we intend to invest the net proceeds in short- and intermediate-term AAA rated money market funds, overnight Eurodollar deposits, certificates of deposit or direct or guaranteed obligations of the United States government.

By establishing a public market for our common stock, this offering is also intended to facilitate our future access to public markets.

Table of Contents

DIVIDEND POLICY

Prior to our conversion from a limited liability company to a corporation we did not make any dividend payments to our members. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings to fund the development and growth of our business, and we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. We are currently prohibited from paying cash dividends on our common stock by the covenants in the senior secured credit facility and may be further restricted by the terms of any of our future debt or preferred securities. In addition, because we are a holding company, our ability to pay dividends depends on our receipt of cash dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries. The terms of certain of the senior subordinated notes substantially restrict our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends. For more information about these restrictions, see Description of Certain Indebtedness. Any future determination to pay dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, capital expenditure requirements, restrictions contained in current and future financing instruments and other factors that our board of directors deems relevant.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our capitalization as of September 30, 2009:

1. on an actual basis; and

2. on an adjusted basis to reflect:

our conversion to a corporation in the State of Delaware, which will occur prior to the completion of this offering;

the sale of 10,294,118 shares of common stock offered by us in this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses; and

the application of the net proceeds from this offering (as described under the heading "Use of Proceeds").

You should read this information together with our financial statements and the notes to those statements and the information included under the headings "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Selected Consolidated Financial Data" included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2009 (in millions)	
	Actual	As Adjusted (unaudited)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22.4	\$ 48.5
Long-term debt, including current portion:		
Senior secured credit facility(1)	\$ 322.6	\$ 222.6
Senior subordinated notes (less \$7.0 million held as Treasury Bonds)	163.0	163.0
Polymer Holdings LLC 12.00% discount notes	0.3	0.3
Total debt	485.9	385.9
Equity:		
Polymer Holdings LLC members equity	\$ 203.7	
Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. common stock, \$0.01 par value per share; no shares authorized or issued and outstanding, actual (500,000,000 shares authorized; 29,709,114 shares issued and outstanding, as adjusted)		0.3
Additional paid in capital		329.5
Retained earnings		
Total equity	\$ 203.7	\$ 329.8
Total capitalization	\$ 689.6	\$ 715.7

Numbers in table may not foot, due to rounding.

- (1) As of September 30, 2009, we had \$322.6 million outstanding under the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility and \$75.5 million available under the revolving portion. On November 30, 2009, we increased the amount available under the revolving portion to \$80.0 million. We have no drawings under the revolving portion.

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

If you invest in our common stock, your interest will be diluted to the extent of the difference between the initial public offering price per share and the pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value per share of our common stock after this offering. Our historical net tangible book value as of September 30, 2009 was \$142.5 million, or approximately \$7.34 per share (assuming 19,414,996 shares outstanding after our conversion to a corporation). Net tangible book value per share represents the amount of stockholders' equity less the net book value of intangible assets, divided by the number of shares of common stock outstanding at that date.

Net tangible book value dilution per share to new investors represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers of common stock in this offering and the pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value per share of common stock immediately after completion of this offering. After giving effect to our sale of shares of common stock in this offering at an initial public offering price of \$13.50 per share and after deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions, our pro forma as adjusted net tangible book value as of September 30, 2009 would have been \$9.17 per share. This amount represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$1.83 per share to existing stockholders and an immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$4.33 per share to purchasers of common stock in this offering, as illustrated in the following table.

Assumed initial public offering price per share		\$ 13.50
Historical net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2009	\$ 7.34	
Increase per share attributable to new investors	1.83	
As adjusted net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering		9.17
Dilution per share to new investors		\$ 4.33

The following table summarizes, as of September 30, 2009, on the pro forma basis described above, the differences between existing stockholders and new investors with respect to the number of shares of common stock purchased from us, the total consideration paid, and the average price per share of our common stock paid by existing stockholders, after giving effect to the issuance of 10,294,118 shares of our common stock in this offering at an initial public offering price of \$13.50 per share, before deducting the estimated underwriting discounts and commissions and offering expenses.

	Shares Purchased		Total Consideration		Average Price Per Share
	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent	
Existing stockholders	19,414,996	65.4%	\$ 261,124,229	65.3%	\$ 13.45
New investors	10,294,118	34.6%	\$ 138,970,593	34.7%	\$ 13.50
Total	29,709,114	100%	\$ 400,094,822	100%	\$ 13.47

If the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full, the number of shares of common stock held by new investors will increase to 11,838,235, or 38.0 percent, of the total number of shares of our common stock outstanding after this offering.

The discussion and table above assume no exercise of stock options outstanding and no issuance of shares reserved for issuance under our equity incentive plans. As of September 30, 2009, there were an aggregate of 1,594,962 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the TJ Chemical Option Plan in connection with the settlement of options outstanding as of the closing of this offering, based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120. Following the closing of this offering, there will also be 4,350,000 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the Polymer Holdings LLC Equity Incentive Plan.

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The table below sets forth our selected consolidated historical financial data for the periods indicated.

The selected consolidated historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 and as of December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and are not included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected consolidated historical financial data presented below for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 and as of December 31, 2008 and 2007 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus. The selected consolidated historical financial data for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 and as of September 30, 2009 and 2008 have been derived from our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus. Results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that might be expected for any other interim period or for an entire year. Our historical results are not indicative of our future performance.

The selected consolidated financial information and other data presented below should be read in conjunction with the information contained in Use of Proceeds, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	Year ended December 31,					Nine months ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2009 (unaudited)	2008 (unaudited)
	(in thousands)						
Consolidated Statements of Operations							
Data:							
Operating Revenues							
Sales	\$ 1,171,253	\$ 1,066,044	\$ 1,015,766	\$ 952,921	\$ 791,226	\$ 682,061	\$ 947,925
Other(1)	54,780	23,543	32,355	22,670	16,160	35,235	46,472
Total operating revenues	1,226,033	1,089,587	1,048,121	975,591	807,386	717,296	994,397
Cost of Goods Sold(2)	971,283	938,556	843,726	766,012	692,968	602,633	788,618
Gross Profit	254,750	151,031	204,395	209,579	114,418	114,663	205,779
Operating Expenses							
Research and development expenses	27,049	24,865	24,598	26,152	23,178	15,115	21,129
Selling, general and administrative	101,431	69,020	73,776	72,731	64,903	56,585	73,578
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	53,162	51,917	43,574	44,090	42,630	41,582	40,880
Total operating expenses	181,642	145,802	141,948	142,973	130,711	113,282	135,587
Gain on Extinguishment of Debt						23,831	
Equity in Earnings in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures(3)	437	626	168	1,516	462	305	314
Interest Expense, Net	36,695	43,484	66,637	45,733	40,747	24,783	27,696
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	36,850	(37,629)	(4,022)	22,389	(56,578)	734	42,810
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	8,431	6,120	29,814	(7,999)	19,645	(485)	7,396
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)	\$ 14,390	\$ (36,933)	\$ 1,219	\$ 35,414

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

- (1) Other revenues include the sale of by-products generated in the production of IR and SIS.
- (2) In the year ended December 31, 2005 this amount includes \$1,684 (in thousands) of additional costs relating to the sale of inventory, the carrying value of which had been increased to reflect the manufacturing profit in inventory as part of TPG and JPMP's acquisition of our company.
- (3) Represents our 50% joint venture interest in Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K., which is accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

Table of Contents

	Year ended December 31, 2008	Nine months ended September 30, 2009
Pro forma income per common share(1)		
Basic	\$ 1.46	\$ 0.06
Diluted	\$ 1.45	\$ 0.06
Shares used to compute basic pro forma income per share(2)	19,414,996	19,414,996
Shares used to compute diluted pro forma income per share(2)	19,592,190	19,592,190

- (1) Pro forma to reflect the conversion of our company from a limited liability company to a corporation prior to the closing of this offering.
(2) Calculated based on number of common shares that would have been outstanding as of December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, assuming our conversion into a corporation.

	2008	As of December 31,				As of September 30,	
		2007	2006	2005	2004	2009	2008
		(in thousands)					
Balance Sheet Data							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 101,396	\$ 48,277	\$ 43,601	\$ 100,934	\$ 46,357	\$ 22,365	\$ 84,239
Total assets	1,031,874	984,894	989,153	966,501	967,413	939,880	1,064,174
Total debt	\$ 575,316	\$ 538,686	\$ 582,310	\$ 567,988	\$ 559,015	\$ 485,815	\$ 575,316

Table of Contents

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

You should read the following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations together with our financial statements and related notes appearing at the end of this prospectus. Some of the information contained in this discussion and analysis or set forth elsewhere in this prospectus, including information with respect to plans and strategy for our business and related financing, includes forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. You should review the section entitled "Risk Factors" of this prospectus for a discussion of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results described in or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in the following discussion and analysis.

Overview

We believe we are the world's leading producer, as measured by 2008 sales revenues and volumes, of styrenic block copolymers, or SBCs, a family of performance polymer products whose chemistry we pioneered over 40 years ago. SBCs are highly-engineered synthetic elastomers which enhance the performance of numerous products by delivering a variety of performance-enhancing characteristics, including greater flexibility, resilience, strength, durability and processability, and are a fast growing subset of the elastomers industry. Our polymers are typically formulated or compounded with other products to achieve improved, customer specific performance characteristics in a variety of applications. The majority of our polymers are highly customized to specific applications and thus are a critical component to the performance of our customers' products, yet each polymer represents a small fraction of the overall cost of a customer's finished product. Each polymer requires a significant amount of testing and certification, which, when combined with our proprietary chemistry, encourages strong customer loyalty.

We believe that our superior technical expertise, strong customer relationships, track record of innovation, second-to-none service offering, diversity of customers and geographies, and history of continuous improvements, together with the recognized quality standard associated with our KRATON® brand name have enabled us to maintain our leading global position in SBCs. We serve a large number of customers across a diverse set of end-use markets in many regions of the world. As a result, we believe our sales are less sensitive to conditions in any one particular end-use market or region. We currently offer approximately 800 products to more than 700 customers in over 60 countries worldwide. We are the only SBC producer with manufacturing and service capabilities on four continents, enabling us to meet the global needs of our multinational customers. We manufacture products at six plants globally, including our flagship plant in Belpre, Ohio, the largest by production volume and most diversified SBC plant in the world, as well as plants in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Brazil, and a joint venture operated plant in Japan.

We serve three core end-use markets: (1) Advanced Materials; (2) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; and (3) Paving and Roofing. We also serve a fourth market, an Emerging Businesses category, which includes our IRL activity.

Recent Developments

Exit from Pernis facility. On September 10, 2009, we committed to exit our Pernis facility as of December 31, 2009. In connection with our exit from the Pernis facility, we incurred \$5.1 million in asset retirement obligations, \$6.0 million in restructuring costs and a \$1.1 million non-cash charge to write-down our inventory of spare parts. The asset retirement obligations and the restructuring costs were recorded in the third quarter of 2009. As a result of our commitment to exit the Pernis facility, we performed an impairment test on the related property and equipment at September 30, 2009 pursuant to ASC 360-10-35, and concluded that there was no impairment. The \$17.1 million of property and equipment related to Pernis will continue to be classified as assets held and used and will be fully depreciated over their remaining estimated useful life through December 31, 2009. We currently expect that the asset retirement obligations and the cash restructuring charges

Table of Contents

will be substantially paid in the first half of 2010. We currently expect the exit of our Pernis facility will result in an incremental cost savings of approximately \$12.0 million per annum beginning in the first quarter of 2010. Prior to the exit, we manufactured isoprene rubber (IR) at the Pernis facility. We currently plan to transfer IR production to an alternative company site. We are in the process of completing project planning, including assessing capital expenditure requirements, for producing the alternative capacity. The capital expenditure requirements could be a multiple of the annual cost savings we expect to realize from the exit of the Pernis facility. We plan to satisfy customer demand for IR with inventory currently on hand and we believe the cash flow from the sale of IR inventory will likely mitigate a significant portion of the cash requirements for the alternative capacity.

Purchase of a portion of our senior subordinated notes. In April 2009, TJ Chemical purchased approximately \$6.3 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$2.5 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.1 million. Immediately upon purchasing the senior subordinated notes, TJ Chemical contributed the purchased notes to Polymer Holdings, and we in turn contributed the notes to Kraton. No equity interest or other consideration was issued in exchange for the contribution of the senior subordinated notes, although members' equity of each of Polymers Holdings and Kraton was increased by an amount equal to the cash consideration paid by TJ Chemical. Kraton holds the senior subordinated notes as treasury bonds. Also in April 2009, Kraton purchased approximately \$0.7 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$0.3 million which Kraton is holding as treasury bonds. We recorded a gain of approximately \$4.3 million on the extinguishment of debt in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations in the quarter ended June 30, 2009.

On March 16, 2009, Kraton purchased and retired \$30 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$10.9 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.4 million. We recorded a gain of approximately \$19.5 million in the quarter ending March 31, 2009 related to the purchase and retirement of these senior subordinated notes.

Pricing. Beginning in August 2009, we announced the implementation of a series of global price increases, which were generally broad-based across our end-use markets and in response to the increase in raw material and energy costs.

Customer Event. One of our major asphalt customers, SemMaterials L.P., SEM, filed a petition for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code on July 22, 2008, along with several of SEM's affiliated companies. We had outstanding pre-petition receivables due from SEM of approximately \$0.3 million at December 31, 2008 and \$0.2 million as of February 15, 2009, for which we have filed an unsecured claim with the bankruptcy court. We do not believe that SEM's bankruptcy case will have a material effect upon our ongoing operations.

Overall market demand for asphalt has not been materially impacted by SEM's bankruptcy and SEM's bankruptcy has not materially impacted our sales volumes in our Paving and Roofing end-use markets, although our sales volumes have been impacted to date by the economic trends that have prevailed worldwide over the past several months.

LyondellBasell Industries. In January 2009, the U.S. operations of LyondellBasell along with one of its European-holding companies, Basell Germany Holdings GmbH, filed for voluntary reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. LyondellBasell is one of our major suppliers of raw materials and also operates our plants at Berre, France and Wesseling, Germany.

To date, our operations have not been negatively impacted and we are continuing to do extensive business with LyondellBasell. However, going forward we cannot accurately predict the effect, if any, that LyondellBasell's bankruptcy will ultimately have upon our business in general, or our relationship with LyondellBasell in particular.

Table of Contents

Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Raw Materials. Our results of operations are directly affected by the cost of raw materials. We use three monomers as our primary raw materials in the manufacture of our products: styrene, butadiene and isoprene. These monomers together represented approximately 52% and 43% of our total cost of goods sold for the twelve months ended December 31, 2008, and the nine months ended September 30, 2009, respectively. Other raw materials used in our production process include catalysts, solvents, stabilizers and various process control chemicals. The cost of these monomers has generally been correlated with changes in crude oil prices and affected by global supply and demand and global economic conditions. The market prices for styrene and butadiene monomers declined significantly late in 2008 and into the first quarter of 2009. Continuing through 2009, these monomer costs have either stabilized or begun to increase.

We believe that through our contractual arrangements with suppliers, or through other arrangements, we can presently source adequate supplies of styrene, butadiene and isoprene at competitive, market-based prices. We can provide no assurances, however, that our suppliers of raw materials will not terminate applicable contracts at the expiration of their terms or that we will be able to obtain substitute contractual arrangements on comparable terms, or that we generally will be able to source raw materials on an economic basis in the future. Our U.S. butadiene supply agreement with Shell Chemicals expired as of April 30, 2009. We recently entered into a butadiene supply contract with a new supplier for 2010. We currently have access to adequate butadiene supplies at competitive market rates and are engaged in efforts with various suppliers and potential suppliers to purchase ongoing and continuing supplies of butadiene for our U.S. operations.

Styrene, butadiene and isoprene used by our U.S. and European facilities are primarily supplied by Shell Chemicals or its affiliates, LyondellBasell, and other suppliers under long-term supply contracts with various expiration dates. Our isoprene sales contract with Shell Chemicals in the United States ends on December 31, 2009, subject to termination as of that date or any date thereafter, on not less than one (1) month written notice given by either party. To date, neither party has given notice of termination under the contract. For our U.S. facilities, we also procure substantial amount of isoprene from several Chinese and Russian suppliers. We generally contract with them on a short-term basis, although the number of such contracts has been increasing since 2008.

In Japan, butadiene and isoprene supplies for our joint venture plant are supplied under our joint venture agreement, where our partner supplies our necessary requirements. Styrene in Japan is sourced from local third-party suppliers. Our facility in Paulinia, Brazil generally purchases all of its raw materials from local third-party suppliers.

International Operations and Currency Fluctuations. We operate a geographically diverse business serving customers in more than 60 countries from six manufacturing plants in six countries. For the nine months ended September 30, 2009, 42% of total operating revenues were generated from customers located in the Americas, 40% in Europe and 18% in the Asia Pacific region.

Although we sell and manufacture our products in many countries, our sales and production costs are mainly denominated in U.S. dollars, Euros, Japanese Yen and Brazilian Real.

Our financial results are subject to gains and losses on currency transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the relevant operations. Any gains and losses are included in operating income, but have historically not been material. On February 18, 2009, we entered into a foreign currency option contract to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the Euro to U.S. dollar exchange rate for a notional amount of 47.3 million that expires on December 29, 2009. See Note 9(a) of Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion. Historically, we have not undertaken hedging strategies to minimize the effect of currency fluctuations.

Table of Contents

In addition, our financial results are subject to gains and losses on currency translations, which occur when the financial statements of foreign operations are translated into U.S. dollars. The financial statements of operations outside the United States where the local currency is considered to be the functional currency are translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rate at each balance sheet date for assets and liabilities and the average exchange rate for each period for revenues, expenses, gains and losses and cash flows. The effect of translating the balance sheet into U.S. dollars is included as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) in member's equity. Any appreciation of the functional currencies against the U.S. dollar will increase the U.S. dollar equivalent of amounts of revenues, expenses, gains and losses and cash flows, and any depreciation of the functional currencies will decrease the U.S. dollar amounts reported.

Seasonality. Our business is subject to seasonality that may affect our quarterly operating results. Seasonal changes and weather conditions typically affect the Paving and Roofing end-use market. In particular, sales volumes for paving products generally rise in the warmer months and generally decline during the colder months of fall and winter. Roofing product sales volumes tend to be more consistent throughout the year. Abnormally cold or wet seasons may cause reduced purchases from our Paving and Roofing customers. However, because seasonal weather patterns are difficult to predict, we cannot accurately estimate fluctuations in our quarterly Paving and Roofing sales in any given year. Our other end-use markets, Advanced Materials and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings, however, tend to show relatively little seasonality.

Outlook

The positive volume momentum that began in the second quarter of 2009, continued into the third quarter of 2009. Our quarterly sales volume, as compared to the previous year's comparable quarter, improved from a 24.0% decline in the second quarter of 2009 to a 9.7% decline in the third quarter of 2009, with our September 2009 sales volume narrowing to a 2.1% decline compared to September 2008.

We believe the positive volume momentum will continue into the fourth quarter of 2009. As a result, we currently expect that our fourth quarter 2009 sales volume should exceed our fourth quarter 2008 sales volume.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

The following table summarizes certain information relating to our operating results that has been derived from our consolidated financial statements.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2006	2009 (unaudited)	2008 (unaudited)
(in thousands)					
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Operating Revenues					
Sales	\$ 1,171,253	\$ 1,066,044	\$ 1,015,766	\$ 682,061	\$ 947,925
Other(1)	54,780	23,543	32,355	35,235	46,472
Total operating revenues	1,226,033	1,089,587	1,048,121	717,296	994,397
Cost of Goods Sold	971,283	938,556	843,726	602,633	788,618
Gross Profit	254,750	151,031	204,395	114,663	205,779
Operating Expenses					
Research and development expenses	27,049	24,865	24,598	15,115	21,129
Selling, general and administrative	101,431	69,020	73,776	56,585	73,578
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	53,162	51,917	43,574	41,582	40,880
Total operating expenses	181,642	145,802	141,948	113,282	135,587
Gain on Extinguishment of Debt				23,831	
Equity in Earnings in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures(2)	437	626	168	305	314
Interest Expense, net	36,695	43,484	66,637	24,783	27,696
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	36,850	(37,629)	(4,022)	734	42,810
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	8,431	6,120	29,814	(485)	7,396
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)	\$ 1,219	\$ 35,414

(1) Other revenues include the sale of by-products generated in the production of IR and SIS.

(2) Represents our 50% joint venture interest in Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K., which is accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes certain information relating to our operating results as a percentage of total revenues and has been derived from the financial information presented above. We believe this presentation is useful to investors in comparing historical results. Certain amounts in the table may not sum due to the rounding of individual components.

	Year ended December 31,			Nine months ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2006	2009 (unaudited)	2008 (unaudited)
(in thousands)					
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Operating Revenues					
Sales	95.5%	97.8%	96.9%	95.1%	95.3%
Other(1)	4.5	2.2	3.1	4.9	4.7
Total operating revenues	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cost of Goods Sold	79.2	86.1	80.5	84	79.3
Gross Profit	20.8	13.9	19.5	16	20.7
Operating Expenses					
Research and development expenses	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1
Selling, general and administrative	8.3	6.3	7.0	7.9	7.4
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	4.3	4.8	4.2	5.8	4.1
Total operating expenses	14.8	13.4	13.5	15.8	13.6
Gain on Extinguishment of Debt				3.3	
Equity in Earnings in Unconsolidated Joint Ventures(2)					
		0.1			
Interest Expense, net	3.0	4.0	6.4	3.5	2.8
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	3.0	(3.5)	(0.4)	0.1	4.3
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	0.7	0.6	2.8	(0.1)	0.7
Net Income (Loss)	2.3%	(4.0)%	(3.2)%	0.2%	3.6%

(1) Other revenues include the sale of by-products generated in the production of IR and SIS.

(2) Represents our 50% joint venture interest in Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K., which is accounted for using the equity method of accounting.
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2009 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2008

Operating Revenues

Operating revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 decreased \$277.1 million or 27.9% compared to the same period in 2008. The decrease was driven primarily by:

Sales decreased \$265.9 million or 28.0%. Sales volume amounted to 199.4 kT for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 compared to 260.5 kT for the same period in 2008. The 61.1 kT or 23.5% decline in sales volume reduced sales by \$209.6 million. Changes in (i) global product sales prices and product mix and (ii) the impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates reduced sales by \$17.7 million and \$38.6 million, respectively.

The decrease in sales revenue of \$265.9 million or 28.0% was comprised of a reduction in sales revenue of \$86.1 million, \$89.0 million, \$104.4 million and \$2.4 million in the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings, the Advanced Materials, the Paving and Roofing and the Other Markets end-use markets, respectively. These decreases in sales revenue were partially offset by an increase totaling \$16.2 million in the Emerging Businesses end-use market.

Table of Contents

The following are the primary factors influencing our sales volume in these end-use markets:

In our Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market, we experienced a decline in overall demand that began in the fourth quarter of 2008 and continued into 2009. However, demand for non-woven applications supported by a modest improvement in consumer demand as well as continued growth in commercial and specialty tapes and labels had a positive impact on our upward volume trend starting in the second quarter of 2009 and continuing through the third quarter of 2009.

In our Advanced Materials end-use market, our sales volume into key markets such as automotive, consumer electronics/appliances and personal care applications declined commensurate with global economic conditions; however, as market conditions improved late in the third quarter of 2009, volume began to recover.

In our Paving and Roofing end-use market, roofing applications were lower due to the overall decline in construction activity, particularly in the commercial sector. We also experienced a decline in our paving business, largely due to delays associated with the uncertainty around the impact of the U.S. Government economic stimulus spending and budgetary constraints on state and local governments.

Other revenue decreased \$11.2 million or 24.2%. Other revenue primarily consists of the sales of small quantities of by-products resulting from the manufacturing process of isoprene rubber, which is offset by a corresponding cost included in cost of goods sold.

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 decreased \$186.0 million or 23.6% compared to the same period in 2008. The decrease was driven primarily by:

\$146.1 million related to the decline in sales volume,

\$29.8 million from changes in foreign currency exchange rates,

\$11.2 million due to lower by-product costs,

\$6.6 million in monomer and other production costs, offset by

\$7.7 million in plant turnaround costs.

As a percentage of operating revenues, cost of goods sold increased to 84.0% from 79.3%.

Gross Profit

Gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 decreased \$91.1 million or 44.3% compared to the same period in 2008. The decrease was driven primarily by a decrease in sales volume. As a percentage of operating revenues, gross profit decreased to 16.0% from 20.7%.

Operating Expenses

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Operating expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 decreased \$22.3 million or 16.5% compared to the same period in 2008. The decrease was driven primarily by:

Research and development decreased \$6.0 million or 28.5%. The decrease was largely due to the costs associated with the realignment of our Research and Technology Service organization in 2008 of \$3.3 million. As a percentage of operating revenues, research and development was unchanged at 2.1%.

Selling, general and administrative decreased \$17.0 million or 23.1%. The decrease was primarily due to a reduction of our incentive compensation costs of \$9.3 million and lower restructuring costs of \$5.4 million. As a percentage of operating revenues, selling, general and administrative increased to 7.9% from 7.4%.

Interest Expense, Net.

Interest expense, net for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 decreased \$2.9 million or 10.5% to \$24.8 million compared to \$27.7 million during the same period in 2008. The decrease was primarily due to lower interest rates and amortized gains from our interest rate swap that was settled in June 2008. The average

Table of Contents

debt balances outstanding were \$546.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and \$557.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The effective interest rates on our debt were 6.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 and 6.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense was a net benefit of \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 compared to an expense of \$7.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. The effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 was (6.6)% compared to 17.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2008. Our effective tax rate for the current period was lower than the statutory rate of 35% primarily due to a pretax loss, along with not recording a tax benefit for certain net operating losses generated during that period and changes in where our income is earned. Our effective tax rate for the prior period was higher than our statutory rate primarily due to an increase in pre-tax income, along with not recording a tax benefit for certain net operating losses generated during that period and a change in mix of pre-tax income between foreign and domestic tax jurisdictions.

Net Income (Loss)

Net income was \$1.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, a decrease of \$34.2 million compared to a net income of \$35.4 million in the same period in 2008.

Year Ended December 31, 2008 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2007

Operating Revenues

Operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2008 increased \$136.4 million or 12.5% compared to the same period in 2007. The increase was driven primarily by:

Sales increased \$105.2 million or 9.9%. The increase in sales was the result of increases in global product sales prices and changes in product mix of \$173.3 million and the impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates of \$50.1 million, partially offset by a \$118.2 million decrease related to a 44.5 kiloton, or 12.4% decline in sales volume. Sales volume amounted to 313.1 kilotons in 2008 compared to 357.6 kilotons in 2007.

The increase in sales revenue of \$105.2 million or 9.9% was primarily comprised of an increase in sales revenue of \$42.0 million, \$11.2 million, \$45.0 million and \$11.8 million in the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings, the Advanced Materials, the Paving and Roofing and the Emerging Businesses end-use markets, respectively. The increase in sales revenue was partially offset by decreases totaling \$4.8 million in the Other Markets end-use markets. The following are the primary factors influencing sales volumes:

Overall, volume was constrained due to butadiene availability in 2008.

In our Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market, raw material availability was a primary driver, affecting North American tape and formulator customers.

In our Advanced Materials end-use market, general weakness resulting from global economic conditions, partially offset by a modest growth in emerging markets due to increased demand for high quality isoprene latex rubber, used in medical applications. We implemented a series of global price increases beginning in August 2008, which were generally broad-based across our end-use markets and in response to the increase in raw material and energy costs. As a result, even though sales volumes declined year-over-year, we experienced revenue growth in each of our end-use markets.

Other revenue increased \$31.2 million or 132.7%. Other revenue primarily consists of the sales of small quantities of residual products that are a by-product of the manufacturing process of isoprene rubber; however the increase is offset by a corresponding increase in cost of goods sold.

Table of Contents

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2008 increased \$32.7 million or 3.5% compared to the same period in 2007. The increase was driven primarily by:

\$39.2 million increase from changes in foreign currency exchange rates,

\$37.1 million increase in monomer and other production costs,

\$31.2 million increase in by-product cost, and

\$8.1 million increase due to a lower-of-cost-or-market adjustment of our finished goods inventory, partially offset by

\$82.9 million decline in cost of goods sold directly related to the decline in sales volume.

As a percentage of operating revenues, cost of goods sold decreased to 79.2% from 86.1%.

Gross Profit

Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2008 increased \$103.7 million or 68.7% compared to the same period in 2007. As a percentage of operating revenues, gross profit increased to 20.8% from 13.9%.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2008 increased \$35.8 million or 24.6% compared to the same period in 2007. The increase was driven primarily by:

Research and development increased \$2.2 million or 8.8%. The increase was largely due to the costs associated with the realignment of our Research and Technology Service organization. As a percentage of operating revenues, research and development decreased to 2.2% from 2.3%.

Selling, general and administrative increased \$32.4 million or 47.0%. The increase was primarily due to \$13.4 million associated with our incentive compensation plan, \$4.1 million from changes in foreign currency exchange rates, \$5.5 million associated with senior executive and other management changes, \$3.9 million in severance related charges, \$1.2 million related to analysis of refinancing options and \$0.8 million related to the initial implementation cost associated with our ERP implementation. As a percentage of operating revenues, selling, general and administrative increased to 8.3% from 6.3%.

Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles increased \$1.2 million or 2.4%. The increase in depreciation and amortization expense reflects assets that were under construction in prior periods that were completed and placed in service, including our polyisoprene latex plant at our Paulinia, Brazil facility, accelerated depreciation on the SIS plant assets at our Pernis facility beginning in September 2007, and changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture

The Kashima, Japan plant is operated by a manufacturing joint venture with JSR under the name Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K. We use the equity method of accounting for our joint venture at the Kashima site. Earnings in the joint venture decreased \$0.2 million or 30.2% for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007.

Interest Expense, Net

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Interest expense, net for the year ended December 31, 2008 decreased \$6.8 million or 15.6% to \$36.7 million compared to \$43.5 million during the same period in 2007. The decrease was primarily due to lower interest rates, amortized gains from our interest rate swap and lower debt balances. The average debt balances

Table of Contents

outstanding were \$562.7 million and \$565.6 million, respectively. The effective interest rates on our debt during the same periods were 6.5% and 7.5%, respectively.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense was \$8.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, as compared to \$6.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. Income tax expense increased by \$2.3 million primarily due to an increase of taxable income. The effective tax rate was 22.9% for the year ended December 31, 2008, as compared to (16.3%) for the year ended December 31, 2007. Our effective tax rate for the current period was less than our statutory rate primarily due to not recording a tax benefit for certain net operating loss carryforwards generated during that period and recognition of deferred tax assets on U.S. operations that were previously offset by valuation allowances, as well as a different income mix between foreign and domestic tax jurisdictions. Our effective tax rate for the prior period was less than our statutory rate primarily due to not recording a tax benefit for certain net operating loss carryforwards generated during that period and a different income mix between foreign and domestic tax jurisdictions.

Net Income (Loss)

Net income was \$28.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, an improvement of \$72.2 million compared to a net loss of \$43.7 million in 2007.

Year Ended December 31, 2007 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2006

Operating Revenues

Operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2007 increased \$41.5 million or 4.0% compared to the same period in 2006. The increase was driven primarily by:

Sales increased \$50.3 million or 4.9%. The increase in sales was the result of the impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates of approximately \$43.0 million and approximately \$29.0 million due to a 6.0 kiloton or 1.7% increase in sales volumes of our products, partially offset by approximately \$22.0 million due to product sales mix and year-over-year price decline in SIS sales given the lower cost and increased availability of isoprene monomer. Sales volume amounted to 357.6 kilotons in 2007 compared to 351.6 kilotons in 2006.

The increase in sales revenue of \$50.3 million or 4.9% was primarily comprised of an increase in sales revenue of \$37.5 million, \$18.5 million and \$0.8 million in the Advanced Materials, the Paving and Roofing and the Emerging Businesses end-use markets, respectively, partially offset by a decrease of \$0.5 million in the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market. The increase in sales revenue was also partially offset by decreases totaling \$6.0 million in the Other Markets end-use markets. The following are the primary factors influencing sales volumes:

Growth in our Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and Compounding end-use markets in the Asia Pacific region, the latter driven by innovation product growth.

Growth in Packaging and Films end-use markets in Europe and Asia Pacific, excluding Japan due to cap liners and innovation product growth.

Growth in Personal Care end-use market, including innovation product growth, partially offset by reduced volume in our North American Paving and Roofing end-use market due to poor weather condition and limited government paving budgets.

Other revenue decreased \$8.8 million or 27.2%. Other revenue primarily consists of the sales of small quantities of residual products that are a by-product of the manufacturing process of isoprene rubber. The decrease was primarily due to decreased sales volumes, partially offset by the strengthening of the Euro against the U.S. dollar.

Table of Contents

Cost of Goods Sold

Cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2007 increased \$94.8 million or 11.2% compared to the same period in 2006. The increase was driven primarily by:

\$47 million of increased monomer and other variable costs,

\$39 million increase related to foreign currency fluctuations,

\$14 million related to increased sales volumes and

\$9 million related to manufacturing cost absorption, partially offset by

\$9 million from lower by-product sales and

\$6 million decline in other manufacturing expenses primarily related to lower restructuring costs. The aggregate acquisition cost per metric ton for monomers increased 5% in 2007, due to the continued tight supply and demand conditions in the marketplace and rising crude oil prices.

As a percentage of total revenues, cost of goods sold increased to 86.1% from 80.5%.

Gross Profit

Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2007 decreased \$53.4 million or 26.1% compared to the same period in 2006. As a percentage of operating revenues, gross profit decreased to 13.9% from 19.5%.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2007 increased \$3.9 million or 2.7% compared to the same period in 2006. The increase was driven primarily by:

Research and development increased \$0.3 million or 1.1%. The increase was primarily due to foreign currency fluctuations. As a percentage of total revenues, research and development remained flat at 2.3%.

Selling, general and administrative decreased \$4.8 million or 6.4%. The decrease was primarily due to lower incentive compensation; reduced personnel related costs due to restructuring activities implemented in 2006; and costs associated with our restructuring activities in 2006. These decreases were partially offset by an increase due to foreign currency fluctuations. As a percentage of total revenues, selling, general and administrative decreased to 6.3% from 7.0%.

Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles increased \$8.3 million or 19.1%. The increase in depreciation and amortization expense reflects assets that were under construction in 2006 that were completed and placed into service in 2006 and 2007, including our new polyisoprene latex plant at our Paulinia, Brazil facility; accelerated depreciation on the SIS plant assets at our Pernis facility; and foreign currency fluctuations.

Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

The Kashima, Japan plant is operated by a manufacturing joint venture with JSR under the name Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K. We use the equity method of accounting for our joint venture at the Kashima site. Earnings in the joint venture increased \$0.4 million or 272.6% for the year ended December 31, 2007 compared to the same period in 2006.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net for the year ended December 31, 2007 decreased \$23.2 million or 34.7% compared to the same period in 2006. This increase was primarily due to the higher debt balances compared to 2006 as a result of the amendment to the senior secured credit facility partially offset by the recognition of approximately

Table of Contents

\$2.0 million of unrealized gain on interest rate swaps during 2007 upon the termination of the interest rate swap agreements on June 24, 2007. The adjustment reflects the additional income statement effects of our highly effective interest rate swaps that should have been reflected in prior periods. We evaluated the materiality of the adjustment, including both qualitative and quantitative considerations, and concluded that the adjustment was not material to 2007 or December 31, 2006. The average debt balances outstanding were \$565.6 million and \$537.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The effective interest rates on our debt during the same periods were 7.5% and 7.4%, respectively.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense was \$6.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, as compared to \$29.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. Income tax expense decreased by \$23.7 million primarily due to a reduction of taxable income and an increase in valuation allowances for operating loss carryforwards in certain tax jurisdictions. The effective tax rate was (16.3%) for the year ended December 31, 2007, as compared to 741.3% for the year ended December 31, 2006. The decrease in the effective tax rate during the current period is related to the change in the mix of taxable income in our U.S. and international operations.

Net Income (Loss)

Net loss was \$43.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, a loss of \$9.9 million compared to a net loss of \$33.8 million in 2006.

Critical Accounting Policies

The application of accounting policies and estimates is an important process that continues to evolve as our operations change and accounting guidance is issued. We have identified a number of critical accounting policies and estimates that require the use of significant estimates and judgments.

Management bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on other various assumptions that they believe are reasonable at the time of application. The estimates and judgments may change as time passes and more information becomes available. If estimates and judgments are different than the actual amounts recorded, adjustments are made in subsequent periods to take into consideration the new information.

Inventories. Our inventory is principally comprised of finished goods inventory. Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market as determined on a first-in, first-out basis. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate the carrying cost of our inventory to ensure that it is stated at the lower of cost or market. Our products are typically not subject to spoiling or obsolescence and consequently our reserves for slow moving and obsolete inventory have historically not been significant. Cash flows from the sale of inventory are reported in cash flows from operations in the consolidated statement of cash flows.

Property, Plant and Equipment. Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost. Major renewals and improvements which extend the useful lives of equipment are capitalized. Repair and maintenance expenses are charged to operations as incurred. We utilize the expensed as incurred method of accounting for planned major maintenance. Disposals are removed at carrying cost less accumulated depreciation with any resulting gain or loss reflected in operations. When applicable, we capitalize interest costs which are incurred as part of the cost of constructing major facilities and equipment. We did not record any capitalized interest in any periods presented. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Machinery and equipment	20 years
Building and land improvements	20 years
Computer hardware/information systems	3 years
Office equipment	5 years
Research equipment and facilities	5 years
Vehicles	5 years

Table of Contents

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 144, *Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets* (SFAS No. 144), provides a single accounting model for long-lived assets to be disposed of. We adopted SFAS No. 144 on January 1, 2002.

In accordance with SFAS No. 144, long-lived assets, such as property, plant and equipment, and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. The company performs an impairment analysis of its long-lived assets at year end and after the occurrence of triggering events. The following are examples of such events or changes in circumstances:

A significant decrease in the market price of a long-lived asset or asset group.

A significant adverse change in the extent or manner in which a long-lived asset or asset group is being used or in its physical condition.

A significant adverse change in legal factors or in business climate that could affect the value of a long-lived asset or asset group, including an adverse action or assessment by a regulator.

An accumulation of costs significantly in excess of the amount originally expected for the acquisition or construction of a long-lived asset or asset group.

A current-period operating or cash flow loss combined with a history of operating or cash flow losses or a projection or forecast that demonstrates continuing losses associated with the use of a long-lived asset or asset group.

A current expectation that, more likely than not, a long-lived asset or asset group will be sold or otherwise disposed of significantly before the end of its previously estimated useful life.

Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset, calculated using discounted cash flow. No triggering events have occurred to cause an impairment analysis since December 2008 when the last impairment test was performed. At that time, the fair value of our long-lived assets was substantially in excess of the carrying value.

Income Taxes. We conduct operations in separate legal entities; as a result, income tax amounts are reflected in these consolidated financial statements for each of those jurisdictions.

Net operating losses and credit carryforwards are recorded in the event such benefits are expected to be realized. Deferred taxes result from differences between the financial and tax bases of our assets and liabilities and are adjusted for changes in tax rates and tax laws when changes are enacted. Valuation allowances are recorded to reduce deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not that a tax benefit will not be realized. In determining whether a valuation allowance is required, the company evaluates primarily (a) the impact of cumulative losses in past years, and (b) current and/or recent losses. A recent trend in earnings despite cumulative losses is a pre-requisite to considering not recording a valuation allowance.

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, we consider whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. We consider the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods in which the deferred tax assets are deductible, we believe it is more likely than not that we will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances.

Table of Contents

Benefit Plans. We sponsor a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan, a non-qualified defined benefit pension plan, and other postretirement benefit plans. The actuarial determination of the projected benefit obligations and related benefit expense requires that certain assumptions be made regarding such variables as expected return on plan assets, discount rates, rates of future compensation increases, estimated future employee turnover rates and retirement dates, distribution election rates, mortality rates, retiree utilization rates for health care services and health care cost trend rates. The selection of assumptions requires considerable judgment concerning future events and has a significant impact on the amount of the obligations recorded in the consolidated balance sheets and on the amount of expense included in the consolidated statements of operations.

Capital market declines experienced during the last half of 2008 have adversely impacted the market value of investment assets used to fund our defined benefit pension plans. Future changes in plan asset returns, assumed discount rates and various other factors related to our pension and post-retirement plans will impact future pension expense and liabilities.

Revenue Recognition. We recognize revenue from the time title transfers. We classify amounts billed to customers for shipping and handling as revenues, with the related shipping and handling costs included in cost of goods sold.

We have entered into agreements with some of our customers, whereby they earn rebates from us when the volume of their purchases of our products reaches certain agreed upon levels. We recognize the rebate obligation under these agreements as a reduction of revenue based on an allocation of the cost of honoring the rebates that are earned to each of the underlying revenue transactions that result in progress by the customer toward earning the rebate.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Known Trends and Uncertainties

We are a holding company without any operations or assets other than the operations of our subsidiaries.

Credit markets in the United States have experienced varying degrees of credit volatility and contraction that have limited and reduced our ability to explore financing options. This volatility has been caused by many factors, including concerns about creditworthiness in the overall market, especially the financial services sector, which has culminated in the failure or consolidation of several large financial and investment institutions. As a result of these market conditions, the cost and availability of credit has been and may continue to be adversely affected by illiquid credit markets and wider credit spreads. Concern about the stability of the markets generally and the strength of counterparties specifically has led many lenders and institutional investors to reduce, and in some cases, cease to provide funding to borrowers. Continued turbulence in the U.S. and international markets and economies may adversely affect our liquidity and financial condition, and the liquidity and financial condition of our customers, to timely replace maturing liabilities, and access the capital markets to meet liquidity needs, resulting in adverse effects on our financial condition and results of operations. During this credit contraction, we have been able to access borrowings available to us in amounts sufficient to fund liquidity needs.

Based upon current and anticipated levels of operations, we believe that cash flow from operations of our subsidiaries and borrowings available to us will be adequate for the foreseeable future for us to fund our working capital and capital expenditure requirements and to make required payments of principal and interest on our senior subordinated notes and senior secured credit facility. However, these cash flows are subject to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, earnings, sensitivities to the cost of raw materials, seasonality, currency transactions and currency translation. Since feedstock costs represent approximately 50% of our cost of production, in periods of rising feedstock costs, we consume cash in operating activities due to increases in accounts receivable and inventory, partially offset by increased value of accounts payable. Conversely, in periods where feedstock costs are declining, we generate cash flow from decreases in working capital. We currently

Table of Contents

expect to have lower levels of working capital in 2009. There can be no assurance that continued or increased volatility and disruption in the global capital and credit markets will not impair our ability to access these markets on terms commercially acceptable to us or at all.

Going forward there can be no assurance that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future borrowings will be available under the senior secured credit facility to fund liquidity needs in an amount sufficient to enable us to service our indebtedness. At September 30, 2009, we had \$22.4 million of cash and cash equivalents. Our available cash and cash equivalents are held in accounts managed by third-party financial institutions and consist of cash invested in interest bearing funds and cash in our operating accounts. To date, we have experienced no loss or lack of access to our invested cash or cash equivalents; however, we can provide no assurances that access to our invested cash and cash equivalents will not be impacted by adverse conditions in the financial markets. As of September 30, 2009, we had available to us, upon compliance with customary conditions, \$75.5 million under the revolving portion of the senior secured credit facility. On November 30, 2009, we increased the amount available under the revolving portion to \$80.0 million. As of the date hereof, we have no drawings under the revolving portion. While we have met the conditions required to provide us full access to the revolving portion of the senior secured credit facility, we cannot guarantee that all of the counterparties contractually committed to fund a revolving credit draw request will actually fund future requests, although, based upon our present analysis, we currently believe that any such shortfall would not exceed 10% of the total amount of such revolver. Under the terms of the senior secured credit facility, as amended May 12, 2006, we are subject to certain financial covenants, including maintenance of a minimum interest rate coverage ratio and a maximum leverage ratio. We are required to maintain a fiscal quarter end interest coverage ratio of 2.75:1.00 beginning March 31, 2009 and 3.00:1.00 beginning March 31, 2010 and continuing thereafter. In addition, we are required to maintain a fiscal quarter end leverage ratio not to exceed 4.45 beginning March 31, 2009 through September 30, 2009 and 4.00 beginning December 31, 2009 and continuing thereafter.

Our failure to comply with any of these financial covenants would give rise to a default under the senior secured credit facility. As of September 30, 2009, we were in compliance with the applicable financial ratios in the senior secured credit facility and the other covenants contained in the senior secured credit facility and the indentures governing the senior subordinated notes. The maintenance of these financial ratios is based on our level of profitability. If the 2009 global economic environment worsens or other factors arise which negatively impact our profitability, we may not be able to satisfy our covenants. If we are unable to satisfy such covenants or other provisions at any future time we would need to seek an amendment or waiver of such financial covenants or other provisions. The respective lenders under the senior secured credit facility may not consent to any amendment or waiver requests that we may make in the future, and, if they do consent, they may not do so on terms which are favorable to us. In the event that we were unable to obtain any such waiver or amendment and we were not able to refinance or repay our debt instruments, our inability to meet the financial covenants or other provisions of the senior secured credit facility would constitute an event of default under our debt instruments, including the senior secured credit facility, which would permit the bank lenders to accelerate the senior secured credit facility.

From time to time, on an ongoing basis, we continue to evaluate options with respect to our overall debt structure, including, without limitation, the possibility of cash purchases, in the open market, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise, of our indebtedness up to amounts permitted under the senior secured credit facility. Such repurchases, if any, will depend on prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions and other factors. In March 2009, Kraton purchased and extinguished \$30 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$10.9 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.4 million. We recorded a gain of approximately \$19.5 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2009 related to the purchase and extinguishment of these senior subordinated notes. In April 2009, TJ Chemical purchased approximately \$6.3 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$2.5 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.1 million. Immediately upon purchasing the notes, TJ Chemical contributed the purchased notes to us and we in turn contributed the notes to Kraton. Kraton holds the senior subordinated notes in treasury. Also in April 2009, Kraton purchased approximately \$0.7 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$0.3 million which are held as treasury bonds. We

Table of Contents

recorded a gain of approximately \$4.3 million on the extinguishment of debt in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations in the quarter ended June 30, 2009.

Capital market declines experienced during the last half of 2008 have adversely impacted the market value of investment assets used to fund our defined benefit pension plans. Based on December 31, 2008 valuations, we expect to make contributions of \$6.2 million to the plans in 2009 versus \$10.0 million in 2008. If the market value of these assets does not improve during 2009, higher levels of contributions could be required in 2010 and beyond.

Our ability to pay principal and interest on our indebtedness, fund working capital and make anticipated capital expenditures depends on our future performance, which is subject to general economic conditions and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. See Risk Factors for further discussion.

We intend to use proceeds from the offering of shares by us to repay \$100 million under the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility. See Use of Proceeds. As of September 30, 2009, after giving affect to this offering and the use of proceeds therefrom, our total indebtedness would have been \$385.9 million. We anticipate that, following this initial public offering of our shares, we may, subject to market conditions, have greater access to the debt and equity capital markets. This access may, again subject to market conditions, facilitate our ability to raise funds in the future to engage in acquisitions and future capital expenditures.

Operating Cash Flows

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$37.7 million to \$41.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 compared to \$3.4 million provided by operating activities during the same period in 2008. This change was driven primarily by:

\$127.1 million decrease in inventories of products, materials and supplies, largely due to decreases in the cost of raw material feedstocks and volume,

\$14.0 million decrease in accounts receivable due to an improvement in days sales outstanding and the decline in sales volume, partially offset by

\$14.1 million increase in other assets largely due to the timing of certain payments of \$8.2 million,

\$11.1 million decrease in due to/from affiliate, primarily due to the timing of payments for purchases made from our unconsolidated joint venture,

\$16.1 million decrease in accounts payable, indicative of the decline in volume,

\$23.8 million gain on the extinguishment of debt,

\$5.5 million decrease in deferred income tax expense, and

\$34.2 million in lower earnings.

Cash and cash equivalents decreased from \$101.4 million at December 31, 2008 to \$22.4 million at September 30, 2009. Including amounts undrawn on our revolving loans, which amounted to \$75.5 million at September 30, 2009 and \$25.5 million at December 31, 2008, liquidity, defined as cash and cash equivalents (and the undrawn amount of our revolving loans), amounted to \$97.9 million at September 30, 2009 and \$126.9 million at December 31, 2008.

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Net cash provided by operating activities decreased \$41.5 million to \$40.2 million in 2008 compared to \$81.7 million in 2007. This change was driven primarily by:

\$104.5 million increase in inventories of products, materials and supplies, largely due to an increase in the cost of raw material feedstocks,

\$24.1 million decrease in accounts payable, indicative of the decline in sales volume,

\$20.7 million increase in due to/from affiliate, primarily due to the timing of payments for purchases made from our unconsolidated joint venture, partially offset by

Table of Contents

\$34.1 million decrease in accounts receivable due to an improvement in days sales outstanding and the decline in sales volume and by

\$72.2 million of higher net income.

Cash and cash equivalents increased from \$48.3 million at December 31, 2007 to \$101.4 million at December 31, 2008. Including amounts undrawn on our revolving loans, which amounted to \$25.5 million at December 31, 2008 and \$75.5 million at December 31, 2007, liquidity amounted to \$126.9 million at December 31, 2008 and \$123.8 million at December 31, 2007.

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$83.8 million to \$81.7 million in 2007 compared to \$2.0 million used in 2006. This change was driven primarily by:

\$70.9 million decrease in inventories of products, materials and supplies, largely due to the higher cost of raw material feedstocks in 2006 and to a lesser extent an increase in inventory quantity,

\$22.3 million decrease in accounts receivable balances, due to an increase in days sales outstanding in 2006,

\$21.2 million decrease in due to/from affiliate, primarily due to the timing of payments for purchases made from our unconsolidated joint venture,

\$17.5 million increase in accounts payable primarily due to the timing of payments, partially offset by

\$23.6 million in accretion of our debt discount,

\$11.7 million in deferred income tax benefits,

\$7.2 million increase in other assets, and by

\$9.9 million increase in net loss.

Cash and cash equivalents increased from \$43.6 million at December 31, 2006 to \$48.3 million at December 31, 2007. Including amounts undrawn on our revolving loans, which amounted to \$75.5 million at December 31, 2007 and \$75.5 million at December 31, 2006, liquidity amounted to \$123.8 million at December 31, 2007 and \$119.1 million at December 31, 2006.

Investing Cash Flows

Net cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$32.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 compared to net cash flows used in investing activities of \$15.3 million during the same period in 2008. This \$17.0 million increase was primarily driven by timing of capital expenditures.

Net cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$24.1 million in 2008 compared to net cash flows used in investing activities of \$28.7 million in 2007. This \$4.6 million decrease was primarily driven by timing of capital expenditures.

Net cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$28.7 million in 2007 compared to \$37.9 million used in investing activities in 2006. This \$9.2 million decrease was primarily driven by a lower rate of capital expenditures.

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Expected Capital Expenditures. We are forecasting 2009 expenditures of approximately \$50.0 million. Our minimum annual capital expenditure levels to maintain and achieve required improvements in our facilities in each of the next three to five years are expected to be approximately \$12 million to \$16 million. We are upgrading certain systems and operating controls at our Belpre facility. This project is designed to significantly improve the effectiveness, competitiveness and operating efficiency of the Belpre plant. The project began in the second-half of 2008 and will be completed in distinct phases extending into 2012, with 2009 spending estimated

Table of Contents

at \$7.7 million and the total project spending estimated at \$40.0 million. We also invested in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which began in January 2009 at a cost of approximately \$15.0 million that we incurred in 2009. We upgraded our ERP software systems utilizing a single global system and implementing best practices for our industry. For Europe and the United States, we completed this upgrade in August 2009 and for Brazil and Asia, we completed this upgrade in October 2009.

Financing Cash Flows and Liquidity

Our consolidated capital structure as of September 30, 2009, was 72% debt and 28% member's equity and Kraton's consolidated capital structure as of December 31, 2008, was 76% debt and 24% member's equity.

Net cash provided by financing activities totaled \$46.1 million in 2008 compared to \$43.9 million net cash used in financing activities in 2007. This change was driven primarily by:

a voluntary pre-payment of \$40 million on the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility in September 2007; and

a \$50 million draw on the revolving portion of the senior secured credit facility in September 2008.

Net cash used in financing activities totaled \$43.9 million in 2007 compared to \$11.3 million net cash used in financing activities in 2006. This change was driven primarily by a voluntary pre-payment of \$40 million on the term facility in September 2007.

Other Contingencies

As a chemicals manufacturer, our operations in the United States and abroad are subject to a wide range of environmental laws and regulations at both the national and local levels. These laws and regulations govern, among other things, air emissions, wastewater discharges, solid and hazardous waste management, site remediation programs and chemical use and management.

Pursuant to these laws and regulations, our facilities are required to obtain and comply with a wide variety of environmental permits for different aspects of their operations. Generally, many of these environmental laws and regulations are becoming increasingly stringent, and the cost of compliance with these various requirements can be expected to increase over time.

Management believes that we are in material compliance with all current environmental laws and regulations. We estimate that any expenses incurred in maintaining compliance with these requirements will not materially affect our results of operations or cause us to exceed our level of anticipated capital expenditures. However, we cannot give assurances that regulatory requirements or permit conditions will not change, and we cannot predict the aggregate costs of additional measures that may be required to maintain compliance as a result of such changes or expenses.

In the context of the separation in February 2001, Shell Chemicals agreed to indemnify us for specific categories of environmental claims brought with respect to matters occurring before the separation. However, the indemnity from Shell Chemicals is subject to dollar and time limitations. Coverage under the indemnity also varies depending upon the nature of the environmental claim, the location giving rise to the claim and the manner in which the claim is triggered. Therefore, if claims arise in the future related to past operations, we cannot give assurances that those claims will be covered by the Shell Chemicals' indemnity and also cannot be certain that any amounts recoverable will be sufficient to satisfy claims against us.

In addition, we may in the future be subject to claims that arise solely from events or circumstances occurring after February 2001, which would not, in any event, be covered by the Shell Chemicals' indemnity. While we recognize that we may in the future be held liable with respect for remediation activities beyond those

Table of Contents

identified to date, at present we are not aware of any circumstances that are reasonably expected to give rise to remediation claims that would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or cause us to exceed our projected level of anticipated capital expenditures.

We had no material operating expenditures for environmental fines, penalties, government imposed remedial or corrective actions during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 or 2006.

Off-Balance Sheet Transactions

We are not involved in any off-balance sheet transactions as of September 25, 2009.

Contractual Obligations

Our principal outstanding contractual obligations relate to the long-term debt under the senior secured credit facility and the senior subordinated notes, the operating leases of some of our facilities and the feedstock contracts with Shell Chemicals, or its affiliates, LyondellBasell and others to provide us with styrene, butadiene and isoprene. The following table summarizes our contractual cash obligations for the periods indicated.

Contractual Obligations as of December 31, 2008:

Dollars in Millions	Payments Due by Period						2014 and after
	Total	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Long-term debt obligations	\$ 575.3	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.3	\$ 53.3	\$ 158.4	\$ 156.7	\$ 200.3
Estimated interest payments on debt	169.4	33.0	35.4	38.4	32.8	21.7	8.1
Operating lease obligations	43.0	7.4	6.6	4.7	4.9	2.9	16.5
Purchase obligations(1)(2)	573.0	60.8	58.6	58.6	25.0	25.0	345.0
Total contractual cash obligations	\$ 1,360.7	\$ 104.5	\$ 103.9	\$ 155.0	\$ 221.1	\$ 206.3	\$ 569.9

- (1) Pursuant to two feedstock supply contracts with Shell Chemicals or its affiliates, we are obligated to purchase minimum quantities of isoprene each year. If we do not meet these minimums, we are obligated to pay a penalty of approximately \$300 per ton up to a maximum aggregate penalty of approximately \$2.2 million. Pursuant to the styrene and butadiene feedstock supply contracts with Shell Chemicals and its affiliates, we are obligated to purchase minimum quantities. The contracts do not contain a stated penalty for failure to purchase the minimum quantities. However, if we do not purchase the minimum requirements, it is required under the terms of the contracts to meet with Shell Chemicals in an effort to determine a resolution equitable to both parties.
- (2) Pursuant to production agreements with LyondellBasell, we are obligated to pay a minimum indirect service fee each year of approximately \$21.6 million. Not included in this table are future obligations arising under our Operating Agreements and Site Services, Utilities, Materials and Facilities Agreements that do not specify fixed or minimum quantities of goods or services to be purchased and do not contain fixed, minimum or variable price provisions. Under such agreements, our obligations to third parties are based on costs incurred by them in connection with the operation and maintenance of, and other services provided to, our European facilities. The terms of these agreements range between 20 years and 40 years and each agreement includes bilateral renewal rights. During the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, we incurred costs aggregating \$70 million, \$70 million and \$58 million, respectively, under these agreements.

Impact of Inflation

Our results of operations and financial condition are presented based on historical cost. While it is difficult to accurately measure the impact of inflation due to the imprecise nature of the estimates required, we believe the effects of inflation, if any, on our results of operations and financial condition have been immaterial.

Table of Contents**Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We are exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, credit risk and commodity prices. We currently do not hedge our exposure to these risks, except for the interest rate swap agreements and foreign currency option contracts discussed below.

Interest Rate Risk. We have \$322.6 million of variable rate debt outstanding under the senior secured credit facility as of September 30, 2009. The debt bears interest at the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus 2.00% per annum or at our option, the base rate plus 1.00% per annum. In February 2008, we entered into a \$325 million notional amount interest rate swap agreement to hedge or otherwise protect against Eurodollar interest rate fluctuations on a portion of our variable rate debt. The agreement had a fixed rate of 2.77%, with a margin of 2.0%, which resulted in a total cost of 4.77%, and a term through April 1, 2010. This agreement was designated as a cash flow hedge on the exposure of the variability of future cash flows subject to the variable quarterly interest rates on \$325 million of the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility. We settled the swap early in June 2008 and realized cash proceeds of \$4.6 million, resulting in a gain on the sale of \$4.6 million. The gain is deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income at September 30, 2009 and is being reclassified as a reduction in interest expense through March 31, 2010 using the effective interest method, unless we determine that the forecasted interest payments under the term facility are probable not to occur, in which case the gain would then be reclassified immediately to interest expense. In October 2008, we entered into a \$320 million notional amount interest rate swap agreement to hedge or otherwise protect against Eurodollar interest rate fluctuations on a portion of our variable rate debt. The agreement had a fixed rate of 2.99%, with a margin of 2.0%, which resulted in a total cost of 4.99%, and a term through December 31, 2009. In May 2009, we entered into a \$310 million notional amount interest rate swap agreement to hedge or otherwise protect against Eurodollar interest rate fluctuations on a portion of our variable rate debt. The agreement is effective on January 4, 2010 and expires on January 3, 2011 and has a fixed rate of 1.53%, with a margin of 2.0%, which resulted in a total cost of 3.53%. These agreements were designated as cash flow hedges on the exposure of the variability of future cash flows subject to the variable quarterly interest rates on the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility.

Foreign Currency Risk. We conduct operations in many countries around the world. Our results of operations are subject to both currency transaction risk and currency translation risk. We incur currency transaction risk whenever we enter into either a purchase or sale transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity. With respect to currency translation risk, our financial condition and results of operations are measured and recorded in the relevant domestic currency and then translated into U.S. dollars for inclusion in our historical consolidated financial statements. In recent years, exchange rates between these currencies and U.S. dollars have fluctuated significantly and may do so in the future. Approximately, one-half of our revenue and costs are denominated in U.S. dollars. Euro-related currencies are also significant. In February 2009, we entered into a foreign currency option contract to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the Euro to U.S. dollar exchange rate for a notional amount of 47.3 million which expires on December 29, 2009.

Credit Risk. Our customers are diversified by industry and geography with approximately 700 customers in approximately 60 countries worldwide. We do not have concentrations of receivables from these industry sectors throughout these countries. The recent global economic downturn may affect our overall credit risk. Where exposed to credit risk, we analyze the counterparties' financial condition prior to entering into an agreement, establish credit limits and monitor the appropriateness of those limits on an ongoing basis. We also obtain cash, letters of credit or other acceptable forms of security from customers to provide credit support, where appropriate, based on our financial analysis of the customer and the contractual terms and conditions applicable to each transaction.

Commodity Price Risk. We are subject to commodity price risk in our purchasing of raw materials and energy. From time to time we may hedge our commodity price exposure.

Table of Contents**New Accounting Pronouncements**

The following new accounting pronouncements have been issued, but have not yet been adopted as of December 31, 2008:

SFAS No. 141R, Business Combinations. In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 141R which replaces SFAS No. 141, Business Combinations. SFAS No. 141R requires: (i) Upon initially obtaining control, the acquiring entity in a business combination must recognize 100% of the fair values of the acquired assets, including goodwill, and assumed liabilities, with only limited exceptions even if the acquirer has not acquired 100% of its target. As a consequence, the current step acquisition model will be eliminated. (ii) Contingent consideration arrangements will be fair valued at the acquisition date and included on that basis in the purchase price consideration. The concept of recognizing contingent consideration at a later date when the amount of that consideration is determinable beyond a reasonable doubt, will no longer be applicable. (iii) All transaction costs will be expensed as incurred. This topic is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2008. Our adoption of this topic on January 1, 2009 has had no impact to our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. A significant impact may, however, be realized on any future acquisitions by us. The amount of such impact will depend on the nature and terms of such future acquisition, if any.

SFAS No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities - an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161 which amends and expands the disclosure requirements for SFAS No. 133 with the intent to provide users of financial statements an enhanced understanding of how and why derivative instruments are used, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and its related interpretations and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after November 15, 2008. For us, SFAS No. 161 is effective as of January 1, 2009. The adoption of SFAS No. 161 is not expected to materially affect our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

FSP No. FAS 142-3, Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets. In April 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 142-3 which amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. FSP No. FAS 142-3 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. For us, FSP No. FAS 142-3 is effective as of January 1, 2009. The adoption of FSP No. FAS 142-3 is not expected to materially affect our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1, Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets. In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 which provides guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan and makes employers provide more transparency about the assets held by the retirement plan and the concentrations of risk in those plans. FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2009, and interim periods within those fiscal years. For us, FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective as of January 1, 2010. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1.

FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. FAS 132(R)-1, Employers' Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets. In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 which provides guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan and requires employers to provide more transparency about the assets held by the retirement plan and the concentrations of risk in those plans. FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2009, and interim periods within those fiscal years. For us, FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective as of January 1, 2010. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1.

Table of Contents

INDUSTRY

Industry Overview

Elastomers are a diverse family of polymers that include natural and synthetic rubbers. Elastomers, as their name suggests, exhibit elastic or rubber-like characteristics. Thermoplastic elastomers, or TPEs, are a category of elastomers that are particularly desirable because, unlike other elastomers, they can be melted and reformed when heated, which reduces processing cost, time, energy use and waste. Styrenic block copolymers, or SBCs, are a high performance subset of TPEs. SBCs are used globally in a wide variety of industrial and consumer applications.

The global demand for SBCs in 2008 exceeded 1,400 kilotons with sales of approximately \$4.0 billion. According to our management estimates, between 2001 and 2007, SBC demand for non-footwear applications grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 9.0%, or approximately 2.7 times global real GDP, and including Footwear, grew approximately 5.4%, or approximately 1.6 times global real GDP. In 2008, the SBC market contracted along with the global economy, reducing the 2001 to 2008 growth rate to 6.8%. Our estimates indicate that global SBC production is currently concentrated in developed industrial regions, with approximately 25% of industry volumes in North and South America, approximately 29% of industry volumes in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and approximately 46% of industry volumes in Asia Pacific.

SBCs are primarily sold into four end-uses: (1) Advanced Materials (compounding, personal care and polymer systems); (2) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; (3) Paving and Roofing; and (4) Footwear. Due to the higher selling prices in the Advanced Materials, Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and Paving and Roofing end-uses relative to the Footwear end-use, the relative market share by end-use on a revenue basis is meaningfully different than on a volume basis.

SBC demand is satisfied by several competitors worldwide. We believe the top four producers supply 59% of the SBC products consumed globally. We believe we have approximately 34% (excluding Footwear and Other) market share while the next largest competitor in the SBC industry has approximately 11% market share in terms of 2008 sales revenue. Our most significant competitors in the SBC industry are: Asahi Chemical, Chi Mei, Dexco Polymers, Dynasol Elastomers, Kuraray, Korea Kumho P.C., Lee Chang Yung, LG Chemical, Polimeri Europa, Sinopec, Taiwan Synthetic Rubber Corporation and Zeon Corporation. We also compete in each of our end-use markets against non-SBC products that perform in a similar manner to our products.

Table of Contents

SBC Products

As illustrated in the table below, there are two major types of SBCs: hydrogenated styrenic block copolymers, or HSBCs, and unhydrogenated styrenic block copolymers, or USBCs.

HSBCs

HSBCs are produced in two primary configurations: SEBS (styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) and SEPS (styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene), each in multiple grades. Generally, SEBS grades are used in advanced materials applications for general molded or extruded goods, including a broad range of consumer and industrial products requiring soft-touch characteristics. SEPS grades are more commonly used in the manufacture of adhesives and oil gels.

HSBC products are significantly more complex to produce than USBC products and, consequently, generate higher margins and generally command selling prices between two and three times those for USBCs. We believe our 47% end-use market share of 2008 HSBC sales leads the industry and is more than twice the size of our closest competitor. The HSBC class of products, which is typically more durable than USBC products, is primarily used in higher value-added Advanced Materials and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings applications. We estimate that HSBCs accounted for approximately 12% of worldwide SBC industry sales in 2008.

HSBCs are primarily used in our Advanced Materials and our Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use markets, to impart improved performance characteristics such as:

stretch properties in disposable diapers and adult incontinence products;

soft feel in numerous consumer products such as the handles for razor blades, power tools and automobile interiors;

impact resistance for demanding engineering plastic applications;

flexibility for wire and cable plastic outer layers; and

improved flow characteristics for many industrial and consumer sealants and lubricating fluids.

Table of Contents

USBCs

USBCs are produced in two primary configurations: SBS (styrene-butadiene-styrene) and SIS (styrene-isoprene-styrene). In 2008, we estimate that USBCs represented approximately 88% of worldwide SBC industry sales volumes and were used primarily in Footwear, Paving and Roofing and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings.

SBS. In 2008, we estimate that SBS products accounted for approximately 87% of worldwide USBC sales volumes. SBS is sold in both unmodified and oil-extended forms (blended with various amounts of oil to achieve the desired characteristics). The oil-extended grades of SBS are widely used in the Footwear end-use market. Unmodified grades of SBS are used in all four end-use markets, particularly Paving and Roofing and Footwear. We expect growth in SBS sales to be driven by the global expansion of adhesive and compounding applications and increasing penetration of modified asphalts in roofing and roadway construction.

SIS. In 2008, we estimate that SIS products accounted for approximately 13% of worldwide USBC sales volumes. SIS use is concentrated in the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market because it provides superior specific adhesion and thermal behavior. SIS products have historically generated higher margins than SBS products due to their enhanced performance characteristics and their ability to add value to products used in adhesive applications. In addition, SIS is more difficult to produce than SBS due to the need for more demanding process controls and finishing technology. We expect growth in SIS sales to come primarily from increasing demand for hot-melt adhesive solutions used in the production of personal hygiene products and adhesives for tapes and labels and construction applications.

We believe that our 30% market share of 2008 USBC sales, excluding the Footwear end-use market, leads the industry, and is approximately 2.2 times that of our closest competitor in terms of 2008 sales.

USBCs are used in all our end-use markets in a range of products to impart desirable characteristics, such as:

resistance to temperature and weather extremes in roads and roofing;

resistance to cracking, reduced sound transmission and better drainage in porous road surfaces;

impact resistance for consumer plastics; and

increased processing flexibility in materials used in disposable diapers and adhesive applications, such as packaging tapes and labels.

End-Uses for SBCs

SBCs are primarily sold into four end-uses: (i) compounding, personal care and polymer systems, or Advanced Materials; (ii) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; (iii) Paving and Roofing; and (iv) Footwear. We estimate that approximately 19% of the total 2008 industry SBC volume was consumed in Advanced Materials, approximately 36% was consumed in Paving and Roofing, approximately 19% was consumed in Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and approximately 26% was consumed in Footwear and Other. Due to the higher selling prices in the Advanced Materials, Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and Paving and Roofing end-uses relative to the Footwear and Other end-use, the relative share by end-use on a revenue basis is meaningfully different than on a volume basis. Based on our management estimates, on a revenue basis, approximately 24% of total industry SBC revenue in 2008 was related to Advanced Materials applications, approximately 32% was related to Paving and Roofing, approximately 23% was related to Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings applications and approximately 21% was related to Footwear and Other.

Advanced Materials. We estimate that advanced materials as an end-use represented approximately 19% of 2008 SBC industry sales volumes and approximately 24% of 2008 SBC industry revenue. According to management estimates, these applications grew at a compound annual growth rate of 11.4% from 2001 through

Table of Contents

2007. In general, SBCs are compounded with other polymers (for example, polypropylene) in relatively small amounts (typically less than 30%) to yield desired performance characteristics while constituting a small portion of the cost of the final product. Examples of advanced materials products include soft touch for consumer products (tooth brushes and razor blades) and power tools, impact resistant engineering plastics, automotive interior components, elastic films for disposable diapers and adult incontinence branded products, skin care products and lotions, disposable food packaging, and medical packaging films and tubing, often to replace PVC. HSBC applications are projected to grow faster than USBC applications.

In advanced materials industry applications, SBCs compete with other polymers (including PVCs, EPDM, thermoplastic vulcanizates and natural rubber) based on performance, ease of use, desired aesthetics and total end-product cost.

Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings. We estimate that adhesives, sealants and coatings represented approximately 19% of 2008 SBC industry sales volumes and approximately 23% of 2008 SBC industry revenue. According to management estimates, demand for SBCs in adhesives, sealants and coatings grew at a compound annual growth rate of 6.8% from 2001 through 2007. We expect industry growth to be supported by the continuing substitution of adhesives for mechanical fastening systems and the growing demand within developing countries for disposable hygiene products that contain adhesives and sealants. Examples of adhesives, sealants and coatings products include tapes and labels, non-woven and industrial and industrial and consumer weather sealants.

In various adhesives and sealant applications, SBCs compete with acrylics, solvent-based rubber systems and silicones based on bond strength, specific adhesion, consistent performance to specification, processing speed, water resistance, hot-melt application and total end-product cost.

Paving and Roofing. We estimate that Paving and Roofing as an end-use represented approximately 36% of 2008 SBC industry sales volumes and approximately 32% of 2008 SBC industry revenue. According to management estimates, the demand for SBCs in Paving and Roofing grew at a compound annual growth rate of 9.1% from 2001 through 2007 due to the increased demand for improved durability of SBC-modified asphalt products, as well as growing penetration rates in many developing economies. Examples of paving and roofing products include asphalt modification for performance roadways and asphalt modification for roofing felts and shingles.

Asphalt modification applications involve the addition of small amounts of SBS, typically about 2% to 6% by weight to asphalt used in road paving and approximately 11% by weight in roofing felts and shingles, to enhance the properties of the end product. Many end-users have determined that the increased cost of installing SBS-enhanced asphalt is offset by future maintenance savings and the benefit of less disruption due to the increased durability.

In asphalt modification, SBCs compete with atactic polypropylene, EPDM, ethylene vinyl acetate resins and unmodified asphalts based on total end-product performance and cost and ease-of-use.

Footwear. We estimate that Footwear represented approximately 25% of 2008 SBC industry sales volumes and approximately 19% of 2008 SBC industry revenue. According to management estimates, the demand for SBC in footwear declined by a compound annual growth rate of 1.8% from 2001 through 2007 due to changes in fashion and substitution by lighter materials in shoe soles. This application is the most commoditized demand for SBCs with high competitive intensity and management estimates that SBC demand in footwear applications will continue to decline in the future.

SBCs are used in footwear applications to impart flexibility, durability, strong elastomeric properties at low temperatures, thermal insulation and ease of coloration to shoe soles. There are also niche applications in high-performance outdoor footwear that demand the superior traction and durability provided by SBCs. In footwear

Table of Contents

applications, SBCs compete with leather, PVC, various synthetic and natural rubbers and polyurethane materials, based on appearance and feel, durability, grip and ease of processing.

Manufacturing Processes

Both USBCs and HSBCs are produced by anionic polymerization. This process involves joining polymer chains consisting of blocks of styrene and either butadiene or isoprene, in the presence of a solvent. The solvent is a processing aid and must be removed to recover the final product. In the case of USBCs, the solvent removal occurs immediately after polymerization. Steam is typically applied to the polymer/solvent mixture to evaporate the solvent. The remaining polymer is then compressed to remove the water produced by the steam and air-dried, leaving behind dry pellets of USBC products, which are then packaged and shipped.

The manufacture of HSBCs follows a similar process to that of USBCs, except that the polymer goes through a hydrogenation process prior to removal of the solvent. After polymerization, a chemical catalyst and hydrogen are added to the mix to hydrogenate the base USBC. The resulting polymer mixture then undergoes a solvent removal process. Similar to USBC production, steam is applied to remove the solvent. The remaining product mix is air-dried and then packaged and shipped. HSBCs are significantly more difficult to produce than USBCs because of the hydrogenation process. This critical step introduces sufficient complexity into the production process such that only a handful of manufacturers have been able to produce HSBCs of consistent quality in commercial quantities.

Table of Contents

BUSINESS

General

We believe we are the world's leading producer of styrenic block copolymers (SBCs) as measured by both 2008 sales and volumes. We market our products under the widely recognized KRATON® brand. Our estimates indicate that sales of our products, in the end-use markets we target, constituted 34% of global SBC revenue in 2008, approximately 3.1 times larger than our nearest competitor. SBCs are highly-engineered synthetic elastomers that we invented and commercialized over 40 years ago, which enhance the performance of numerous end-use products, imparting greater flexibility, resilience, strength, durability and processability. We focus on the end-use markets we believe offer the highest growth potential and greatest opportunity to differentiate our products from competing products. Within these end-use markets, we believe that we provide our customers with a broad portfolio of highly-engineered and value-enhancing polymers that are critical to the performance of our customers' products. We seek to maximize the value of our product portfolio by introducing innovations that command premium pricing and by consistently upgrading from lower margin products. As the industry leader, we maintain significant competitive advantages, including a 40-year proven track record of innovation; world-class technical expertise; customer, geographical and end-use market diversity; and industry-leading customer service capabilities. These advantages are supported by a global infrastructure and a long history of successful capital investments and operational excellence.

Our SBC products are found in many everyday applications, including disposable baby diapers, the rubberized grips of toothbrushes, razor blades, power tools and in asphalt formulations used to pave roads. We believe that there are many untapped uses for our products, and we will continue to develop new applications for SBCs. Since January 1, 2008, we have been awarded 161 patents for new products or applications, which we believe will allow us to drive volume and revenue growth and expand our margins. We also develop, manufacture and market niche, non-SBC products that we believe have a high growth potential, such as isoprene rubber latex, or IRL. IRL is a highly-engineered, reliable synthetic substitute for natural rubber latex. We believe the versatility of IRL offers significant opportunities for new, high-margin applications. Our IRL products, which are used in applications such as surgical gloves, have not been found to contain the proteins present in natural latex and are, therefore, not known to cause allergies. We believe we produce the highest purity IRL globally and that we are the only significant third party supplier of the product. Our IRL business has grown at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 23% by volume from 2005 to 2008.

We currently offer approximately 800 products to more than 700 customers in over 60 countries worldwide, and we manufacture our polymers on four continents (North America, Europe, South America and Asia). Our products are typically developed using our proprietary, and in many cases patent-protected, technology and require significant engineering, testing and certification. We are widely regarded as the industry's leading innovator and cost-efficient manufacturer in our end-use markets. We work closely with our customers to design products that meet application-specific performance and quality requirements. We expect these innovations to drive our organic growth, sustain our leadership position, expand our market share, improve our margins and produce a high return on invested capital. For example, in 2008, we developed a family of environmentally-friendly products to replace materials like PVC for medical packaging applications and wire and cable applications in electronics and automobiles.

Over the past several years, we have implemented a range of strategic initiatives designed to enhance our profitability and end-use market position. These include fixed asset investments to expand our capacity in high value products, enhance productivity at our existing facilities and significantly reduce our fixed cost structure through head count reductions, production line closures at our Pernis facility and system upgrades. During this period, we have shifted our portfolio to higher-margin products, substantially exited low-margin businesses such as footwear and implemented smart pricing strategies that have improved our overall margins and return on invested capital. We believe these initiatives provide us with a strong platform to drive growth, create significant operating leverage and position us to benefit from volume recovery in our end-use markets.

We believe that starting in late 2008 the global economic downturn, and associated reduction in customer and end-user inventory levels, caused an unprecedented slowdown across the industry. Kraton experienced this

Table of Contents

sales volume decline across all of our end-use markets, including the traditionally more stable consumer and medical applications. We believe that a significant factor in this decline was inventory de-stocking. The trend began to reverse itself in June 2009, as demand patterns began to shift towards recovery.

Corporate Background

We are currently a Delaware limited liability company. We intend to convert to a Delaware corporation prior to the closing of this offering. Our principal executive offices are located at 15710 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 300, Houston, Texas 77032 and our telephone number is (281) 504-4700. Our corporate website address is *www.kraton.com*. We do not incorporate the information contained on, or accessible through, our corporate website into this prospectus, and you should not consider it part of this prospectus.

Prior to February 28, 2001, we operated as a number of business units as a part of Shell Chemicals and did not exist as a stand-alone entity. On February 28, 2001, Ripplewood Chemical Holding LLC, or Ripplewood Chemical, acquired us from Shell Chemicals through a master sale agreement. On December 23, 2003, Polymer Holdings acquired all of Kraton's outstanding equity interests from Ripplewood Chemical for consideration of \$770.0 million for the business and \$48.0 million for the excess cash on Kraton's balance sheet immediately prior to closing. The net cash funding requirements for the acquisition were satisfied through:

\$200.0 million from the proceeds from the issuance of the senior subordinated notes;

\$360.0 million of borrowings under the term loan portion of the senior secured credit facility; and

an equity contribution to Kraton by us of \$250.0 million in cash.

On November 2, 2004, Polymer Holdings issued \$150 million in aggregate principal amount at maturity of 12% senior discount notes due 2014, the net proceeds of which were used to repay amounts under the senior secured credit facility and for general corporate purposes. The senior discount notes were issued in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act and were subsequently exchanged for identical notes registered under the Securities Act on October 20, 2005. On May 12, 2006, Polymer Holdings accepted for purchase and paid for a total of \$149.75 million in aggregate principal amount at maturity of the senior discount notes pursuant to a tender offer and consent solicitation. Polymer Holdings subsequently suspended its reporting obligations with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Prior to the reorganization transactions described under *Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions* *Reorganization Transactions*, we were a wholly-owned subsidiary of TJ Chemical and were indirectly owned by TPG Partners III, L.P., TPG Partners IV, L.P. and certain of their parallel investment entities, JPMP Capital Corp. and affiliates and certain members of our management.

Our Competitive Strengths

The following competitive strengths help us to sustain our market leadership position and contribute to our ability to generate superior margins and strong cash flow. We expect these strengths to support our growth in the future:

The Market Leader in SBCs

We believe we hold the number one global market position based on 2008 sales and volumes, including a 34% market share of revenues in the end-use markets we target. Our Belpre, Ohio facility is the largest in terms of production capacity and the most product-diversified SBC plant in the world, and we believe it is the largest HSBC plant as well in terms of production capacity. We believe our Wesseling, Germany facility is world scale and cost efficient. As the pioneer of SBCs over 40 years ago, we believe our KRATON® brand is widely recognized for our industry leadership, and we are particularly well regarded for our process technology expertise and long track record of market-driven innovation.

Table of Contents

Growth Through Innovation and Technological Know-how

SBC production and product development requires complex and specific expertise, which we believe many of our competitors are unable to replicate. As the industry pioneer, Kraton maintains a constant focus on enhancing the value-added attributes of our products and on developing new applications for SBCs. At December 31, 2008, we had approximately 1,176 granted patents and approximately 447 pending patent applications. Our Vision 20/20 program, introduced earlier this year, targets generating 20% of revenues by 2011 from new products or applicants introduced in the prior five years. In 2008, we generated 13.5% of our sales from innovation driven revenue. We believe that our new product innovation will allow us to drive increases in our volume, expand product contribution margins and increase our customers' reliance on Kraton's products and technical expertise. For example, for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, IRL represented 3.5% of revenues. Our sales of IRL from 2005 to 2008 grew at 23% by volume and are earning a contribution unit margin in excess of the company as a whole.

Diverse Global Manufacturing Capabilities and End-Use Market Exposures

We operate manufacturing facilities on four continents (North America, Europe, South America and Asia) producing what we believe to be the highest quality grades available of USBC and HSBC and high purity IRL. We believe we are the only SBC producer with this breadth of technical capabilities and global footprint, selling approximately 800 products in over 60 countries. Since 2003, we have successfully completed plant expansions totaling 60 kilotons of capacity, giving us a total capacity of 436 kilotons, at a total cost of less than \$50 million. Our manufacturing and product footprint allow revenue diversity, both geographically and by end-use market. We believe our scale and footprint make us an attractive customer for our monomer suppliers which, in turn, allows us to offer a high degree of supply security to customers.

Long-Standing, Strong Customer Relationships Supported by Leading Service-Offering

We sell our products to over 700 customers, many of which we have had relationships with for 15 years or more. Our customers are broad-based, with no single customer accounting for more than 5% of our sales in 2008 (our top 10 customers represented 26% of sales in 2008). Our customers' manufacturing processes are typically calibrated to the performance specifications of our products. Given the technical expertise and investment required to develop these formulations and the lead times required to replace them, we believe our customers face high switching costs. We believe our customers view our products as being high value-added, even though our products generally represent a small proportion of the overall cost of the finished product. Leveraging our global infrastructure, we believe we offer our customers a best-in-class service level that aligns us to their respective business models, through on demand order delivery and product development specifically designed for each customer's needs.

Table of Contents

Experienced Management Team with a Track Record of Growth and Productivity Improvements

Our senior management team has an average industry experience of over 25 years, most of which was with some of the world's leading companies, including General Electric, Koch Industries, and Chevron Phillips Chemical. Since early 2008, when the current executive team was put in place, we have instituted a number of strategic initiatives designed to enhance productivity, reduce costs and capital intensity, expand margins and drive innovation-led growth.

Our Business Strategy

Building on these competitive strengths, we are focused on achieving profitable top-line growth and improving margins through the introduction of highly-engineered, high value-added products to drive strong and sustainable cash flow.

Driving Growth and Margin Expansion Through Innovation

We have a 40-year track record of innovation dating back to our development of the first SBCs. Our research and development effort is focused on end-use markets and new product developments that we believe offer high growth as well as opportunities to develop highly-differentiated products for our customers, thus yielding higher margin potential. We work very closely with our longstanding customer base to produce products that solve their specific technical requirements. For example, to address an industry trend to eliminate PVC from applications such as medical packaging and wire and cable, we have developed and commercialized a series of custom-designed polymers and compounds. In addition to this innovation-led growth, we believe that there are a number of end-use market dynamics that will also drive growth in our business such as: (1) the effect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on our paving business; (2) the general demand by customers for higher value-added product performance characteristics; and (3) the effect of an economic recovery will have on our roofing applications.

Pursue Smart Pricing

In late 2007, we undertook a comprehensive review of our entire product portfolio, including both product-specific and customer-specific profitability analysis. As a result, we took a variety of actions including reducing or eliminating our exposure to lower margin business and increasing our prices to reflect the significant value-added benefits of our products to our customers' products. For example, since the end of 2007, we have increased our unit contribution margins (the excess of the sale price of a unit of product over the variable cost to produce that unit) by more than 50%. We will continue to pursue pricing strategies that reflect the contribution to the end product of our high value and complex product offerings for which limited substitutes exist.

Invest in Key Growth Initiatives

As part of this offering, we plan to use some proceeds to fund high priority, high return strategic projects that will continue to allow us to more effectively and more efficiently serve our customers' needs. One such project is the development of additional capacity in our IRL business to serve the rapid growth and to better capture the high margins that exist in this product line.

Continue to Pursue Operational Efficiencies

We have a history of implementing continuous process and cost improvement plans that have resulted in a significant reduction in our cost position and an improvement in the way we run our business. Since the beginning of 2007, we have implemented cost saving initiatives that have reduced costs by over \$55 million, on an annual basis. For example, these initiatives include (i) programs to streamline our operations and lower staffing levels reducing our costs by approximately \$25 million, (ii) the shutdown of SIS production in our Pernis facility in 2008 resulting in annual cost savings of \$10 million, and (iii) SAP related cost reductions resulting in annual savings of \$5 million.

Table of Contents

In connection with the exit from Pernis, we expect to incur approximately \$12 million in asset retirement obligations, restructuring costs and write-downs during 2009 and the first half of 2010. We currently plan to transfer IR production currently at Pernis to an alternative company site.

Through these actions, we have created substantial operating leverage in our business model. We believe this demonstrates our management team's ability to successfully manage the business in a downturn and position us for significant growth and margin expansion in a global economic recovery.

New Innovations

Consistent with our strategy, we believe that we continue to lead SBC innovation as evidenced by numerous developments announced across several of our core end-use markets through the third quarter of 2009. Below are our most recently announced product innovations.

In January 2009, we announced the introduction of a new Kraton A family of polymers. Kraton A1535 is the first polymer in the new Advantaged series to debut for global commercialization later this year. The new product family is halogen-free recyclable and FDA-approved for direct food contact applications. The Advantaged polymers offer an expansion of opportunities for thermoplastic elastomers, or TPE, compounds in a variety of soft grip and other over-mold applications for markets that range from personal care to high tech electronics. In addition, Kraton A1535 can also be easily compounded with thermoplastic polyurethanes, or TPU, materials to reduce hardness and enhance flexibility.

In February 2009, we announced Kraton G1643, a clear solution to the market demand for materials with enhanced performance capabilities and lower system costs. Kraton G1643 is a very durable material and is highly compatible with polypropylene. It features excellent clarity and offers improved resistance to blushing and cracking which often occur during transport of large molded parts such as totes and bins. Manufacturers using Kraton G1643 have the ability to reduce wall thickness, and this lowers overall material usage and production costs.

In March 2009, we announced the introduction of the first high polymer content binder uniquely designed to enhance durability and safety of porous asphalt roads. The new tough binder has the capability to reduce aggregate loss (also known as raveling) which often results in increased road noise and damage to cars caused by debris. Contractors and binder producers will now have the opportunity to increase polymer concentrations to enhance performance without sacrificing workability and compatibility. Our new polymer is ideally suited for high performance asphalt road applications.

In April 2009, we announced a series of new formulations designed to support lower Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) requirements and reduce costs associated with contact adhesives. The unique structure of the styrenic block copolymers provides key advantages to formulators. The end block enables cohesion, good load bearing properties and temperature resistance, while the center block promotes adhesion and elongation.

In April 2009, we announced an innovation to double styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) modification levels in pre-modified asphalt emulsions. These new high polymer content or HPC emulsions are a result of our utilizing our latest development in high vinyl products. The effects of the enhanced mechanical properties can enable a transformation of traditional modified asphalt emulsion applications as well as open the door to new opportunities.

In May 2009, we announced our recent commercialization of Kraton G1645, a polymer that creates new opportunities to replace PVC in medical applications. In recent years there has been increased demand for eco-friendly, better performing products versus conventional elastomers. We have delivered breakthrough technology offering a clear, sterilizable, strong elastomer that offers a broad formulating window without the need for phthalate plasticizers. Our technology provides a solution that is eco-friendly and ultra-clear in comparison to PVC or silicone.

Table of Contents

In June 2009, we announced new advances in pressure sensitive adhesives for the tape market. We have determined it is now possible to blend our styrene-isoprene-butadiene-styrene (SIBS) and SBS polymers with rosin ester tackifying resins. The initial testing indicates the unique combination of Kraton SIBS and SBS with a rosin ester can produce a tape with properties similar to a traditional SIS and C5 hydrocarbon resin formulation, resulting in a system cost savings of 10% to 20%. The SIBS product is more compatible with the SBS, allowing higher concentrations of the lower cost SBS in tape formulations while maintaining excellent pressure sensitive performance.

In July and August 2009, we made announcements regarding our newly commercialized NEXAR polymer family. The new NEXAR polymers family offers a unique set of key performance attributes that can be used in a myriad of applications, ranging from water desalination, to industrial separation applications, to improving high performance textiles and clothing. The unique permselectivity of NEXAR membranes allows for a flow of moisture in one direction while blocking other substances such as potentially harmful chemicals.

In September 2009, we announced new developments for Kraton A SBCs that enable a new approach for environmentally friendly adhesives and oil gels. The use of the new class of Kraton polymers will make it possible to formulate pressure sensitive adhesives (PSAs), sealants and coatings using natural oils. The new technology offers a green solution and represents the latest addition to our portfolio of environmentally friendly materials.

Products

Our Kraton polymer products are high performance elastomers, which are engineered for a wide range of end-use applications. Our products possess a combination of high strength and low viscosity, which facilitates ease of processing at elevated temperatures and high processing speeds. Our products can be processed in a variety of manufacturing applications, including injection molding, blow molding, compression molding, extrusion, hot melt and solution applied coatings.

We offer our customers a broad portfolio of products that includes approximately 200 core commercial grades of SBCs. We believe that the diversity and depth of our product portfolio is unmatched in the industry, serving the widest set of applications within each end-use.

While we organize our commercial activities around our three core end-uses, we manufacture our products along five primary product lines based upon polymer chemistry and process technologies: (1) unhydrogenated SBCs, or USBCs; (2) hydrogenated SBCs, or HSBCs; (3) isoprene rubber, or IR; (4) isoprene rubber latex, or IRL; and (5) Compounds. The majority of worldwide SBC capacity is dedicated to the production of USBCs, which are primarily used in the Paving and Roofing, Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings and Footwear end-use applications. HSBCs, which are significantly more complex and capital-intensive to manufacture than USBCs, are primarily used in higher value-added end-uses, including soft touch and flexible materials, personal hygiene products, medical products, automotive components and certain adhesives and sealant applications. The following product summaries highlight our portfolio of product grades, their key performance characteristics and selected applications:

HSBCs. We developed the first HSBC polymers in the late 1960s for use in production of soft, strong compounds for handles and grips and elastic components in diapers. Today, our HSBC product portfolio includes approximately 70 commercial grades of products. Our technical expertise in HSBC manufacturing and our history of HSBC innovation have led to what we believe is a 47% market share based on 2008 HSBC sales revenue. We believe this market share leads the industry, and is more than twice the size of our closest competitor. HSBC products are significantly more complex to produce than USBC products and, as a result, generally command selling prices between two and three times those for USBCs and generate higher margins. HSBC comprised 27%, 28% and 25% of our total sales revenue in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Table of Contents

HSBC products impart higher performance characteristics than USBC products including: color range and stability, including resistance to ultraviolet light; processing stability and viscosity; and elevated temperature resistance. HSBCs are primarily used in our Advanced Materials and our Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use markets to impart improved performance characteristics such as: (1) stretch properties in disposable diapers and adult incontinence products; (2) soft feel in numerous consumer products such as razor blades, power tools, and automobile internals; (3) impact resistance for demanding engineering plastic applications; (4) flexibility for wire and cable plastic outer layers; and (5) improved flow characteristics for many industrial and consumer sealants lubricating fluids.

USBCs. We developed the first USBC polymers in 1964. Our flagship Belpre, Ohio site, the first dedicated block copolymer plant, was built in 1971. Today, our USBC product portfolio includes approximately 90 commercial grades of products. We believe that our 30% share of 2008 USBC sales revenue (excluding Footwear) leads the industry, and is approximately 2.2 times that of our closest competitor. USBC comprised 65%, 64% and 66% of our total sales revenue in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

USBCs are used in all our end-use markets in a range of products to impart desirable characteristics, such as: (1) resistance to temperature and weather extremes in roads and roofing; (2) resistance to cracking, reduced sound transmission and better drainage in porous road surfaces; (3) impact resistance for consumer plastics; and (4) increased processing flexibility in adhesive applications, such as packaging tapes and labels, and materials used in disposable diapers. As with SBCs in general, USBCs are most often blended with substrates to impart the aforementioned performance enhancements. We made the strategic decision to largely exit the less attractive footwear market and focus our resources on the greater value proposition offered by the remaining end-uses for our USBC products.

IR. Isoprene Rubber (formed from polymerizing isoprene) is a line of high purity isoprene rubber products and is a non-SBC product. These products combine the key qualities of natural rubber, such as good mechanical properties and hysteresis, with superior features such as high purity, excellent clarity, good flow, low gel content, no nitrosamines and no natural rubber proteins. Our IR polymers are available as bales of rubber or as latex. IR polymers are useful in the production of medical products, adhesives, tackifiers, paints, coatings and photo-resistors.

IRL. Isoprene Rubber Latex (emulsion of IR in water) is a substitute for natural rubber latex, particularly in applications with high purity requirements, such as medical, healthcare, personal care and food contact operations. Our IRL is unique polyisoprene latex with controlled structure and low chemical impurity levels manufactured through an anionic polymerization process followed by a proprietary latex processing step both of which were developed by us. IRL is durable, tear resistant, soft, transparent and odorless. In addition, the synthetic material has unparalleled consistency and it is non-allergenic, providing a distinct property advantage over natural rubber latex.

Compounds. Our Compounds are a mixture of Kraton polymers and other polymers, resins, oils or fillers to enhance the final properties for processing. Compounds cover a wide range of polymers tailored to meet specific customer needs in consumer and industrial applications. Compounds can be formulated so that they can be extruded, injection molded, foamed, etc. to meet the final application requirements. These products are primarily used in soft-touch grips, sporting equipment, automotive components and personal care products. Compounds comprised 3%, 3% and 4% of our total sales revenue in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Our End-Use Markets

We believe we hold the number one market position, based on 2008 sales and volume, in each of our targeted end-use markets. We have aligned our commercial activities to serve three core end-use markets that we believe have the highest growth and profitability potential: (1) Advanced Materials; (2) Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings; and (3) Paving and Roofing. We also serve a fourth end-use market, an Emerging Businesses category, which primarily includes our high-growth isoprene rubber latex, or IRL business.

Table of Contents

The following table describes our three core end-use markets together with our Emerging Businesses and other end-use markets and their approximate relative sizes:

End-Use Markets	Revenue Mix ⁽¹⁾	Our End-Use Market Position ⁽²⁾	Our End-Use Market Share ⁽²⁾	Our Relative End-Use Market Share ⁽³⁾	Industry Compound Annual Growth Rate ⁽⁴⁾	Selected Applications/Products
Advanced Materials	30%	#1	37%	2.2X	8.0%	Soft touch for consumer products (tooth brushes and razor blades) and power tools Impact resistant engineering plastics Automotive interior components Elastic films for disposable diapers and adult incontinence branded products Skin care products and lotions Disposable food packaging Medical packaging films and tubing, often to replace PVC
Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings	32%	#1	41%	2.6X	5.2%	Tapes and labels Non-woven and industrial adhesives Industrial and consumer weather sealants
Paving and Roofing	31%	#1	28%	1.9X	7.1%	Asphalt modification for performance roadways Asphalt modification for roofing felts and shingles
Emerging Businesses ⁽⁵⁾	3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.7%	Surgical gloves Condoms
Other Markets ⁽⁶⁾	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lubricants and fuel additives High styrenics packaging Footwear

(1) Based on 2008 sales of \$1,171.3 million (excludes by-product sales which are reported as other revenues).

(2) Management estimates, based on 2008 sales.

(3) Management estimates, versus next largest competitor based on 2008 sales.

(4) Management estimates of volume growth, 2001 to 2008 except for Emerging Businesses, which is 2005 to 2008.

(5) The Emerging Businesses end-use market primarily includes our IRL business as well as other businesses and products that are under development. We believe that we are the only major third-party supplier of IRL, and therefore end-use market position, end-use market share and relative end-use market share metrics are not meaningful.

(6)

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Our Other Markets end-use market is not directly comparable to our three core and Emerging Businesses end-use markets because it includes a mix of products ranging from lubricants and fuel additives to high styrenics packaging to footwear products. Therefore, we cannot estimate end-use market position, end-use market share, relative end-use market share or industry compound annual growth rate. **Advanced Materials.** Through sales of HSBC, USBC and IR products, as well as certain compounded products, we maintained a leading position in the global Advanced Materials end-use market with a 37% market share, based on 2008 sales.

Advanced Materials polymers and compounds from Kraton are used in a range of diverse applications, many of which require customized formulations, product testing with long lead time approvals, and production

Table of Contents

evaluations for specific end-use customers and applications. As such, customer loyalty tends to be strongest in this end-use market, helped in part by the fact that many of the applications are patent protected. The degree of complexity in the manufacturing of these products and the attractive value proposition for our customers drives higher sustainable margins for this end-use market.

We believe our Advanced Materials growth is driven by customers' desire for improved product flexibility and resilience, impact resistance, moisture resistance and aesthetics in consumer products, medical products, packaging and automotive components. In addition, due to health and recycling (or "green") concerns, one trend that is particularly a focus for our company is replacing PVC in a number of demanding medical (blood and IV bags, tubes and stoppers) and electronic (wire and cable outer layer) applications.

A differentiating driver for our expected Advanced Materials growth is our unique ability to design and manufacture certain custom compound formulations. One specific example is Kraton compounds that provide critical stretch performance for the infant care (diaper) and adult incontinence markets.

Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings. Through sales of HSBC, USBC and certain IR products, we have continued our tradition of holding a leading position in the global Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market, garnering a 41% market share in 2008 in this end-use market.

Our Adhesive, Sealants and Coatings polymers are used in a number of demanding applications such as: adhesives for diapers and hygiene products; sealants for construction and automotive applications; and adhesives for tapes and labels. We expect our growth to be supported by the continuing substitution of adhesives for mechanical fastening systems and the growing demand within developing countries for disposable hygiene products that contain adhesives and sealants.

The other significant growth application for our SBCs is for tapes and labels. In both solvent-based and hot-melt forms, Kraton SBCs impart water resistance, color stability, strong bonding characteristics, high cohesive strength, good ultraviolet light resistance, heat stability and long shelf life. In addition, our SBCs' compatibility with many other formulating ingredients and their suitability for hot-melt systems are major factors in demand growth. Furthermore, we believe our blend of new SIBS and SBS polymers with rosin ester tackifying resins can produce a tape with properties similar to a traditional SIS hydrocarbon resin formulation, but with cost savings of 10% to 20%.

In 2008, we largely exited the increasingly commodity-like portions of the tape and label business, choosing to refocus our development and manufacturing capacity on higher value-added and more proprietary products. Our history of innovation in the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market has allowed us to capitalize on our unique product offerings, significantly enhancing the value of this end-use market to the business.

Paving and Roofing. Through sales of primarily USBC products, we maintained a leading market position with 28% market share in 2008 of the global asphalt modification SBC industry. We believe that our sales into the Paving and Roofing end-use market will see meaningful growth driven by U.S. and European government stimulus spending, improvement in roofing demand including re-stocking of depleted roofing supply chains, and continued penetration of polymer modified road surfaces. In the United States specifically, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$6.9 billion in 2010 for incremental Federal Highway Administration funding (25% of the \$27.5 billion in total committed to highway construction). We believe that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will yield additional demand for our products, particularly in 2010 when the largest portion of funds is anticipated to be distributed to states and federal agencies.

The addition of our SBS in asphalt greatly improves the strength and elasticity of asphalt-based paving compositions over an extended temperature range, thus increasing resistance to wear, rutting and cracking. In roofing applications, SBS-modified asphalt produces stronger and more durable felts and shingles, thus reducing the possibility of damage from weather, ice and water build-up and again extending service life.

Table of Contents

We believe our growth in the Paving and Roofing end-use market will benefit from new products we have recently introduced, and those that are currently under development, to respond to industry trends for elevated polymer content roads and surfaces, over-lay compatibility with concrete systems, and general environmental awareness (for example, road contraction emissions).

Emerging Businesses. We use this end-use to commercialize and manage innovations that are outside of our current end-use organizational structure. For example, IR is a line of high purity isoprene rubber products that combines the key qualities of natural rubber, such as good mechanical properties and hysteresis, with superior features such as high purity, excellent clarity, good flow, low gel content, no nitrosamines and no natural rubber proteins. IR polymers in general are used in high volume, lower value-added applications such as tire rubber. However, we focus our unique IR polymers, produced using state-of-the-art nanotechnology, in more demanding applications such as medical products, adhesives and tackifiers, paints, coatings and photo-resistors. Approximately half of our current IR production is converted into IRL (emulsion of IR in water), a substitute for natural rubber latex, particularly in applications with high purity requirements, such as medical, healthcare, personal care and food contact applications. IRL is durable, tear resistant, soft, transparent and odorless. Most importantly, IRL is non-allergenic for both doctor and patient, providing a distinct property advantage over natural rubber latex.

Today, we produce 86% of the world's IRL by sales, and product adoption appears to be rapidly increasing. IRL is predominately used in the synthetic surgical glove market. Over the last three years, the compound annual growth rate for our IRL markets was 22.7%. The combination of increasing demand, favorable market dynamics and competitive differentiation make this a key product offering for us. We currently anticipate growth to continue for the foreseeable future, and will likely need to add capacity to our global supply system.

In addition to IRL, we believe we have a robust portfolio of innovations at various stages of development and commercialization that we believe will fuel our future growth. One such example is our Nexar family of membrane polymers for water filtration and breathable fabrics.

Research, Development and Technology

Our research and development program is designed to develop new products and applications, provide technical service to customers, develop and optimize process technology and assist in marketing new products. We spent \$26.4 million, \$24.0 million and \$ 23.3 million for company-sponsored research and development for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. From time to time, we also engage in customer-sponsored research projects, with spending of approximately \$1.0 million a year for the three-year period ended December 31, 2008. As of September 30, 2009, approximately 94 personnel are dedicated to this critical business activity.

Our research and development activities are primarily conducted in laboratories in Houston, Texas and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. We also own a laboratory in Paulinia, Brazil that provides technical services to our South American customers. Our application and technical service laboratories in Shanghai and Tsukuba provide support to our Asian customers. In August 2008, we executed a purchase and sale agreement to sell our Tsukuba, Japan facility which was completed in the first quarter of 2009. We opened a new technical service laboratory in Tsukuba, Japan in March 2009. In addition, we have technical service staff located in Mont St. Guibert, Belgium.

Our experienced, knowledgeable professionals perform product research using extensive scientific application equipment located at our Houston and Amsterdam research and development facilities. Our Houston laboratory also includes a comprehensive pilot plant for a number of uses. In early 2009, we moved into a new building that will house our Houston-based research and technology service organization. The new facility is expected to yield cost savings when compared with our previous facilities leased at Shell Chemicals Westhollow location in Houston. The new facility is designed specifically to enhance the effectiveness of our research and technology service team. At both of our major research and development facilities we produce new Kraton product samples for our customers and provide guidance to our manufacturing organization. In addition, we also

Table of Contents

use our pilot plant to test new raw materials and new process technologies in order to improve the manufacturing performance of our products. Application equipment is used in all of our research and technical service labs to evaluate polymers and compounds to determine optimal formulations.

Since the introduction of SBCs in the mid-1960s, we have experienced strong demand for the development of new products that utilize the enhancing properties offered by our polymers. We believe we have a strong new product pipeline to take advantage of many new opportunities. As a proven product innovator, we will continue to employ our product knowledge and technical expertise to provide application-based solutions for our customers' highly specialized needs. This can include modifications to current products as well as significant new innovations aimed at displacing more expensive, less efficient product solutions in the marketplace.

Sales and Marketing

Our business is predominantly based on a short sales cycle. We sell our products through a number of channels including a direct sales force, sales agents and distributors. The majority of our products are sold through our direct sales force. In countries where we generate substantial revenues, our sales force is organized by end-use market in order to meet the specific needs of our customers. In geographic areas where it is not efficient for us to organize our sales force by end-use market, we may use one sales team to service all end-use markets.

In smaller markets, we often utilize sales agents who act as independent contractors to sell our products. In addition, we utilize distributors to service our smaller customers in all regions. Distributors sell a wide variety of products, which allow smaller customers to obtain multiple products from one source. In addition to our long-term relationships with distributors in North America and Europe, we have established relationships with a wide network of distributors in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. We have transferred some existing small customers to distributors, and are working to transfer others, to free up our sales force to focus on more substantial opportunities.

Our sales force, distributors and agents interact with our customers to provide both product advice and technical assistance. In general, they arrange and coordinate contact between our customers and our research and development personnel to provide quality control and new product solutions. Our close interaction with our customers has allowed us to develop and maintain strong customer relationships. In addition, we focus our sales efforts on those customers who value the quality of our products, service and technical support.

Total operating revenues from our operations outside the United States were approximately 66%, 66% and 58% of our total operating revenues in the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Direct sales we make outside of the United States are generally priced in local currencies and can be subject to currency exchange fluctuations when reported in our consolidated financial statements, which are maintained in U.S. dollars in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP). For geographic reporting, revenues are attributed to the geographic location in which the customers' facilities are located. We generated 43% of our 2008 net product sales revenues from customers located in the Americas, 41% in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and 16% in the Asia Pacific region. See Note 13 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for geographic reporting for total operating revenues and long-lived assets as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

Sources and Availability of Raw Materials

We use three monomers as our primary raw materials in the manufacture of our products: styrene, butadiene and isoprene. These monomers together represented approximately 52% of our total costs of goods sold in 2008. Other raw materials used in our production processes include catalysts, solvents, stabilizers and various process control chemicals. The cost of these monomers has generally been correlated with changes in crude oil prices and affected by global supply and demand and global economic conditions. After significant increases in the cost of these monomers through the third quarter of 2008, the market prices for these monomers declined significantly.

Table of Contents

late in the year. On a year-over-year basis, the cost of raw material feedstocks included in our cost of goods sold increased approximately 9% excluding the impact of foreign currency exchange rates and sales volume changes in 2008.

We believe our contractual and other arrangements with suppliers of styrene, butadiene and isoprene provide an adequate supply of raw materials at competitive, market-based prices. We can provide no assurances that contract suppliers will not terminate these contracts at the expiration of their contract terms, that we will be able to obtain substitute arrangements on comparable terms, or that we generally will be able to source raw materials on an economic basis in the future.

Styrene, butadiene and isoprene used by our U.S. and European facilities are primarily supplied by Shell Chemicals or its affiliates, LyondellBasell, and other suppliers under long-term supply contracts with various expiration dates. For our U.S. facilities, we also procure a substantial amount of isoprene from a variety of suppliers from Russia, China and Japan. These purchases include both spot and contract arrangements. We generally contract with them on a short-term basis, although the number of such contracts has been increasing since 2008.

In January 2009, the U.S. operations of LyondellBasell, along with one of its European-holding companies, Basell Germany Holdings GmbH, filed for voluntary reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. LyondellBasell is one of our major suppliers of raw materials in Europe and also operates our plants at Berre, France and Wesseling, Germany. We cannot accurately predict the effect, if any, that LyondellBasell's bankruptcy will have upon our business, or our relationships with LyondellBasell. To date, there have been no significant changes in our commercial relationship with LyondellBasell.

In Japan, butadiene and isoprene supplies for our joint venture plant are supplied under our joint venture agreement, where our partner supplies our necessary requirements. Styrene in Japan is sourced from local third-party suppliers. Our facility in Paulinia, Brazil generally purchases all of its raw materials from local third-party suppliers.

Styrene. Styrene is available on the global petrochemical market with approximately 13 producers located in the Americas, 11 producers located in Europe and 41 producers located in Asia. The top four producers worldwide are: Dow Chemical Company, LyondellBasell, BASF and Shell Chemicals, which collectively account for approximately one-third of global capacity. Styrene prices are primarily driven by worldwide supply and demand, and the cost of ethylene and benzene and are influenced by prevailing crude oil and natural gas prices. Market prices for styrene increased during 2008 as crude oil prices reached record levels, peaking early in the fourth quarter, then subsequently declined during the remainder of the quarter as crude oil prices decreased significantly.

We satisfy our styrene requirements in the United States pursuant to several purchase agreements with maturities ranging from the end of 2009 to the end of 2011, subject to renewal conditions. We are in the process of negotiating a new contract with a termination date at the end of 2011 with one of our suppliers to replace a purchase agreement expiring at the end of 2009. As contracts expire, we cannot give assurances that we will obtain new long-term supply agreements or that the terms of any such agreements will be on terms favorable to us, and as a consequence, our future acquisition costs for styrene may therefore increase.

We historically sourced our styrene requirements in Europe from Shell Chemicals pursuant to a contract that expired on February 28, 2007, and from BASF pursuant to a contract that expired on July 31, 2007. We have fully satisfied our styrene requirements in Europe with new purchase contracts expiring on February 28, 2010 that meet our present needs. As contracts expire, we cannot give assurances that we will obtain new long-term supply agreements, or that the terms of any such agreements will be on terms favorable to us, and as a consequence, our future acquisition costs for styrene may therefore increase.

Table of Contents

For our agreements covering our manufacturing facility in the United States, the price we pay for styrene varies with the published prices of styrene and/or the raw materials used to produce styrene. The price we pay for styrene under our agreement covering the Netherlands, France and Germany varies to reflect the published price for styrene even though our purchase price is subject to certain minimums and maximums that vary with other factors.

Butadiene. Butadiene is available on the global petrochemical market with approximately 9 producers in the Americas, 19 producers in Western Europe and 36 producers located in Asia. Prices for butadiene reflect worldwide supply and demand and prevailing crude oil and ethylene prices. Since 2006, we have generally experienced increasing prices for butadiene. Although butadiene pricing was generally strong for most of 2008 due to tight supply/demand and the influence of rising crude oil costs, pricing decreased in late 2008 in response to weakening demand and crude oil price decreases. Pricing has strengthened during the third quarter of 2009 primarily due to butadiene supply limitations.

We have historically had adequate supplies of butadiene. However, in 2008 our supply of butadiene was constrained primarily in North America and Japan due to an industry-wide shortage in those regions that was primarily driven by limited availability of crude C4. Going forward, we believe our contractual and other arrangements with our suppliers will generally provide adequate future supplies of butadiene at competitive prices to support our current sales levels. Growth in the production of our products that require butadiene could be limited by our ability to source additional butadiene at competitive prices.

We currently source butadiene in the United States pursuant to spot supply arrangements with Shell Chemicals and other suppliers. Our U.S. butadiene purchases vary with the published prices for butadiene on world markets. We are currently finalizing butadiene supply contracts with various suppliers, and have recently entered into a butadiene supply contract with a new supplier for supply commencing in 2010 that will expire on December 31, 2012. No assurances can be given that any other agreement(s) will be entered into or as to the volumes or terms of any such agreement(s).

We currently source our butadiene in Europe pursuant to contracts with LyondellBasell. The contract covering Germany will expire on December 31, 2040, and will be renewed automatically at the conclusion of the current term unless terminated with prior written notice by either party. The contract covering France expired effective December 31, 2008. We are presently acquiring butadiene from LyondellBasell in France under a term sheet reflecting an agreement in principle that has been reached between the parties. However, we can provide no assurance to the nature of the final agreement or as to the volumes or terms of such an agreement. The price we pay for butadiene under our agreements covering France and Germany vary based upon the published price for butadiene, the amount of butadiene purchased during the preceding calendar year and/or the cost of butadiene manufactured. In Brazil, butadiene is obtained from a local third-party source. In Kashima, Japan, a majority of our butadiene needs are sourced from JSR on a commercial supply basis. As contracts expire, we cannot give assurances that we will obtain new long-term supply agreements, or that the terms of any such agreements will be on terms favorable to us, and as a consequence, our future acquisition costs for butadiene may therefore increase.

Isoprene. Isoprene is primarily produced and consumed captively by manufacturers for the production of isoprene rubber, which is primarily used in the manufacture of rubber tires. As a result, there is limited non-captive isoprene available in the market place. Prices for isoprene are determined by the supply and prices of natural and synthetic rubber, crude oil and natural gas prices, and existing supply and demand in the market. Market prices for isoprene rose substantially from 2005 through 2006 but declined during 2007 as global supply improved. Subsequently, isoprene prices increased for most of 2008. Following the collapse of energy prices in late 2008, isoprene pricing declined during the first half of 2009. Most recently, isoprene prices have stabilized with moderately rising energy and supply limitations. The increase was largely driven by the reduced availability of raw materials for isoprene extraction. The economic advantage of lighter feeds for ethylene plants reduced the manufacture of by-products, including crude isoprene.

Our largest supplier of isoprene is Shell Chemicals, who pursuant to multiple contracts provides a market-based price component as well as a formula component for determining our net transaction price. If we fail to

Table of Contents

purchase 95% of the agreed quantity of isoprene in either the United States or the Netherlands in a given year, unless excused because of reasonably unforeseen circumstances, including plant breakdowns, we must pay Shell Chemicals an idle capacity fee pursuant to formulas set forth in the contract. The agreement providing isoprene to our Belpre, Ohio facility expires on December 31, 2009 but has been amended to provide for automatic renewal unless either party provides one month prior written notice. As of the filing of this prospectus, we have entered into two isoprene contracts expiring in 2011 and 2012, respectively, for isoprene supply to our plants in Europe, North America and South America. We are in negotiations with other suppliers regarding one or more isoprene supply contracts for periods after December 31, 2009. We also purchase additional supplies of isoprene from various suppliers at prevailing market price. In Kashima, Japan, the majority of our isoprene needs are sourced from JSR on a commercial supply basis and from alternative suppliers as needed. As contracts expire, we may not be able to obtain new long-term supply agreements and the terms of any such agreement may not be on terms favorable to us.

On September 10, 2009, we committed to exit the Pernis facility, where we currently produce IR, as of December 31, 2009. We currently plan to transfer IR production to an alternative company site. We are in the process of completing project scoping, including associated capital requirements, for producing the alternative capacity, and until such alternative production capacity is brought on line, we plan to satisfy customer demand for IR with inventory currently on hand. We believe future isoprene requirements for IR products will be met by our overall isoprene sourcing strategies, however, there is no assurance we will be able to satisfy our requirements.

We have historically had adequate supplies of isoprene. However, we have periodically experienced periods of limited supply due to operational problems at key producers, or as was the case during 2008 due to limited availability of crude raw materials for the isoprene extraction units. During these periods, we are normally able to meet most of our needs by acquiring relatively expensive isoprene from other suppliers. After an initial improvement in supply availability in 2008, isoprene availability was reduced for most of 2008. In response, we were forced to allocate SIS supplies. Similarly, supply constraints in 2009 have limited isoprene purchases under some of our existing contracts. We satisfied our requirements by supplementing purchases from a variety of other suppliers. Going forward, we believe our contractual arrangements with Shell Chemicals (and its affiliates) as well as contractual and spot arrangements and longstanding relationships with other third-party suppliers of isoprene, will generally provide adequate future supplies of isoprene at competitive prices to support our current sales levels. Growth in the production of our products that require isoprene could be limited by our ability to source additional isoprene at competitive prices, and we can give no guarantees or assurances in this regard.

Competition

We compete with other SBC product and non-SBC product producers primarily on the basis of price, breadth of product availability, product quality and speed of service from order to delivery. We believe our customers also base their supply decisions on the ability to design and produce custom products and the availability of technical support.

SBC Industry. Our most significant competitors in the SBC industry are: Asahi Chemical, Chi Mei, Dexco Polymers, Dynasol Elastomers, Kuraray, Korea Kumho P.C., Lee Chang Yung, LG Chemical, Polimeri Europa, Sinopec, Taiwan Synthetic Rubber Corporation and Zeon Corporation.

Product Substitution. We also compete against a broad range of alternative, non-SBC products within each end-use market.

In the Advanced Materials end-use market, the primary competitive materials range from thermoplastic technologies such as polyolefin elastomers, PVC polymers and compounds, thermoplastic polyurethanes, as well as thermoset technologies such as thermoplastic vulcanizates and natural rubber.

In the Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings end-use market, the primary product alternatives include acrylic polymers, silicones, solvent-based natural rubber systems and metallocene polyolefins.

Table of Contents

In the Paving and Roofing end-use market, the primary product substitute for roofing is atactic polypropylene, whereas for road surfaces it is styrene butadiene rubber, or SBR. Customers also have a choice to use unmodified asphalts.

Operating and Other Agreements

Operating Agreements. Shell Nederland Refinery operates our manufacturing facility located in Pernis, the Netherlands. This facility is situated on a major Shell petrochemical site at which other third party tenants also own facilities. Shell charges us fees based on certain costs incurred in connection with operating and maintaining this facility, including the direct and indirect costs of employees and subcontractors, reasonable insurance costs, certain taxes imposed on Shell (other than income taxes) and depreciation and capital charges on certain assets. Pursuant to the agreement, Shell employs and provides all staff, other than certain plant managers, assistant plant managers and technical personnel whom we may appoint. The agreement has an initial term of 20 years, beginning in February 2001, and thereafter will automatically renew indefinitely for consecutive 5-year periods. Either party may terminate the agreement (totally or partially) under various circumstances, including if such party ceases its operations at the facility and provides 18 months prior written notice; or if any of the services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements have been terminated, and the terminating party provides notice as required by such agreement.

LyondellBasell operates our manufacturing facility located in Berre, France. This facility is situated on a major LyondellBasell refinery and petrochemical site at which other third party tenants also own facilities. LyondellBasell charges us fees based on certain costs incurred in connection with operating and maintaining this facility, including the direct and indirect costs of employees and subcontractors, reasonable insurance costs, certain taxes imposed on LyondellBasell (other than income taxes) and depreciation and capital charges on certain assets. Pursuant to the agreement, LyondellBasell employs and provides all staff, other than certain plant managers, assistant plant managers and technical personnel whom we may appoint. The agreement has an initial term of 20 years, beginning in February 2001, and thereafter will automatically renew indefinitely for consecutive 5-year periods. Either party may terminate the agreement (totally or partially) under various circumstances, including if such party ceases its operations at the facility and provides 18 months prior written notice; or if any of the services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements have been terminated, and the terminating party provides notice as required by such agreement.

Pursuant to an agreement dated March 31, 2000, LyondellBasell operates and provides certain services, materials and utilities required to operate our manufacturing facility in Wesseling, Germany. We pay LyondellBasell a monthly fee, as well as costs incurred by LyondellBasell in providing the various services, even if the facility fails to produce any output (whether or not due to events within LyondellBasell's control), and even if we reject some or all output. This agreement has an initial term of 40 years and will automatically renew subject to 5 years prior written notice of non-renewal. This agreement will terminate at any earlier date as of which the facility can no longer operate in a safe and efficient manner.

Site Services, Utilities, Materials and Facilities Agreements with Shell Nederland Refinery. Shell Chemicals, through local operating affiliates, provides various site services, utilities, materials and facilities at the locations they operate and maintain for us in Pernis, the Netherlands and Houston, Texas (Westhollow). Generally these services, utilities, materials and facilities are provided by Shell on either a long-term basis, short-term basis or a sole-supplier basis. Items provided on a sole-supplier basis may not be terminated except upon termination of the applicable agreement in its entirety. Items provided on a long-term or short-term basis may be terminated individually under certain circumstances. An analogous agreement is in place with LyondellBasell for the Berre, France manufacturing site.

Information Systems

We utilize Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software systems to support each of our facilities worldwide. These systems were previously supported by external resources. We recently upgraded our ERP

Table of Contents

software systems utilizing a single global system and implementing best practices for our industry. For Europe and the United States we completed this upgrade in August 2009, and for Brazil and Asia we completed this upgrade in October 2009. In addition to providing increased reliability, we estimate ongoing cost savings of \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million will be achieved as a result of the new ERP system. These systems will be supported by internal resources going forward. We also have in place a laboratory quality assurance system, including bar code based material management systems and manufacturing systems. An annual disaster recovery exercise is performed on critical systems utilizing third-party data centers.

Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights and Other Intellectual Property Rights

We rely on a variety of intellectual property rights to conduct our business, including patents, trademarks and trade secrets. As of September 2009, approximately one-third of our patent portfolio (447 of 1,176) consisted of patent applications (the majority of which were filed after 2003). In light of the fact that patents are generally in effect for a period of 20 years as of the filing date, this means that a significant portion of the portfolio would remain in effect for a long period (assuming most of these application will be granted). The granted patents and the applications cover both the United States and foreign countries. We do not expect that the expiration of any single patent or specific group of patents would have a material impact on our business. Our material trademarks will remain in effect unless we decide to abandon any of them, subject to possible third-party claims challenging our rights. Similarly, our trade secrets will preserve their status as such for as long as they are the subject of reasonable efforts, on our part, to maintain their secrecy. Since January 2003, we have filed 100 new patent applications with filings in the United States and many foreign countries. A significant number of patents in our patent portfolio were acquired from Shell Chemicals. Shell Chemicals retained for itself fully-transferable and exclusive licenses for their use outside of the elastomers field, as well as fully-transferable, non-exclusive licenses within the field of elastomers for certain limited uses in non-competing activities. Shell Chemicals is permitted to sublicense these rights. Shell Chemicals also retains the right to enforce these patents outside the elastomers field and recover any damages resulting from these actions. Shell Chemicals may engage in or be the owner of a business that manufactures and/or sells elastomers in the elastomers field, so long as they do not use patent rights or technical knowledge exclusively licensed to us.

As a general matter, our trade names are protected by trademark laws. Our SBC products are marketed under the trademark Kraton, which is registered in the United States and in many other countries.

In our over 40 years in the SBC business, we have accumulated a substantial amount of technical and business expertise. Our expertise includes: product development, design and formulation, information relating to the applications in which our products are used, process and manufacturing technology, including the process and design information used in the operation, maintenance and debottlenecking of our manufacturing facilities, and the technical service that we provide to our customers. Extensive discussions are held with customers and potential customers to define their market needs and product application opportunities. Where necessary, we have implemented trade secret protection for our technical knowledge through non-analysis, secrecy and related agreements.

Employees

We had approximately 805 full-time employees at September 30, 2009. In addition, approximately 213 Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell manufacturing employees operate our manufacturing facilities and provide maintenance services in Europe under various operating and services arrangements with Shell Chemicals and its affiliates or LyondellBasell. See Operating and Other Agreements. None of our employees in the United States are subject to collective bargaining agreements. In Europe, Brazil and Japan, a significant number of our employees are in arrangements similar to collective bargaining arrangements. We believe our relationships with our employees continue to be good.

Environmental Regulation

Our operations in the United States and abroad are subject to a wide range of environmental laws and regulations at both the national and local levels. These laws and regulations govern, among other things, air

Table of Contents

emissions, wastewater discharges, solid and hazardous waste management, site remediation programs and chemical use and management.

Pursuant to these laws and regulations, our facilities are required to obtain and comply with a wide variety of environmental permits for different aspects of their operations. Generally, many of these environmental laws and regulations are becoming increasingly stringent and the cost of compliance with these various requirements can be expected to increase over time.

Management believes that we are in material compliance with all current environmental laws and regulations. We currently estimate that any expenses incurred in maintaining compliance with these requirements will not materially affect our results of operations or cause us to exceed our level of anticipated capital expenditures. However, we cannot give assurances that regulatory requirements or permit conditions will not change, and we cannot predict the aggregate costs of additional measures that may be required to maintain compliance as a result of such changes or expenses.

Environmental laws and regulations in various jurisdictions also establish programs and, in some instances, obligations to clean up contamination from current or historic operations. Under some circumstances, the current owner or operator of a site can be held responsible for remediation of past contamination regardless of fault and regardless of whether the activity was legal at the time that it occurred. Evaluating and estimating the potential liability related to site remediation projects is a difficult undertaking, and several of our facilities have been affected by contamination from historic operations.

Our Belpre, Ohio facility is the subject of a site investigation and remediation program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. In March 1997, Shell Chemicals entered into a consent order to investigate and remediate areas of contamination on and adjacent to the site. In March 2003, we joined Shell Chemicals in signing a new consent order that required additional remediation and assessment of various areas of contamination and continues to require groundwater-monitoring and reporting. Shell Chemicals continues to take the lead in this program, has posted financial assurance of \$5.2 million for the work required under the consent order and has also indemnified us for the work required under this program, subject to the condition that we provide notice on or prior to February 28, 2021. In turn, we have agreed with Shell Chemicals that we will, for a fee, provide certain services related to the remediation program. We have agreed with Shell Chemicals that we will pay up to \$100,000 per year for the groundwater monitoring associated with the 2003 consent order.

Our Brazilian facility has also been affected by prior Shell Chemicals operations. A Shell Chemicals pesticide manufacturing operation previously was located on a tract of land adjacent to our Brazilian facility. In addition, areas of our facility were used by Shell Chemicals as part of its crop protection business. Shell Chemicals has retained responsibility for remediating a former manufacturing facility located on our site and has also indemnified us for a number of the identified waste management areas used in prior operations. The indemnity from Shell Chemicals expired in 2004 for the following categories of claims to the extent notice was not previously provided by us: (1) remediation activity required by applicable environmental laws or third-party claims, (2) third-party claims for exposure to hazardous substances and (3) violations of environmental law. The indemnity for remediation relating directly to the plant for the previous pesticide manufacturing operations and for disposal activity related to that plant and for third-party claims regarding hazardous substance disposal requires us to give notice on or prior to February 28, 2021. Shell Chemicals has installed a hydraulic barrier to prevent migration of ground water contamination and has completed other cleanup actions on the site.

Shell Chemicals agreed to indemnify us for specific categories of environmental claims brought with respect to matters occurring before our separation from Shell Chemicals in February 2001. Coverage under the indemnity also varies depending upon the nature of the environmental claim, the location giving rise to the claim and the manner in which the claim is triggered. The indemnity from Shell Chemicals expired in 2004 for the following categories of claims to the extent notice was not previously provided by us: (1) site clean-up other than those specifically agreed with Shell Chemicals, (2) third-party claims for exposure to hazardous substances and

Table of Contents

(3) violations of environmental law. The indemnity for site clean-up specifically agreed with Shell Chemicals and for third-party claims regarding hazardous substance disposal requires us to give notice on or prior to February 28, 2021. Hence, if claims arise in the future related to past operations, we cannot give assurances that those claims will be covered by the Shell Chemicals indemnity and also cannot be certain that any amounts recoverable will be sufficient to satisfy claims against us.

In addition, we may in the future be subject to claims that arise solely from events or circumstances occurring after February 2001 that would not, in any event, be covered by the Shell Chemicals indemnity. While we recognize that we may, in the future, be held liable with respect for remediation activities beyond those identified to date, at present we are not aware of any circumstances that are reasonably expected to give rise to remediation claims that would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or cause us to exceed our projected level of anticipated capital expenditures.

Insurance

We have customary levels of insurance for a company of our size in our industry. Our insurance policies are subject to customary deductibles and limits.

Seasonality

Seasonal changes and weather conditions typically affect our polymer product sales into our Paving and Roofing end-use market. Within this market, typically, volume rises, as temperatures rise, from January to June, peaking during the summer. After summer, volume declines during the colder months in fall and winter. However, Paving and Roofing have different demand curves. Paving is seasonal with a warm weather peak and cool weather decline due to temperature requirements, whereas Roofing tends to be more consistent throughout the year. Our other end-use markets, Advanced Materials and Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings, tend to show relatively little seasonality.

Properties

Our principal executive offices are located at 15710 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77032.

We believe that our properties and equipment are generally in good operating condition and are adequate for our present needs. Production capacity at our sites can vary depending upon feedstock, product mix and operating conditions.

The following table sets forth our principal facilities:

Location	Acres	Approximated Square Footage	Use	Owned /Leased
Belpre, Ohio, United States	350	3,600,000	Manufacturing	Owned(1)
Wesseling, Germany	8.1	354,000	Manufacturing	Leased(2)
Berre, France	9.0	392,000	Manufacturing	Owned(3)
Pernis, the Netherlands	3.4	146,000	Manufacturing	Owned(3)
Paulinia, Brazil	179	2,220,000	Manufacturing	Owned
Kashima, Japan	11.6	395,000	Manufacturing	Owned(4)
Houston, Texas, United States	N/A	46,615	R&D	Leased(5)
Amsterdam, the Netherlands	N/A	32,015	R&D	Leased(5)
Tsukuba, Japan	4.5	23,327	R&D	Owned(6)
Shanghai, China	N/A	20,000	Distribution	Leased(5)

(1) A portion of the HSBC capacity at the Belpre facility is owned by Infineum USA, a joint venture between Shell Chemicals and ExxonMobil.

Table of Contents

- (2) We lease the land and the manufacturing facility, but own the production equipment.
- (3) We lease the land, but own the manufacturing facility and production equipment.
- (4) The Kashima, Japan facility is owned by our 50%-50% joint venture with JSR.
- (5) We lease the facility, but own the equipment.
- (6) The Tsukuba, Japan facility was sold on February 27, 2009 and replaced with a new technical service laboratory at a leased location in Tsukuba, Japan.

Belpre, Ohio, United States. Our Belpre, Ohio site is our largest manufacturing facility with connections to barge, rail and truck shipping and receiving facilities. The Belpre site has approximately 189 kilotons of production capacity to which we are entitled. It has the largest dedicated SBC production capacity of any SBC facility in the world. The Belpre facility currently produces USBC and HSBC products.

A portion of the HSBC capacity at Belpre is owned by Infineum USA. Infineum is a joint venture between Shell Chemicals and ExxonMobil that makes products for the lubricating oil additives business. Under a facility sharing agreement that terminates in 2030, we operate Infineum's share of the HSBC assets to manufacture a line of products for Infineum, and Infineum is entitled to a portion of the HSBC capacity at Belpre. Other than those assets owned by Infineum, we own the Belpre plant and the land on which it is located.

Wesseling, Germany. Our Wesseling, Germany manufacturing site is located on the premises of LyondellBasell. The site has direct access to major highways and extensive railway connections. Production capacity is approximately 95 kilotons. LyondellBasell owns the land and buildings on the premises and leases them to us. All leased property is required to be used in connection with our elastomers business. The lease is for a term of 30 years, beginning from March 31, 2000 and is extended automatically for a successive period of 10 years unless terminated upon one-year's written notice by either party. We own the SBC production equipment in the manufacturing facility. The Wesseling facility currently produces USBC products. LyondellBasell provides us operating and site services, utilities, materials and facilities under a long-term production agreement. LyondellBasell has the right to approve any expansion of our facility at Wesseling; although its consent may only be withheld if an expansion would be detrimental to the site.

Berre, France. Our Berre, France site is located in southeastern France. The facility has direct access to sea, rail and road transport and has a production capacity of approximately 87 kilotons. The Berre site was leased to us by Shell Petrochimie Mediterranee, through April 1, 2008, at which time the site was sold to LyondellBasell, who now operates the site and with whom our lease now exists under a long-term lease due to expire in 2030. We own the SBC manufacturing facility and production equipment at Berre. We currently produce USBC and HSBC products there. We have an operating agreement with LyondellBasell for various site services, utilities and facilities under a long-term agreement.

Pernis, the Netherlands. Our Pernis site is located near Rotterdam in the Netherlands, with access to deep-sea shipments and river barges as well as rail and road links. The plant currently has a production capacity of approximately 15 kilotons of IR. The Pernis site is subleased to us by Shell Nederlands Chimie, or SNC, on a shared site with other occupants. SNC itself leases the property from the Rotterdam Harbor Authorities. The term of the sublease expires on June 30, 2024, with an option for us to renew for a further period until June 30, 2044. We own the SBC manufacturing facility and production equipment at Pernis. The facility is operated by SNC under an operating agreement, and they provide various site services, utilities and facilities to us under a long-term agreement. The USBC production at this site was suspended on December 27, 2007.

On September 20, 2007, we exited the SIS plant at our Pernis facility, and relocated our SIS production to our other production facilities as part of our cost reduction efforts. This resulted in a contractor workforce reduction and provided annual cost savings of approximately \$10 million. The exit plan was completed in the first half of 2008. As a result of exiting the SIS plant, we recorded a liability associated with the plan of

Table of Contents

approximately \$2.1 million, consisting of \$1.8 million in contractor workforce reduction and \$0.3 million in other associated costs. The entire amount of the charge consisted of cash expenditures in the first and second quarters of 2008.

On September 10, 2009, we committed to exit the Pernis facility, where we currently produce IR, as of December 31, 2009. We currently plan to transfer IR production to an alternative company site. We are in the process of completing project scoping, including associated capital expenditure requirements, for producing the alternative capacity, and until such alternative production capacity is brought on line, we plan to satisfy customer demand for IR with inventory currently on hand.

Paulinia, Brazil. Our Paulinia, Brazil site is located with access to major highways. The facility currently has a production capacity of approximately 28 kilotons of USBC. The plant was built to meet demand for IRL products for hypoallergenic and medical applications, including surgical gloves and condoms. We own the plant at Paulinia as well as the land on which our plant sits. BASF owns the adjacent site and shares title to facilities that are common to the two companies such as the administration building, cafeteria and maintenance facilities. An expansion of the existing capacity is scheduled to be completed by mid-2009.

Kashima, Japan. Our Kashima, Japan site is operated by a manufacturing joint venture named Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K., or KJE, between us and JSR. The Kashima site is located northeast of Tokyo on the main island of Honshu at a JSR site that includes several synthetic rubber plants and butadiene and isoprene extraction units. This site is serviced by rail, barge and truck connections. Production capacity is approximately 40 kilotons of SBCs, and we are generally entitled to 50% of the production pursuant to our joint venture agreement. The SBC manufacturing facility is leased to KJE.

The KJE plant currently produces USBC products. JSR markets its portion of the production under its own trademarks, and we market our portion of the production under the KRATON® brand name although this amount may vary from time to time based on the economic interest of the joint venture. We and JSR each have a right of first refusal on the transfer of the joint venture interests of the other.

Research, Development and Technical Service Facilities

Our research and development activities are primarily conducted in laboratories in Houston, Texas and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. We support our customers via a technical service network of laboratories around the globe. Our technical service laboratories are located in Shanghai, China, Tsukuba, Japan, and Paulina, Brazil. In addition we have a technical service office in Mont St. Guivert, Belgium.

We perform application development and technical service support in all locations. In addition, our research and development centers in Houston and Amsterdam carry out polymer and process development. We are operating pilot lines in our Houston facility to provide scale up support to our manufacturing sites as well as our customers.

In August 2008, we executed a purchase and sale agreement to sell our Tsukuba, Japan facility that provided technical services to our Asia Pacific customers. The site was sold on February 27, 2009. We opened our new technical service laboratory in Tokoday, Japan in the first-half of 2009.

In August 2008, we signed a lease on a new building that will house our Houston-based Research and Technology Service organization. The new facility was occupied in the first-half of 2009 and is designed to enhance the effectiveness of our Research and Technology Service.

We believe we are able to meet projected global demand for HSBC products through at least 2009, and we have postponed the start up of the new HSBC manufacturing facility in the Asia Pacific region beyond the previously announced 2009 target date. We will continue, however, to perform engineering and evaluate new sites in the Asia Pacific region for the new plant.

Table of Contents

Legal Proceedings

Pursuant to the sale agreements between us and Shell Chemicals relating to the separation from Shell Chemicals in 2001, Shell Chemicals has agreed to indemnify us for certain liabilities and obligations to third parties or claims against us by a third party relating to matters arising prior to the closing of the acquisition by Ripplewood Chemical. Shell Chemicals has been named in several lawsuits relating to the elastomers business that we have acquired. In particular, claims have been filed against Shell Chemicals alleging workplace asbestos exposure at the Belpre, Ohio facility. In the event we are named as parties to any of these claims, we would be indemnified by Shell Chemicals, however, as of the date of this prospectus, we have not been named as parties in any of these claims. Our right to indemnification from Shell Chemicals is subject to certain time limitations disclosed under Business Environmental Regulation. In addition, we and Shell Chemicals have entered into a consent order relating to certain environmental remediation at the Belpre, Ohio facility.

While we are involved from time to time in litigation and governmental actions arising in the ordinary course of business, we are not aware of any actions which we believe would individually or in the aggregate materially adversely affect our business, consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

Table of Contents**MANAGEMENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Directors and Executive Officers**

The following table sets forth the name, age and position of individuals who currently serve as directors and executive officers of our company. Prior to this offering, each of the individuals listed below other than Ms. Twitchell, served as a director or officer of Kraton and has been named to the same position at Polymer Holdings in connection with this offering. Ms. Twitchell was appointed as a director of Polymer Holdings and Kraton, effective December 3, 2009.

Name	Age	Position
Dan F. Smith	63	Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Barry J. Goldstein	66	Director and Audit Committee Chairman
Kelvin L. Davis	45	Director
Michael G. MacDougall	38	Director
Nathan H. Wright	43	Director
Timothy J. Walsh	46	Director
Kevin G. O'Brien	43	Director
Steven J. Demetriou	51	Director
Richard C. Brown	50	Director
Karen A. Twitchell	54	Director
Kevin M. Fogarty	44	Director, Chief Executive Officer and President
Stephen E. Tremblay	50	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
David A. Bradley	38	Chief Operating Officer
Richard A. Ott	55	Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Communications
Stephen W. Duffy	56	Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Lothar Freund	49	Vice President, Technology
Larry R. Frazier	64	Chief Information Officer

Dan F. Smith. Mr. Smith was named a director and Chairman of the Kraton board of directors on February 4, 2008. He began his career with ARCO (Atlantic Richfield Company) in 1968 as an engineer. He was elected President of Lyondell Chemical Company in August 1994, Chief Executive Officer in December 1996 and Chairman of the Board of Directors in May 2007. Mr. Smith retired in December 2007 as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lyondell Chemical Company following the acquisition of Lyondell by Basell. Mr. Smith also served as Chief Executive Officer of Equistar Chemicals, LP from December 1997 through December 2007 and as Chief Executive Officer of Millennium Chemicals Inc. from November 2004 until December 2007. Equistar and Millennium are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Lyondell. Mr. Smith currently serves on the Board of Directors of Cooper Industries, Inc. He also serves as a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council at Lamar University and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lamar University Foundation. Mr. Smith is a graduate of Lamar University with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering.

Barry J. Goldstein. Mr. Goldstein was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on May 1, 2008. Mr. Goldstein retired as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Office Depot, Inc. in October 2000, which he first joined as Chief Financial Officer in May 1987. Mr. Goldstein was previously with Grant Thornton from 1969 through May 1987, where he was named a Partner in 1976. Mr. Goldstein currently serves on the Board of Directors of Interline Brands, Inc., Noble Environmental Power, LLC and Generac Power Systems, Inc. He received a B.S. degree in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kelvin L. Davis. Mr. Davis was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on December 23, 2003. Mr. Davis is a senior partner of TPG and Head of the North American Buyouts Group, incorporating investments

Table of Contents

in all non-technology industry sectors. Prior to joining TPG in 2000, Mr. Davis was President and Chief Operating Officer of Colony Capital, Inc., a private international real estate-related investment firm in Los Angeles. Prior to the formation of Colony, Mr. Davis was a principal of RMB Realty, Inc., the real estate investment vehicle of Robert M. Bass. Prior to his affiliation with RMB Realty, Inc., he worked at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York City and with Trammell Crow Company in Dallas and Los Angeles. Mr. Davis earned a B.A. degree in Economics from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, where he was a Baker Scholar, a John L. Loeb Fellow and a Wolfe Award recipient. Mr. Davis is a director of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc., Graphic Packaging Holding Company, Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. and Univision Communications, Inc. He is also a director of Los Angeles Team Mentoring, Inc., a charitable mentoring organization, a director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and is on the Board of Overseers and Art Collectors Council of The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens.

Michael G. MacDougall. Mr. MacDougall was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on December 23, 2003. Mr. MacDougall is a partner of TPG Capital. Prior to joining TPG Capital in 2002, Mr. MacDougall was a vice president in the Principal Investment Area of the Merchant Banking Division of Goldman, Sachs & Co., where he focused on private equity and mezzanine investments. He is a director of Graphic Packaging Holding Company and Energy Future Holdings Corp. (formerly TXU Corp.). Mr. MacDougall served on the board of managers of Texas Genco, LLC prior to its sale to NRG Energy, Inc. in February 2006. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of The Opportunity Network and is a member of the board of directors of the Dwight School Foundation and Iselsboro Affordable Property. Mr. MacDougall is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and received his M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School.

Nathan H. Wright. Mr. Wright was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on July 26, 2005. Mr. Wright has been a principal of TPG's Operations group for six years, during which time he has supported transformation efforts within TPG portfolio companies. Prior to joining TPG, Mr. Wright spent six years as a consultant with Bain & Company in the firm's Dallas, Texas, Sydney, Australia and Johannesburg, South Africa offices. He received his M.B.A. from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College. Prior to earning his M.B.A., Mr. Wright worked in the information systems consulting and outsourcing industry for four years and founded an Atlanta-based systems strategy firm. He holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Timothy J. Walsh. Mr. Walsh was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on December 23, 2003. Mr. Walsh is a Managing Director of CCMP Capital Advisors, LLC, a private equity firm formed in August 2006 by the former buyout/growth equity investment team of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, a private equity division of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Prior to his role with CCMP, Mr. Walsh was a partner with J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC. Prior to joining J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC in 1993, he was a vice president of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (formerly The Chase Manhattan Corporation). Mr. Walsh serves as a director of Octagon Credit Investors, LLC, Metokote Corporation, Pliant Corporation and Generac Power Systems, Inc. Mr. Walsh received his B.S. in Economics from Trinity College, Hartford and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.

Kevin G. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on January 31, 2008. Mr. O'Brien is a managing director of CCMP Capital Advisors, LLC, a private equity firm formed in August 2006 by the former buyout/growth equity investment team of J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC, a private equity division of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Prior to his role with CCMP, Mr. O'Brien was a partner with J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC. Prior to joining JPMP in 2000, Mr. O'Brien worked in the High Yield Capital Markets and High Yield Corporate Finance Groups at Chase Securities and Chemical Securities. Previously, he was a member of the Leveraged Finance Group at Bankers Trust and prior to that, Mr. O'Brien was a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Navy. Mr. O'Brien serves on the board of directors of CareMore Medical Enterprises, Hanley Wood, LLC, LHP Hospital Group, Inc. and National Surgical Care, Inc. Mr. O'Brien holds a B.A. in Economics and English from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Table of Contents

Steven J. Demetriou. Mr. Demetriou was named a director of the Kraton board of directors on December 1, 2004. Mr. Demetriou is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aleris International, Inc., also a TPG portfolio company. Previously, Mr. Demetriou was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Commonwealth Industries, Inc. (a predecessor by merger to Aleris) in June 2004, after serving as a member of that company's board of directors since 2002. Before joining Commonwealth in 2004, Mr. Demetriou was President and Chief Executive Officer of privately held Noveon, Inc. Prior to that, from 1999 to 2001, he was Executive Vice President of IMC Global Inc. From 1997 to 1999, Mr. Demetriou held various leadership positions with Cytec Industries Inc. From 1981 to 1997, he served in management positions with ExxonMobil Corporation. Mr. Demetriou currently serves on the boards of two publicly owned companies, Foster Wheeler and OM Group, Inc. He has a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Tufts University.

Richard C. Brown. Mr. Brown was named a director of Kraton board of directors on May 1, 2008. Mr. Brown is Chief Executive Officer of Performance Fibers, a global leader in high-performance industrial fibers and related materials. Prior to joining Performance Fibers, Mr. Brown was a vice president of W.R. Grace & Co. and President of the Grace Performance Chemicals business, which business included Grace Construction Products, Grace Residential Building Products and Darex Packaging Technologies. Previously, he spent 19 years with General Electric in a series of positions with increasing responsibilities, including President of GE Silicones, Core Products Business and President of GE Sealants & Adhesives. Mr. Brown has a B.S. degree from Plymouth State University (University of New Hampshire system).

Karen A. Twitchell. Ms. Twitchell was named as a director of the Kraton board of directors effective as of December 3, 2009. From 2001 to 2009, Ms. Twitchell was a vice president and treasurer of LyondellBasell Industries and Lyondell Chemical Company (a predecessor by merger to LyondellBasell). She previously served as a vice president of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation from 1998 to 2000 and, additionally, as treasurer from 1996 to 2000. Prior to that, she served as a vice president of Southdown, Inc from 1994 to 1996 and, additionally, as treasurer from 1989 to 1996. Before joining Southdown, Ms. Twitchell was an investment banker with Credit Suisse First Boston in its corporate finance department from 1978 to 1980 and from 1982 to 1988. Ms. Twitchell holds a B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College and an M.B.A. from Harvard University.

Kevin M. Fogarty. Mr. Fogarty was named a director of Kraton board of directors effective as of January 31, 2008, and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer on January 14, 2008. Prior to being appointed President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Fogarty served as our Executive Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing from June 15, 2005. Mr. Fogarty joined us from Invista, where he had served as President for Polymer and Resins since May 2004. For the 13 years prior to his most recent position with Invista, Mr. Fogarty held a variety of roles in Koch Industries Inc.'s companies, including KoSa. Mr. Fogarty earned a B.S. degree in Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Stephen E. Tremblay. Mr. Tremblay was appointed Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on January 21, 2008. From 1997 to 2007, Mr. Tremblay held various financial positions, including Chief Financial Officer at Vertis, Inc. a provider of print advertising and media technology. From 1990 to 1997, Mr. Tremblay held senior finance positions at Wellman, Inc., a provider of polyester fiber and resins, and from 1983 to 1990 was a member of the accounting and auditing practice at Ernst & Young. Mr. Tremblay earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Bryant University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

David A. Bradley. Mr. Bradley was appointed Chief Operating Officer on January 14, 2008 and was previously our Vice President of Global Operations since December 2, 2004. On April 1, 2004, we hired Mr. Bradley as Vice President of Business Transformation. Prior to joining us, he served as the Lexan Manufacturing Manager at GE Plastics Mount Vernon, Indiana site. From 1994 to 2004, Mr. Bradley served in a variety of leadership positions for GE Plastics, which included roles in business process development and Six Sigma. He holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Louisville.

Table of Contents

Richard A. Ott. Mr. Ott has been our Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Communications since December 2, 2004. Mr. Ott was the Vice President of Operations and Human Resources from June 2000 to December 2004. From 1998 to 2002, he also served as the Site Manager for the Belpre plant. Mr. Ott started with Shell Chemicals in 1976, where he held various positions in operations and business strategy. He holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University.

Stephen W. Duffy. Mr. Duffy was appointed Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary on February 4, 2008. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Duffy served as Counsel to Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP where he was responsible for domestic and international energy sector transactions. Mr. Duffy previously served as Senior Vice President, Legal and Government Affairs for Paramount Petroleum Corporation from July 2004 to July 2005, and as Vice President, Global General Counsel and Secretary for KoSa B.V. from December 2000 to April 2004. Mr. Duffy earned an A.B. degree from Duke University and his J.D. degree from Southern Methodist University.

Lothar Freund. Mr. Freund has served as our Vice President of Technology since 2005. He is responsible for Kraton's global R&D programs and technical service as well as the implementation of the company-wide innovation process. Dr. Freund joined Kraton from Koch Industries, where he served since 1989 in a variety of operating and technical positions in the polyester businesses acquired from Hoechst in 1998, most recently as the manufacturing and technology director of the PET & Nylon Polymer business of Invista, a Koch subsidiary. Dr. Freund holds a Masters Degree and a PhD in Polymer Chemistry from the University of Marburg in Germany.

Larry R. Frazier. Mr. Frazier joined Kraton as Chief Information Officer on November 10, 2008. Prior to joining Kraton, Mr. Frazier was Chief Information Officer for Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, a position he held since July 2000. Previous to this, Mr. Frazier was employed in various management positions with Phillips Petroleum Company (now ConocoPhillips). Earlier in his career he worked for the U.S. federal government as a Statistician/Mathematician. Mr. Frazier earned a B.S. degree in Mathematics from Northeastern Oklahoma State University, a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from University of New Mexico and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Our Board of Directors

Controlled Company

We intend to avail ourselves of the controlled company exemption under the corporate governance rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Although a majority of independent directors on our board of directors will meet the independence requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, we may not have a compensation committee or a nominating and corporate governance committee composed entirely of independent directors as defined under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. The controlled company exemption does not modify the independence requirements for the audit committee, and we intend to comply with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the New York Stock Exchange, which require that our audit committee be composed of at least three members, one of whom will be independent upon the listing of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, a majority of whom will be independent within 90 days of the date of this prospectus, and each of whom will be independent within one year of the date of this prospectus.

Board Composition

Our board of directors will have eleven members after giving effect to Ms. Twitchell's appointment.

The exact number of members of our board of directors will be determined from time to time by resolution of a majority of our full board of directors.

Our board of directors will be divided into three classes, with each director serving a three-year term and one class being elected at each year's annual meeting of stockholders.

Table of Contents

Messrs. Smith, MacDougall, Walsh and Goldstein will serve initially as Class I directors (with a term expiring in 2010). Messrs. Wright, Davis, O'Brien and Brown will serve initially as Class II directors (with a term expiring in 2011). Messrs. Demetriou and Fogarty and Ms. Twitchell will serve initially as Class III directors (with a term expiring in 2012).

Committees of the Board of Directors and Meeting Attendance

We currently have four standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Executive Committee.

Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee consists of Messrs. O'Brien and Goldstein and will include Ms. Twitchell after giving effect to her appointment to the board, with Mr. Goldstein serving as chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will be responsible for, among other things:

selecting and hiring our independent registered public accounting firm, and pre-approving the audit and non-audit services to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm;

reviewing the performance of the internal audit services function;

discussing the scope and results of the audit with the independent registered public accounting firm and reviewing with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our interim and year-end operating results;

reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal control policies and procedures;

preparing the Audit Committee report required by the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement;

monitoring the integrity of our financial statements and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements as they relate to financial statements or accounting matters;

setting policies regarding the hiring of current and former employees of the independent registered public accounting firm;

discussing types of information to be disclosed in earnings press releases and provided to analysts and rating agencies;

establishing procedures for receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the company regarding accounting or internal controls and the submission of anonymous employee concerns regarding accounting;

discussing with our general counsel legal matters having an impact on financial statements; and

reviewing the policy with respect to related party transactions and approving or rejecting proposed related party transactions. SEC and New York Stock Exchange rules require us to have one independent audit committee member upon the listing of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange, a majority of independent directors within 90 days of the date of such listing and all independent audit committee members within one year of the date of such listing. Our board of directors has affirmatively determined that Mr. Goldstein and Ms.

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Twitchell meet the definition of independent director for purposes of serving on an audit committee under applicable SEC and New York Stock Exchange rules, and we intend to comply with these independence requirements within the time periods specified. We have determined that Mr. O'Brien does not meet the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act because he is deemed an affiliated person of the company based upon their association with TPG or JPMP. However, Mr. O'Brien is deemed to be independent under the general corporate governance rules of the New York Stock Exchange. In addition, Mr. Goldstein qualifies as our audit committee financial expert.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for our Audit Committee, which will be available on our corporate website at www.kraton.com upon completion of this offering.

Compensation Committee. Our Compensation Committee consists of Messrs. Smith, Wright, Walsh and Brown, and Mr. Walsh will be the chairperson of our Compensation Committee. We have determined that all the committee members are independent for purposes of the New York Stock Exchange and meet the definition of "outside director" for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. We have determined that Mr. Brown meets the definition of "non-employee director" for purposes of Section 16 of the Exchange Act. The Compensation Committee will be responsible for, among other things:

reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to compensation of our executive officer and other members of management;

determining the compensation of our officers and directors;

recommending, when appropriate, changes to our compensation philosophy and principles;

evaluation of overall compensation and benefits programs;

recommending to our board any changes in our incentive compensation and equity-based plans that are subject to board approval;

reviewing and discussing with management, prior to the filing of the proxy statement, the disclosure prepared regarding executive compensation, including the CD&A and compensation tables (in addition to preparing a report on executive compensation for the proxy statement); and

determining the compensation of our directors.

As a controlled company, we will rely upon the exemption from the requirement that we have a compensation committee that is composed of a majority of independent directors within 90 days of such listing or entirely of independent directors within one year from the date of such listing.

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for our Compensation Committee, which will be available on our corporate website at www.kraton.com upon completion of this offering.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee consists of Messrs. MacDougall, O'Brien and Demetriou, and Mr. MacDougall will be the chairperson of this committee.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will be responsible for, among other things:

assisting our board of directors in identifying prospective director nominee, and recommending nominees for each annual meeting of stockholders to the board of directors;

reviewing developments in corporate governance practices and developing and recommending governance principles applicable to our board of directors;

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

overseeing the evaluation of our board of directors and management; and

recommending members for each board committee of our board of directors.

As a controlled company, we will rely upon the exemption from the requirement that we have a corporate governance and nominating committee that is composed entirely of independent directors within one year from the date of such listing. We have determined that Mr. Demetriou meets the definition of independent director for purposes of serving on a corporate governance and nominating committee under applicable SEC and New York Stock Exchange rules.

Table of Contents

Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, which will be available on our website at www.kraton.com upon completion of this offering.

Executive Committee. Our Executive Committee consists of Messrs. Smith, MacDougall, Walsh and Fogarty, and Mr. Smith will be the chairperson of this committee. The purpose of the committee will be to act, between meetings of the board, with the authority of the board on matters set forth in the committee's charter. Our board of directors will adopt a written charter for our Executive Committee, which will be available on our corporate website at www.kraton.com upon completion of this offering.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During 2008 the compensation committee of Kraton, consisting of Messrs. Walsh (chairman), Davis and Wright performed the functions of the Compensation Committee. None of the Kraton Compensation Committee members was formerly or during 2008 an officer or employed by us. No executive officer serves as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our board of directors.

Corporate Governance

Prior to the completion of this offering, our board of directors will adopt procedures and policies to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules adopted by the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange, including a code of conduct and ethics applicable to our officers, directors and employees. Upon completion of this offering, our code of conduct and ethics will be available on our website at www.kraton.com.

Director Compensation

Directors who are our employees or representatives of TPG or JPMP are not entitled to receive any compensation for their services. Prior to the completion of this offering our directors were compensated as directors of Kraton. See Executive Compensation.

Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings

Steven J. Demetriou, one of our directors, is the Chief Executive Officer of Aleris International, Inc. On February 12, 2009, Aleris International and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiaries filed petitions for voluntary reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the State of Delaware.

Election of Officers

Our board of directors elects our officers, and our officers serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

We do not employ any executive officers. The executives that run our company are employed by Kraton and, therefore, the disclosure in this section relates to those executives. The compensation program for Kraton's executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table below (the Named Executive Officers) is structured to attract, motivate, retain and reward high quality executives. This section includes information and analysis related to such compensation arrangements of the Named Executive Officers.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

Kraton's executive compensation policy, as established by the Compensation Committee of Kraton, is designed to provide a base salary that is competitive in the marketplace with other privately and publicly owned chemical companies whose revenue is approximately the same as that of Kraton. In 2007, after analyzing the data obtained from outside consultants, the Compensation Committee approved management's determination of our peer companies to include Berry Plastics Corp., Chemtura Corp., Freescale Semiconductor, Hercules Inc., Koppers Inc., MacDermid Inc., PolyOne Corp., ON Semiconductor Corp., Rockwood Holdings, Inc. and Tronox Inc. Other than in connection with this offering (as discussed below), the composition of our peer group was last considered in 2007.

The Compensation Committee looks to the aggregate compensation package for each Named Executive Officer to determine the individual elements of each such Named Executive Officer's pay. The Compensation Committee and the board of directors of Kraton approve an annual variable cash compensation plan (the Incentive Compensation Plan) targeted to pay at a competitive level for the peer group companies, provided that pre-established individual and Kraton performance goals are achieved.

The Compensation Committee may also approve the grant of membership units, options, or other equity or equity-based awards from time to time. Each of the Named Executive Officers has one or more of the types of awards described under Equity below. These awards are intended to motivate the Named Executive Officers and align their long-term interests with those of Kraton and its shareholders by linking a portion of their compensation with the performance of Kraton, while also promoting retention by utilizing multi-year vesting periods. Generally, Kraton grants equity awards to executives in connection with their commencement of employment with Kraton. The Compensation Committee determines the value of such grants by reviewing compensation practices of peer companies, past practice of Kraton, and individual negotiations with the executive. In addition, the Compensation Committee has the discretion to grant additional equity awards to executives, including the Named Executive Officers, based on the individual's contributions to Kraton. The Compensation Committee has the discretion to grant such awards throughout the year.

Role of the Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee of Kraton discharges the responsibility of the board of directors of Kraton relating to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers. The Compensation Committee's Charter contains detailed information on its duties and function and is available on-line at www.kraton.com/content/released/compensation_committee.pdf.

The Compensation Committee no less frequently than annually reviews Kraton's goals and objectives related to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers. During that review, the Compensation Committee considers the balance between short-term compensation and long-term incentives, evaluates the performance of the Named Executive Officers in light of the pre-established goals and objectives and sets the compensation levels of the Named Executive Officers based on that evaluation. In determining appropriate compensation levels, the Compensation Committee considers the performance of Kraton and relative shareholder return, the compensation levels of persons holding comparable positions at Kraton's peer companies and the compensation given to the Named Executive Officers in previous years. The Compensation Committee has the ultimate authority and responsibility to engage and terminate any outside consultant to assist in determining appropriate

Table of Contents

compensation levels for the Named Executive Officers. In the past, Kraton has subscribed to databases maintained by two independent consultant companies, which include chemical and manufacturing industries of comparable revenue. The largest database utilized is Hay Paynet, which is purchased from the Hay Group, and contains compensation information on numerous jobs and in most countries where Kraton operates. The second database utilized is a purchased compensation survey by Mercer for chemical non-durable manufacturing industries. The Chief Executive Officer (the CEO) and the Vice President of Human Resources analyze the data to develop recommendations as to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers. The Compensation Committee then reviews and recommends any changes for subsequent approval by Kraton's board of directors. Neither the CEO nor the Vice President of Human Resources makes recommendations about his own compensation to the Compensation Committee. Kraton does not otherwise engage the Hay Group or Mercer for any other services. In connection with this offering, the Compensation Committee engaged an independent compensation consultant, Hewitt Associates, to perform an overall assessment of the company's compensation practices as well as to provide recommendations regarding best practices around governance issues. Hewitt Associates selected a peer group of companies in the chemical industries of similar size and complexity to the company for the purposes of providing a reference point as one of many factors to consider, when reviewing and advising on the compensatory scheme of the company. The peer group included Arch Chemicals Inc., Fuller (H.B.) Co., Koppers Holdings Inc., Kronos Worldwide Inc., Minerals Technologies Inc., OM Group Inc., OMNOVA Solutions Inc., Schulman (A) Inc., Spartech Corp. and Stepan Co. The company does not benchmark any element of executive compensation to members of the peer group or otherwise. Based in part on the information, feedback and advice the Compensation Committee received from Hewitt Associates as well as the committee's overall review of the current compensation arrangements of the Named Executive Officers, the committee determined that certain increases in base salaries and severance benefits were appropriate as well as additional grants of restricted stock and options effective upon the closing of this offering, each as described in more detail below.

Components of Direct Compensation
Base Salary

Employment contracts for the Named Executive Officers are established as a result of negotiation between the individual and Kraton at the time of hire, within a reasonable range of compensation determined by competitive data, including that described above, and experience. The Compensation Committee reviews the base salaries of the Named Executive Officers on an annual basis and determines if an increase is warranted based on its review of individual performance, compensation comparisons (with executives in comparable positions as obtained through use of the databases described above and comparisons with other Kraton executives), recommendations of the CEO and consideration of each Named Executive Officer's experience and skills. Although we take into consideration the base salaries of similarly situated executives at other companies to obtain a general understanding of current compensation practices when setting base salaries for our Named Executive Officers, we do not establish base salaries with reference to a specific percentile of base salaries earned by others inside or outside our company or otherwise benchmark salaries to those earned by others inside or outside our company. Internal compensation information and external compensation information are relevant factors in setting the compensation levels for our executives; however, the Compensation Committee does not specifically establish a target benchmarking percentage for any executive when making such comparisons or setting compensation.

As of January 1, 2008, Mr. Fogarty served as Executive Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing with a base salary of \$335,000, and Mr. Bradley served as Vice President, Corporate Operations with a base salary of \$280,000. On January 14, 2008, the board of directors of Kraton approved the increase of Mr. Fogarty's base salary to \$500,000 and the increase of Mr. Bradley's base salary to \$350,000 upon their appointments as President and CEO, and Chief Operating Officer, respectively. The increase in Mr. Fogarty's base salary was determined based upon our analysis of Mr. Fogarty's leadership skills, which was in part informed by his past performance at the company, the increase in duties and responsibilities for which he would be responsible in his

Table of Contents

new position, and market and internal comparative data about the appropriate level of base salary for the position. Specifically, the Compensation Committee considered Mr. Fogarty's contribution with respect to the considerable progress in commercial strategy and innovation portfolio improvement and rebuilding of customer relationships. The role of the Chief Operating Officer was a new position within Kraton. Accordingly, when determining Mr. Bradley's base salary, the Compensation Committee considered the new responsibilities he agreed to undertake in addition to his then current duties as Vice President of Operations as well as internal data, including the then recently negotiated salary for our Chief Financial Officer and our analysis of Mr. Bradley's past performance at the company. In particular, Mr. Bradley was considered to have made substantial contributions in the area of asset utilization and reduction of working capital with respect to inventory.

On February 13, 2009, the Compensation Committee approved a mandatory 10% reduction in base salary for certain senior managers of our company, including the Named Executive Officers, effective April 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. In the event Kraton's EBITDA in fiscal year 2009 equals or exceeds certain pre-established targets, each affected executive shall be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to up to two times the difference between the amount of base salary he actually received during 2009 and the amount of base salary he would have received during 2009 absent the reduction described above. Any and all such cash payments shall be made no later than March 15, 2010, provided that affected executives shall be entitled to receive the payment only if they are an employee in good standing through the date the payment is actually made. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the executive and our company, as of January 1, 2010, each affected executive's annual base salary shall be equal to the amount of such executive's base salary prior to the reduction described above, subject to increase for cost of living or otherwise in the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee.

As of April 1, 2009, the annual base salary of each of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott and Freund was reduced as described above. Each of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay and Ott entered into a Waiver and Agreement pursuant to which each executive consents to such reduction and waives, on a one-time basis, his right to claim "good reason" exists, for purposes of his employment agreement, incentive compensation, equity awards or pursuant to any other agreement the individual has with our company, as a result of such reduction. Such Waiver and Agreement also sets forth the terms and conditions of the executives' right to receive the cash payment described above in the event Kraton's EBITDA in fiscal year 2009 equals or exceeds certain pre-established targets.

Effective as of the closing of this offering, the Compensation Committee has approved increases in the base salaries of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay and Freund to \$575,000, \$425,000, \$375,000 and \$300,000, respectively. These increases were determined to be appropriate in light of the increase in their responsibilities and duties in connection with assuming an executive role at a public company and were based in part on recommendations by Hewitt Associates in establishing competitive pay for our executives.

Annual Bonus: Incentive Compensation Plan

Pursuant to their employment agreements with Kraton, the Named Executive Officers are eligible to receive target annual bonuses equal to 100% of base salary for Mr. Fogarty, 60% of base salary for Mr. Bradley and 50% of base salary for Messrs. Tremblay, Ott and Freund, with maximum bonuses of 200% of base salary for Mr. Fogarty, 120% of base salary for Mr. Bradley, and 100% of base salary for Messrs. Tremblay, Ott and Freund. If such executive's employment had not been terminated in 2008, Messrs. Gregory and Dekker would have been eligible to receive an annual bonus with a target equal to 100% and 50% of base salary, respectively, and a maximum of 200% and 100% of base salary, respectively. Effective as of the closing of this offering, Mr. Bradley's employment agreement has been amended to provide for a target bonus of 75% of base salary. This new target will be applied to bonuses for the year ending December 31, 2010. The Compensation Committee made this adjustment to recognize his increased responsibilities as the Chief Operating Officer of a public company. All annual bonuses are paid pursuant to the Incentive Compensation Plan, subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee to make such adjustments as it deems appropriate, including in certain instances, its discretion to exceed the maximum amount otherwise payable under the plan.

Table of Contents

A participant's annual bonus is a multiple of: his base salary, his target bonus expressed as a percentage of base salary (Target Bonus Factor), Kraton's performance factor and his individual performance factor, which are then weighed against the performance of all other participants and contractual limits (as described above) to determine the percentage of the common bonus pool he will receive. The Kraton performance factor is established in the first quarter of the plan year and determinations are made at year-end, typically in December, and adjusted as necessary prior to payout in the first quarter of the following year to reflect any adjustment in actual results. The Compensation Committee determines Kraton's performance factor through use of a sliding scale based on EBITDA generated by Kraton. For example, if Kraton successfully achieves EBITDA that is exactly equal to the EBITDA target as set in the annual business plan of Kraton, then the Kraton performance factor would be 1. The annual business plan also establishes a stretch EBITDA target, which if achieved or exceeded, would result in a Kraton performance factor of 2. The Kraton performance factor can never exceed 2. Sixty-five percent of the EBITDA target is a minimum threshold below which the Kraton performance factor, and thus the common bonus pool, would be zero. If actual EBITDA falls between 65% of EBITDA and the stretch EBITDA target, the Kraton performance factor is adjusted based on a sliding scale. Based on additional performance criteria that are established each year, an additional amount of up to \$1 million may be added or subtracted from the common bonus pool amount. Any additional amount is allocated among all or a select portion of the participants in the Compensation Committee's sole discretion. Those eligible for payout from the common bonus pool include all employees, with the exception of the non-exempt hourly plant workers at the Belpre Plant, on the payroll as of December 31, 2007. The Incentive Compensation Plan is intended to encourage strong performance on factors that are key to Kraton's growth and success. Final bonus amounts are adjusted downwards as necessary so as not to exceed the common bonus pool amount or maximum payouts as established by employment contracts (as described above). The Compensation Committee then sets the individual performance factor, typically ranging from 0 to 2.0 based on the individual's contributions to Kraton and adherence to Kraton's company values.

For the bonus year that ended December 31, 2008, the Compensation Committee granted performance bonuses based on the targets set in early 2008. The Compensation Committee analyzed achievement for this performance period in December 2008. For fiscal year 2008, Kraton's EBITDA target was \$100 million, and Kraton's stretch EBITDA target for such period was \$120 million. Because Kraton's actual EBITDA was \$147 million, the Kraton performance factor was 2. In addition, based on the results of the additional performance criteria, the Compensation Committee increased the pool by an additional \$1 million, based upon the company's performance in (i) safety performance as determined by the company's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Recordable Rate, (ii) innovation expressed as a percent of total revenue, (iii) cost out restructuring projects and (iv) pricing initiatives. This amount was distributed among certain participants, as determined in the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee. The individual performance factor for each of the Named Executive Officers was determined after extensive review by, and in the sole discretion of, the Compensation Committee of the executive's key contributions and key weaknesses for the year. This is considered on an aggregate basis. The determination of the individual performance factor is made through the exercise of business judgment and not based on a mathematical or formulaic method and no objectively determinable weighting is applied. The Named Executive Officer received the following individual performance factors: Mr. Fogarty, 1.50; Mr. Bradley, 1.50; Mr. Tremblay, 1.29; Mr. Ott, 1.30; and Mr. Freund, 1.00.

The following table reflects the actual salary, target bonus, Kraton performance factor and individual performance factor used to determine each Named Executive Officer's incentive compensation.

Named Executive Officer	Target Bonus	Actual Salary	Kraton Performance Factor	Individual Performance Factor	Total
Kevin Fogarty	100% ×	\$ 500,000	×2	×1.5000	\$ 1,500,000
David Bradley	60% ×	\$ 350,000	×2	×1.5000	\$ 630,000
Stephen Tremblay	50% ×	\$ 350,000	×2	×1.2857	\$ 450,000
Richard Ott	50% ×	\$ 250,000	×2	×1.3000	\$ 325,000
Lothar Freund	50% ×	\$ 250,000	×2	×1.0000	\$ 250,000

Table of Contents

On February 13, 2009, the Compensation Committee approved and adopted the 2009 Incentive Compensation Plan, including the performance-based criteria by which potential bonus payouts to participants will be determined.

For the bonus year that ends December 31, 2009, the board of directors of Kraton will establish a common bonus pool based upon EBITDA performance calculations, in accordance with provisions of the 2009 Incentive Compensation Plan. The potential range for this bonus pool is from zero to \$15 million, depending on Kraton's and individual performance factors. Based on additional performance criteria relating to safety and compliance, innovation, top line growth, margin preservation and productivity, the Compensation Committee may add up to \$1 million to the bonus pool.

A Participant's final bonus amount, if any, will be determined in accordance with the method set forth above.

Any bonuses earned under the 2009 Incentive Compensation Plan will be paid in cash and Kraton expects that such payments, if any, will be made in the first quarter 2010 and no later than March 15, 2010.

Special Bonus

On January 14, 2008, the board of directors of Kraton voted to grant special retention bonus awards to certain executives, including the Named Executive Officers, to reward and motivate the executives in light of the extra work involved and effort expected in considering and pursuing certain corporate transactions and other projects during fiscal year 2008. The Named Executive Officers were entitled to receive two bonus payments, payable on each of January 1, 2008 and July 1, 2008, subject to the executive remaining employed through such payment dates. Had the executive's employment been terminated by Kraton without cause or by the executive for good reason, in either case in connection with a change in control, then the executive would have been entitled to both bonus payments, to the extent not previously paid. The total amount of the special bonus award paid to each of the Named Executive Officers was as follows: Mr. Fogarty, \$400,000; Mr. Bradley, \$400,000; Mr. Ott, \$200,000; Mr. Freund, \$200,000; and Mr. Gregory, \$600,000. The Compensation Committee felt that these special bonuses were appropriate considering the uncertainty of the business environment, in light of the pursuit of certain corporate transactions and other projects being considered at that time, and the importance of retaining key executives who contribute to the value of the company. The bonuses were intended to compensate executives in consideration of the additional work and effort required in pursuit of such corporate transactions and other projects and were retentive in nature. Payment of the bonus amounts was not contingent upon consummation of such corporate transactions or completion of such projects.

Equity

In order to align the interests of the Named Executive Officers with those of the company generally and its shareholders, the Compensation Committee has determined that a substantial portion of each Named Executive Officer's compensation should be in the form of equity or equity-based awards. To further that goal, our Compensation Committee is in the process of creating share ownership guidelines for our executives. To encourage retention of key executives, some of these awards vest over time, while others are tied to company milestones and/or the return on TPG's and JPMP's investment in the company. At the time of the closing of the acquisition of the company by TPG and JPMP, individuals received some or all of stock options (which are taxable upon exercise), restricted units (which are taxable upon vesting) and notional units (which permitted the deferral of taxable income until settlement). Since the acquisition by TPG and JPMP, the Compensation Committee has determined that a simplified equity scheme is easier to administer, more advantageous for internal comparison purposes and generally more beneficial to the company. Therefore, the Compensation Committee's current approach to equity compensation is to grant options or restricted units, or a combination thereof, to the company's executives. While options specifically reward only an increase in the value of the company following their grant, restricted units also serve as a useful retention tool since the executive benefits from their value immediately upon vesting. On the other hand, options permit the deferral of income recognition to a time of the executive's choosing (within the term of the option), while restricted units are taxable upon vesting.

Table of Contents*Membership Units of Management LLC*

The Named Executive Officers were each given the opportunity to purchase membership units of Management LLC, which owns a corresponding number of membership units in TJ Chemical. The membership units are subject to customary tag-along rights and drag-along rights (each described below under *Options*), as well as a call right in the event of termination of employment (also described below).

Options

On September 9, 2004, TJ Chemical adopted the TJ Chemical Holdings LLC 2004 Option Plan (the *Option Plan*), which allows for the grant to key employees, consultants, members and service providers of TJ Chemical and its affiliates, including Kraton, of non-qualified options (*Options*) to purchase TJ Chemical membership units. The purpose of the plan is to retain talent and improve the growth and profitability of TJ Chemical and its affiliates. The Option Plan originally provided that the aggregate number of membership units with respect to which Options and profits units (described below) may be granted under the Option Plan may not exceed 21,740,802, representing 8% of the outstanding membership units and profits units of TJ Chemical on March 31, 2004, on a fully diluted basis. On August 18, 2008, by recommendation of the Compensation Committee, and with approval of the TJ Chemical's board of directors, the aggregate number of membership units with respect to which Options and profits units may be granted under the Option Plan was increased to 23,740,802. As of December 31, 2008, there were 23,001,118 Options and profits units granted and outstanding. All Options granted in fiscal year 2008 had an exercise price of \$1 per membership unit, which is equal to or in excess of the fair value of a membership unit on the date of grant. The Options generally vest in 20% annual increments from the date of grant. However, the Compensation Committee determined that a shorter vesting period was appropriate for grants made during the 2008 fiscal year in light of pursuing corporate transactions and other projects discussed above and therefore Options granted in 2008 were set to vest in increments of 1/3 over 3 years.

The Compensation Committee administers the Option Plan on behalf of TJ Chemical, including, without limitation, the determination of the individuals to whom grants will be made, the number of membership units subject to each grant and the various terms of such grants. The committee has the right to terminate all of the outstanding Options at any time and pay the participants an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of a membership unit as of such date over the exercise price with respect to such Option (i.e., the spread). Generally, in the event of a merger where Kraton is the surviving corporation, the Options will pertain to and apply to the securities that the option holder would have received in the merger. Generally, in the event of a dissolution, liquidation, sale of assets or merger where Kraton is not the surviving corporation, the committee has the discretion to: (1) provide for an exchange of the Options for new Options on all or some of the property for which the membership units are exchanged (as may be adjusted by the committee); (2) cancel and cash out the Options (whether or not then vested) at the value of the spread; or (3) provide for a combination of both. Generally, the committee may make appropriate adjustments with respect to the number of membership units covered by outstanding Options and the exercise price in the event of any increase or decrease in the number of membership units or any other corporate transaction not described in the preceding sentence.

In general, on a termination of a Named Executive Officer's employment, unvested Options automatically expire and vested Options expire on the earlier of (1) the commencement of business on the date the employment is terminated for cause; (2) 90 days after the date employment is terminated for any reason other than cause, death or disability; (3) one-year after the date employment is terminated by reason of death or disability; or (4) the tenth anniversary of the grant date for such Option. In the event the Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated by Kraton without cause or by the executive officer for good reason within the 2 years immediately following a change in control (as defined in the Option Plan), all outstanding Options become vested as of such termination and shall expire 90 calendar days after the date the Named Executive Officer's employment is terminated.

Generally, pursuant to TJ Chemical's operating agreement, membership units acquired pursuant to the Option Plan are subject to customary tag-along rights (rights of a holder to participate proportionately in the sale

Table of Contents

of membership units by other members under certain circumstances, generally when such sale is to parties who are not current members or affiliates of current members) and drag-along rights (rights of holders of a majority of membership units to require other holders to participate in the sale of membership units) as well as a call right for the 180-day period following the later of a termination of employment and six months and one-day following the date that units were acquired pursuant to the exercise of the Option. During this 180-day period, TJ Chemical has the right to repurchase each membership unit then owned by the participant at fair value, as determined in good faith by the board of directors of TJ Chemical.

Periodically, the Compensation Committee reviews outstanding Option grants and recommends to TJ Chemical that designated employees be awarded Option grants based on their contributions and/or potential to contribute to the success of Kraton. Option grants may also be made to new employees when they join Kraton or existing employees in connection with promotions within Kraton. Please see the table below titled

Outstanding Equity Awards at End of Fiscal Year 2008 for more information on the Named Executive Officers' current outstanding options. In June of 2008, the Compensation Committee recommended Option grants be made to Messrs. Freund and Ott of 700,000 and 300,000, respectively, and, in connection with their promotions, Messrs. Fogarty and Bradley were awarded increased Option awards in the amount of 3,300,834 and 1,122,284, respectively. Specifically, the Compensation Committee determined that these additional equity grants were necessary for retention purposes in light of the corporate transactions and other projects that Kraton was pursuing in fiscal year 2008. The Compensation Committee was mindful of the executives' existing equity holdings at the time of grant in determining the appropriate value of the grants. The Compensation Committee determined the amount of these awards based on what it determined to be an appropriate aggregate value to be received by executives upon certain terminations or change in control events in light of the retentive purpose of such awards. The Compensation Committee's primary goal in setting the award amounts was to ensure that the executives were competitively compensated when compared to similarly situated executives at other companies as well as when compared internally; however, the Compensation Committee did not employ any benchmarking strategy in making these determinations.

Effective as of the closing date of this offering, the Option Plan shall be amended to provide that: (i) no new grants may be awarded under the plan; (ii) the Compensation Committee of our board of directors shall administer the plan; and (iii) the Options on TJ Chemical membership units currently outstanding under the plan shall be exchanged for Options on common shares of Polymer Holdings (as described below).

Profits Units of Kraton Management LLC

Kraton Management LLC (Management LLC) is an entity set up to hold management's interests in TJ Chemical. The Compensation Committee may grant profits units of Management LLC (subject to the pool limitation described above) to Named Executive Officers (Profits Units). Profits Units are economically equivalent to options, except that they may provide the recipient/employee with an opportunity to recognize capital gains in the appreciation of TJ Chemical and its affiliates and TJ Chemical and its affiliates will not be entitled to take any deduction at the time of grant or disposition of the Profits Unit by the employee. Generally, 50% of the Profits Units granted will vest when the fair value of TJ Chemical's assets equal or exceed two times the Threshold Amount, which is generally defined as the value of TJ Chemical's assets on the date of grant, and 50% of the Profits Units granted will vest when the fair value of TJ Chemical's assets equal or exceed three times the Threshold Amount, provided that the participant is employed by Kraton or its subsidiaries on such vesting date, and provided further that 100% of the Profits Units shall become immediately vested upon the date of disposition by the sponsors of 51% or more of their aggregate interests in Polymer Holdings LLC to one or more unrelated third persons. If at the time TJ Chemical makes a determination as to whether an individual is entitled to any appreciation with respect to the Profits Units, the value of the assets is more than two-times, but less than three-times, the Threshold Amount, a pro rata portion of the second tranche will vest based on the appreciation in excess of the two times Threshold Amount. If an executive's employment terminates prior to any applicable vesting date, such executive shall automatically forfeit all rights to any unvested Profits Units. Upon the occurrence of any distributions received by Management LLC, the holders of the Profits Units will have a right to receive their pro rata share of the positive difference between initial value of the Profits Units, as determined by the Profits Unit award agreement, and the then current fair value of the Profits Units, as

Table of Contents

determined in accordance with the terms of the agreement governing TJ Chemical and Management LLC. For more information on the Named Executive Officer's current Profits Units holdings please see the Outstanding Equity Awards at End of Fiscal Year 2008 table below. Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley and Ott currently hold Profits Units. The Profits Units held by Mr. Gregory were on the same terms as those of Mr. Fogarty; however, Mr. Gregory forfeited all Profits Units in connection with his termination of employment.

Notional Units and Restricted Units of Management LLC

The Compensation Committee may grant time-vested restricted membership units (Restricted Units) and time-vested notional membership unit awards (Notional Units) to Named Executive Officers. Holders of Notional Units do not have any beneficial ownership in the underlying membership units, and the grant represents an unsecured promise to deliver membership units or in certain cases cash on a future date. Actual membership units or cash will not be distributed in settlement of Notional Units until the earlier of (1) a change in control or (2) the termination of the grantee's employment, to the extent vested as of such date.

Each Notional Unit is the equivalent of one notional membership unit of TJ Chemical. Mr. Gregory held 525,000 vested and 350,000 unvested Notional Units as of the date of his termination of employment. Mr. Dekker held 30,000 vested and 120,000 unvested Notional Units as of the date of his termination of employment. In connection with each executive's termination of employment, all unvested Notional Units were forfeited. Vested Notional Units held by each executive were settled for an equal number of membership units of Management LLC, effective as of the date of termination. Other than pursuant to our Deferred Compensation Plan (see Components of Post-Employment Compensation Executive Deferred Compensation Plan for information on Notional Units granted in connection therewith), Mr. Fogarty is the only Named Executive Officer who held Notional Units as of December 31, 2008. Mr. Fogarty does not have any beneficial ownership in the membership units underlying the Notional Units, and the grant of Notional Units represents an unsecured promise to deliver membership units of TJ Chemical (either directly or through membership units of Kraton Management LLC) on a future date. Notional Units generally vest 20% on each anniversary of the grant date, provided that the executive remains employed through the applicable vesting date. Upon termination of the executive's employment for any reason, all unvested Notional Units shall immediately and automatically be forfeited unless the executive's employment is terminated without cause or for good reason during the two-year period immediately following a change in control, in which case all unvested Notional Units shall become immediately vested. Distribution of membership units representing the portion of vested Notional Units shall occur as soon as practicable after the earlier of a change in control or termination of the executive's employment, provided that following a change in control, unvested Notional Units shall remain outstanding and continue to vest as provided above until his employment terminates. For more information on Mr. Fogarty's current Notional Units holdings, please see the Outstanding Equity Awards at End of Fiscal Year 2008 table below.

The Restricted Units are a grant of membership units in Management LLC, subject to certain vesting conditions. Mr. Bradley received a grant of Restricted Units on September 10, 2004 which vested 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of his employment commencement date (April 1, 2004). Mr. Bradley received an additional grant of Restricted Units on March 17, 2005 which vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of February 1, 2005, provided he remains employed through each such vesting date.

In connection with their promotions, Messrs. Fogarty and Bradley were awarded additional Restricted Units in the amount of 600,000 and 300,000, respectively, on June 19, 2008. These Restricted Units vest 1/3 on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, provided they remain employed through the vesting date. For more information on Restricted Units, please see the Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal Year 2008 and Outstanding Equity Awards at End of Fiscal Year 2008 tables below.

Mr. Gregory received a grant of Restricted Units on February 1, 2007. Fifty percent of Mr. Gregory's Restricted Units vested and were delivered to him on February 1, 2008 and 50% would have vested on February 1, 2009, but for his termination of employment.

The other Named Executive Officers do not hold Restricted Units.

Table of Contents

TJ Chemical and Management LLC Equity Plans

Effective as of the closing date of this offering, TJ Chemical or Management LLC, as applicable, shall transfer to, and Polymer Holdings shall assume and be liable for, all benefits under the Option Plan, and the outstanding grants of Notional Units and Restricted Units of Management LLC described above (collectively, the Legacy Plans). Also effective as of the closing date of this offering, the Legacy Plans shall be amended to provide, among other things, that (i) Legacy Plans shall be administered by the Compensation Committee of our board of directors and (ii) awards payable in membership units of TJ Chemical or Management LLC shall be adjusted to provide for a distribution of Polymer Holdings shares of equal value. The remaining terms of all outstanding awards under the Legacy Plans will remain substantially the same, including with respect to vesting and forfeiture provisions. Also effective as of the closing date of this offering (i) the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan shall be amended to provide that no additional amounts shall be permitted to be deferred thereunder and that amounts shall be distributed in Polymer Holdings shares and (ii) Profits Units shall be exchanged for restricted shares of Polymer Holdings.

Effective as of the closing date of this offering, the outstanding equity and equity awards of TJ Chemical and Management LLC held by the Named Executive Officers shall be cancelled and converted into equity or equity awards, as applicable, of our company in the following manner.

Membership Units

Each holder of Membership Units of TJ Chemical will receive one common share of our company for approximately every 13.5120 Membership Units as of the effective date of the initial public offering by us (such number of Membership Units, the Conversion Denominator) (1 divided by the Conversion Denominator, the Conversion Ratio).

Options

Options shall be converted, in a manner intended to comply with Section 409A of the Code, into an option to purchase (i) a number of our common shares equal to the number of Membership Units underlying the Option prior to the closing date of the offering multiplied by the Conversion Ratio, rounded down to the nearest whole share and (ii) with an exercise price equal to the exercise price under the terms of the applicable Option Grant Agreement multiplied by the Conversion Denominator, rounded up to the nearest whole cent.

Profits Units

Each award of Profits Units shall be converted into a number of shares of restricted stock of our company equal to the quotient of (i) the product of the number of Profits Units multiplied by the Profits Unit Value (as defined below) divided by (ii) the value of a common share of our company immediately following the closing date of the offering. For these purposes, Profits Unit Value means, with respect to an award of Profits Units, the difference between the fair value of a Membership Unit immediately prior to the closing of the offering and \$1.00 (which represents the value of a Membership Unit on the date the Profits Unit award was granted).

Fifty percent of the restricted stock received in exchange for Profits Units shall vest when the Fair Market Value (as defined in the 2009 Equity Plan described below) of a common share of our company is equal to 2 times the Conversion Denominator and the remaining fifty percent shall vest when the Fair Market Value of a common share of our company is equal to 3 times the Conversion Denominator. In addition, all Profits Units shall immediately vest upon the date of disposition by the Sponsors of 51% or more of their aggregate interests in Polymer Holdings LLC to one or more unrelated third persons.

Table of Contents*Restricted Units and Notional Units*

Restricted Units and Notional Units shall be converted into shares of restricted stock of our company and notional shares of our company, respectively, each as determined by multiplying the number of Restricted Units or Notional Units by the Conversion Ratio.

The following table sets forth the outstanding equity awards of us that we expect will be held by each of the Named Executive Officers immediately following the closing of this offering, taking into account currently outstanding equity awards that will be converted in connection with the offering (as generally described above) and the anticipated grants of new equity awards by us. All amounts are denominated in shares of common stock and were calculated based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120.

	Converted Options (1)	New Options Granted on the IPO (2)	Total Options	Converted Restricted Shares (3)	New Restricted Shares	Total Restricted Shares	Converted Notional Shares (4)
Kevin Fogarty	155,438	177,620	333,058	34,191	37,004	71,195	10,047
David Bradley	96,144	88,810	184,954	18,194	22,202	40,396	5,607
Stephen Tremblay	59,207	37,004	96,211	0	14,802	14,802	0
Richard Ott	81,409	14,802	96,211	5,353	0	5,353	1,682
Lothar Freund	46,872	22,202	69,075	0	0	0	0
George Gregory	133,215	0	133,215	0	0	0	0
Nicholas Dekker	14,062	0	14,062	0	0	0	0

- (1) Represents conversion of the Options currently held by Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott, Freund, Gregory, and Dekker to purchase 2,100,278, 1,299,095, 800,000, 1,100,000, 633,333, 133,215, 14,062 membership units of TJ Chemical, respectively. Upon the closing of this offering these Options will have an exercise price equal to the exercise price under the terms of the applicable Option Grant Agreement multiplied by the Conversion Denominator, rounded up to the nearest whole cent.
- (2) The exercise price for these Options shall equal the average closing price for the first five trading days following the effective date of the initial public offering of us, but in no event beginning earlier than January 1, 2010 (the Pricing Period). The grant date for these Options shall be the day before the first day of the Pricing Period.
- (3) Represents aggregate total following conversion of (i) the 400,000 and 220,000 Restricted Shares currently held by Messrs. Fogarty and Bradley, respectively and (ii) the 300,000, 125,000 and 350,000 Profits Units of Management LLC currently held by Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley and Ott, respectively.
- (4) Represents aggregate total following conversion of (i) the 60,000 Notional Units of Management LLC currently held by Mr. Fogarty pursuant to a free standing grant agreement and (ii) the 75,758; 75,758 and 22,727 Notional Units currently held by Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley and Ott, respectively, in their plan accounts under the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan.

Polymer Holdings Equity Incentive Plan

Approval and Initial Grants. Our board of directors and our stockholders approved the Polymer Holdings LLC Equity Incentive Plan (the Equity Plan) on November 30, 2009. These approvals provide, however, that the exercisability of any options granted under the Equity Plan will be conditioned on the closing of this offering. We anticipate granting options to purchase approximately 469,953 shares of common stock in connection with the pricing of this offering of which 340,439 will be granted to our Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Fogarty, 177,620; Mr. Bradley, 88,810; Mr. Tremblay, 37,004; Mr. Ott, 14,802 and Mr. Freund, 22,203 (based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120). In addition, we anticipate granting approximately 96,212 shares of restricted stock to our directors and Named Executive Officers as follows: Mr. Fogarty, 37,004; Mr. Bradley, 22,203; Mr. Tremblay, 14,802 and Mr. Smith, our Chairman of the board of directors, 22,203 (based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120).

Table of Contents

Purpose of the Plan. The purposes of the Equity Plan are to promote the interests of the company and its stockholders by providing the employees and independent contractors of the company, and eligible non-employee directors of Polymer Holdings, who are largely responsible for the management, growth, and protection of the business of the company, with incentives and rewards to encourage them to continue in the service of the company. The Equity Plan is designed to meet this intent by providing such employees, independent contractors, and eligible non-employee directors with a proprietary interest in pursuing the long-term growth, profitability, and financial success of the company.

Administration of the Plan. The Equity Plan shall be administered by the Committee, which shall consist solely of two or more persons, each of whom qualifies as a non-employee director (within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under Section 16 of the Exchange Act), as an outside director within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.162-27(e)(3), and as independent within the meaning of any applicable stock exchange or similar regulatory authority; *provided* that, with respect to any independent composition requirement under any rule of any applicable stock exchange or similar regulatory authority, the independent composition requirement shall be phased in pursuant to any applicable transition period; *provided further* that, with respect to any award granted to, or any determination made with respect to, any Person subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act prior to the date the independent composition requirement has been satisfied, such grant shall be approved by the full Board, and with respect to any award granted to, or any determination made with respect to, any covered employee, prior to the date the independent composition requirement has been satisfied, such grant shall be approved by a subcommittee of the Committee that is composed solely of two or more outside directors within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.162-27(e)(3). The Committee will determine which employees and independent contractors are eligible to receive awards under the Equity Plan. In addition, the Committee will interpret the Equity Plan and may adopt any administrative rules, regulations, procedures and guidelines governing the Equity Plan or any awards granted under the Equity Plan as it deems to be appropriate. The Board may grant awards to directors.

Number of Authorized Shares. As of the closing date of this offering, there were 4,350,000 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the Equity Plan. Shares of common stock issued under the Equity Plan may be either authorized and unissued shares or treasury shares, or both, at the sole discretion of the Committee. Subject to the terms of the Equity Plan, 1,000,000 of the reserved shares may be issued pursuant to incentive stock options (ISOs). Any shares covered by an award that are not purchased or are forfeited or otherwise terminated shall be available for future grants under the Equity Plan. The number and class of shares available under the Equity Plan and/or subject to outstanding awards may be equitably adjusted by the Committee in the event of various changes in the capitalization of our company. Subject to adjustment, no Participant may receive Awards under the Equity Plan in any calendar year that relate to more than 300,000 shares of common stock.

Types of Awards. The Equity Plan will provide for the issuance of ISOs, non-qualified stock options (NSOs) and together with the ISOs, Options), stock appreciation rights (SARs), restricted stock awards and restricted stock unit awards, in addition to other equity or equity-based awards as the Board determines necessary from time to time.

Incentive Stock Options. An ISO is a stock option that meets the requirements of Section 422 of the Code, which include an exercise price of no less than 100% of fair market value on the grant date, a term of no more than ten years, and that the option be granted from a plan that has been approved by stockholders.

Non-qualified Stock Options. A non-qualified stock option is an option that does not qualify under Section 422 of the Code and grants a participant the right to purchase a certain number of shares of our common stock during a specified term in the future, after a vesting period, at an exercise price equal to at least 100% of the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date. The term of a non-qualified stock option may not exceed ten years from the date of grant. The exercise price may be paid with cash, shares of our common stock already owned by the participant, or with the proceeds from a sale of the shares subject to the option.

Table of Contents

Stock Appreciation Rights. A stock appreciation right, or SAR, entitles the participant to receive an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of our common stock on the exercise date and the exercise price of the SAR (which may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the grant date), multiplied by the number of shares subject to the SAR. A SAR may be granted in substitution for a previously granted option, and if so, the exercise price of any such SAR may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of our common stock as determined at the time the option for which it is being substituted was granted. Payment to a participant upon the exercise of a SAR may be in cash and/or shares of our common stock.

Other Stock-Based Awards. The Committee may grant other stock-based awards to employees and independent contractors and our board of directors may grant such awards to directors subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee or our board of directors, as appropriate, may determine. Each such award may (i) involve the transfer of actual shares of our common stock to participants, either at the time of grant or thereafter, or payment in cash or otherwise of amounts based on the value of shares of our common stock, (ii) be subject to performance-based and/or service-based conditions, (iii) be in the form of phantom stock, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, deferred share units or share-denominated performance units, (iv) be designed to comply with applicable laws of jurisdictions other than the United States and (v) be designed to qualify as performance-based compensation (by satisfying the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code for deductibility of remuneration paid to covered employees); provided that each such award shall be denominated in, or shall have a value determined by reference to, a number of shares of our common stock that is specified at the time of the grant of such award.

Performance-Based Compensation. The amount payable with respect to an award that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under the Equity Plan shall be determined in any manner permitted by Section 162(m) of the Code. The Committee shall establish performance measures, the level of actual achievement of performance goals and the amount payable with respect to an award intended to qualify under Section 162(m) of the Code. The Committee may use such business criteria and other measures of performance as it may deem appropriate in establishing any performance conditions, and may, subject to certain limitations, exercise its discretion to reduce the amounts payable under any award subject to performance conditions.

The grant, exercise and/or settlement of such performance or annual incentive award shall be contingent upon achievement of pre-established performance goals which shall consist of one or more business criteria and a targeted level or levels of performance with respect to each of such criteria. Performance goals shall be objective and shall otherwise meet the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code and regulations thereunder.

Committee Discretion. On or after the date of grant of an award, the Committee may (i) in the event of the Participant's death, disability or retirement, or in the event of a change in control, accelerate the date on which any such award becomes vested or exercisable, as the case may be, (ii) accelerate the date on which any such award becomes transferable, (iii) extend the term of any such award, (iv) waive any conditions to the vesting, exercisability or transferability, as the case may be of such award or (v) provide for the payment of dividends or dividend equivalents with respect to any such award; provided such action would not cause tax to become due under Section 409A of the Code.

Amendment and Termination. The Equity Plan may be further amended or terminated by our board of directors at any time, but no amendment may be made without stockholder approval if it would require approval by stockholders in order to comply with any applicable law, regulation or the rules of the New York Stock Exchange (or principal national securities exchange upon which our common stock is traded). Except as expressly provided in the Equity Plan or the applicable grant agreement, no termination, suspension, amendment or other action in respect of the Equity Plan may adversely affect the right of any participant with respect to a previously granted award without the participant's consent.

Federal Income Tax Consequences of Equity Plan Awards. The following is a brief summary of the principal United States federal income tax consequences of transactions under the Equity Plan, based on current United States federal income tax laws. This summary is not intended to be exhaustive, does not constitute tax advice and, among other things, does not describe state, local or foreign tax consequences, which may be substantially different.

Table of Contents

Incentive Stock Options. No taxable income is reportable when an ISO is granted or exercised (except for participants who are subject to the alternative minimum tax, who may be required to recognize income in the year in which the ISO is exercised). If the recipient exercises the ISO and then sells the underlying shares of stock more than two years after the grant date and more than one year after the exercise date, the excess of the sale price over the exercise price will be taxed as capital gain or loss. If the recipient exercises the ISO and sells the shares before the end of the two- or one-year holding periods, he or she generally will have ordinary income at the time of the sale equal to the fair market value of the shares on the exercise date (or the sale price, if less) minus the exercise price of the ISO.

Non-Qualified Stock Options. No taxable income is reportable when a NSO is granted. Upon exercise, generally, the recipient will have ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the underlying shares of stock on the exercise date minus the exercise price. Any gain or loss upon the disposition of the stock received upon exercise will be capital gain or loss to the recipient.

Stock Appreciation Rights. No taxable income is reportable when a SAR is granted. Upon exercise, generally, the recipient will have ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the underlying shares of stock on the exercise date minus the exercise price. Any gain or loss upon the disposition of the stock received upon exercise will be capital gain or loss to the recipient.

Restricted Stock Awards and Restricted Stock Unit Awards. A recipient of restricted stock or restricted stock units will not have taxable income upon the grant unless, in the case of restricted stock, he or she elects to be taxed at that time. Instead, he or she will have ordinary income at the time of vesting equal to the fair market value on the vesting date of the shares (or cash) received minus any amount paid for the shares.

Withholding. To the extent required by law, the company will withhold from any amount paid in settlement of an award amounts of withholding and other taxes due or take other action as it deems advisable to enable the company and the participant to satisfy withholding and tax obligations related to any awards.

Section 280G/4999 of the Code. Awards that are granted, accelerated or enhanced upon the occurrence of a change in control may give rise, in whole or in part, to excess parachute payments within the meaning of Section 280G and Section 4999 of the Code and, to such extent, will be non-deductible by us and will be subject to a 20% excise tax payable by the participant.

Tax Effect for Our Company. We generally will receive a tax deduction for any ordinary income recognized by a participant in respect of an award under the plans (for example, upon the exercise of a NSO). In the case of ISOs that meet the holding period requirements described above, the grantee will not recognize ordinary income; therefore, we will not receive a deduction. Special rules limit the deductibility of compensation paid to our CEO and to each of our four most highly compensated executive officers. Under Section 162(m) of the Code, the annual compensation paid to each of these executives may not be deductible to the extent that it exceeds \$1 million. However, we intend to rely on Treas. Reg. Section 1.162-27(f) which provides that the deduction limit of Section 162(m) of the Code does not apply to any remuneration paid pursuant to a compensation plan or agreement that existed during the period in which the company was not publicly held. Subject to certain requirements, we may rely on this grandfather provision for up to a maximum of three years after we become publicly held. Additionally, after the expiration of the grandfather, we can preserve the deductibility of compensation over \$1 million if certain conditions of Section 162(m) of the Code are met. These conditions include shareholder approval of the Equity Plan and setting limits on the number of awards that any individual may receive. As described above, our deduction may also be limited by Section 280G of the Code.

Polymer Holdings Cash Incentive Plan

On November 30, 2009, our board of directors approved and adopted the Polymer Holdings LLC Cash Incentive Plan (the Cash Incentive Plan), the effectiveness of which is contingent upon the closing of this offering, for eligible employees of Polymer Holdings and its subsidiaries, which is intended to comply with

Table of Contents

Section 162(m) of the Code. The purposes of the Cash Incentive Plan are to promote the interests of our company and its stockholders by providing compensation opportunities that are competitive with other companies, and to provide performance-based cash bonus awards to those individuals who contribute to the long-term performance and growth of the company. Generally, the compensation committee of our board of directors will establish target bonuses for employees based on position and level of responsibility and grant awards based on the achievement of pre-established company and/or individual goals. Participants shall receive distributions, if any, in cash following written certification by the compensation committee of the extent to which the applicable performance targets have been achieved, and in no event more than two and one half months following the end of the performance period to which such certification relates.

Fringe Benefits / Perquisites

Pursuant to Mr. Dekker's employment agreement, while he was employed by Kraton, he was entitled to receive, within certain pre-established limits: (i) housing support; (ii) travel expenses for himself and his spouse to travel to and from France; (iii) costs associated with maintaining his residence in France during such times as his spouse is in the United States; (iv) use of a company car; (v) tax equalization payments; and (vi) reimbursement for tax preparation expenses. We believe that the total compensation involved in both direct compensation and indirect compensation associated with the above perquisites remain within market norms for, and that Mr. Dekker's unique skills and expertise, in addition to his willingness to relocate to the United States, warranted these benefits.

Kraton reimburses Mr. Freund (i) for travel expenses to his home country of Germany for himself and his direct family members once per year and (ii) for expenses related to tax preparation, in both cases consistent with his employment agreement.

No other material fringe benefits or perquisites are provided to the Named Executive Officers.

Components of Post-Employment Compensation

Employment Agreements and Severance Benefits

The employment agreements for each of the Named Executive Officers provide for severance payments upon certain terminations of employment. In the event employment is terminated by us without cause or by the Named Executive Officer for good reason (as each such term is defined in the employment agreements), the executive would be entitled to eighteen months of salary and medical benefit continuation for Mr. Fogarty and up to twelve months of base salary and medical benefit continuation for all other Named Executive Officers. Upon their termination of employment, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Dekker were provided severance payments consistent with the terms of their employment agreements. As a result of amendments to the employment agreements with the Named Executive Officers in 2007 and 2008, in the event such termination occurs within the one year immediately following a change in control of Kraton, in addition to the salary and benefit continuation otherwise provided upon a termination of employment without cause or for good reason, the Named Executive Officers would be entitled to receive an additional amount equal to the sum of (a) 1.5 times, in the case of Mr. Fogarty, and 1.0 times, in the case each of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott and Freund, his target annual bonus and (b) a pro rata portion of the annual bonus he would have earned in the year of termination had his employment not terminated, based upon his date of termination. Mr. Gregory received severance payments equal to 18 months of his annual base salary of \$500,000 and medical continuation benefits for 18 months following his termination of employment. Mr. Dekker received severance payments equal to 15 months of his annual base salary of \$315,000 plus a prorated target bonus following his termination of employment. For more information on these severance arrangements, see [Named Executive Officers Whose Employment was Terminated in Fiscal Year 2008](#) below.

For more information on these employment agreements, see [Employment Agreements](#) below.

Table of Contents

U.S. 401K Plan

The Named Executive Officers are eligible to participate in the Kraton Savings Plan (the Savings Plan), a broad-based tax-qualified savings plan providing for employer and employee contributions for employees employed within the United States.

U.S. Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The Named Executive Officers who were hired prior to October 15, 2005 were afforded an opportunity to participate in our broad-based tax-qualified noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Pension Plan). Employees hired on or after October 15, 2005, are not eligible to participate in the Pension Plan. The Pension Plan was amended in 2005 to provide participants with a choice, which was effective as of January 1, 2006, between (a) continuing to accrue benefits under the final average pay formula provided for under the Pension Plan or (b) freezing benefits under the Pension Plan in exchange for an enhanced benefit under the Savings Plan. For participants who chose to receive the enhanced benefit under the Savings Plan, the Final Average Earnings, Service and Social Security Benefit components of the pension formula were frozen as of December 31, 2005. However, such participants will still be credited with service accumulated after December 31, 2005 for purposes of vesting of benefits under the Pension Plan.

Non-Qualified Restoration Plans

The Named Executive Officers who participate in the Savings Plan and/or Pension Plan are eligible to participate in a non-qualified defined benefit restoration plan (the Pension Benefit Restoration Plan) and non-qualified defined contribution restoration plan (the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan), respectively, that are intended to restore certain benefits under the Pension Plan and the Savings Plan, respectively, which would otherwise be lost due to certain limitations imposed by law on tax-qualified plans.

Other Pension Plans

While employed by Kraton Polymers France, Mr. Dekker participated in a French pension plan as well as Kraton Polymers France Aerial private supplementary pension plan. As a condition to his employment as Chief Financial Officer, Kraton agreed that while he served in such position, Kraton would facilitate Mr. Dekker's continued participation in the Kraton Polymers France Aerial private supplementary pension plan and he was provided comparable coverage within French voluntary plans for social security.

Executive Deferred Compensation Plan

The Executive Deferred Compensation Plan provides the Named Executive Officers with the option of deferring up to 50% of their annual bonus, if any, which is subsequently converted to Notional Units. Such Notional Units remain outstanding until either (1) a change in control or (2) termination of employment. The amount held pursuant to the plan may ultimately be paid in units of TJ Chemical or Management LLC. Effective as of the closing date of this offering, the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan shall be amended to provide that (i) the plan shall be frozen and no new deferrals shall be made under the plan, (ii) the Compensation Committee of our board of directors shall administer the plan and (iii) the Notional Units currently outstanding under the plan shall be exchanged for notional shares of Polymer Holdings.

Retiree Medical Benefits

Health and welfare benefits are provided to eligible employees in the United States, including the Named Executive Officers, who retire from Kraton. Retirees under the age of 65 are eligible for the same medical, dental, and vision plans as active employees, but with a cap that varies based on years of service and ranges from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per employee for premiums on an annual basis.

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation Table TJ Chemical**

The following table sets forth certain information concerning annual compensation for all persons who served as our Chief Executive Officer during the year ended December 31, 2008, all persons who served as our Chief Financial Officer during the year ended December 31, 2008 and our three most highly compensated executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer who were serving as executive officer as of December 31, 2008.

Name and Principal Position(1)(a)	Year (b)	Salary (\$) (c)	Stock Awards (\$)(3)(4) (e)	Bonus (\$)(6) (f)	Option Awards (\$)(3)(5) (f)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(7) (g)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred	All Other Compensation (\$)(9) (i)	Total (\$) (j)
							Compensation Earnings (\$)(8) (h)		
Kevin M. Fogarty	2008	494,394	166,111	400,000	200,142	1,500,000	1,643	29,664	2,791,954
President, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and former Exec VP, Sales	2007	330,000	60,000		160,913	150,000	1,445	20,869	573,227
	2006	315,000	60,000		160,913		895	42,138	728,946
David A. Bradley Chief Operating Officer and former VP, Operations	2008	347,622	113,056	400,000	96,221	630,000	11,654	20,857	1,619,410
	2007	275,000	60,000		128,299	150,000	1,658	21,000	485,957
	2006	251,250	60,000		128,299		3,096	31,700	624,345
Stephen E. Tremblay Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2008	332,948			99,175	450,000		99,406	981,529
Richard A. Ott Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Communications	2008	250,000		200,000	61,404	325,000	246,998	15,000	1,098,402
	2007	227,500			127,643	90,000	156,677	23,600	535,420
	2006	220,000			127,643		47,786	38,278	523,707
Lothar Freund Vice President, Technology	2008	250,000		200,000	54,090	250,000		15,000	769,090
George B. Gregory Former CEO	2008	43,590	(264,667)	600,000	151,514		11,844	470,032	1,000,469
	2007	487,500			386,886	400,000	7,164	41,038	1,202,268
	2006	450,000			386,886			51,997	1,571,047
			275,000						
Nicholas G. Dekker Former Vice President and Chief Financial Officer(2)	2008	81,375	(7,500)		32,865			500,600	607,340
	2007	299,250			83,256	50,000		216,122	628,628
	2006	188,310			83,256			22,623	351,689
			30,000						
			7,500						

- (1) Mr. Gregory served as our CEO until January 31, 2008. On January 31, 2008, Mr. Fogarty was appointed CEO. Mr. Dekker served as our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer until March 31, 2008. On February 21, 2008, Mr. Tremblay was appointed as our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. On January 14, 2008, Mr. Bradley was appointed Chief Operating Officer.
- (2) Payments to Mr. Dekker in connection with his position at Kraton Polymers France were made in Euros. For purposes of this table, we have assumed an exchange rate of 1.41 U.S. Dollars to Euros, the currency conversion rate as of December 31, 2008, as reported on <http://www.oanda.com>.
- (3) Amounts set forth in the Stock Awards and Option Awards columns represent the amounts recognized as compensation expense for financial statement reporting purposes in fiscal year 2008 by Kraton with respect to restricted unit awards, notional unit awards (but not profits unit awards as no compensation expense is required to be taken with respect to such awards) and option awards, in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004) (FASB 123R) (disregarding the estimate of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions). A discussion of the assumptions used in this valuation with respect to awards made in fiscal year 2008 may be found in Kraton's financial statements and accompanying footnotes on F-3. A

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

discussion of the assumptions used in this valuation with respect to awards made in fiscal years prior to fiscal year 2008 may be found in the corresponding sections of Kraton's financial statements and accompanying footnotes for the fiscal year in which the award was made. In connection with his termination of employment on February 1, 2008, Mr. Gregory forfeited 1,200,000 Options, 149,000 Restricted Units, 350,000 Notional Units and 656,250 Profits Units. In connection with his termination of employment on March 31, 2008, Mr. Dekker forfeited 435,000 Options and 120,000 Notional Units.

Table of Contents

- (4) This column consists of awards of Restricted Units and Notional Units. Profits Unit are not included as no compensation expense is required to be taken with respect to such awards.
- (5) This column consists of awards of Options to purchase membership units of TJ Chemical issued pursuant to the TJ Chemical 2004 Option Plan.
- (6) Amounts in this column consist of a Special Bonus for Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Ott, Freund and Gregory in the amount of \$400,000, \$400,000, \$200,000, \$200,000 and \$600,000, respectively.
- (7) Amounts listed in this column for 2008 consists of bonuses paid pursuant to the 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan. Please see the discussion of the specific components of the Incentive Compensation Plan under *Annual Bonus: Incentive Compensation Plan* above.
- (8) In accordance with Instruction number 1 to Item 402(a)(3), amounts shown in this column for 2008 are not included in the total for purposes of determining the identity of the Named Executive Officers. All amounts in this column reflect the aggregate change in the present value of the Pension Plan in accordance with Item 402(c)(2)(viii)(A). Participants in the Deferred Compensation Plan do not receive preferential earnings on amounts deferred thereunder.
- (9) Amounts in this column consists of (a) contributions to the Savings Plan by Kraton on behalf of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott, Freund and Gregory in the amount of \$13,800, \$13,800, \$6,900, \$13,800, 13,800 and \$2,615, respectively; (b) contributions to the Deferred Compensation Plan by Kraton on behalf of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott and Freund in the amount of \$15,864, \$7,057, \$3,088, \$1,200 and \$1,200, respectively; (c) for Mr. Tremblay a signing bonus of \$50,000 and relocation costs of \$39,418; (d) for Mr. Dekker employer contributions to a defined contribution plan maintained by Kraton Polymers France in the amount of \$5,640; Medical and Disability insurances amounting to \$25,549 paid in France; and a payment for accrued vacation at termination in the amount of \$6,361; and (e) severance payments paid to Messrs. Gregory and Dekker in the amount of \$1,067,417 and \$463,050, respectively.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal Year 2008 TJ Chemical

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares or Units (#)(i)(2)	All Other Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)(j)	Exercise or Base Price of Awards (\$/Sh)(k)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (l)(3)
		Threshold (\$)(c)	Target (\$)(d)	Maximum (\$)(e)	Threshold (#)(f)	Target (#)(g)	Maximum (#)(h)				
Kevin M. Fogarty	2/5/2008	191,176	500,000	1,000,000							
	6/19/2008						600,000			\$ 534,000	
	6/19/2008							3,300,384	\$ 1.00	\$ 1,023,119	
David A. Bradley	2/5/2008	80,294	210,000	420,000							
	6/19/2008						300,000			\$ 267,000	
	6/19/2008							1,122,284	\$ 1.00	\$ 347,908	
Stephen E. Tremblay	2/5/2008	66,912	175,000	350,000							
Richard A. Ott	2/5/2008	47,794	125,000	250,000							
	6/19/2008							300,000	\$ 1.00	\$ 93,000	
Lothar Freund	2/5/2008	47,794	125,000	250,000							
	6/19/2008							700,000	\$ 1.00	\$ 217,000	
George B. Gregory(4)	2/5/2008										
Nicholas G. Dekker(4)	2/5/2008										

- (1) These columns provide information on potential payouts under the 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan. For information on amounts actually earned, see the Summary Compensation Table.
- (2) Messrs. Fogarty and Bradley were granted 600,000 and 300,000 Restricted Units, respectively, on June 19, 2008 in connection with each of their promotions.
- (3) The fair value used to calculate the grant date fair value for column (l) was estimated to be \$0.89 per membership unit of TJ Chemical and \$0.31 for options on 06/19/2008 (the date of grant). There is no established public market for membership units of TJ Chemical. Kraton engaged an independent valuation and financial consultant, Corporate Valuation Advisors, Inc., to perform a valuation of the total equity of TJ Chemical Holdings LLC as of December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2008. In valuing the equity of TJ Chemical, the consultant relied upon our historical financial statements. In valuing the total equity of TJ

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Chemical, the consultant utilized the Market Approach and the Income Approach. The Market Approach is a valuation technique in which estimated market value is based on market prices in actual

Table of Contents

transactions. The Market Approach compared Kraton with similar companies that are publicly traded. The technique consists of collecting selling prices for comparable assets. After studying the selling prices, value adjustments are made for comparability differences. This process is essentially one of comparison and correlation. In applying the Market Approach, market and financial data on publicly traded guideline companies was analyzed and relevant valuation multiples were formulated. The consultant considered the outlook of the economy and the market for publicly traded guideline companies at that time that were engaged in the same industry or an industry similar in which we compete. The Income Approach was based upon the use of a discounted cash flow model. This valuation method begins with a sales and expense forecast, which is used to develop a pro forma cash flow statement. Available cash flows are typically equal to the sum of net income plus depreciation, less capital expenditures and working capital requirements. The fair value of a membership unit was estimated at \$0.91 as of December 31, 2007 and \$0.87 as of December 31, 2008. The consultants also estimated the stock price on the dates upon which awards were granted in 2008. Due to the fact that TJ Chemical's assets consist solely of the assets of Management LLC and its subsidiaries, we have concluded that it is reasonable to assume that membership units of Management LLC have the same value as membership units of TJ Chemical on any given date.

(4) Due to their terminations of employment, Messrs. Gregory and Dekker were not eligible for payments under the 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan. The following table sets forth information regarding outstanding equity awards held by our Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2008.

Outstanding Equity Awards at the End of Fiscal Year 2008 TJ Chemical

Name	Option Awards(1)					Stock Awards		Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable (b)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable(1) (c)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) (d)	Option Exercise Price (\$) (e)	Option Expiration Date (f)	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) (g)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) (2) (h)	Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (#) (3) (i)	Market or Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) (j)
Kevin M. Fogarty	750,000 0	500,000 3,300,834		1.00 1.00	6/15/2015 6/19/2018	120,000(4) 600,000(5)	104,400(4) 522,000(5)	300,000	0
David A. Bradley	500,000 225,000 0	125,000 150,000 1,122,284		1.00 1.00 1.00	3/8/2014 2/1/2015 6/19/2018	40,000(5) 40,000(5) 300,000(5)	34,800(5) 34,800(5) 261,000(5)	125,000	0
Stephen E. Tremblay	0	2,400,000		1.00	6/19/2018				
Richard A. Ott	800,000 0	200,000 300,000		1.00 1.00	1/1/2014 6/19/2018			350,000	0
Lothar Freund	300,000 0	200,000 700,000		1.00 1.00	9/6/2015 6/19/2018				
George B. Gregory	1,500,000 300,000	0 0		1.00 1.00	7/1/2014 2/1/2015				
Nicholas G. Dekker	30,000 85,000 75,000	0 0 0		1.00 1.00 1.00	1/1/2014 4/1/2016 10/6/2016				

0

Table of Contents

- (1) All options were granted pursuant to the TJ Chemical 2004 Option Plan and relate to the right to purchase membership units in TJ Chemical. All Options granted prior to 2008 vest in 20% annual increments from the date of grant. Those granted in 2008 vest in 33.33% increments from the date of the grant. The vesting of the option grants set forth above is as follows:

Mr. Fogarty received a grant of 1,250,000 options on 06/15/2005. 250,000 of these options vested on each of 06/15/2006, 06/15/2007, 06/15/2008 and 06/15/2009, and the remaining 250,000 options will vest on 06/15/2010, subject to Mr. Fogarty's continued employment with Kraton. Mr. Fogarty also received a grant of 3,300,834 options on 06/19/2008. 1,100,278 of these options vested on 06/19/2009 and the remaining options will vest with respect to 1,100,278 on each of 06/19/2010 and 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Fogarty being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.

Mr. Bradley received a grant of 625,000 options on 03/08/2004. 125,000 of these options vested on each of 03/08/2005, 03/08/2006, 03/08/2007, 03/08/2008 and 03/08/2009. Mr. Bradley also received a grant of 375,000 options on 02/01/2005. 75,000 of these options vested on each of 02/01/2006, 02/01/2007, 02/01/2008 and 02/01/2009. The remaining 75,000 options will vest on 02/01/2010, subject to Mr. Bradley's continued employment with Kraton. Mr. Bradley also received a grant of 1,122,284 options on 06/19/2008 of which 374,095 options vested on 06/19/2009, and the remaining options shall vest with respect to 374,095 options on 06/19/2010 and 374,094 on 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Bradley being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.

Mr. Tremblay received a grant of 2,400,000 options on 06/19/2008. 800,000 of these options vested on 06/19/2009. The remaining options shall vest with respect to 800,000 options on each of 06/19/2010 and 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Tremblay being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.

Mr. Ott received a grant of 1,000,000 options on 01/01/2004, of which 200,000 options vested on each of 01/01/2005, 01/01/2006, 01/01/2007, 01/01/2008 and 01/01/2009. Mr. Ott also received a grant of 300,000 options on 06/19/2008. 100,000 of these options vested on 06/19/09. The remaining options shall vest with respect to 100,000 options on each of 06/19/2010 and 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Ott's being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.

Mr. Freund received a grant of 500,000 options on 09/06/2005, of which 100,000 options vested on each of 09/06/2006, 09/06/2007, 09/06/2008 and 09/06/2009. The remaining 100,000 options shall vest on 09/06/2010, subject to Mr. Freund being employed on the vesting date. Mr. Freund also received a grant of 700,000 options on 6/19/2008, 233,333 of which vested on 6/19/2009. The remaining options will vest with respect to 233,333 on 6/19/2010 and 233,334 on 6/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Freund being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.

Mr. Gregory received a grant of 2,500,000 options on 7/01/2004. 500,000 of the options vested on each of 07/01/2005, 07/01/2006, and 07/01/2007. The remaining options would have vested with respect to 500,000 each on 07/01/2008 and 07/01/2009, but for his termination of employment. Mr. Gregory also received a grant of 500,000 options on 02/01/2005. 100,000 of these options vested on each of 02/01/2006, 02/01/2007 and 02/01/2008. The remaining options would have vested with respect to 100,000 on each of 02/01/2009 and 02/01/2010, but for his termination of employment.

Mr. Dekker received a grant of 37,500 options on 01/01/2004. 7,500 of the options vested on each of 01/01/2005, 01/01/2006, 01/01/2007 and 01/01/2008. The remaining 7,500 options would have vested on 01/01/2009, but for his termination of employment. Mr. Dekker also received a grant of 212,500 options on 04/01/2006. We note that the vesting dates for this particular grant were set to coincide with the anniversary of Mr. Dekker's employment with the company rather than the grant date. 42,500 of these options vested on each of 11/15/2006 and 11/15/2007. The remaining options would have vested with respect to 42,500 on each of 11/15/2008, 11/15/2009 and 11/15/2010, but for his termination of employment. Mr. Dekker also received a grant of 375,000 options on 10/06/2006. 75,000 of the options vested on 10/06/2007. The remaining options would have vested with respect to 75,000 on each of 10/06/2008, 10/06/2009, 10/06/2010 and 10/06/2011, but for his termination of employment.

- (2) There is no established public market for membership units of TJ Chemical. The fair value of a membership unit was estimated at \$0.87 as of December 31, 2008. Due to the fact that TJ Chemical's assets consist solely of the assets of Management LLC and its subsidiaries, we have concluded that it is reasonable to

Table of Contents

- assume that membership units of Management LLC have the same value as membership units of TJ Chemical on any given date. For more information, see the footnotes to the Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal Year 2008 table above.
- (3) These are awards of Profits Units. Profits Units vest 50% if the assets of TJ Chemical double and an additional 50% if such assets triple in value from the date of the grant of the Profits Units, or 100% upon the date of disposition by the sponsors of 51% or more of their aggregate interests in Polymer Holdings LLC to one or more unrelated third persons. Due to the complexity of the calculations involved in determining how the assets above the Threshold Amount for each profits unit would be allocated among all holders of Profits Units (especially as Threshold Amounts may vary from award to award) and due to the fact that the value of TJ Chemical's assets has not increased significantly since the initial grant of Profits Units, Kraton believes that the Profits Units have no discernable market value as of December 31, 2008.
- (4) This relates to an award of 300,000 Notional Units that was granted on June 15, 2005. 60,000 units vested on each of June 15, 2006, June 15, 2007, June 15, 2008 and June 15, 2009. The remaining 60,000 will vest on June 15, 2010. (See Equity Arrangements Other Equity Awards for more information.)
- (5) These are awards of Restricted Units. (See Equity Arrangements- Other Equity Awards for more information.) The vesting of the Restricted Unit grants set forth above is as follows:
- Mr. Fogarty received a grant of 600,000 Restricted Units on 06/19/2008. 200,000 of these Restricted Units vested 06/19/2009. The remaining Restricted Units will vest, with respect to 200,000 on each of 06/19/2010 and 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Fogarty being employed by Kraton on the vesting date.
- Mr. Bradley received a grant of 200,000 Restricted Units on 09/10/04. 40,000 of the Restricted Units vested on each of 04/01/2005, 04/01/2006, 04/01/2007, 04/01/2008 and 04/01/2009. Mr. Bradley also received a grant of 100,000 Restricted Units on 03/17/05. 20,000 of the Restricted Units vested on each of 02/01/2006, 02/01/2007, 02/01/2008 and 02/01/2009. The remaining 20,000 vest on 02/01/2010, subject to Mr. Bradley being employed with Kraton on the vesting date. Mr. Bradley also received a grant of 300,000 Restricted Units on 06/19/2008, 100,000 of which vested on 06/19/2009. The remaining Restricted Units vest 100,000 on 06/19/2010 and 06/19/2011, subject in each case to Mr. Bradley being employed with Kraton on the vesting date.

The following table sets forth information regarding equity awards held by our Named Executive Officers exercised or vested during fiscal year 2008.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested in Fiscal Year 2008 TJ Chemical

Name(a)	Option Awards	Value Realized on Exercise	Stock Awards	Value Realized on Vesting
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise		Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	
	(#) (b)	(\$)(1) (c)	(#) (d)	(\$)(1) (e)
Kevin M. Fogarty	0		60,000	\$ 54,600
David A. Bradley	0		60,000	\$ 54,600
Stephen E. Tremblay	0			
Richard A. Ott	0			
Lothar Freund	0			
George B. Gregory	0		725,000	\$ 659,750
Nicholas G. Dekker	0		30,000	\$ 27,300

- (1) Membership units were valued at \$0.91 per unit as of December 31, 2007. See footnotes to the Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal Year 2008 table above for more information on the methodology used by the consultants to create their valuation.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth information regarding participation of our Named Executive Officers in our pension plans.

Pension Benefits in Fiscal Year 2008

Name	Plan name	Number of years credited service	Present value of accumulated benefit	Payments during last fiscal year
(a)	(b)	(#) (c)	(\$) (d)	(\$) (e)
Kevin M. Fogarty	Pension Plan	.60	5,453	0
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan	.60	2,385	0
David A. Bradley	Pension Plan	1.76	11,654	0
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan	1.76	308	0
Stephen E. Tremblay	Pension Plan			
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan			
Richard A. Ott	Pension Plan	33.26	1,019,107	0
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan	33.26	524,968	0
Lothar Freund	Pension Plan			
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan			
George B. Gregory	Pension Plan			
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan			
Nicholas G. Dekker	Pension Plan			
	Pension Benefit Restoration Plan			

Pension Plan

Kraton maintains a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the "Pension Plan") that covers its U.S. eligible employees hired prior to October 15, 2005, former employees and retirees. See Note 7(a) in Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Kraton makes contributions on behalf of its eligible employees to the Pension Plan. Employees do not make contributions to the Pension Plan. The Pension Plan is intended to qualify under Section 401 of the Code.

The normal retirement benefit formula for participants is approximately 1.6% of the participant's average final compensation multiplied by his years of accredited service, minus a percentage of benefits received under social security. The company does not have a policy of granting extra years of service. The primary elements of compensation that are included in applying the payment and benefit formula are (i) base salary, including salary deferrals and (ii) non-deferred payments under incentive compensation plans prior to a participant's separation from service, provided that no more than three consecutive payments of incentive compensation are taken into account.

Participants become eligible to begin receiving payments when they reach normal retirement age of 65. Under certain circumstances participants are eligible to receive payments at early retirement; however, under no circumstances can a participant be qualified for early retirement before the age of 45. Mr. Ott is currently the only Named Executive Officer eligible for early retirement under the terms of both the Pension Plan and the Pension Benefit Restoration Plan. Benefits under the Pension Plan for Messrs. Bradley and Fogarty were frozen as of December 31, 2005; however, they continue to accumulate years of credited services for purposes of vesting under the plan. The other named Executive Officers do not participate in the Pension Plan.

Table of Contents**Pension Benefit Restoration Plan**

Certain participants in the Pension Plan, including the participating Named Executive Officers, are eligible to participate in a non-qualified defined benefit plan (the Pension Benefit Restoration Plan) which is intended to restore certain benefits under the Pension Plan which would otherwise be lost due to certain limitations imposed by law on tax-qualified plans. The terms set forth above with regard to the Pension Plan also apply to the Pension Benefit Restoration Plan, which is generally designed to mirror the Pension Plan.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal Year 2008

Name (a)	Plan	Executive contributions in last FY (\$) (b)	Registrant contributions in last FY (\$) (c)(3)	Aggregate earnings in last FY (\$) (d)(2)	Aggregate withdrawals and distributions in last FY (\$) (e)	Aggregate balance at last FYE (f)
Kevin M. Fogarty	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	15,864	15,864	(17,157)	0	71,296
David A. Bradley	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	7,057	7,057	(21,123)	0	47,396
Stephen E. Tremblay	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	0	3,088	(12)	0	3,076
Richard A. Ott	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	1,200	1,200	(23,016)	0	24,578
Lothar Freund	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	575	575	(882)	0	7,753
George B. Gregory	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan	0	0	(10,162)	130,627	0
Nicholas G. Dekker(1)	Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan					

(1) Mr. Dekker did not participate in the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan in Fiscal Year 2008.

(2) Participants in the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan direct the investment of their account balance in the plan in the same manner that they direct their account in the Savings Plan. In 2008, the Named Executive Officers invested in the following funds with the following annual rates of return: Fidelity Diversified International (-45.21%); Fidelity Freedom Income Fund (-12.14%); Fidelity Freedom

2025

113

Table of Contents

(-33.66%); Fidelity Emerging Markets (-60.83%); Fidelity International Real Estate (-50.52%); DWS Global Opps S (-49.52%); Mutual Discovery A (-26.73%); Fidelity Leveraged Co. Stock (-54.53%); and MSIF Emerging Markets (-56.52%).

(3) Amounts in this column are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan

The Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan is intended to restore certain benefits under the Savings Plan which would otherwise be lost due to restrictions imposed by the Code. Prior to the commencement of each plan year, participants make elections to defer any portion of their base compensation (including all amounts paid by the company for services rendered but excluding any amounts paid for overtime, commissions, severance payments, bonus compensation or the value of any stock option granted) under both the Savings Plan and the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan. Deferrals are notionally invested in accordance with the participant's investment elections in the company's 401(k) plan. Contributions by both Kraton and the participant are made to the Savings Plan until the maximum amount permitted by law has been contributed to such plan, after which contributions are made to the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan. Distributions made pursuant to the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan are only made in connection with the participant's separation from service or death, provided that in certain circumstances, the company may grant a hardship distribution in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

Executive Deferred Compensation Plan

Under the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan adopted on May 30, 2006, certain employees are permitted to elect to defer a portion (generally up to 50%) of their annual incentive bonus with respect to each bonus period. Participating employees are credited with a notional number of membership units of Kraton based on the fair value of TJ Chemical membership units as of the date of deferral, although the distribution of membership units in such accounts may be made indirectly through Management LLC. Such membership units will be distributed upon termination of the participant's employment, subject to a call right, or upon a change in control, as defined in the plan. We reserved 2 million membership units for issuance pursuant to the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, and as of December 31, 2008, there were 354,798 membership units outstanding under the Plan.

Pursuant to participation in the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, Messrs. Gregory, Dekker, Bradley, Fogarty and Ott hold 101,010; 25,253; 75,758; 75,758; and 22,727 Notional Units, respectively, in their plan accounts as of March 15, 2007, which reflect a deferral of a portion of the annual bonuses with respect to fiscal year 2006 and otherwise paid in the first quarter of fiscal year 2007. All such units are 100% vested and subject to the terms of the plan. There were no bonuses paid for fiscal year 2007, therefore none of the Named Executive Officers could participate with respect to their 2007 bonuses that would have been payable in the first quarter of fiscal year 2008.

Termination and Change in Control Payments

The following tables set forth the estimated value of payments and benefits that our Named Executive Officers, other than Messrs. Gregory and Dekker (whose actual termination arrangements are set forth in the narrative following the tables), would be entitled to receive assuming certain terminations of employment and/or assuming a change in control of Kraton, in each case occurring on December 31, 2008 in addition to the amounts they would be entitled to receive pursuant to the Pension Plan, the Pension Benefit Restoration Plan, the Deferred Compensation and Restoration Plan, and the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, each as described above. In addition, because Profits Units vest only upon the date of disposition by the sponsors of 51% or more of their aggregate interests in Polymer Holdings LLC to one or more unrelated third persons, we have not included valuations of the acceleration of vesting of such awards because a change in control of Kraton would not result in a vesting event. Complete descriptions of employment agreements immediately follow these tables. Valuations

Table of Contents

of equity subject to accelerated vesting are made assuming the value of a membership unit is \$0.87. As the exercise price for all Options granted is \$1.00 per membership unit, the acceleration of an Option as of December 31, 2008 would have \$0 value to the executive. Effective as of the closing of this offering, the Compensation Committee has approved amendments to the Employment Agreements of Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott and Freund to provide for an increase in severance benefits for certain terminations within one year following a change in control as follows: each Named Executive Officer was previously entitled to 12 months of continued health coverage and base salary following such a termination (except Mr. Fogarty who was entitled to 18 months); however, this potential benefit has been increased to 18 months for all Named Executive Officers, except Mr. Fogarty, whose potential benefit has been increased to 24 months. The Compensation Committee determined such amendments were appropriate based in part on recommendations by Hewitt Associates, on severance benefits afforded to similarly situated executive at other public companies and on the Compensation Committee's assessment of the appropriate value required for retentive purposes.

Kevin M. Fogarty

Triggering Event	Severance Payment	Cash-Out Value of TJ Chemical Equity-Based Awards that vest as a result of a Triggering Event	Value of Benefit Continuation
Termination of Employment			
By Kraton for cause or resignation by executive without good reason	\$0	\$0	\$0
By Kraton without cause, or pursuant to Kraton's election not to extend the employment term, or by executive for good reason	\$750,000(1)	\$0	\$23,531(2)
By Kraton without cause or by executive for good reason within one year of a change in control(3)	\$2,000,000(4)	\$0 (3,800,834 Options) \$0 (120,000 Notional Units) \$0 (600,000 Restricted Units)	\$23,531(2)
Disability	\$0	\$0	\$15,684(5)
Death	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in Control	\$0	\$0	\$0

- (1) This figure represents continuation of base salary for a period of 18 months.
- (2) Mr. Fogarty is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 18 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.
- (3) Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units vest immediately in the event of such a termination within one year following a change in control.
- (4) This figure represents (a) continuation of base salary for a period of 18 months, (b) 1.5 times Mr. Fogarty's annual bonus calculated at target level payable as lump sum and (c) a pro-rata portion of his target annual bonus. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Fogarty would be entitled to receive the entire target bonus for fiscal year 2008.
- (5) Mr. Fogarty is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 12 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.

Table of Contents**David A. Bradley**

Triggering Event	Severance Payment	Cash-Out Value of TJ Chemical Equity-Based Awards that vest as a result of a Triggering Event	Value of Benefit Continuation
Termination of Employment			
By Kraton for cause or resignation by executive without good reason	\$0	\$0	\$0
By Kraton without cause, or pursuant to Kraton's election not to extend the employment term, or by executive for good reason	\$350,000(1)	\$0	\$15,687(2)
By Kraton without cause or by executive for good reason, in either case within one year following a change in control(4)	\$770,000(3)	\$0 (1,397,284 Options) \$0 (360,000 Restricted Units)	\$15,687(2)
Disability	\$630,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Death	\$630,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Change in Control	\$0	\$0	\$0

- (1) This figure represents continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months.
- (2) Mr. Bradley is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 12 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.
- (3) This figure represents (a) continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months, (b) one times Mr. Bradley's annual bonus calculated at target level payable as lump sum and (c) a pro-rata portion of his target annual bonus. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Bradley would be entitled to receive the entire target bonus for fiscal year 2008.
- (4) Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units vest immediately in the event of such a termination within one year following a change in control.
- (5) Disability and Death Severance Payments are comprised of a pro-rata payment of Mr. Bradley's bonus for the fiscal year in which death or disability occurs, based on actual performance and paid on the date when bonuses are otherwise paid. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Bradley would be entitled to receive the entire bonus amount earned in fiscal year 2008.

Table of Contents**Stephen E. Tremblay**

Triggering Event	Severance Payment	Cash-Out Value of TJ Chemical Equity-Based Awards that vest as a result of a Triggering Event	Value of Benefit Continuation
Termination of Employment			
By Kraton for cause or resignation by executive without good reason	\$0	\$0	\$0
By Kraton without cause, or pursuant to Kraton's election not to extend the employment term, or by executive for good reason	\$350,000(1)	\$0	\$15,687(2)
By Kraton without cause or by executive for good reason within one year of a change in control(3)	\$700,000(4)	\$0 (2,400,000 Options)	\$15,687(2)
Disability	\$450,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Death	\$450,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Change in Control	\$0	\$0	\$0

- (1) This figure represents continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months.
- (2) Mr. Tremblay is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 12 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.
- (3) Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units vest immediately in the event of such a termination within one year following a change in control.
- (4) This figure represents (a) continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months, (b) one times Mr. Tremblay's annual bonus calculated at target level payable as lump sum and (c) a pro-rata portion of his target annual bonus. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Tremblay would be entitled to receive the entire target bonus for fiscal year 2008.
- (5) Disability and Death Severance Payments are comprised of a pro-rata payment of Mr. Tremblay's bonus for the fiscal year in which death or disability occurs, based on actual performance and paid on the date when bonuses are otherwise paid. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Tremblay would be entitled to receive the entire bonus amount earned in fiscal year 2008.

Table of Contents**Richard A. Ott**

Triggering Event	Severance Payment	Cash-Out Value of TJ Chemical Equity-Based Awards that vest as a result of a Triggering Event	Value of Benefit Continuation
Termination of Employment			
By Kraton for cause or resignation by executive without good reason	\$0	\$0	\$0
By Kraton without cause, or pursuant to Kraton's election not to extend the employment term, or by executive for good reason	\$125,000-250,000(1)	\$0	\$15,687(2)
By Kraton without cause or by executive for good reason within one year of a change in control(3)	\$500,000(4)	\$0 (500,000 Options)	\$15,687(2)
Disability	\$325,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Death	\$325,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Change in Control	\$0	\$0	\$0

- (1) Mr. Ott is entitled to at least 6 months continued base salary. Any additional severance is payable only so long as he does not become employed with a subsequent employer.
- (2) Mr. Ott is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 12 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.
- (3) Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units vest immediately in the event of such a termination within one year following a change in control.
- (4) This figure represents (a) continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months, (b) one times Mr. Ott's annual bonus calculated at target level payable as lump sum and (c) a pro-rata portion of his target annual bonus. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Ott would be entitled to receive the entire target bonus for fiscal year 2008.
- (5) Disability and Death Severance Payments are comprised of a pro-rata payment of Mr. Ott's bonus for the fiscal year in which death or disability occurs, based on actual performance and paid on the date when bonuses are otherwise paid. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Ott would be entitled to receive the entire bonus amount earned in fiscal year 2008.

Table of Contents**Lothar Freund**

Triggering Event	Severance Payment	Cash-Out Value of TJ Chemical Equity-Based Awards that vest as a result of a Triggering Event	Value of Benefit Continuation
Termination of Employment			
By Kraton for cause or resignation by executive without good reason	\$0	\$0	\$0
By Kraton without cause, or pursuant to Kraton's election not to extend the employment term, or by executive for good reason	\$125,000-250,000(1)	\$0	\$15,687(4)
By Kraton without cause or by executive for good reason within one year of a change in control(2)	\$500,000(3)	\$0 (900,000 Options)	\$15,687(4)
Disability	\$250,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Death	\$250,000(5)	\$0	\$0
Change in Control	\$0	\$0	\$0

- (1) Mr. Freund is entitled to at least 6 months continued base salary. Any additional severance is payable only so long as he does not become employed with a subsequent employer.
- (2) Options, Restricted Units and Notional Units vest immediately in the event of such a termination within one year following a change in control.
- (3) This figure represents (a) continuation of base salary for a period of 12 months, (b) one times Mr. Freund's annual bonus calculated at target level payable as lump sum and (c) a pro-rata portion of his target annual bonus. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Freund would be entitled to receive the entire target bonus for fiscal year 2008.
- (4) Mr. Freund is entitled to medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents comparable to those received on the date of termination for the shorter of (a) 12 months and (b) the date he is entitled to medical benefits from a new employer.
- (5) Disability and Death Severance Payments are comprised of a pro-rata payment of Mr. Freund's bonus for the fiscal year in which death or disability occurs, based on actual performance and paid on the date when bonuses are otherwise paid. The tables assume a December 31, 2008 termination date, and, therefore, Mr. Freund would be entitled to receive the entire bonus amount earned in fiscal year 2008.

Table of Contents

Employment Agreements.

On January 14, 2008, Mr. Gregory resigned as Chief Executive Officer of Kraton effective January 31, 2008. He remained a consultant of Kraton through June 30, 2008 pursuant to a consulting agreement with Kraton, described below. Mr. Fogarty entered into a new agreement with Kraton in connection with his appointment as the President and Chief Executive Officer effective January 31, 2008. Mr. Bradley was named Chief Operating Officer effective January 14, 2008 and entered into a new employment agreement with Kraton to set forth the terms of his new position. On December 31, 2008, Kraton entered in an Employment Agreement with Mr. Freund, similar in form to those with other Named Executive Officers that effectively restated earlier letter agreements between Mr. Freund and Kraton. The employment agreements for Messrs. Bradley, Fogarty, Ott and Tremblay were immaterially amended in December of 2008 to provide technical documentary compliance with Section 409A of the Code.

The employment agreements for Messrs. Fogarty, Bradley, Tremblay, Ott and Freund provide for an annual base salary of \$500,000, \$350,000, \$350,000, \$250,000 and \$250,000, respectively. The Employment Agreements provide for target and maximum bonus opportunities of 100% and 200% of base salary for Mr. Fogarty, 60% and 120% of base salary for Mr. Bradley and 50% and 100% of base salary for each of Messrs. Tremblay and Freund. Mr. Ott's agreement provides for a target incentive bonus of 50% of base salary and does not provide a maximum incentive bonus. The employment agreements for Messrs. Gregory and Dekker provided for an annual base salary of \$500,000 and \$315,000, respectively, target bonus opportunities of 100% and 60% of base salary, respectively, and maximum of 200% and 100% of base salary, respectively. Please see the section entitled *Base Salary* above for information regarding decreases in salary for fiscal year 2009 and anticipated increases in connection with the closing of this offering.

Severance Arrangements as Set Forth in Employment Agreements.

The employment agreements generally set forth the severance, if any, a Named Executive Officer is entitled to under varying circumstances. The provisions of the Named Executive Officer's agreements (other than those for Messrs. Gregory and Dekker, which are described below) that are related to payments on termination of employment or a change in control of Kraton are set forth in the tabular disclosure directly above under the heading *Termination and Change in Control Payments*.

Generally, the employment agreements define *Cause* to mean (A) the executive's continued failure substantially to perform the executive's duties, provided that Kraton cannot terminate the executive's employment for Cause because of dissatisfaction with the quality of services provided by or disagreement with the actions taken by him or her in the good faith performance of his or her duties to Kraton; (B) failure to maintain his principal residence in the same metropolitan area as Kraton's principal headquarters, or elsewhere as mutually agreed; (C) theft or embezzlement of the property of Kraton; (D) executive's conviction of or plea of guilty or no contest to (x) a felony or (y) a crime involving moral turpitude; (E) the executive's willful malfeasance or willful misconduct in connection with his or her duties under the employment agreement or any act or omission which is materially injurious to the financial condition or business reputation of Kraton or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates; or (F) the executive's breach of the restrictive covenants in the employment agreement.

Generally, the employment agreements define *Good Reason* to mean (A) the failure of Kraton to pay the executive's Base Salary or Annual Bonus (if any) when due; (B) a reduction in the executive's Base Salary, the Target Annual Bonus opportunity, or Employee Benefits other than an across-the-board reduction; (C) a relocation of the executive's primary work location more than 50 miles from Houston, TX, without written consent; or (D) a material reduction in the executive's duties and responsibilities, provided that none of these events shall constitute Good Reason unless Kraton fails to cure such event within 30 days after receipt from the executive of written notice and provided further that Good Reason shall cease to exist for an event on the 60th day following the later of its occurrence or the executive's knowledge thereof, unless the executive has given Kraton written notice thereof prior to such date.

Table of Contents

Each of the Named Executive Officers' employment agreements contain confidentiality provisions and provide for customary restrictive covenants, including non-competition and non-solicitation provisions for a period of 12 months following termination of employment.

Named Executive Officers Whose Employment Terminated in Fiscal Year 2008.

Upon their termination of employment, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Dekker were provided severance payments consistent with the terms of their employment agreements. Mr. Gregory's payments and benefits were set forth in a separation agreement entered into with Kraton, effective January 14, 2008. The separation agreement provided Mr. Gregory with severance payments equal to 18 months of his annual base salary of \$500,000 (for a total of \$750,000) and medical continuation benefits for 18 months following his termination of employment (for an aggregate cost of \$20,152). Mr. Dekker did not enter into a separate separation agreement. Pursuant to his employment agreement, as amended, he received severance payments equal to 15 months of his annual base salary of \$330,750 (for a total of \$413,438) plus a prorated target bonus (for a total of \$49,613) following his termination of employment (for an aggregate cost of \$463,050).

Mr. Gregory's Employment Agreement provided, in the event that his employment is terminated without cause or by him for good reason (as each term is defined in his employment agreement), Mr. Gregory would be entitled to, subject to his execution of a general release and waiver, (1) a continuation of his annual base salary for the 18-month period following the termination of employment and (2) medical benefits for himself and his eligible dependents during such salary continuation period. If Mr. Gregory had been terminated without cause or for good reason during the one-year period immediately following a change in control, he would also have received the sum of (a) 1.5 times his annual target bonus and (b) a pro rata portion of the annual bonus he would have earned had his employment not terminated. In addition, upon such a termination following a change in control, benefit continuation would have applied to all benefits, not just medical benefits.

On January 24, 2008, Kraton entered into a Separation Agreement with Mr. Gregory effective as of February 1, 2008. The terms of the separation with Mr. Gregory provide, among other things, a payment of 1.5 times his annual base salary, paid in installments through 2008 and completed in lump sum in January 2009, and continued medical benefits through August 1, 2009. Mr. Gregory also received his entire special bonus of \$600,000. In addition, Kraton agreed to repurchase 149,000 restricted units, for an aggregate purchase price of \$149,000 and 101,010 notional units for \$101,010. Mr. Gregory forfeited all unvested Options and other equity-based awards, and is otherwise subject to customary confidentiality obligations indefinitely, as well as non-competition, non-solicitation and non-disparagement obligations for one year following his termination of employment.

On February 1, 2008, Kraton entered into a consulting agreement with Mr. Gregory, effective as of February 1, 2008. The terms of the consulting agreement provided, among other things, that Mr. Gregory would be a consultant to Kraton from February 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008. In exchange for his consulting services, Kraton paid Mr. Gregory a fee equal to \$93,750 in the aggregate, in monthly installments over the consulting period. In addition, had certain corporate events occurred during fiscal year 2008, Kraton would have paid Mr. Gregory a cash bonus equal to \$1,750,000. These events did not occur, and Mr. Gregory was not paid that cash bonus.

Mr. Dekker's employment agreement was amended in December 2007 to provide that in the event (a) his employment term expired, (b) he was terminated by Kraton without cause, (c) he terminated his employment for good reason, or (d) he terminated his employment for no reason after Kraton's 2007 annual report on form 10-K was filed (in each case as such terms are defined in his employment agreement) he would be entitled to a lump-sum payment equal to (1) 12 months of Mr. Dekker's annual base salary and (2) a pro rata portion of any 2008 annual bonus that Mr. Dekker would have been entitled to receive based upon the percentage of the fiscal year that shall have elapsed through the date of Mr. Dekker's termination of employment, payable when such annual bonus would have otherwise been payable had his employment not terminated. In addition, as

Table of Contents

consideration for Mr. Dekker's agreement to extend the employment term, upon a termination under the circumstances set forth in the previous sentence, Mr. Dekker was also entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to three months base salary plus 25% of his target annual bonus for 2008. Furthermore, Kraton agreed not to exercise its right to repurchase shares from Mr. Dekker received through equity incentive awards to the extent such rights are triggered solely as a result of the termination of Mr. Dekker's employment, and agreed that Mr. Dekker would continue to vest in any incentive awards that are Options to purchase units granted pursuant to the terms of the TJ Chemical's 2004 Option Plan as if Mr. Dekker remained employed until at least January 1, 2008 and that any vested units shall remain outstanding for the remainder of such Options' ten-year term.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the compensation of our directors.

Director Compensation During Fiscal Year 2008 TJ Chemical

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	Option Awards	All Other Compensation	Total
	(\$) (b)	(\$) (c)	\$(1)(2) (d)	(\$) (g)	(\$) (h)
(a) James R. Ball(3)	\$ 3,333	0	\$ 2,391	0	\$ 5,724
Richard C. Brown	\$ 37,379	0	\$ 11,344	0	\$ 48,723
Kelvin L. Davis(4)	0	0	0	0	0
Steven J. Demetriou	\$ 25,000	0	\$ 2,276	0	\$ 27,276
Barry J. Goldstein	\$ 47,393	0	\$ 11,344	0	\$ 58,737
Michael G. MacDougall(4)	0	0	0	0	0
Kevin G. O'Brien(4)	0	0	0	0	0
Dan F. Smith	\$ 181,319	0	\$ 42,352	0	\$ 223,671
Timothy J. Walsh(4)	0	0	0	0	0
Nathan H. Wright(4)	0	0	0	0	0

- (1) Amounts set forth in the Option Awards column represent the amounts recognized as compensation expense for financial statement reporting purposes in fiscal year 2008 by Kraton with respect to Option awards in accordance with FASB 123R (disregarding the estimate of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions). A discussion of the assumptions used in this valuation with respect to awards made in fiscal year 2008 may be found in Kraton's financial statements and accompanying footnotes on F-3. A discussion of the assumptions used in this valuation with respect to awards made in fiscal years prior to fiscal year 2008 may be found in the corresponding sections of the Kraton's financial statements and accompanying footnotes for the fiscal year in which the award was made.
- (2) As of December 31, 2008, Messrs. Ball, Brown, Demetriou, Goldstein and Smith, each held an aggregate of 100,000, 225,000, 125,000, 225,000 and 200,000, Options, respectively. Following his resignation, Mr. Ball retained his 37,500 unvested Options which vested in accordance with the normal vesting schedule with respect to 25,000 Options on December 1, 2008 and with respect to 12,500 on December 1, 2009. Mr. Demetriou's Options vest with respect to 50% on each of the first and second anniversaries of the grant date. Mr. Demetriou currently holds 12,500 unvested Options, which are scheduled to vest on December 1, 2010. Mr. Brown's Options and Mr. Goldstein's Options vest with respect to 33.33% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, May 1, 2008. Mr. Smith's Options vested 100% on December 1, 2009, the first anniversary of the grant date. Directors do not receive other equity-based awards.
- (3) Mr. Ball resigned from the Board, effective May 1, 2008.
- (4) As employees or representatives of TPG or JPMP, Messrs. Davis, MacDougall, Walsh, Wright and O'Brien received no compensation for their services to the Board or its committees in 2008.

Messrs O'Brien, Smith, Goldstein and Brown joined our Board on the dates of January 31, 2008, February 4, 2008, May 1, 2008 and May 1, 2008, respectively.

Table of Contents

Directors who are employees or representatives of TPG or JPMP do not receive any compensation for their services to the Board or its committees. Annual fees paid to our other directors are the result of individually negotiated arrangements. Mr. Ball served as the Chairman of the Audit Committees for the Boards of each of Kraton and Polymer Holdings until May 1, 2008 and received total annual fees for 2008 of \$3,333. Mr. Brown is entitled to an annual director fee of \$50,000, which was prorated in 2008 for a total of \$33,379. In addition, Mr. Brown receives \$2,000 for his participation in person in Board meetings. In 2008, Mr. Demetriou received an annual director fee of \$25,000, paid quarterly. Mr. Goldstein received an annual director fee of \$50,000 and is entitled to a supplemental fee for serving as Audit Committee chairman of \$15,000. All of Mr. Goldstein's annual fee based compensation was prorated in 2008 for a total of \$47,393. In addition, Mr. Goldstein receives \$2,000 for his participation in person in Board meetings. Mr. Smith, who serves as our Chairman of the Board, is entitled to an annual director fee of \$200,000, which was prorated in 2008 for a total of \$181,319. The company determined that Mr. Smith's compensation level is appropriate considering his active role as chairman, extensive background in the petrochemical industry and his personal knowledge and contacts as a result of that experience.

Mr. Ball did not receive any grants of Options in 2008. On May 1, 2008, Mr. Brown and Mr. Goldstein each received 225,000 Options, which vest 33.33% on the first three anniversaries of the grant date, contingent upon continued service. Mr. Demetriou received 25,000 Options on December 1, 2008, pursuant to his annual grant. These Options will vest 50% per year on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date so long as the Mr. Demetriou continues to serve as a director. On February 4, 2008, Mr. Smith was granted 200,000 Options at a grant price of \$1, which will vest 100% on the first anniversary of the grant date.

Indemnification of Officers and Directors and Limitation of Liability

Prior to the closing of this offering, we will incorporate in the State of Delaware and adopt and file a certificate of incorporation and bylaws. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws will provide that we will indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, as it now exists or may in the future be amended, against all expenses and liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with their service for or on behalf of us. In addition, the certificate of incorporation will provide that our directors will not be personally liable for monetary damages to us for breaches of their fiduciary duty as directors, unless they violated their duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders, acted in bad faith, knowingly or intentionally violated the law, authorized illegal dividends or redemptions, or derived an improper personal benefit from their action as directors. We maintain liability insurance that insures our directors and officers against certain losses and that insures us against our obligations to indemnify our directors and officers.

In addition, we expect to enter into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and officers. These agreements, among other things, will require us to indemnify each director and officer to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law, including indemnification of expenses such as attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and settlement amounts incurred by the director or officer in any action or proceeding, including any action or proceeding by or in right of us, arising out of the person's services as a director or officer. At present, we are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers, employees or agents in which indemnification would be required or permitted. We believe provisions in our certificate of incorporation and indemnification agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified persons as directors and officers.

Table of Contents**PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS**

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. These rules generally provide that a person is the beneficial owner of securities if such person has or shares the power to vote or direct the voting thereof, or to dispose or direct the disposition thereof or has the right to acquire such powers within 60 days. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 19,414,996 shares of common stock outstanding after giving effect to our conversion from a limited liability company to a corporation, and 29,709,114 shares of common stock to be outstanding after the completion of this offering. Except as disclosed in the footnotes to this table and subject to applicable community property laws, we believe that each stockholder identified in the table possesses sole voting and investment power over all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by the stockholder.

For further information regarding material transactions between us and certain of our stockholders, see Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions.

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock (1) immediately prior to the completion of this offering, but after giving effect to our conversion from a limited liability company to a corporation and to the reorganization transactions and (2) as adjusted to give effect to this offering by:

each person or group who is known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of our outstanding shares of common stock;

each of our named executive officers;

each of our directors and each director nominee; and

all of the executive officers, directors and director nominees as a group.

Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class	
		Before Offering	After Offering
5% Stockholders:			
Funds advised by TPG Advisors III, Inc. (2) 301 Commerce Street, Suite 3300 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	5,825,464	30.0%	19.6%
Funds advised by TPG Advisors IV, Inc. (3) 301 Commerce Street, Suite 3300 Fort Worth, Texas 76102	5,687,379	29.3%	19.1%
JPMP Capital Corp. and Related Entities (4) c/o J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC 270 Park Avenue, 39th Floor New York, New York 10017	7,675,229	39.5%	25.8%

Table of Contents**Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.**

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)(5)	Percent of Class	
		Before Offering	After Offering
Named Executive Officers and			
Directors:			
Dan F. Smith	29,603	*	*
Barry J. Goldstein	5,551	*	*
Kelvin L. Davis	(6)	*	*
Michael G. MacDougall	(6)	*	*
Nathan H. Wright	(6)	*	*
Timothy J. Walsh		*	*
Kevin G. O'Brien		*	*
Steven J. Demetriou	17,577	*	*
Richard C. Brown	5,551	*	*
Kevin M. Fogarty	193,608	*	*
Stephen E. Tremblay	59,207	*	*
David A. Bradley	140,605	*	*
Richard A. Ott	94,192	*	*
Lothar Freund	46,872	*	*
George B. Gregory	198,046	1.0%	*
Nicholas G. Dekker	18,151	*	*

All Executive Officers and

Directors as a group	629,770	3.2%	2.1%
-----------------------------	---------	------	------

* Represents beneficial ownership of less than 1%

- (1) Shares shown in the table above include shares held in the beneficial owner's name or jointly with others, or in the name of a bank, nominee or trustee for the beneficial owner's account.
- (2) TPG Advisors III, Inc. (TPG Advisors III) is the general partner of TPG GenPar III, L.P., which in turn is the sole general partner of each of TPG Partners III, L.P. (Partners III), TPG Parallel III, L.P. (Parallel III), TPG Investors III, L.P. (Investors III), FOF Partners III, L.P. (FOF) and FOF Partners III-B, L.P. (FOF B) and the sole member of TPG GenPar Dutch, L.L.C., which is the general partner of TPG Dutch Parallel III, C.V. (Dutch Parallel III). Partners III, Parallel III, Investors III, FOF, FOF B and Dutch Parallel III are the members of TPG III Polymer Holdings LLC (TPG III Polymer Holdings). Prior to the offering, TPG III Polymer Holdings was the owner of 30.0% of our common stock. TPG Advisors III may be deemed, pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to beneficially own all of the securities held by TPG III Polymer Holdings. David Bonderman and James G. Coulter are directors, officers and sole shareholders of TPG Advisors III, and therefore, Messrs. Bonderman and Coulter may be deemed to be the beneficial owners of, with indirect voting and dispositive authority over, the equity securities held by TPG III Polymer Holdings.
- (3) TPG Advisors IV, Inc. (TPG Advisors IV) is the general partner of TPG GenPar IV, L.P., which in turn is the sole general partner of TPG Partners IV, L.P. (Partners IV). Partners IV is the sole member of TPG IV Polymer Holdings LLC (TPG IV Polymer Holdings). Prior to the offering, TPG IV Polymer Holdings was the owner of 29.3% of our common stock. TPG Advisors IV may be deemed, pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to beneficially own all of the securities held TPG IV Polymer Holdings. David Bonderman and James G. Coulter are directors, officers and sole shareholders of TPG Advisors IV, and therefore, Messrs. Bonderman and Coulter may be deemed to be the beneficial owners of, with indirect voting and dispositive authority over, the equity securities held by TPG IV Polymer Holdings.
- (4) JPMP Capital Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase & Co., a publicly traded company, is the general partner of JPMP Master Fund Manager, L.P. JPMP Master Fund Manager L.P. is the general partner of J.P. Morgan Partners (BHCA), L.P. Prior to the offering, J.P. Morgan Partners (BHCA), L.P. was the owner of 22.3% of our common stock. JPMP Capital Corp is also the general partner of JPMP Global Investors, L.P. JPMP Global Investors, L.P. is the general partner of each of J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors, L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton A, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman), L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) II, L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton, L.P., J.P. Morgan

Table of Contents

- Partners Global Investors (Selldown), L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton/Selldown, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Selldown) II, L.P., and JPMP Global Fund/Kraton/Selldown II, L.P. Prior to the offering, these entities owned 5.3%, 0.8%, 2.3%, 0.3%, 0.4%, 0.9%, 1.0%, 5.9% and 0.4% of our company's common stock, respectively. Voting and disposition decisions at JPMP Capital Corp. are made by three or more of its officers, and therefore no individual officer of JPMP Capital Corp. is the beneficial owner of the securities. The address for each of the entities described above is 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017, except that the address of each Cayman entity described above is c/o Walkers SPV Limited, PO Box 908 GT, Walker House, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.
- (5) The number of beneficially owned shares listed in this column is calculated based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120. See Executive Compensation for a description of the Conversion Ratio.
- (6) Each of Messrs. Davis, MacDougall and Wright is a partner of TPG Capital, L.P., which is affiliated with TPG Advisors III and TPG Advisors IV. Each of Messrs. Davis, MacDougall and Wright disclaims beneficial ownership of any of our shares held by TPG III Polymer Holdings or TPG IV Polymer Holdings.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Conversion of Corporate Form. Prior to the closing of the offering, we will convert from a Delaware limited liability company to a Delaware corporation under the name Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.

Reorganization Transactions. In connection with the completion of this offering, we will complete a reorganization in order to merge TJ Chemical into Kraton, as a result of which TPG and JPMP become stockholders of Kraton Performance Polymers Inc. The principal steps involved in these reorganization transactions are summarized below:

TJ Chemical Merger. TJ Chemical will merge into Kraton and will not survive the merger. In connection with the merger, the TPG and JPMP entities that held membership units in TJ Chemical will receive shares of common stock of Kraton Performance Polymers Inc. in exchange (pro rata) for their respective membership interests in TJ Chemical.

Registration Rights and Shareholders Agreement. The TPG entities (TPG III Polymer Holdings LLC and TPG IV Polymer Holdings LLC) and the JPMP entities (J.P. Morgan Partners (BHCA), L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman), L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton, L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton A, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Cayman) II, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Selldown), L.P., JPMP Global Fund/Kraton/Selldown, L.P., J.P. Morgan Partners Global Investors (Selldown) II, L.P. and JPMP Global Fund/Kraton/Selldown II, L.P.) that held membership units in TJ Chemical will receive shares of our common stock in the reorganization transactions and will enter into a registration rights and shareholders agreement with us. The existing registration rights agreement between TJ Chemical, TPG and JPMP will be amended to provide that TPG and JPMP can cause the company to register their shares of common stock in the company under the Securities Act and to maintain a shelf registration statement effective with respect to such shares. Additionally, the agreement will place restrictions on each party's right to transfer the common stock without consent of the other party, and grant rights to the other party to participate on the same terms in mutually consented transfers. These provisions will be in effect for a limited time, and terminate earlier if the ownership interest of TPG and JPMP falls below certain levels. Furthermore, each of TPG and JPMP will have the right to elect two directors to the board of directors of the company so long as it owns 10% or more of the outstanding common stock and one director so long as it owns 2% or more of the common stock.

TJ Chemical Limited Liability Company Operating Agreement. In connection with the acquisition of Kraton by TPG and JPMP on December 23, 2003, TPG III Polymer Holdings LLC, or TPG III Holdings, TPG IV Polymer Holdings LLC, or TPG IV Holdings, and JPMP established TJ Chemical. We refer to TPG III Holdings and TPG IV Holdings together as the TPG Parties. Pursuant to the limited liability company operating agreement of TJ Chemical, each of the TPG Parties received approximately a 30% membership interest in TJ Chemical, and JPMP received approximately a 40% membership interest. In addition, members of our management received equity or profit interests in TJ Chemical.

Pursuant to TJ Chemical's limited liability company operating agreement, initially each of the TPG Parties was entitled to designate or nominate two directors of TJ Chemical and JPMP was entitled to elect four directors of TJ Chemical. Prior to the reorganization transactions, the board of TJ Chemical consisted of three directors elected by the TPG Parties and two directors elected by JPMP. The number of directors that the TPG Parties or JPMP were entitled to designate or nominate decreased in the event that their respective ownership percentages decreased below specified percentages. TJ Chemical's limited liability company agreement required the approval of both the TPG Parties and JPMP for certain fundamental matters with respect to Kraton and places certain restrictions on the transfer of their interests in TJ Chemical. Each party also had the right to participate in certain dispositions by the other parties and could be required to participate on the same terms in any sale by the other

Table of Contents

parties that sell in excess of a specified percentage of their original interests. In connection with the reorganization transactions described above, TJ Chemical's limited liability company agreement will terminate.

TJ Chemical's Option. In connection with the consummation of the acquisition, TJ Chemical acquired from us, in consideration for an option premium payment to us of \$27.21 million, an option to purchase all of its outstanding equity interests in Kraton free and clear of all liens, claims and encumbrances other than those created in connection with the senior secured credit facility. The option is exercisable at any time until the seventh anniversary of the acquisition (December 23, 2010), for a purchase price in cash, referred to as the Call Option Price, equal to \$400 million on or prior to the first anniversary of the acquisition, \$405 million thereafter but on or prior to the second anniversary of the acquisition, \$281 million thereafter but on or prior to the third anniversary of the acquisition, \$286 million thereafter but on or prior to the fourth anniversary of the acquisition, \$771 million thereafter but on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the acquisition, \$1.071 billion thereafter but on or prior to the sixth anniversary of the acquisition and \$1.371 billion thereafter until the option expires. The call option price shall be adjusted under certain circumstances, to take into account contributions made by us to Kraton or any material distributions made by Kraton to us. On or prior to the closing of this offering, the option will be terminated without the payment of any consideration by TJ Chemical or us.

Management Services Agreement. Upon the consummation of the acquisition, Kraton paid a transaction fee to the general partner of TPG Partners III, L.P. in the amount of approximately \$4.0 million, to the general partner of TPG Partners IV, L.P. in the amount of approximately \$4.0 million and to JPMP in the amount of \$2.5 million. In addition, in connection with the acquisition, Kraton entered into a management services agreement with these parties. Under this agreement, in exchange for consulting and management advisory services provided to Kraton, a management fee of \$0.5 million per quarter will be paid that will be divided among these parties in accordance with the respective ownership percentages in TJ Chemical held by the relevant funds for the first four payments and, thereafter, in accordance with the respective contributions with respect to such services of the relevant funds. This management fee will be subordinated to the senior subordinated notes in the event of a bankruptcy of Kraton. We currently expect the management services agreement will be terminated in connection with this offering.

Related Transactions. We own a 50% equity investment in a manufacturing joint venture with JSR Corporation (JSR) under the name of Kraton JSR Elastomers K.K. (KJE) located in Kashima, Japan. KJE manufactures thermoplastic rubber (TR), which is a wholly or predominantly composed of a block co-polymer comprising styrene blocks with butadiene and/or isoprene polymer blocks. KJE produces TR for sale to third party customers only through Kraton and JSR. We and JSR separately, but with equal rights, participate as distributors in the sales of the TR produced by KJE. During the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 Kraton made sales of TR on behalf of KJE of approximately \$37.9 million, \$39.7 million and \$33.4 million, respectively. From time to time, KJE will purchase TR products from Kraton. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, we had sales of our products to KJE of approximately \$0.6 million, \$1.2 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

A private investment fund managed by TPG Capital L.P., which advises TPG Partners III and TPG Partners IV, owns approximately 35% of British Vita PLC, one of our customers. From 2006 to 2008 we have derived revenues averaging \$10.5 million annually from sales to British Vita. For the first nine months of 2009, we derived revenues of \$5.0 million from sales to British Vita. We do not have any contractual requirements for sales to British Vita.

In October 2009, we entered into a contract with Amyris Biotechnologies, Inc. to explore the development of an alternative source of certain raw materials and, subject to Amyris meeting developmental and manufacturing milestones, to purchase raw materials from Amyris. We have not made any purchases to date. TPG Biotechnology II, L.P., a private investment fund that may be deemed to be an affiliate of TPG III and TPG IV, owns approximately 10% of Amyris Biotechnologies.

Table of Contents

Policy Concerning Related Party Transactions. In connection with this offering, we will adopt a formal written policy concerning related party transactions. Under the policy, our employees, officers and directors will be discouraged from entering into any transaction that may cause a conflict of interest for us. In addition, they must report any potential conflict of interest, including related party transactions, to their supervisors or our law department. Pursuant to its charter, our Audit Committee will be required to then evaluate each related person transaction for the purpose of recommending to the disinterested members of our board of directors that the transactions are fair, reasonable and within our policy, and should be ratified and approved by the board. In evaluating such proposed transactions, the Audit Committee will be required to consider the relevant facts and circumstances available and deemed relevant to the Audit Committee, including: the benefits of the transaction to our company; the terms of the transaction and whether they are arm's-length and in the ordinary course of our company's business; the direct or indirect nature of the related person's interest in the transaction; the size and expected term of the transaction; and other facts and circumstances that bear on the materiality of the related person transaction under applicable law and listing standards. Our Audit Committee will recommend approval of only those transactions that, in light of known circumstances, are in, or are not inconsistent with, our best interests, as our Audit Committee determines in the good faith exercise of its discretion.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Upon the closing of this offering, our authorized capital stock will consist of shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value. The following description summarizes important terms of our capital stock. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For a complete description, you should refer to our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, copies of which have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as well as the relevant portions of the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Common Stock

General. Our certificate of incorporation will authorize the issuance of up to 500,000,000 shares of common stock up to 10,000,000 of which may be issued and designated as non-voting shares. After giving effect to our conversion from a limited liability company to a corporation and the reorganization transactions, there were 19,414,996 shares of our common stock outstanding. After this offering, there will be 29,709,114 shares of our common stock outstanding, or 31,253,231 shares if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full. None of our outstanding common stock has been designated as non-voting.

Holders of common stock (other than common stock designated as non-voting) are entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Accordingly, holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors may elect all of the directors standing for election. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive proportionately any dividends as may be declared by our board of directors, subject to any preferential dividend rights of outstanding preferred stock. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive proportionately our net assets available after the payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive, subscription, redemption or conversion rights. Our outstanding shares of common stock are, and the shares offered by us in this offering will be, when issued and paid for, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be impacted by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Dividends. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably those dividends, if any, as may be declared by the board of directors out of legally available funds.

Liquidation, Dissolution, and Winding Up. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities, subject to the prior rights of any preferred stock then outstanding.

Preemptive Rights. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights, and there are no redemption or sinking funds provisions applicable to our common stock.

Assessment. All outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares of our common stock to be outstanding upon completion of this offering will be, fully paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock.

Our certificate of incorporation will authorize the issuance of up to 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock. Prior to the consummation of this offering, there were no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Our board of directors may issue preferred stock, without stockholder approval, in such series and with such designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as the board of directors deems appropriate. While the board of directors has no current intention of doing so, it could, without stockholder approval, issue preferred stock with voting, conversion and other rights

Table of Contents

that could adversely affect the voting power and impact other rights of the holders of the common stock. Our board of directors may issue preferred stock as an anti-takeover measure without any further action by the holders of common stock. This may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of our company by increasing the number of shares necessary to gain control of the company. Except as described below, our board of directors has not authorized the issuance of any shares of preferred stock, and we have no agreements or current plans for the issuance of any shares of preferred stock.

Options

As of the completion of this offering, there will be 1,594,962 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the TJ Chemical Option Plan in connection with the settlement of options outstanding as of the closing of this offering, based on the Conversion Ratio of 1:13.5120. Following the closing of this offering, there will also be 4,350,000 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the Polymer Holdings LLC Equity Incentive Plan, 469,953 of which are anticipated to be granted in connection with options granted shortly following the closing of this offering.

Provisions in Our Charter and Bylaws

Bylaws. Our bylaws provide that:

any action to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting and not by a consent in writing (except for TPG and JPMP, as long as they own at least 50% of our outstanding common stock),

annual or special meetings of the stockholders can only be called pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of our board of directors or by the chairman of the board (except for TPG and JPMP, as long as they own at least 50% of our outstanding common stock),

our board of directors is divided into three classes, with each class serving for a term of three years,

vacancies on the board, including newly created directorships, can be filled for the remainder of the relevant term by a majority of the directors then in office, and

our directors may be removed only for cause.

Our bylaws provide that stockholders seeking to bring business before an annual or special meeting of stockholders or to nominate candidates for election as directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, must comply with advance notice requirements in writing. To be timely, a stockholder's notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of stockholders. In the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within 30 days before or 60 days after the anniversary date, in order to be timely, notice from the stockholder must be received:

not earlier than 120 days prior to the annual meeting of stockholders, and

not later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of stockholders or, if the first public announcement of the date of such annual meeting is less than 100 days prior to the date of such annual meeting, the tenth day following the date on which notice of the annual meeting was made public.

In the case of a special meeting of stockholders called for the purpose of electing directors, notice by the stockholder, in order to be timely, must be received:

not earlier than 120 days prior to the special meeting, and

not later than 90 days prior to the special meeting or the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which public disclosure of the date of the special meeting was made.

Our bylaws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. These provisions may preclude stockholders from bringing matters before an annual or special meeting of stockholders or from making nominations for directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders or from making nominations for directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders. In addition, our certificate of incorporation permits

Table of Contents

our board of directors to amend or repeal our amended and restated bylaws by majority vote, but requires a two-thirds supermajority vote of stockholders to amend or repeal our amended and restated bylaws.

The provisions in our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the board of directors and in the policies formulated by the board of directors and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of control of our company. These provisions also are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited takeover proposal that does not contemplate the acquisition of all of the outstanding shares of our common stock or an unsolicited proposal for the restructuring or sale of all or part of us. These provisions, however, could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control of our company. They may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute

In addition, our certificate of incorporation will provide that the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the DGCL), which relate to business combinations with interested stockholders, do not apply to us. Section 203 of the DGCL prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination transaction with an interested stockholder (a stockholder who purchases more than 15% of our common stock) for a period of three years after the interested stockholder became such unless the transaction fits within an applicable exemption, such as board approval of the business combination or the transaction that resulted in such stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions would apply even if the business combination could be considered beneficial by some shareholders. By opting out of Section 203 of the DGCL, a stockholder that becomes an interested stockholder will be able to engage in a business combination transaction with us without prior board approval.

Corporate Opportunities

Our certificate of incorporation provides that the sponsors have no obligation to offer us an opportunity to participate in business opportunities presented to the sponsors or their respective affiliates even if the opportunity is one that we might reasonably have pursued (and therefore may be free to compete with us in the same business or similar businesses), and that neither the sponsors nor their respective affiliates will be liable to us or our stockholders for breach of any duty by reason of any such activities unless, in the case of any person who is a director or officer of our company, such business opportunity is expressly offered to such director or officer in writing solely in his or her capacity as an officer or director of our company. Stockholders will be deemed to have notice of and consented to this provision of our certificate of incorporation.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Our certificate of incorporation provides that no director shall be liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except as required by the Delaware General Corporation Law as in effect from time to time. Our bylaws provide that, to the full extent permitted by law, we will indemnify any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action by reason of the fact that the person is or was our director or officer, or serves or served as a director or officer of any other enterprise at our request.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The company has entered into an agreement with Computershare Inc. to act as transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Registration Rights

For a description of registration rights with respect to our common stock, see the information under the heading Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions Registration Rights and Shareholders Agreement.

Exchange

Our common stock has been approved for listing on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KRA.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN INDEBTEDNESS

Senior Secured Credit Facility

Kraton entered into a senior secured credit agreement, or Credit Agreement, dated as of December 23, 2003, which was subsequently amended as of March 4, 2004, October 21, 2004, February 16, 2006, May 12, 2006, December 15, 2006 and October 20, 2009.

The amendment as of May 12, 2006, or the 2006 Amendment, provided for, among other things, a term facility of \$385 million, representing a \$25 million increase over the original term facility and extended the maturity of the term facility from December 23, 2010 to May 12, 2013. In addition, the 2006 Amendment extended the maturity of the revolving facility from December 23, 2008 to May 12, 2011 and provided for the possibility of increasing the existing revolving facility from \$60 million to \$80 million, subject to new revolving lenders becoming parties to the Credit Agreement. On June 7, 2006, Kraton entered into a joinder agreement with a new revolving lender that increased the revolving facility to \$75.5 million from \$60.0 million. The 2006 Amendment also reduced the interest rate margin on the term facility, eliminated or amended certain affirmative and negative covenants, including a covenant that limited Kraton's ability to make capital expenditures and modified the financial ratios Kraton is required to maintain. On the effective date of the 2006 Amendment, Kraton borrowed the full \$385 million available under the new term facility and used the proceeds to prepay in full existing borrowings under the original term facility, to make a distribution to us to provide a portion of the funds necessary to consummate a tender offer for the 12.0% senior discount notes issued by us and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation on November 2, 2004 and pay fees and expenses related to the foregoing.

The amendment as of October 20, 2009, or the October 2009 Amendment, permits Kraton to convert all or a portion of existing term loans into separate classes of extended term loans that extend the scheduled amortization and maturity of the existing term loans. The extended term loans are required to be substantially identical to the terms of the existing term facility, with the exception of scheduled installment payments and maturity, fees, interest rates and prepayment rights. There is no limit on the number of classes of term loans outstanding at any one time. The October 2009 Amendment also permits Kraton to establish separate classes (but in no event more than three at any time) of commitments to replace all or a portion of the existing revolving commitments. The terms of Replacement Revolving Commitments are required to be substantially identical to the terms of the existing revolving commitments, with the exception of scheduled installment payments, maturity, fees and interest rates. Finally, the October 2009 Amendment also allows the Borrower to incur indebtedness secured *pari passu* with the collateral securing the existing lenders under the existing Credit Agreement to refinance existing term loans. This refinancing indebtedness may not amortize or mature prior to the maturity of the existing term loans.

A further amendment on November 30, 2009, or the November 2009 Amendment, increased the maximum available borrowings under the revolving commitments from \$75.5 million to \$80.0 million and extended the maturity on \$79.8 million of the revolving commitments from May 2011 to May 2013.

Kraton is the borrower under the amended Credit Agreement and its wholly-owned domestic subsidiaries along with us have guaranteed the amended Credit Agreement. We refer to these guarantors, together with Kraton, as the Loan Parties. The Credit Agreement is secured by a perfected first priority security interest in substantially all of each Loan Party's tangible and intangible assets, including intellectual property, real property, all of Kraton's capital stock and the capital stock of Kraton's domestic subsidiaries and 65% of the capital stock of the direct foreign subsidiaries of each Loan Party.

In June 2008, Kraton made a \$10.0 million voluntary prepayment of outstanding indebtedness under the term facility. In addition, for the year ended December 31, 2007, Kraton made voluntary prepayments on the term portion of its senior secured credit facility in the amount of \$40.0 million, which resulted in the write off of approximately \$0.6 million of deferred financing cost.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2008, Kraton had \$50 million borrowed under the revolving facility. As of September 30, 2009, Kraton had no outstanding borrowings under the revolving facility.

The following is a summary of the material terms of the amended Credit Agreement. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the provisions of the Credit Agreement.

Maturity. The loans made under the portion of the revolving commitments extended pursuant to the November 2009 Amendment are payable in a single maturity on May 12, 2013. The \$200,000 portion of the revolving commitments that were not extended pursuant to November 2009 Amendment are payable on May 12, 2011. The loans made under the existing term facility are payable in 25 consecutive equal quarterly installments, in an aggregate annual amount equal to 1.0% of the original principal amount of such loans. The remaining balance is payable in four equal quarterly installments commencing on September 30, 2012 and ending on May 12, 2013.

Interest. The loans made under the existing term facility bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus 2.00% per annum or, at Kraton's option, the base rate plus 1.00% per annum. Interest is payable on the last day of each interest period selected by Kraton under the Credit Agreement, and in any event at least quarterly. The average effective interest rates on the loans made under the existing term facility for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were 5.0% and 7.5%, respectively. The loans made under the portion of the revolving commitments extended pursuant to the November 2009 Amendment bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus a margin of between 3.00% and 3.50% per annum (depending on the Kraton's consolidated leverage ratio) or at Kraton's option, the base rate plus a margin of between 2.00% and 2.50% per annum (also depending on Kraton's consolidated leverage ratio). In addition, with respect to the extended portion of the revolving commitments, an annual commitment fee equal to 0.75% payable quarterly on the daily average undrawn portion of revolving commitments extended pursuant to the November 2009 Amendment accrues and is payable quarterly in arrears.

The terms of the \$200,000 portion of the revolving commitments that were not extended pursuant to November 2009 Amendment were not changed. Loans made under the this portion of the revolving commitments bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus a margin of between 2.00% and 2.50% per annum, depending on Kraton's leverage ratio, or at Kraton's option, the base rate plus a margin of between 1.00% and 1.50% per annum, depending on Kraton's leverage ratio. The unused commitment fee for the unextended revolving commitments is 0.5%.

Mandatory Prepayments. The existing term facility is subject to mandatory prepayment with, in general: (1) 100% of the net cash proceeds of certain asset sales, subject to certain reinvestment rights; (2) 100% of the net cash proceeds of certain insurance and condemnation payments, subject to certain reinvestment rights; (3) 50% of the net cash proceeds of certain equity offerings of TJ Chemical Holdings LLC or us (declining to 25%, if a leverage ratio is met); (4) 100% of the net cash proceeds of debt incurrences (other than debt incurrences permitted under the Credit Agreement); and (5) 50% of Kraton's excess cash flow, as defined in the Credit Agreement (declining to 25%, if a leverage ratio is met and to 0% if a further leverage ratio is met). Any such prepayment is applied first to the term facility and thereafter to the revolving facility.

Covenants. The Credit Agreement contains certain affirmative covenants including, among others, covenants to furnish the Lenders with financial statements and other financial information and to provide the Lenders notice of material events and information regarding collateral.

The Credit Agreement contains certain negative covenants that, among other things, restrict Kraton's ability, subject to certain exceptions, to incur additional indebtedness, grant liens on its assets, undergo fundamental changes, make investments, sell assets, make acquisitions, engage in sale and leaseback transactions, make restricted payments, engage in transactions with its affiliates, amend or modify certain agreements and charter documents and change its fiscal year. The covenants also restrict our activities. Kraton is required to maintain a fiscal quarter end interest coverage ratio of at least 2.75:1.00 through December 31, 2009; and of at least

Table of Contents

3.00:1.00 beginning March 31, 2010 and continuing thereafter. In addition, Kraton is required to maintain a fiscal quarter end leverage ratio not to exceed 4.45 through September 30, 2009; and 4.00 beginning December 31, 2009 and continuing thereafter.

On January 14, 2008, Kraton received an equity investment of \$10.0 million, of which \$9.6 million was included in the financial covenant calculation for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2007 and was included in the fiscal quarter covenant calculations through the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2008 pursuant to the equity cure provisions included in the Credit Agreement. As of September 30, 2009, Kraton was in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

8.125% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014

On December 23, 2003, Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation issued \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Subordinated Notes due 2014, or the senior subordinated notes, that bear interest at a rate of 8.125% per annum. The following is a summary of the material terms of the senior subordinated notes. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified, in its entirety, by reference to the provisions of the indenture governing the senior subordinated notes.

Maturity. The senior subordinated notes mature on January 15, 2014.

Interest. Interest on the senior subordinated notes is payable semi-annually on January 15 and July 15 each year, commencing July 15, 2004.

Guarantees. The senior subordinated notes are guaranteed on a senior subordinated basis by all of Kraton's existing and future subsidiaries that guarantee the indebtedness under the senior secured credit facility described above.

Security and Ranking. The senior subordinated notes and the guarantees are general unsecured obligations and are subordinated to Kraton's and its guarantor subsidiaries' existing and future senior indebtedness, including indebtedness under the senior secured credit facility, and rank equally with Kraton's and its guarantor subsidiaries' future senior subordinated indebtedness. The senior subordinated notes and the guarantees effectively rank junior to Kraton's secured indebtedness and to the secured indebtedness of all of Kraton's guarantor subsidiaries to the extent of the value of the assets securing the indebtedness and are structurally subordinated to all liabilities of Kraton's subsidiaries that are not guarantors of the senior subordinated notes.

Optional Redemption. On or after January 15, 2009, Kraton may redeem all or a part of the senior subordinated notes at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes redeemed to the applicable redemption date.

Year	Percentage
2009	104.063%
2010	102.708%
2011	101.354%
2012 and thereafter	100.000%

Purchase of a Portion of the Senior Subordinated Notes. In April 2009, TJ Chemical purchased approximately \$6.3 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$2.5 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.1 million. Immediately upon purchasing the senior subordinated notes, TJ Chemical contributed the purchased notes to Polymer Holdings, and we in turn contributed the notes to Kraton. No equity interest or other consideration was issued in exchange for the contribution of the senior subordinated notes, although members' equity of each of Polymers Holdings and Kraton was increased by an amount equal to the cash consideration paid by TJ Chemical. Kraton holds the senior subordinated notes as treasury bonds. Also

Table of Contents

in April 2009, Kraton purchased approximately \$0.7 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$0.3 million which Kraton is holding as treasury bonds. We recorded a gain of approximately \$4.3 million on the extinguishment of debt in the quarter ended June 30, 2009.

On March 16, 2009, Kraton purchased and retired \$30 million face value of the senior subordinated notes for cash consideration of \$10.9 million, which included accrued interest of \$0.4 million. We recorded a gain of approximately \$19.5 million in the quarter ending March 31, 2009 related to the purchase and retirement of these senior subordinated notes.

Covenants. The senior subordinated notes contain certain affirmative covenants including, among others, covenants to furnish the holders of the senior subordinated notes with financial statements and other financial information and to provide the holders of the senior subordinated notes notice of material events.

The senior subordinated notes contain certain negative covenants including limitations on indebtedness, limitations on restricted payments, limitations on restrictions on distributions from certain subsidiaries, limitations on lines of businesses and mergers and consolidations.

As of September 30, 2009, Kraton was in compliance with all covenants under the senior subordinated notes.

Table of Contents

SHARES ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE SALE

Prior to this offering, there has been no market for our common stock, and we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market for our common stock will develop or be sustained after this offering. Future sales of substantial amounts of common stock, including shares issued upon exercise of options and warrants, in the public market after this offering, or the anticipation of those sales, could adversely affect market prices prevailing from time to time and could impair our ability to raise capital through sales of our equity securities. Immediately prior to the closing of the offering, we will have one holder of common stock, TJ Chemical.

Sales of Restricted Shares

Upon the closing of this offering, we will have outstanding an aggregate of 29,709,114 shares of common stock (based on 19,414,996 shares outstanding after our conversion to a corporation and 10,294,118 shares sold in the offering). Of these shares, we expect all of the shares of common stock to be sold in this offering will be freely tradable without restriction or further registration under the Securities Act, unless the shares are held by any of our affiliates, as that term is defined in Rule 144 of the Securities Act. All remaining shares were issued and sold by us in private transactions and are eligible for public sale only if registered under the Securities Act or sold in accordance with Rule 144 or Rule 701, each of which is discussed below.

The holders of all of our currently outstanding stock are subject to lock-up agreements under which they have agreed not to transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of common stock, for a period of 180 days after the date of this prospectus, which is subject to extension in some circumstances, as discussed below.

As a result of the lock-up agreements described below and the provisions of Rule 144 and Rule 701 under the Securities Act, the shares of our common stock (excluding the shares to be sold in this offering) will be available for sale in the public market as follows:

shares will be eligible for sale on the date of this prospectus;

shares will be eligible for sale under Rule 144 or Rule 701 ninety days after the date of this prospectus; and

shares will be eligible for sale upon the expiration of the lock-up agreements, as more particularly and except as described below, beginning after expiration of the lock-up period pursuant to Rule 144 or Rule 701.

We expect 19,271,702 shares to become eligible for future sale in the public market pursuant to Rule 144 at varying times after six months from the date of this prospectus.

Rule 144

In general, under Rule 144, beginning 90 days after the date of this prospectus, a person who is not our affiliate, has not been our affiliate for the previous three months, and who has beneficially owned shares of our common stock for at least six months may sell all such shares. An affiliate or a person who has been our affiliate within the previous 90 days, and who has beneficially owned shares of our common stock for at least six months, may sell within any three-month period a number of shares that does not exceed the greater of:

one percent of the number of shares of common stock then outstanding, which will equal approximately 297,091 shares immediately after this offering; and

Table of Contents

the average weekly trading volume of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange during the four calendar weeks preceding the filing of a notice on Form 144 with respect to the sale.

All sales under Rule 144 are subject to the availability of current public information about us. Sales under Rule 144 by affiliates or persons who have been affiliates within the previous 90 days are also subject to manner of sale provisions and notice requirements. Upon completion of the 180-day lock-up period, subject to any extension of the lock-up period under circumstances described below, approximately 19,271,702 shares of our outstanding restricted securities will be eligible for sale under Rule 144 subject to limitations on sales by affiliates.

Rule 701

In general, under Rule 701 of the Securities Act, any of our employees, consultants or advisors who purchase shares from us in connection with a qualified compensatory stock plan or other written agreement is eligible to resell those shares 90 days after the effective date of this offering in reliance on Rule 144, but without compliance with the holding period contained in Rule 144, and, in the case of non-affiliates, without the availability of current public information.

Lock-up Agreements

We have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, with the underwriters not to dispose of or hedge any of the shares of common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock during the period from the date of this prospectus continuing through the date 180 days after the date of this prospectus, subject to certain exceptions, except in our case upon the exercise of options issued pursuant to compensation plans for directors and executive officers approved by our board of directors prior to this offering or pursuant to a dividend investment plan. Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated may, in their sole discretion release any of these shares from these restrictions at any time without notice. See Underwriting.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a summary of material United States federal income and estate tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock as of the date of this prospectus. Except where noted, this summary deals only with common stock that is held as a capital asset by a non-U.S. holder. A non-U.S. holder means a person (other than a partnership) that is not for United States federal income tax purposes any of the following:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States including an alien individual who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States or meets the substantial presence test under Section 7701(b) of the Code;

a corporation (or any other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

This summary is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Those authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in United States federal income and estate tax consequences different from those summarized below. This summary does not address all aspects of United States federal income and estate taxes and does not deal with foreign, state, local or other tax considerations that may be relevant to non-U.S. holders in light of their particular circumstances. In addition, it does not represent a detailed description of the United States federal income and estate tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws (including if you are a United States expatriate, controlled foreign corporation, passive foreign investment company, or corporation that accumulates earnings to avoid United States federal income tax). A change in law may alter significantly the tax considerations that we describe in this summary.

If a partnership holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our common stock, you should consult your tax advisors.

If you are considering the purchase of our common stock, we recommend that you consult your own tax advisors concerning the particular United States federal income and estate tax consequences to you of the ownership and disposition of the common stock, as well as the consequences to you arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

Dividends

In the event that we pay dividends, dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder of our common stock generally will be subject to withholding of United States federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the non-U.S. holder within the United States (and, where a tax treaty applies, are attributable to a United States permanent establishment of the non-U.S. holder) are not subject to the withholding tax, provided certain certification and disclosure requirements are satisfied. Instead, such dividends are subject to

Table of Contents

United States federal income tax on a net income basis in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a United States person as defined under the Code. A foreign corporation receiving any such effectively connected dividends may be subject to an additional branch profits tax imposed at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A non-U.S. holder of our common stock that wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate and avoid backup withholding, as discussed below, for dividends will be required to (a) complete Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form) and certify under penalty of perjury that such holder is not a United States person as defined under the Code or (b) if our common stock is held through certain foreign intermediaries, satisfy the relevant certification requirements of applicable United States Treasury regulations. Special certification and other requirements apply to certain non-U.S. holders that are entities rather than individuals.

A non-U.S. holder of our common stock eligible for a reduced rate of United States withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service.

Gain on Sale or Other Disposition of Common Stock

Any gain realized on the disposition of our common stock generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless:

the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the non-U.S. holder in the United States, and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a United States permanent establishment of the non-U.S. holder;

the non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and certain other conditions are met; or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

An individual non-U.S. holder described in the first bullet point immediately above will be subject to tax on the net gain derived from the sale under regular graduated United States federal income tax rates. An individual non-U.S. holder described in the second bullet point immediately above will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the sale, which may be offset by United States source capital losses, even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States, but may not be offset by any capital loss carryovers. If a non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation falls under the first bullet point immediately above, it generally will be subject to tax on its net gain in the same manner as if it were a United States person as defined under the Code and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax imposed at a rate of 30% or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. We do not believe that we are or have been, and do not expect to become, a United States real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes.

Federal Estate Tax

Common stock held by an individual non-U.S. holder at the time of death and common stock held by entities the property of which is potentially includible in such an individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes will be included in such holder's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

Backup Withholding, Information Reporting and Other Reporting Requirements

We must report annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to each non-U.S. holder the amount of dividends paid to such holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether

Table of Contents

withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the non-U.S. holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

A non-U.S. holder will be subject to backup withholding for dividends paid to such holder unless such holder certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder, and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a United States person as defined under the Code, or such holder otherwise establishes an exemption.

Information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding will apply to the proceeds of a sale of our common stock within the United States or conducted through certain United States-related financial intermediaries, unless the beneficial owner certifies under penalty of perjury that it is a non-U.S. holder (and the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a United States person as defined under the Code) or such owner otherwise establishes an exemption.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

Recent Legislative Proposals

The Obama Administration has recently released revenue proposals that would limit the ability of non-U. S. investors to claim relief from U.S. withholding tax in respect of dividends paid on the common stock, if such investors hold the common stock through a non-U.S. intermediary that is not a qualified intermediary. The Administration's proposals also would limit the ability of certain non-U.S. entities to claim relief from United States withholding tax in respect of dividends paid to such non-U.S. entities unless those entities have provided documentation of their beneficial owners to the withholding agent. A third proposal would impose a 20% withholding tax on the gross proceeds of the sale of common stock effected through a non-U. S. intermediary that is not a qualified intermediary and that is not located in a jurisdiction with which the United States has a comprehensive income tax treaty having a satisfactory exchange of information provision. A non-U. S. investor generally would be permitted to claim a refund to the extent any tax withheld exceeded the investor's actual tax liability. The full details of these proposals have not yet been made public, although the Administration's summary of these proposals generally indicates that they are not intended to disrupt ordinary and customary market transactions. It is unclear whether, or in what form, these proposals may be enacted. Non-U.S. holders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of the Administration's proposals on their investment in respect of the common stock.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated December 16, 2009, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters named below, for whom Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. are acting as representatives (the Representatives), the following respective numbers of shares of common stock:

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	3,088,235
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	2,470,588
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	2,470,588
Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.	1,029,412
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	823,529
KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc.	411,766
Total	10,294,118

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all the shares of common stock in the offering if any are purchased, other than those shares covered by the over-allotment option described below.

We have granted the underwriters the right to purchase shares of common stock on the same terms and conditions as set forth above if the underwriters sell more than 10,294,118 shares of common stock in this offering. The underwriters can exercise this right at any time and from time to time, in whole or in part, within 30 days after the offering.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock initially at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus and to selling group members at that price less a selling concession of \$0.5265 per share. After the initial public offering the underwriters may change the public offering price and concession and discount to broker/dealers.

The following table summarizes the compensation and estimated expenses we will pay:

	Per Share		Total	
	Without Over-allotment	With Over-allotment	Without Over-allotment	With Over-allotment
Underwriting Discounts and Commissions paid by us	\$ 0.8775	\$ 0.8775	\$ 9,033,088.545	\$ 10,388,051.213
Expenses payable by us	\$ 0.3716	\$ 0.3231	\$ 3,825,000	\$ 3,825,000

The underwriters have informed us that they do not expect sales to accounts over which the underwriters have discretionary authority to exceed 5% of the shares of common stock being offered.

We intend to use net proceeds from the sale of the common stock to repay a portion of the senior secured credit facility, under which Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is a lender.

Table of Contents

We have agreed that we will not offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, directly or indirectly, or file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act) relating to, any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock, or publicly disclose the intention to make any offer, sale, pledge, disposition or filing, without the prior written consent of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated for a period of 180 days after the date of this prospectus, except issuances pursuant to the exercise of options issued pursuant to compensation plans for directors and executive officers approved by our board of directors prior to this offering or pursuant to a dividend reinvestment plan. However, in the event that either (1) during the last 17 days of the lock-up period, we release earnings results or material news or a material event relating to us occurs or (2) prior to the expiration of the lock-up period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the lock-up period, then in either case the expiration of the lock-up will be extended until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the date of the release of the earnings results or the occurrence of the material news or event, as applicable, unless Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated waives, in writing, such an extension.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in that respect. We have agreed to contribute to payments made by the underwriters for liabilities under the Securities Act if our indemnification of such liabilities is unavailable or insufficient to hold harmless the underwriters.

We will apply to list the shares of common stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our shares. Consequently, the initial public offering price for the shares was determined by negotiations between us and the Representatives. Among the factors considered in determining the initial public offering price were our results of operations, our current financial condition, our future prospects, our markets, the economic conditions in and future prospects for the industry in which we compete, our management, and currently prevailing general conditions in the equity securities markets, including current market valuations of publicly traded companies considered comparable to our company. We cannot assure you, however, that the price at which the shares will sell in the public market after this offering will not be lower than the initial public offering price or that an active trading market in our shares will develop and continue after this offering.

In connection with the offering the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, over-allotment transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act).

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Over-allotment involves sales by the underwriters of shares in excess of the number of shares the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a syndicate short position. The short position may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the number of shares over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the number of shares that they may purchase in the over-allotment option. In a naked short position, the number of shares involved is greater than the number of shares in the over-allotment option. The underwriters may close out any covered short position by either exercising their over-allotment option and/or purchasing shares in the open market.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of shares to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. If the underwriters sell more shares than could be covered by the over-allotment option, a naked short position, the position can only be closed out by buying shares

Table of Contents

in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

Penalty bids permit the underwriting syndicate to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the common stock originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

In passive market making, market makers in the common stock who are underwriters or prospective underwriters may, subject to limitations, make bids for or purchases of our common stock until the time, if any, at which a stabilizing bid is made. These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result the price of our common stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the New York Stock Exchange and if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by one or more of the underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and one or more of the underwriters participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The Representatives may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various financial advisory and investment banking services for the issuer, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions in such securities and instruments. Such investment and securities activities may involve securities and instruments of the issuer.

European Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of common stock described in this prospectus may not be made to the public in that relevant member state prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to our common stock that has been approved by the competent authority in that relevant member state or, where appropriate, approved in another relevant member state and notified to the competent authority in that relevant member state, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that, with effect from and including the relevant implementation date, an offer of securities may be offered to the public in that relevant member state at any time:

to any legal entity that is authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities; or

Table of Contents

to any legal entity that has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year, (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or

to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances that do not require the publication of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. Each purchaser of common stock described in this prospectus located within a relevant member state will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the securities, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

The sellers of our common stock have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of common stock through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriters with a view to the final placement of our common stock as contemplated in this prospectus. Accordingly, no purchaser of our common stock, other than underwriters, is authorized to make any further offer of our common stock on behalf of the sellers or the underwriters.

United Kingdom

This prospectus is only being distributed to, and is only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive (Qualified Investors) that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This prospectus and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant persons should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Switzerland

We have not and will not register with the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) as a foreign collective investment scheme pursuant to Article 119 of the Federal Act on Collective Investment Scheme of 23 June 2006, as amended (CISA), and accordingly the shares being offered pursuant to this prospectus have not and will not be approved, and may not be licenseable, with FINMA. Therefore, the shares have not been authorized for distribution by FINMA as a foreign collective investment scheme pursuant to Article 119 CISA and the shares offered hereby may not be offered to the public (as this term is defined in Article 3 CISA) in or from Switzerland. The shares may solely be offered to qualified investors, as this term is defined in Article 10 CISA, and in the circumstances set out in Article 3 of the Ordinance on Collective Investment Scheme of 22 November 2006, as amended (CISO), such that there is no public offer. Investors, however, do not benefit from protection under CISA or CISO or supervision by FINMA. This prospectus and any other materials relating to the shares are strictly personal and confidential to each offeree and do not constitute an

Table of Contents

offer to any other person. This prospectus may only be used by those qualified investors to whom it has been handed out in connection with the offer described herein and may neither directly or indirectly be distributed or made available to any person or entity other than its recipients. It may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in Switzerland or from Switzerland. This prospectus does not constitute an issue prospectus as that term is understood pursuant to Article 652a and/or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations. We have not applied for a listing of the shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other regulated securities market in Switzerland, and consequently, the information presented in this prospectus does not necessarily comply with the information standards set out in the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange and corresponding prospectus schemes annexed to the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange.

Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan Selling Restrictions

Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Singapore

This offering circular has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this offering circular and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

Japan

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and each Initial Purchaser has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which

Table of Contents

term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This document relates to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority. This document is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The Dubai Financial Services Authority has not approved this document nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this document you should consult an authorized financial adviser.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP will pass upon the legality of the shares of common stock to be issued in this offering. Certain partners of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP are members of a limited liability company that is an investor in one or more investment funds advised by TPG Capital, L.P., including investment funds that own a beneficial equity interest in the company. Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP represents entities affiliated with TPG Capital, L.P. and its affiliates in connection with legal matters. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Latham & Watkins LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of Polymer Holdings LLC as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, have been included herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, appearing elsewhere herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audit report covering the December 31, 2007 and 2006 consolidated financial statements refers to a change in the method of accounting for uncertain tax positions, and accounting for defined benefit and other post retirement plans.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act, with respect to our common stock offered by this prospectus. This prospectus, which forms part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. Some items are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us and our common stock, we refer you to the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement filed as part of the registration statement. You may read and copy the registration statement, including the exhibits to the registration statement, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at www.sec.gov, from which you can electronically access the registration statement, including the exhibits to the registration statement.

As a result of this offering, we will become subject to the full informational requirements of the Exchange Act. We will fulfill our obligations with respect to such requirements by filing periodic reports and other information with the SEC. We intend to furnish our stockholders with annual reports containing financial statements that have been examined and reported on, with an opinion expressed by an independent registered public accounting firm. We also maintain an Internet site at www.kraton.com. Our Internet site is not a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Page
Audited Consolidated Financial Statements	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-2
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2008 and 2007</u>	F-3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006</u>	F-4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Member s Equity and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006</u>	F-5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006</u>	F-6
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-7
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-52
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2009 and December 31, 2008</u>	F-53
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008</u>	F-54
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine month periods ended September 30, 2009 and 2008</u>	F-55
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-56

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors

Polymer Holdings LLC:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Polymer Holdings LLC and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in member's equity and comprehensive income (loss), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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 includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Polymer Holdings LLC and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in notes 6 and 7 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed its method of accounting for uncertain tax positions as of January 1, 2007 and its method of accounting for defined benefit and other post retirement plans as of December 31, 2006.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Houston, Texas

September 29, 2009

F-2

Table of Contents

POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands)

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 101,396	\$ 48,277
Receivables, net of allowances of \$2,512 and \$1,542	95,443	140,321
Inventories of products, net	324,193	256,323
Inventories of materials and supplies, net	11,055	12,170
Deferred income taxes	14,778	
Other current assets	6,769	12,404
Total current assets	553,634	469,495
Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$182,252 and \$157,643	372,008	402,270
Identifiable intangible assets, less accumulated amortization of \$36,169 and \$29,205	67,051	76,356
Investment in unconsolidated joint venture	12,371	10,326
Deferred financing costs	8,184	10,323
Other long-term assets	18,626	16,124
Total Assets	\$ 1,031,874	\$ 984,894
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER S EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 3,343	\$ 3,445
Accounts payable-trade	75,177	102,952
Other payables and accruals	69,349	55,816
Due to related party	25,585	24,505
Deferred income taxes		9,827
Insurance note payable		494
Total current liabilities	173,454	197,039
Long-term debt, net of current portion	571,973	535,241
Deferred income taxes	34,954	39,421
Long-term liabilities	63,117	30,682
Total Liabilities	843,498	802,383
Commitments and contingencies (note 8)		
Member s equity		
Common equity	182,553	142,950
Accumulated other comprehensive income	5,823	39,561
Total member s equity	188,376	182,511
Total Liabilities and Member s Equity	\$ 1,031,874	\$ 984,894

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

F-3

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(In thousands)**

	Years ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Operating Revenues			
Sales	\$ 1,171,253	\$ 1,066,044	\$ 1,015,766
Other	54,780	23,543	32,355
Total operating revenues	1,226,033	1,089,587	1,048,121
Cost of Goods Sold	971,283	938,556	843,726
Gross Profit	254,750	151,031	204,395
Operating Expenses			
Research and development	27,049	24,865	24,598
Selling, general and administrative	101,431	69,020	73,776
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	53,162	51,917	43,574
Total operating expenses	181,642	145,802	141,948
Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture	437	626	168
Interest Expense, net	36,695	43,484	66,637
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	36,850	(37,629)	(4,022)
Income Tax Expense	8,431	6,120	29,814
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBER S EQUITY AND

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(In thousands)

	Common Equity	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
December 31, 2005	\$ 215,452	\$ (2,692)	\$ 212,760
Net loss	(33,836)		(33,836)
Other comprehensive loss			
Foreign currency translation adjustments		20,468	20,468
Unrealized loss on interest rate swaps, net of tax		(951)	(951)
Total comprehensive loss			(14,319)
Cash distribution to member	(3)		(3)
Adoption of SFAS 158 net of deferred tax benefit of \$730		(1,195)	(1,195)
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	2,305		2,305
December 31, 2006	183,918	15,630	199,548
Net loss	(43,749)		(43,749)
Other comprehensive loss			
Foreign currency translation adjustments		21,457	21,457
Realized loss on interest rate swaps, net of tax		(1,863)	(1,863)
Decrease in pension liability, net of deferred tax liability of \$1,800		4,337	4,337
Total comprehensive loss			(19,818)
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	2,781		2,781
December 31, 2007	142,950	39,561	182,511
Net income	28,419		28,419
Other comprehensive income			
Foreign currency translation adjustments		5,396	5,396
Net unrealized loss on interest rate swaps		(858)	(858)
Reclassification of interest rate swaps into earnings		(1,326)	(1,326)
Increase in pension liability, net of tax		(36,950)	(36,950)
Total comprehensive income			(5,319)
Cash contribution from member	10,000		10,000
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	1,184		1,184
December 31, 2008	\$ 182,553	\$ 5,823	\$ 188,376

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(In thousands)

	Years ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income (loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ (43,749)	\$ (33,836)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization of identifiable intangibles	53,162	51,917	43,574
Accretion of debt discount	24	24	23,657
Lower-of-cost-or-market adjustment	8,100		
Amortization of deferred financing costs	2,139	2,715	4,038
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	184	274	262
Change in fair value of interest rate swaps	(1,378)	(1,553)	(20)
Distributed (undistributed) earnings in unconsolidated joint venture	604	(520)	1,097
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	(5,445)	1,519	13,262
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	1,184	2,781	2,305
Decrease (increase) in			
Accounts receivable	42,815	8,710	(13,575)
Due to from related party	(6,007)	14,704	(6,508)
Inventories of products, materials and supplies	(86,738)	17,793	(53,126)
Other assets	(1,377)	(1,525)	5,713
Increase in			
Accounts payable-trade, other payables and accruals, and long-term liabilities	4,541	28,647	11,135
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	40,227	81,737	(2,022)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(24,093)	(28,713)	(38,032)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	26	43	151
Net cash used in investing activities	(24,067)	(28,670)	(37,881)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from debt	316,250	48,500	123,008
Repayment of debt	(279,644)	(92,148)	(132,343)
Cash contribution from member	10,000		
Cash contribution to member			(3)
Proceeds from (repayment of) insurance note payable	(494)	(245)	739
Deferred financing costs			(2,678)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	46,112	(43,893)	(11,277)
Effect of exchange rate differences on cash	(9,153)	(4,498)	(6,153)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	53,119	4,676	(57,333)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	48,277	43,601	100,934
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 101,396	\$ 48,277	\$ 43,601

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Supplemental Disclosures

Cash paid during the period for income taxes	\$ 11,251	\$ 8,912	\$ 7,623
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$ 39,533	\$ 37,052	\$ 39,844

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

F-6

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements****INDEX**

	PAGE
1. <u>Summary of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies</u>	F-7
2. <u>Share-Based Compensation</u>	F-12
3. <u>Detail of Certain Balance Sheet Accounts</u>	F-15
4. <u>Long-Term Debt</u>	F-16
5. <u>Deferred Financing Costs</u>	F-20
6. <u>Income Taxes</u>	F-20
7. <u>Employee Benefits</u>	F-23
8. <u>Commitments and Contingencies</u>	F-32
9. <u>Fair Value Measurements</u>	F-33
10. <u>Significant Contracts</u>	F-33
11. <u>Related Party Transactions</u>	F-36
12. <u>Member s Equity</u>	F-37
13. <u>Industry Segment and Foreign Operations</u>	F-37
14. <u>Supplemental Guarantor Information</u>	F-39
15. <u>Financial Instruments, Hedging Activities and Credit Risk</u>	F-48
16. <u>Restructuring and restructuring-related costs</u>	F-49
17. <u>Subsequent Event</u>	F-50
1. Summary of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies	

Organization and Description of Business. Polymer Holdings LLC, or Polymer Holdings, and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, are, unless the context requires otherwise, collectively referred to herein as we, our, us, our company and/or the Company. Polymer Holdings is the sole Member and 100% equity owner of Kraton Polymers LLC. As used herein, the term Kraton refers to Kraton Polymers LLC, and, unless the context herein requires otherwise, said term shall include the direct and indirect subsidiaries of Kraton Polymers LLC. Kraton Polymers LLC directly or indirectly owns 100% of the equity interests in (1) Elastomers Holdings LLC (holding company of Kraton s United States (U.S.) operations), (2) K.P. Global Holdings C.V. (holding company of the remainder of our global operations) and (3) Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation (a company with no obligations). TJ Chemical Holdings LLC, or TJ Chemical, owns 100% of the equity interests in Polymer Holdings. TJ Chemical is owned by TPG III Polymer Holdings LLC, TPG IV Polymer Holdings LLC, Kraton Management LLC and certain entities affiliated with J.P. Morgan Partners, LLC.

We believe we are the world s leading producer (in terms of both 2008 sales revenues and sales volumes) of styrenic block copolymers, or SBCs, a family of performance polymer products whose chemistry we pioneered over 40 years ago. SBCs are highly-engineered synthetic elastomers which enhance the performance of numerous products by delivering a variety of performance-enhancing characteristics, including greater flexibility, resilience, strength, durability and processability, and are a fast growing subset of the elastomers industry. Our polymers are typically formulated or compounded with other products to achieve improved, customer specific performance characteristics in a variety of applications. We believe that our superior technical expertise, strong customer relationships, track record of innovation, second-to-none service offerings, diversity of customers and geographies, and history of continuous improvements, together with the recognized quality standard associated with our KRATON® brand name, have enabled us to maintain our leading global position in SBCs. We serve a large number of customers across a diverse set of end-use markets in many regions of the world. As a result, we believe our sales are less sensitive to conditions in any one particular end-use market or region. We currently offer over 800 products to more than 700 customers in over 60 countries worldwide. We are the only SBC producer with manufacturing and service capabilities on four continents, enabling us to meet the global needs of

Table of Contents

our multinational customers. We manufacture products at six plants globally, including our flagship plant in Belpre, Ohio, the largest and most diversified SBC plant in the world, as well as plants in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Brazil, and a joint venture operated plant in Japan.

Basis of Presentation. The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements presented herein are for us and our consolidated subsidiaries, each of which is a wholly-owned subsidiary. These financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments that are, in the opinion of management, necessary to fairly present our results of operations and financial position.

Use of Estimates. To conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the U.S., management makes estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. Although these estimates are based on management's best available knowledge at the time, actual results could differ.

Reclassifications. Certain amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the current reporting presentation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents. It is our policy to invest our excess cash in investment instruments whose value is not subject to market fluctuations, such as bank deposits or certificates of deposit. Other permitted investments include commercial paper of major U.S. corporations with ratings of A1 by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group or P1 by Moody's Investor Services, Inc., loan participations of major U.S. corporations with a short term credit rating of A1/P1 and direct obligations of the U.S. government or its agencies. We consider all investments having a remaining maturity of 3 months or less to be cash equivalents.

Receivables. Receivables are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. The allowance for doubtful accounts is our best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in our existing receivables. We determine the allowance based on historical write-off experience and global economic data. We review the allowance for doubtful accounts quarterly. Past due balances over 90 days and above a specified amount are reviewed individually for collectibility. Account balances are charged off against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. We do not have any off-balance sheet credit exposure related to our customers.

Inventories. Our inventory is principally comprised of finished goods inventory. Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market as determined on a first-in, first-out basis. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate the carrying cost of our inventory to ensure that it is stated at the lower of cost or market. Our products are typically not subject to spoiling or obsolescence and consequently our reserves for slow moving and obsolete inventory have historically not been significant. Cash flows from the sale of inventory are reported in cash flows from operations in the consolidated statement of cash flows.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. We follow the requirements of SFAS No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, as amended, in accounting for derivative instruments and hedging activities. This statement establishes accounting and reporting standards requiring that derivative instruments be recorded at fair value and included in the balance sheet as assets or liabilities. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative instrument depends on the intended use of the derivative and the resulting designation. Accounting for qualified hedges allows a derivative's gains and losses to offset related results on the hedged item in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. For derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, changes in fair value, to the extent the hedge is effective, are recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. Hedge effectiveness is measured at least quarterly based upon the relative changes in fair value between the derivative contract and the hedged item over time. Any change in the fair value resulting from ineffectiveness, as defined by SFAS No. 133, is recognized immediately in earnings.

Table of Contents

Property, Plant and Equipment. Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Major renewals and improvements which extend the useful lives of equipment are capitalized. Repair and maintenance expenses are charged to operations as incurred. We utilize the expense as incurred method of accounting for planned major maintenance. Disposals are removed at carrying cost less accumulated depreciation with any resulting gain or loss reflected in operations. We capitalize interest costs which are incurred as part of the cost of constructing major facilities and equipment. We did not record any capitalized interest in any periods presented. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the following average estimated useful lives:

Machinery and equipment	20 years
Building and land improvements	20 years
Computer hardware/information systems	3 years
Office equipment	5 years
Research equipment and facilities	5 years
Vehicles	5 years

Asset Retirement Obligations. SFAS No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations (SFAS No. 143), requires us to record the fair value of an asset retirement obligation as a liability in the period in which we incur a legal obligation associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets that result from the acquisition, construction, development, and/or normal use of the assets. SFAS No. 143 also requires us to record a corresponding asset that is depreciated over the life of the asset. In March 2005, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Interpretation No. 47, Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations, an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 143 (FIN No. 47) which mainly clarifies the timing of the recording of certain retirement obligations required by SFAS No. 143. Subsequent to the initial measurement of the asset retirement obligation, the obligation is to be adjusted at the end of each period to reflect the passage of time and changes in the estimated future cash flows underlying the obligation.

We have no assets that are legally restricted for purposes of settling asset retirement obligations. We have determined that we have contractual or regulatory requirements to decommission and perform other remediation for many of our manufacturing facilities and other assets upon retirement. These manufacturing facilities have historically been profitable, and we plan to continue to upgrade these assets and expand the manufacturing capacity in conjunction with the growing market for our products. We plan to operate our manufacturing facilities for the foreseeable future and there are no current plans to close or convert these assets for use in the manufacture of fundamentally different products. Unlike our United States and Brazil manufacturing assets, our manufacturing assets in Europe are all located on leased land. For these assets, we used the lease termination dates as the estimate for when our asset retirement obligations related to those assets will be settled.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets. SFAS No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets (SFAS No. 144), provides a guidance for long-lived assets to be disposed of.

In accordance with SFAS No. 144, long-lived assets, such as property, plant and equipment, and purchased intangibles subject to amortization, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated undiscounted future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset, calculated using discounted cash flows.

Identifiable Intangible Assets. We have recorded identifiable intangible assets related to technology, trade names/trademarks and customer relationships as detailed in Note 3 below. Identifiable intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over 15 years.

Investment in Unconsolidated Joint Venture. Our 50% equity investment in a manufacturing joint venture at our Kashima site is accounted for under the equity method with our share of the operating results of the joint venture classified within equity in earnings of unconsolidated joint venture in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Table of Contents

We evaluate our equity method investment for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate, in management's judgment, that the carrying value of such investment may have experienced an other-than-temporary decline in value. When evidence of loss in value has occurred, management compares the estimated fair value of the investment to the carrying value of the investment to determine whether an impairment has occurred. Management assesses the fair value of its equity method investment using commonly accepted techniques, and may use more than one method, including, but not limited to, recent third party comparable sales, internally developed discounted cash flow analysis and analysis from outside advisors. If the estimated fair value is less than the carrying value and management considers the decline in value to be other than temporary, the excess of the carrying value over the estimated fair value is recognized in the financial statements as an impairment.

Deferred Financing Costs. We capitalize financing fees and other related costs and amortize them to interest expense over the term of the related debt instrument using the effective interest method.

Environmental Costs. Environmental costs are expensed as incurred unless the expenditures extend the economic useful life of the relevant assets. Costs that extend the economic life of assets are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining life of those assets. Liabilities are recorded when environmental assessments, or remedial efforts are probable, and the cost can be reasonably estimated.

Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments. The carrying amount approximates fair value for cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable and certain accrued expenses due to the short maturities of these instruments. The fair values of long-term debt instruments and the interest rate swap agreements are estimated based upon market values (if applicable) or on the current interest rates available to us for debt with similar terms and remaining maturities. Considerable judgment is required in developing these estimates.

Revenue Recognition. Sales are recognized in accordance with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 104, Revenue Recognition in Financial Statements when the revenue is realized or realizable, and has been earned. Revenue for product sales is recognized as risk and title to the product transfer to the customer, which usually occurs at the time shipment is made. The Company's products are generally sold FOB (free on board) shipping point or, with respect to countries other than the United States, an equivalent basis. As such, title to the product passes when the product is delivered to the freight carrier. The Company's standard terms of delivery are included in its contracts of sale, order confirmation documents and invoices.

Shipping and other transportation costs charged to customers are recorded in both sales and cost of sales. Sales revenues are reduced by the expense of rebates to customers as agreed upon volume targets are met.

We have entered into agreements with some of our customers, whereby they earn rebates from us when the volume of their purchases of our product reach certain agreed upon levels. We recognize the rebate obligation under these agreements as a reduction of revenue based on an allocation of the cost of honoring the rebates that are earned to each of the underlying revenue transactions that result in progress by the customer toward earning the rebate.

Research and Development Expenses. Research and development expenses are expensed as incurred.

Leases. All leases entered into as of December 31, 2008 are classified as operating leases. For those leases which contain escalating rent payment clauses, we use the straight-line method to record lease expense.

Income Taxes. We conduct operations in separate legal entities; as a result, income tax amounts are reflected in these consolidated financial statements for each of those jurisdictions.

Deferred taxes result from differences between the financial and tax bases of our assets and liabilities and are adjusted for changes in tax rates and tax laws when changes are enacted. Valuation allowances are recorded to reduce deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not that a tax benefit will not be realized.

Table of Contents

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, we consider whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. We consider the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projections for future taxable income over the periods in which the deferred tax assets are deductible, we believe it is more likely than not that we will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances.

Foreign Currency Translation and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates. Financial statements of our operations outside the United States where the local currency is considered to be the functional currency are translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rate at each balance sheet date for assets and liabilities and the average exchange rate for each period for revenues, expenses, gains, and losses and cash flows. The effects of translating such operations into U.S. dollars are included as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) in member's equity.

New Accounting Pronouncements 2008. The following new accounting pronouncements were adopted during 2008 and the effect of such adoption, if applicable, has been presented in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements:

SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements. In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. FAS 157-1, Application of FASB Statement No. 157 to FASB Statement No. 13 and Other Accounting Pronouncements That Address Fair Value Measurements for Purposes of Lease Classification or Measurement under Statement 13. Also in February 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. 157-2, Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157, which delays the effective date of SFAS No. 157 to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008 for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statement on a recurring basis (at least annually). The adoption of SFAS No. 157 and FSP No. FAS 157-1 by us effective January 1, 2008 did not have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows. See Note 9 for further discussion.

In October 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 157-3, *Determining the Fair Value of a Financial Asset When the Market for That Asset Is Not Active*, which clarifies the application of SFAS No. 157 in determining the fair value of a financial asset when the market for that financial asset is not active. FSP No. FAS 157-3 was effective upon issuance, including prior periods for which financial statements have not been issued. Revisions in fair values resulting from a change in the valuation technique or its application would be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate. The adoption of FSP No. FAS 157-3 had no impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 115. In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, which permits an entity to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value at specified election dates. Subsequent unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected will be reported in earnings. The adoption of SFAS No. 159 by us effective January 1, 2008 did not have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

New Accounting Pronouncements. The following new accounting pronouncements have been issued, but have not yet been adopted as of December 31, 2008:

SFAS No. 141R, Business Combinations. In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141R which replaces SFAS No. 141, Business Combinations. SFAS No. 141R requires: (i) Upon initially obtaining control, the acquiring entity in a business combination must recognize 100% of the fair values of the acquired assets,

Table of Contents

including goodwill, and assumed liabilities, with only limited exceptions even if the acquirer has not acquired 100% of its target. As a consequence, the current step acquisition model will be eliminated. (ii) Contingent consideration arrangements will be fair valued at the acquisition date and included on that basis in the purchase price consideration. The concept of recognizing contingent consideration at a later date when the amount of that consideration is determinable beyond a reasonable doubt, will no longer be applicable. (iii) All transaction costs will be expensed as incurred. This topic is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2008. Our adoption of this topic on January 1, 2009 has had no impact to our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. A significant impact may, however be realized on any future acquisitions by us. The amount of such impact will depend on the nature and terms of such future acquisition, if any, and it did not have an impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

SFAS No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161 which amends and expands the disclosure requirements for SFAS No. 133 with the intent to provide users of financial statements an enhanced understanding of how and why derivative instruments are used, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under SFAS No. 133 and its related interpretations and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after November 15, 2008. For us, SFAS No. 161 is effective as of January 1, 2009. The adoption of SFAS No. 161 is not expected to materially affect our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

FSP No. FAS 142-3, Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets. In April 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 142-3 which amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. FSP No. FAS 142-3 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. For us, FSP No. FAS 142-3 is effective as of January 1, 2009. The adoption of FSP No. FAS 142-3 is not expected to materially affect our consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1, Employers Disclosures about Postretirement Benefit Plan Assets. In December 2008, the FASB issued FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 which provides guidance on an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan and requires employers to provide more transparency about the assets held by the retirement plan and the concentrations of risk in those plans. FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2009, and interim periods within those fiscal years. For us, FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1 is effective as of January 1, 2010. We are currently evaluating the effect of adopting FSP No. FAS 132(R)-1, but does not believe it will have a material effect on its consolidated results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

2. Share-Based Compensation

We account for share-based awards under the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which established the accounting for share-based awards exchanged for employee services. Accordingly, share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized as expense over the requisite service period.

See Note 7(f) for a description of the TJ Chemical Holdings LLC 2004 Option Plan. There were 11,463,118, 50,000 and 2,342,500 options granted under this plan to our employees and directors during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. There were no options exercised during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

We record non-cash compensation expense for the restricted membership units, notional membership units and option awards over the vesting period using the straight-line method. We recorded share-based employee compensation expense of approximately \$0.8 million, \$1.5 million and \$1.4 million for the years ended

Table of Contents

December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively, net of tax effects of \$0.4 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.9 million, respectively. At December 31, 2008, there was approximately \$3.1 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested option awards, and \$0.9 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested restricted membership unit and notional membership unit awards expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 7 years.

Stock Option Activity

Information pertaining to option activity for the year ended December 31, 2008 is as follows:

	Options (in thousands)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Life (in years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value(1) (in millions)
Outstanding at December 31, 2007	14,670	\$ 1.00	7.0	
Granted	11,463	1.00		
Exercised		1.00		
Forfeited or expired	(4,032)	1.00		
Outstanding at December 31, 2008	22,101	1.00	6.8	
Exercisable at December 31, 2008	7,906	1.00	4.8	

- (1) The intrinsic value of a stock option is the amount by which the market value of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price of the option. As the fair value of the stock was estimated to be \$0.87 at December 31, 2008 and all outstanding options have an exercise price of \$1.00, there is no intrinsic value for the options.

We engaged an independent valuation and financial consultant to perform a valuation of the total equity of TJ Chemical and a valuation of all of the options issued during the year ended December 31, 2008. The consultant utilized the market approach valuation technique to estimate the fair value of the stock, and estimated the fair value of the options issued during the year ended December 31, 2008 using the Black-Scholes Merton option-pricing model.

The number, weighted average exercise price and weighted average remaining contractual life of options outstanding as of December 31, 2008, and the number and weighted average exercise price of options exercisable as of December 31, 2008 follow:

	Range of Exercise Prices	Options (in thousands)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Life (in years)
Outstanding options	\$ 1.00	22,101	\$ 1.00	6.8
Exercisable options	1.00	7,906	1.00	4.8

See Note 7(e) for a description of the TJ Chemical Holdings LLC Membership Units Plan. TJ Chemical Holdings LLC may grant time-vested restricted membership units and time-vested notional membership units to certain employees. Holders of notional membership units do not have any beneficial ownership in the underlying membership units and the grant represents an unsecured promise to deliver membership units on a future date. Actual membership units underlying the restricted membership units and the notional membership units will not be distributed until the earlier of a change in control or the termination of the grantee's employment.

Table of Contents

The following table represents the restricted membership units and notional membership units granted, vested and forfeited during 2008.

	Unit (in thousands)	Grant Date Fair Value per Unit
Restricted and Notional Units		
Non-vested shares at January 1, 2008	2,740	\$ 1.00
Granted	900	1.00
Vested		
Forfeited	(1,186)	1.00
Non-vested shares at December 31, 2008	2,454	\$ 1.00

Weighted-Average Assumptions for Option Pricing

	2008	2007	2006
Risk-free interest rate	3.59%	3.40%	4.41%
Expected dividend yield	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Expected volatility	0.38	0.40	0.90
Expected term	5 years	5 years	5 years

Since our membership units are privately held, the estimated volatility is based on the historical volatility of similar companies' stock that is publicly traded. The expected term of options represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding. The risk free interest rate for the periods within the contractual life of the option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

The weighted average fair value per option at the date of grant for options granted in 2008, 2007 and 2006 was \$0.31, \$0.31 and \$0.67, respectively, as valued using the Black-Scholes Merton option-pricing model.

Table of Contents**3. Detail of Certain Balance Sheet Accounts**

	December 31, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
Inventories of products, net:		
Finished products	\$ 271,449	\$ 212,125
Work in progress	1,781	3,858
Raw materials	50,963	40,340
	\$ 324,193	\$ 256,323
Property, plant and equipment:		
Land	\$ 15,240	\$ 13,339
Buildings	37,601	38,490
Plant and equipment	482,880	489,260
Construction in progress	18,539	18,824
	554,260	559,913
Less accumulated depreciation	182,252	157,643
	\$ 372,008	\$ 402,270
Identifiable intangible assets:		
Technology	\$ 44,813	\$ 47,154
Customer relations	35,213	35,213
Trademarks	23,194	23,194
	103,220	105,561
Less accumulated amortization	36,169	29,205
	\$ 67,051	\$ 76,356
Other payables and accruals:		
Employee related	\$ 25,418	\$ 12,178
Interest	10,316	13,680
Property and other taxes		3,735
Customer rebates	4,402	6,561
Income taxes payable	8,538	4,643
Deferred Income	5,483	
Other	15,192	15,019
	\$ 69,349	\$ 55,816

In December 2008 we recorded an \$8.1 million lower-of-cost-or-market adjustment in cost of goods sold.

The identifiable intangible assets are being amortized on a straight-line basis over 15 years. Aggregate amortization expense for amortizing intangible assets was approximately \$7.0 million, \$7.2 million and \$6.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for each of the next five years is approximately \$7.0 million. Identifiable intangibles were adjusted in 2007 for the realization of certain excess tax basis that had not previously been recognized in the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

Accumulated other comprehensive income consists of the following:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
	(in thousands)	
Foreign currency adjustments	\$ 41,742	\$ 36,346
Unrealized gain on interest rate swaps, net of tax	(2,111)	73
Pension adjustment, net of tax	(33,808)	3,142
Total accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ 5,823	\$ 39,561

4. Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2007
	(in thousands)	
Senior Secured Credit Facilities:		
Revolving loans	\$ 50,000	\$
Term loans	325,071	338,465
12.00% discount notes	245	221
8.125% Notes	200,000	200,000
Total debt	575,316	538,686
Less current portion of long-term debt	3,343	3,445
Total long-term debt	\$ 571,973	\$ 535,241

(a) Term Loans and Revolving Loans. On May 12, 2006 we entered into an amendment (the Amendment) to our senior secured credit agreement, or the Credit Agreement, dated as of December 23, 2003, as amended as of March 4, 2004, as further amended as of October 21, 2004 and as further amended as of February 16, 2006 in order to provide a portion of the funds required in connection with the cash tender offer and consent solicitation commenced on April 24, 2006 by us and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation with respect to any and all of our outstanding 12.0% discount notes. On May 12, 2006 all but \$250,000 of the \$150,000,000 12.0% discount notes validly tendered and not withdrawn in the tender offer (representing approximately 99.8% of the aggregate amount of outstanding 12.0% discount notes) were accepted for payment and purchased for aggregate total consideration equal to \$128,785,000.

The Amendment provided for, among other things, a new term facility (the Term Facility) of \$385 million, representing a \$25 million increase over the original Term Facility, and extending the maturity of the Term Facility from December 23, 2010 to May 12, 2013. The Amendment extended the maturity of the revolving facility (the Revolving Facility), from December 23, 2008 to May 12, 2011 and provided for the possibility of increasing the existing Revolving Facility from \$60 million to \$80 million, subject to new revolving lenders becoming parties to the Credit Agreement. On June 7, 2006, we entered into a Joinder Agreement with a new revolving lender that increased the Revolving Facility to \$75.5 million from \$60.0 million. In addition to the foregoing, the Amendment reduced the interest rate margin on the Term Facility, eliminated certain affirmative and negative covenants, including a covenant that limited our ability to make capital expenditures, and modified the financial ratios we are required to maintain. On the effective date of the Amendment, we borrowed the full \$385 million available under the new Term Facility and used the proceeds to prepay in full existing borrowings under the original Term Facility, provided a portion of the funds necessary to consummate the tender offer for the 12.0% discount notes and pay fees and expenses related to the foregoing.

We, and each of Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC, Elastomers Holdings LLC and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation, all of which are our subsidiaries, have guaranteed the Credit Agreement. The guarantors, together

Table of Contents

with us, are referred to as the Loan Parties. The Credit Agreement is secured by a perfected first priority security interest in all of each Loan Party's tangible and intangible assets, including intellectual property, real property, all of our capital stock and the capital stock of our domestic subsidiaries and 65% of the capital stock of the direct foreign subsidiaries of each Loan Party.

In June 2008, we made a \$10.0 million voluntary prepayment of outstanding indebtedness under the Term Loans, which resulted in the write off of approximately \$0.2 million of deferred financing cost. During the year ended December 31, 2007, we made voluntary prepayments under the Term Loans in the amount of \$40.0 million, which resulted in the write off of approximately \$0.6 million of deferred financing cost. We also incurred approximately \$2.7 million of fees in connection with the amendment to our senior secured credit facility in May 2006, and these fees were recorded as deferred financing costs during the year ended December 31, 2006.

As of December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007, we had \$50 million borrowed and no outstanding borrowings, respectively, under the Revolving Loans.

In these notes to the consolidated financial statements, the loans made under the Revolving Facility are referred to as the Revolving Loans, and the loans made under the Term Facility are referred to as the Term Loans.

Maturity. The Revolving Loans outstanding are payable in a single maturity on May 12, 2011. The Term Loans are payable in 25 consecutive equal quarterly installments, in an aggregate annual amount equal to 1.0% of the original principal amount of the Term Loans. The remaining balance is payable in four equal quarterly installments commencing on September 30, 2012 and ending on May 12, 2013.

Interest. The Term Loans bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus 2.00% per annum or, at our option, the base rate plus 1.00% per annum. In general, interest is payable quarterly, subject to the interest period selected by us, per the terms of the Credit Agreement. The weighted average effective interest rates on the Term Loans for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were 5.0% and 7.5%, respectively. The average effective interest rates include the additional income statement effects of our highly effective interest rate swaps for both years. See Note 15(a) for a description of the interest rate swap agreements.

The Revolving Loans bear interest at a rate equal to the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus a margin of between 2.00% and 2.50% per annum, depending on our leverage ratio, or at our option, the base rate plus a margin of between 1.00% and 1.50% per annum, also depending on our leverage ratio. The weighted average effective interest rates on the Revolving Loans for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were 6.6% and 6.3%, respectively. The increase in the effective interest rate reflects higher outstanding borrowings on the Revolving Loans during 2008 versus 2007. We also pay a commitment fee equal to 0.5% quarterly on the daily average undrawn portion of the Revolving Facility.

Mandatory Prepayments. The Term Facility is subject to mandatory prepayment with, in general: (1) 100% of the net cash proceeds of certain asset sales, subject to certain reinvestment rights; (2) 100% of the net cash proceeds of certain insurance and condemnation payments, subject to certain reinvestment rights; (3) 50% of the net cash proceeds of equity offerings (declining to 25%, if a leverage ratio is met); (4) 100% of the net cash proceeds of debt incurrences (other than debt incurrences permitted under the Credit Agreement); and (5) 50% of our excess cash flow, as defined in the Credit Agreement (declining to 25%, if a leverage ratio is met and to 0% if a further leverage ratio is met). Any such prepayment is applied first to the Term Facility and thereafter to the Revolving Facility.

Covenants. The Credit Agreement contains certain affirmative covenants including, among others, covenants to furnish the Lenders with financial statements and other financial information and to provide the Lenders notice of material events and information regarding collateral.

Table of Contents

The Credit Agreement contains certain negative covenants that, among other things, restrict our ability, subject to certain exceptions, to incur additional indebtedness, grant liens on our assets, undergo fundamental changes, make investments, sell assets, make acquisitions, engage in sale and leaseback transactions, make restricted payments, engage in transactions with our affiliates, amend or modify certain agreements and charter documents and change our fiscal year. We are required to maintain a fiscal quarter end interest coverage ratio of 2.50:1.00 through December 31, 2008; of 2.75:1.00 beginning March 31, 2009; and of 3.00:1.00 beginning March 31, 2010 and continuing thereafter. In addition, we are required to maintain a fiscal quarter end leverage ratio not to exceed 4.95 through December 31, 2008; 4.45 beginning March 31, 2009 through September 30, 2009; and 4.00 beginning December 31, 2009 and continuing thereafter. As of December 31, 2008, we were in compliance with, and we expect to remain in compliance with, the applicable financial ratios in the senior secured credit facility and the other covenants contained in the senior secured credit facility and the indentures governing the 8.125% Notes. However, the maintenance of these financial ratios is based on our level of profitability. If the 2009 global economic environment worsens, it would adversely impact our profitability and our ability to meet our covenants. If we are unable to satisfy such covenants or other provisions at any future time we would need to seek an amendment or waiver of such financial covenants or other provisions. The respective lenders under the senior secured credit facility may not consent to any amendment or waiver requests that we may make in the future, and, if they do consent, they may not do so on terms which are favorable to us. In the event that we were unable to obtain any such waiver or amendment and we were not able to refinance or repay our debt instruments, our inability to meet the financial covenants or other provisions of the senior secured credit facility would constitute an event of default under our debt instruments, including the senior secured credit facility, which would permit the bank lenders to accelerate the senior secured credit facility.

On January 14, 2008, we received an equity investment of \$10.0 million, of which \$9.6 million was included in the financial covenant calculation for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2007 and was included in the fiscal quarter covenant calculations through the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2008 pursuant to the equity cure provisions included in the Credit Agreement.

(b) Senior Discount Notes Due July 15, 2014. As part of a refinancing of indebtedness on November 2, 2004, Polymer Holdings issued the 12% discount notes. The following is a summary of the material terms of the 12% discount notes. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified, in its entirety, by reference to the provisions of the indenture governing the 12% discount notes.

Interest. No cash interest will accrue on the 12% discount notes prior to January 15, 2009. Thereafter, cash interest on the 12% discount notes will accrue and be payable semi-annually in arrears on January 15 and July 15 of each year, commencing on July 15, 2009, at a rate of 12.000% per annum. Interest is payable: (1) on January 15 and July 15 each year, with the first such payment to be made July 15, 2009; (2) upon any redemption or prepayment as described below; and (3) at maturity.

Accretion. The 12% discount notes were issued at a substantial discount to their principal amount at maturity and generated gross proceeds of approximately \$91.9 million. The accreted value of each 12% discount note increased on a daily basis from the date of issuance until January 15, 2009, at a rate of 12% per annum, reflecting the accrual of non-cash interest, such that the accreted value on January 15, 2009, equals the principal amount at maturity.

Guarantees. None of Polymer Holdings' subsidiaries guarantee the 12% discount notes.

Holding Company Structure and Ranking. Polymer Holdings is a holding company and does not have any material assets or operations other than ownership of Kraton's capital stock. All of its operations are conducted through Kraton and Kraton's subsidiaries and, therefore, Polymer Holdings will be dependent upon Kraton's cash flow and the cash flow of our subsidiaries to meet its obligations under the 12% discount notes. As a result of the holding company structure, any right of Polymer Holdings and its creditors, including the holders of the 12% discount notes, to participate in the assets of any of its subsidiaries upon such subsidiary's liquidation or

Table of Contents

reorganization will be structurally subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary's creditors and holders of preferred stock of such subsidiary, if any. In addition, in the event of the bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up of Polymer Holdings, or upon a default in payment with respect to, or the acceleration of, any indebtedness under the senior secured credit facility or other secured indebtedness of Polymer Holdings, the assets of Polymer Holdings will be available to pay obligations on the 12% discount notes only after all secured indebtedness has been repaid from such assets.

Optional Redemption. Generally, Polymer Holdings could not elect to redeem the 12% discount notes until January 15, 2009. After such date, Polymer Holdings may elect to redeem the 12% discount notes at certain predetermined redemption prices, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

Covenants. The 12% discount notes contain certain affirmative covenants including, among others, to furnish the holders of 12% discount notes with financial statements and other financial information and to provide the holders of 12% discount notes notice of material events.

The 12% discount notes contain certain negative covenants including limitations on indebtedness, limitations on restricted payments, limitations on restrictions on distributions from certain subsidiaries, limitations on lines of business and merger and consolidations.

As of December 31, 2008, Polymer Holdings was in compliance with all covenants under the 12% discount notes.

Exchange Offer. On October 20, 2005, Polymer Holdings completed an offer to exchange all of its outstanding 12% discount notes issued under an exemption from the registration requirement of the Securities Act, for notes registered under the Securities Act. In this offer, 100% of the outstanding notes issued under the exemptions from registration were tendered and exchanged for registered notes. The registered notes are identical to the unregistered notes, except that the registered notes do not carry transfer restrictions.

(c) Senior Subordinated Notes Due January 15, 2014. On December 23, 2003, Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation issued the 8.125% Notes in an aggregate principal amount of \$200.0 million. The 8.125% Notes are subject to the provisions for mandatory and optional prepayment and acceleration and are payable in full on January 15, 2014. Polymer Holdings and each of Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC and Elastomers Holdings LLC, which we refer to collectively as the Subsidiary Guarantors, have guaranteed the 8.125% Notes. The amount of 8.125% Notes outstanding at December 31, 2008 and 2007, was \$200.0 million.

Interest. The 8.125% Notes bear interest at a fixed rate of 8.125% per annum. Interest is payable semi-annually on January 15 and July 15 each year, with the first such payment made July 15, 2004.

Optional Redemption. Generally, we cannot elect to redeem the 8.125% Notes until January 15, 2009. After such date, we may elect to redeem the 8.125% Notes at certain predetermined redemption prices, plus accrued and unpaid interest. Prior to January 15, 2009, we had the option to redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 8.125% Notes at a redemption price equal to 108.125% of the principal amount of the 8.125% Notes being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

On or after January 15, 2009, we may redeem all or a part of the Notes at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes redeemed to the applicable redemption date.

Year	Percentage
2009	104.063%
2010	102.708%
2011	101.354%
2012 and thereafter	100.000%

Table of Contents

Covenants. The 8.125% Notes contain certain affirmative covenants including, among others, covenants to furnish the holders of the 8.125% Notes with financial statements and other financial information and to provide the holders of the 8.125% Notes notice of material events.

The 8.125% Notes contain certain negative covenants including limitations on indebtedness, limitations on restricted payments, limitations on restrictions on distributions from certain subsidiaries, limitations on lines of businesses and mergers and consolidations. As of December 31, 2008, we were in compliance with all covenants under the 8.125% Notes.

(d) Debt Maturities. The estimated remaining principal payments on our outstanding total debt as of December 31, 2008, are as follows:

	Principal Payments (in thousands)
December 31:	
2009	\$ 3,343
2010	3,343
2011	53,343
2012	158,357
2013 and thereafter	356,930
Total debt	\$ 575,316

5. Deferred Financing Costs

We capitalize financing fees and other related costs and amortize them to interest expense over the term of the related debt instrument using the effective interest method. In 2008, we incurred fees of approximately \$1.2 million associated with preliminary analysis of refinancing options associated with our Credit Agreement and recorded a charge of \$1.2 million to selling, general, and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations as we determined our refinancing efforts were not probable due to current market conditions.

In June 2008, we made a \$10.0 million voluntary prepayment of outstanding indebtedness under the Term Loans, which resulted in the write off of approximately \$0.2 million of deferred financing cost. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2007, we made voluntary prepayments under the Term Loans in the amount of \$40.0 million, which resulted in the write off of approximately \$0.6 million of deferred financing cost. We also incurred approximately \$2.7 million of fees in connection with the amendment to our senior secured credit facility in May 2006, and these fees were recorded as deferred financing costs during the year ended December 31, 2006.

6. Income Taxes

Income taxes are recorded utilizing an asset and liability approach. This method gives consideration to the future tax consequences associated with the differences between the financial accounting basis and tax basis of the assets and liabilities, and the ultimate realization of any deferred tax asset resulting from such differences.

Table of Contents

The provision (benefit) for income taxes on income from continuing operations is comprised of the following:

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)	2006
Current tax provision:			
U.S.	\$ 262	\$ 12	\$
Foreign	13,614	4,589	16,552
Total	13,876	4,601	16,552
Deferred tax provision:			
U.S.	(51)	2,491	9,888
Foreign	(5,394)	(972)	3,374
Total	(5,445)	1,519	13,262
Income tax provision	\$ 8,431	\$ 6,120	\$ 29,814

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes, as well as operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. In connection with the acquisition, the book basis of foreign assets and liabilities were stepped-up to their estimated fair market value.

Income (loss) before income taxes is comprised of the following:

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)	2006
Income (loss) before income taxes:			
U.S.	\$ 7,098	\$ (29,205)	\$ (49,791)
Foreign	29,752	(8,424)	45,769
Total	\$ 36,850	\$ (37,629)	\$ (4,022)

The tax effects of temporary differences that gave rise to significant components of deferred tax liabilities and assets are as follows:

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment	\$ 100,104	\$ 99,370
Identifiable intangibles	4,921	10,391
Total deferred tax liabilities	105,025	109,761
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforward	(113,519)	(108,822)
Inventory	(3,563)	(2,093)
Exchange rate differences	(1,210)	18,302

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Interest rate swaps	(2,022)	
Pension accrual	(18,716)	(3,899)
Other Accruals and Reserves	(9,465)	(3,541)
Interest	(31)	(22)
Total deferred tax assets	(148,526)	(100,075)
Valuation allowance for deferred tax assets	63,677	39,562
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ 20,176	\$ 49,248

F-21

Table of Contents

	December 31	
	2008	2007
	(in thousands)	
Net deferred tax liabilities of:		
Current deferred tax assets	\$ (24,196)	\$ (12,843)
Non-current deferred tax assets	(166,930)	(144,121)
Current deferred tax liabilities	9,418	22,670
Non-current deferred tax liabilities	201,884	183,542
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ 20,176	\$ 49,248

The provision for income taxes differs from the amount computed by applying the U.S. statutory income tax rate to income from continuing operations before income taxes for the reasons set forth below:

	2008	December 31, 2007	2006
	(in thousands)		
Income taxes at the statutory rate	\$ 12,897	\$ (13,171)	\$ 17,376
Foreign tax rate differential	(3,294)	3,331	(369)
State taxes	(86)	(3,012)	(650)
Change in valuation allowance and uncertain tax positions	(7,219)	15,073	13,148
ETI exclusion benefit			(377)
Dividend income	5,451	4,043	
Other	682	(144)	686
Income tax provision	\$ 8,431	\$ 6,120	\$ 29,814

As of December 31, 2008, we had \$308.3 million of operating loss carryforwards for income tax purposes in the following tax jurisdictions: United States \$265.8 million; France \$42.3 million; and Poland \$0.2 million. The United States operating loss carryforwards will expire in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027, if not utilized in prior years. The operating loss carryforwards for France can be carried forward indefinitely. The operating loss carryforwards for Poland can be carried forward five years and will expire in 2013. We anticipate taxable income in future years that will allow us to utilize the carryforwards that have not had a valuation allowance placed against them.

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, a valuation allowance of \$63.7 million and \$39.6 million had been recorded related to certain deferred tax assets. We record a valuation allowance when it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of the deferred tax assets depends on the ability to generate sufficient taxable income of the appropriate character in the future and in the appropriate taxing jurisdictions. We have provided a valuation allowance for operating loss carryforwards and deferred tax assets in certain jurisdictions.

In assessing realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Based upon management's expectations at December 31, 2008, management believes it is more likely than not, that we will realize the benefit of the deferred tax assets, net of the existing valuation allowances.

We provide for taxes in certain situations where assessments have not been received. In those situations, we consider it probable that the taxes ultimately payable will exceed the amounts reflected in filed tax returns; accordingly, taxes are provided in those situations under the guidance in FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting*

Table of Contents

for *Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109* (FIN 48), and are included in both income taxes in current liabilities and in deferred income taxes and other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

Effective January 1, 2007, we adopted FIN 48, which prescribes the minimum recognition threshold a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance for derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. As a result of the implementation of FIN 48, we recognized no change in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits or accrued interest and penalties. We file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and various state and foreign jurisdictions. As of December 31, 2008, our 2005 through 2007 U.S. federal income tax returns remain open to examination. In addition, open tax years to state and foreign jurisdictions remain subject to examination.

As of January 1, 2008, we had total unrecognized tax benefits of approximately \$0.4 million. During the year ended December 31, 2008, we had a change in certain tax positions mainly related to prior tax periods. The increase of \$0.7 million in these tax positions was primarily due to recognizing additional reserve needs in connection with an ongoing tax audit in Asia. As of December 31, 2008, we estimated \$ 1.1 million in unrecognized tax benefits, that if recognized, would impact the effective tax rate. We recognize interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits within the provision for income taxes in our consolidated statement of operations. During the year ended December 31, 2008, we recognized additional interest and penalties charges related to unrecognized tax benefits in the amount of \$0.1 million. As of January 1, 2008, we believe that no current tax positions that have resulted in unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease within one year. As of the year ended December 31, 2008, no material changes, other than the tax audit related charges mentioned above, have occurred in our estimates or expected events related to anticipated changes in our unrecognized tax benefits.

The following presents a rollforward of our unrecognized tax benefits and associated interest and penalties.

	Unrecognized Tax Benefits	Interest and Penalties (in millions)
Balance at January 1, 2008	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.0
Increase in prior year tax positions	0.7	0.1
Balance at December 31, 2008	\$ 1.1	\$ 0.1

During the fourth quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, one of our foreign subsidiaries made a dividend of \$11.5 million and \$18.2 million, respectively, to the U.S. parent company. However, we consider this an exceptional event and management does not intend to make any further distributions. Therefore, we consider the undistributed earnings of our foreign subsidiaries to be indefinitely reinvested. These foreign earnings could become subject to additional tax if remitted, or deemed remitted, as a dividend; however, it is not practicable to estimate the additional amount of taxes payable.

In 2008, we corrected an immaterial prior period error to decrease deferred tax liabilities and increase accumulated other comprehensive income by \$19.7 million to properly state the deferred taxes related to our cumulative translation adjustments. We evaluated the materiality of the correction, including both quantitative and qualitative considerations, and concluded that the adjustment was not material to either current or prior periods.

7. Employee Benefits

(a) **U.S. Retirement Benefit Plans.** We have a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan in the United States, which covers all salaried and hourly wage employees, who were employed by us on or before December 31, 2005. Employees who begin their employment with us after December 31, 2005 are not covered

Table of Contents

by our noncontributory defined benefit pension plan in the U.S. The benefits under this plan are based primarily on years of service and employees pay near retirement. For our employees who were employed as of March 1, 2001 and who: (1) were previously employed by Shell Chemicals; and (2) elected to transfer their pension assets to us, we consider the total combined Shell Chemicals and Kraton service when calculating the employee's pension benefit. For those employees who: (1) elected to retire from Shell Chemicals; or (2) elected not to transfer their pension benefit, only Kraton service (since March 1, 2001) is considered when calculating benefits.

The 2008 measurement date of the plans' assets and obligations was December 31, 2008. Based on the funded status of our defined benefit pension plan as of December 31, 2008, we reported a decrease in our accumulated other comprehensive income of approximately \$36.3 million and a related increase in accrued pension obligations. Accrued pension obligations are included in long-term liabilities on our consolidated balance sheet.

Information concerning the pension obligation, plan assets, amounts recognized in our financial statements and underlying actuarial assumptions are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2008	2007
	(in thousands)	
Change in benefit obligation		
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 62,061	\$ 63,662
Service cost	2,281	2,561
Interest cost	4,275	3,842
Benefits paid	(1,880)	(1,427)
Actuarial (gain) loss	15,268	(6,577)
Plan amendments	158	
Benefit obligation at end of year	\$ 82,163	\$ 62,061
Change in plan assets		
Fair value at beginning of year	\$ 46,329	\$ 42,747
Actual return on plan assets	(14,313)	3,540
Employer contributions	8,974	1,470
Benefits paid	(1,880)	(1,428)
Fair value at end of year	\$ 39,110	\$ 46,329
Development of net amount recognized		
Funded status	\$ (43,052)	\$ (15,732)
Unrecognized net prior service cost		
Unrecognized actuarial loss		
Net amount recognized in long-term liabilities	\$ (43,052)	\$ (15,732)

The projected benefit obligation, fair value of plan assets and accumulated benefit obligation for the Plan with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were \$82.2 million, \$39.1 million and \$70.0 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2008 and \$62.1 million, \$46.3 million and \$52.9 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2007.

Table of Contents

Net periodic pension costs consist of the following components:

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)	2006
Service cost benefits earned during the period	\$ 2,281	\$ 2,561	\$ 2,737
Interest on prior year's projected benefit obligation	4,275	3,842	3,494
Expected return on plan assets	(4,084)	(3,646)	(3,338)
Amortization of prior year service cost			
Recognized curtailment loss			576
Recognized loss due to special term benefits	158		48
Net pension costs	\$ 2,630	\$ 2,757	\$ 3,517

Discount rates are determined annually and are based on rates of return of high-quality long-term fixed income securities currently available and expected to be available during the maturity of the pension benefits.

	2008	December 31, 2007
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations		
Measure date	12/31/2008	12/31/2007
Discount rate	5.73%	6.64%
Rates of increase in salary compensation level	3.70%	3.50%
Rates of increase in hourly compensation levels	3.70%	3.50%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	8.50%	8.75%
Weighted average assumptions used to determine periodic benefit cost		
Discount rate	6.64%	6.00%
Rates of increase in salary compensation level	3.50%	4.00%
Rates of increase in hourly compensation levels	3.50%	3.00%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	8.50%	8.75%

The expected long-term rate of return on asset assumption was chosen from the range of likely results of compound average annual returns over a twenty year time horizon based on the plan's current investment policy. The expected return and volatility for each asset class was based on historical equity, bond and cash market returns during the period 1926 to 2008. While this approach gives appropriate consideration to recent fund performance and historical returns, the assumption is primarily a long-term, prospective rate. Based on this analysis, the expected long-term return assumption for our pension plan will remain at 8.50%.

Plan Assets. We maintain target allocation percentages among various asset classes based on investment policies established for the pension plan. The target allocation is designed to achieve long-term objectives of return, while limiting against downside risk and considering expected cash flows. Kraton's pension plan asset allocations at December 31, 2008 and 2007, by asset category are as follows:

Asset Category	Percentage of Plan Assets at December 31	
	2008	2007
Equity Securities	62.5%	64.2%
Debt Securities	37.0%	35.3%
Other	0.5%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The current weighted-average target allocation is as follows: equity securities 64%, debt securities 35.5% and other 0.5%. Our investment policy is reviewed from time to time to ensure consistency with our long term objective.

Table of Contents

Contributions. We expect to contribute \$5.7 million to our pension plan in 2009.

Estimated Future Benefit Payments.

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

	(in thousands)
2009	\$ 1,922
2010	2,081
2011	2,286
2012	2,483
2013	2,777
Years 2014-2018	20,696
	\$ 32,245

(b) Other Retirement Benefit Plans. Certain employees are eligible to participate in a non-qualified defined benefit restoration plan and a non-qualified defined contribution restoration plan (benefit restoration plans) which are intended to restore certain benefits under the defined benefit pension plan in the United States and the Kraton Savings Plan in the United States, respectively, which would otherwise be lost due to certain limitations imposed by law on tax-qualified plans. We made no contributions to the benefit restoration plans for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, amounts recognized in the statement of financial position as a component of long-term liabilities for the benefit restoration plan were \$1.0 million and \$0.5 million, respectively.

We have established a defined benefit plan in the Netherlands designed to be equivalent to the plan previously provided by Shell Chemicals. Employer and employees contribute to this plan. The planned retirement age under the previous Shell Chemicals arrangement was 60 years of age. Under the terms of our plan, the normal retirement age has been established at 65 years of age. However, employees over the age of 35 as at March 1, 2001, will retain the retirement age of 60. For employees aged 35 years or under as of March 1, 2001, normal retirement age has been increased to 65 years. In January 2006, we established a new hybrid plan with all employees having defined benefits relating the first 60,000 of their earnings and an indexed career average for all earnings above 60,000 into this plan. The hybrid plan is available for new employees with a retirement age of 65 years. Our contributions to the Netherlands pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were \$2.1 million, \$2.0 million and \$1.2 million, respectively.

On March 1, 2001, we established a defined contribution (Group Personal Pension) plan in the United Kingdom. This plan applies only to employees who transferred from Shell Chemicals and these employees had the option to transfer a Transfer Value relating to their Shell Chemicals pension plan services to our plan. The employee and employer contribute to this plan. Employee contributions are 4% of base pay above the applicable upper earnings limit. Our contributions vary and were established on an individual basis to provide an equivalent benefit plan to the one previously offered by Shell Chemicals. There will be no additional members admitted to this plan with the exception of previous Shell employees who have been in continuous employment with Kraton Polymers since the date of their original transfer and who subsequently transfer to employment with Kraton Polymers in the United Kingdom. We also established a second (Stakeholder) defined contribution plan for United Kingdom employees who joined us since March 1, 2001. Employees are required to contribute a minimum of 4% of their base salary into the Plan, and we contribute a minimum of 5%. Our contributions to the plan for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were \$0.2 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

We have established a defined benefit plan in Japan designed to be equivalent to the plan previously provided by Shell Chemicals and covers substantially all Japan employees. Our contributions to the plan for the

Table of Contents

years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 were \$0 million, \$0.02 million and \$1.1 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, amounts recognized in the statement of financial position as a component of long-term liabilities for the defined benefit plan were \$1.3 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

(c) Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions. Health and welfare benefits are provided to benefit eligible employees in the United States who retire from Kraton and were employed by us prior to January 1, 2006. Retirees under the age of 65 are eligible for the same medical, dental, and vision plans as active employees, but with a cap that varies based on years of service and ranges from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per employee for premiums on an annual basis. Our subsidy schedule for medical plans is based on accredited service at retirement. Retirees are responsible for the full cost of premiums for postretirement dental and vision coverage. In general, the plans stipulate that health and welfare benefits are paid as covered expenses are incurred. We accrue the cost of these benefits during the period in which the employee renders the necessary service.

Employees who were retirement eligible as of February 28, 2001, have at their option the right to participate in either Shell Chemicals or Kraton postretirement health and welfare plans.

SFAS No. 158 requires that we measure the plans' assets and obligations that determine our funded status as of the end of the fiscal year. The 2008 measurement date of the plans' assets and obligations was December 31, 2008. We are also required to recognize as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income the changes in funded status that occurred during the year that are not recognized as part of new periodic benefit cost as explained in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, *Employers' Accounting for Pensions*.

Based on the funded status of our postretirement benefit plan as of December 31, 2008, we reported an increase of approximately \$2.0 million in accrued postretirement obligations.

It has been determined that the plan's retiree prescription plan is actuarially equivalent for the Medicare Part D subsidy. The accumulated postretirement benefit obligation for the year ended December 31, 2008 decreased approximately \$3.5 million due to the inclusion of the Medicare Part D subsidy.

Information concerning the plan obligation, the funded status and amounts recognized in our financial statements and underlying actuarial assumptions are as follows:

	December 31, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
Change in benefit obligation:		
Benefit obligation at beginning of period	\$ 13,341	\$ 12,834
Service cost	332	357
Interest cost	871	776
Benefits paid	(772)	(671)
Actuarial gain (loss)	2,102	45
Plan amendments	264	
 Benefit obligation at end of period	 \$ 16,138	 \$ 13,341
Reconciliation of plan assets(1):		
Employer contributions	\$ 772	\$ 671
Benefits paid	(772)	(671)
	\$	\$

- (1) As part of the Ripplewood Transaction, Shell Chemicals has committed to a future cash payment related to retiree medical expenses based on a specified dollar amount per employee, if certain contractual commitments are met. We have recorded an asset of approximately \$6.5 million and \$5.6 million as our estimate of the present value of this commitment as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Table of Contents

	December 31, 2008 2007 (in thousands)	
Development of net amount recognized:		
Funded status	\$ (16,138)	\$ (13,341)
Unrecognized cost: Actuarial gain		
Amount recognized in long-term liabilities	\$ (16,138)	\$ (13,341)

Net periodic plan costs consist of the following components:

	December 31, 2008 2007 2006 (in thousands)		
Service cost	\$ 332	\$ 357	\$ 379
Interest cost	871	776	644
Recognized net actuarial gain			
Restructuring costs	264		1,949
Net plan costs	\$ 1,467	\$ 1,133	\$ 2,972

	December 31, 2008 2007	
Weighted average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations		
Measurement date	12/31/2008	12/31/2007
Discount rate	5.76%	6.49%
Rates of increase in salary compensation level	N/A	N/A
Weighted average assumptions used to net periodic benefit cost		
Discount rate	6.49%	6.00%
Rates of increase in salary compensation level	N/A	N/A
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	N/A	N/A

	December 31, 2008 2007	
Assumed health care cost trend rates		
Health care cost trend rate assumed for next year	8.75%	9.50%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate)	5.00%	5.00%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	2014	2014

The discount rate for 2008 was based in part on the average Moody's Aa Corporate Bond Yield and the average Citigroup Pension Liability Index, which were 5.54% and 5.87%, respectively. The Fidelity Investments bond modeler was used to compare the expected future cash outflows to the bonds included in the indices noted above.

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A 1%-point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effect (in thousands):

	1% Increase	1% Decrease
Effect on total of service and interest cost components	\$ 59	\$ (54)
Effect on postretirement benefit obligation	780	(701)

Table of Contents

The effect of adopting SFAS No. 158 on our consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2006 was to increase (decrease) certain accounts, as it relates to pension and other postretirement benefits before income tax, as follows:

	December 31, 2006		
	Before Application of SFAS No. 158	Adjustments (in millions)	After Application of SFAS No. 158
Noncurrent deferred income tax assets	\$ 5.3	\$ 0.7	\$ 6.0
Employee compensation and benefits	32.3	1.9	34.2
Accumulated other comprehensive income	\$	\$ (1.9)	\$ (1.9)

Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income before income tax, were as follows:

	Pension Benefits	Other Postretirement Benefits
		(in millions)
Net actuarial loss	\$ 28.8	\$ 3.1
Prior service benefit		
Total recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ 28.8	\$ 3.1

(d) Kraton Savings Plan. The Kraton Savings Plan, as adopted on March 1, 2001, covers substantially all U.S. employees, including executive officers. We amended and restated the Savings Plan in April 2002, to comply with changes in legislation in 2002, and subsequently submitted and received an IRS determination letter.

Through automatic payroll deduction, participants have the option to defer up to 60% of eligible earnings in any combination of pretax and/or post-tax contributions. Contributions are subject to annual dollar limitations set forth in the Internal Revenue Code. During 2005 we made employer contributions of 0%, 3%, 5% or 10% of a participant's compensation, based upon the employee's completed years of service. Effective January 1, 2006 we modified the Kraton Savings Plan to have three types of employer contributions. After completing one year of service, we will make a matching contribution of 50% of the first 6% contributed by the employee and after completing five years of service we will make a matching contribution of 100% of the first 6% contributed by the employee. For employees who have completed nine or more years of service and elected to remain a participant in the pension plan, we made a transition contribution of 4% during 2006 and reduced transition contribution of 2% in 2007. For employees who elected to lock in their Kraton pension benefits as of December 31, 2005, we make enhanced employer contributions of 3% for employees who have less than five years of service and a 4% contribution for employees who have five or more years of service. For our employees who were employed as of February 28, 2001, and who were previously employed by Shell Chemicals, we recognize their Shell Chemicals years of service for purposes of determining employer contributions under our Plan. Overall, a participant may direct up to a maximum of 100% of eligible earnings to this Plan, but cannot exceed the IRS maximum limit for the combined total of employee and employer contributions. Our contributions to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, were \$2.2 million, \$2.7 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

(e) Membership Units. We provided certain key employees who held interests in us prior to the acquisition the opportunity to roll over their interests into membership units of Management LLC, which owns a corresponding number of membership units in TJ Chemical. Additional employees have also been given the opportunity to purchase membership units in TJ Chemical through Management LLC at the original buy-in price. The membership units are subject to customary tag-along and drag-along rights, as well as a company call right in the event of termination of employment. In addition, pursuant to Messrs. Gregory and Fogarty employment agreements, on September 10, 2004 and June 15, 2005, TJ Chemical granted a notional restricted unit award

Table of Contents

with a fair value at the grant date of \$875,000 and \$300,000, to Messrs. Gregory and Fogarty, respectively. Each of these awards were scheduled to vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of their employment commencement dates, so long as Messrs. Gregory and Fogarty remain employed by us through the applicable vesting date. The actual membership units would not be distributed until the earlier of: (1) a change in control; or (2) the termination of either Messrs. Gregory and Fogarty's employment. TJ Chemical granted two restricted membership unit awards having a fair value at the grant date of \$200,000 and \$100,000 each to David Bradley. The award for \$200,000 will vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of his employment commencement date (April 1, 2004), so long as Mr. Bradley remains employed by us through the applicable vesting date. The award for \$100,000 will vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries, which will commence vesting, on February 1, 2006, so long as Mr. Bradley remains employed by us through the applicable vesting date. TJ Chemical granted a restricted membership unit award to Nicholas G. Dekker on October 6, 2006 having a fair value at the grant date of \$150,000. This award was scheduled to vest 20% on each of the first five anniversaries of his employment as our Chief Financial Officer and Vice President (October 6, 2006), so long as Mr. Dekker remains employed by us through the applicable vesting date. The amount to Messrs. Gregory, Bradley, Fogarty and Dekker will be recognized in earnings over the vesting period on a straight-line basis.

In connection with his termination of employment, Mr. Gregory retained 151,000 membership units, and was paid out at a price of \$1.00 per unit for 149,000 units as part of his Separation Agreement. In connection with his termination of employment, Mr. Dekker was paid out at a price of \$1.00 per unit for his total units of \$50,000. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,886,000 membership units of Management LLC issued and outstanding.

(f) TJ Chemical Holdings LLC 2004 Option Plan. On September 9, 2004, TJ Chemical adopted an option plan, or the Option Plan, which allows for the grant to key employees, consultants, members and service providers of TJ Chemical and its affiliates, including us, of non-qualified options to purchase TJ Chemical membership units. The aggregate number of membership units with respect to which options may be granted under the Option Plan shall not exceed an amount representing 8% of the outstanding membership units and profits units of TJ Chemical on March 31, 2004, on a fully diluted basis. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007 there were 22,101,118 and 14,670,000 options granted and outstanding, respectively. All options granted in fiscal 2008, fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2006 had an exercise price of \$1 per membership unit, which is equal to or in excess of the fair value of the membership unit on the date of grant. The options generally vest in 20% annual increments from the date of grant. However, the Compensation Committee determined that a shorter vesting period was appropriate for grants made during the 2008 fiscal year and therefore options granted in 2008 were set to vest in increments of 1/3 over 3 years. With respect to directors, previous to 2008 options were exercisable in 50% increments annually on each of the first two anniversaries of the grant date, so long as the holder of the option is still a director on the vesting date. In 2008, options granted to directors were granted in increments of 1/3 over 3 years, except the Chairman who has a one year vesting period. The exercise price per membership unit shall equal the fair market value of a membership unit on the date of exercised. Upon a change in control, the options will become 100% vested if the participant's employment is terminated without cause or by the participant for good reason (as each term is defined in the Option Plan) within the 2-year period immediately following such change in control.

The Compensation Committee of Kraton Polymers administers the Option Plan on behalf of TJ Chemical, including, without limitation, the determination of the individuals to whom grants will be made, the number of membership units subject to each grant and the various terms of such grants. The Committee will have the right to terminate all of the outstanding options at any time and pay the participants an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of a membership unit as of such date over the exercise price with respect to such option, or the spread. Generally, in the event of a merger (except a merger where membership unit holders receive securities of another corporation), the options will pertain to and apply to the securities that the option holder would have received in the merger; and in the event of a dissolution, liquidation, sale of assets or any other merger, the Committee has the discretion to: (1) provide for an exchange of the options for new options on all or some of the property for which the membership units are exchanged (as may be adjusted by the Committee); (2) cancel and cash out the options (whether or not then vested) at the spread; or (3) provide for a

Table of Contents

combination of both. Generally, the Committee may make appropriate adjustments with respect to the number of membership units covered by outstanding options and the exercise price in the event of any increase or decrease in the number of membership units or any other corporate transaction not described in the preceding sentence.

On a termination of a participant's employment (other than without cause or by the participant for good reason within the 2-year period immediately following a change in control), unvested options automatically expire and vested options expire on the earlier of: (1) the commencement of business on the date the employment is terminated for cause; (2) 90 days after the date employment is terminated for any reason other than cause, death or disability; (3) 1-year after the date employment is terminated by reason of death or disability; or (4) the 10th anniversary of the grant date for such option.

Generally, pursuant to TJ Chemical's operating agreement, membership units acquired pursuant to the Option Plan are subject to customary tag-along and drag-along rights for the 180-day period following the later of a termination of employment and 6 months and 1-day following the date that units were acquired pursuant to the exercise of the option, TJ Chemical has the right to repurchase each membership unit then owned by the participant at fair value, as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of TJ Chemical.

(g) Other Equity Awards. We provided certain key employees with a grant of profits units of Kraton Management LLC (subject to the 8% pool limitation described above). Profits units are economically equivalent to an option, except that they provide the recipient/employee with an opportunity to recognize capital gains in the appreciation of TJ Chemical and its affiliates and TJ Chemical and its affiliates does not receive any deduction at the time of grant or disposition of the profits unit by the employee. Generally, pursuant to the applicable grant agreements, 50% of such profits units will vest when the fair value of TJ Chemical's assets equals or exceeds two times the Threshold Amount, i.e., the first tranche, and the remaining 50% will vest when the fair value of TJ Chemical's assets equals or exceeds three times the threshold amount, i.e., the second tranche, in each case, as determined by the Board of TJ Chemical, provided that the executive remains employed through the applicable vesting date. Additionally, 100% of the profits units shall vest upon the effective date of a disposition by the initial investors of 51% or more of their aggregate interests in Kraton. If at the time TJ Chemical makes a determination as to whether an individual is entitled to any appreciation with respect to the profits units, the value of the assets is more than two times, but less than three times the Threshold Amount, a pro rata portion of the second tranche will vest based on the appreciation above the two times Threshold Amount. Compensation expense will be recorded in our consolidated financial statements for this difference at the time it becomes probable the profits units will become vested. If an employee's employment terminates prior to any applicable vesting date, such employee shall automatically forfeit all rights to any unvested profits units. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, there were 900,000 and 1,931,250 profits units granted and not yet vested, respectively.

(h) Kraton Polymers LLC Executive Deferred Compensation Plan. On September 9, 2004, the Board of Directors adopted the Kraton Deferred Compensation Plan. Under the plan, certain employees are permitted to elect to defer a portion (generally up to 50%) of their annual incentive bonus with respect to each bonus period. Participating employees are credited with a notional number of membership units based on the fair value of TJ Chemical membership units as of the date of deferral, although the distribution of membership units in such accounts may be made indirectly through Management LLC. Such membership units will be distributed upon termination of the participant's employment subject to a call right or upon a change in control. As of December 31, 2008, there were 1,648,750 membership units available for issuance pursuant to the Kraton Deferred Compensation Plan. The same number of units were available as of December 31, 2007.

(i) 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan. On February 5, 2008, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Kraton approved and adopted the 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan including the performance-based criteria by which potential payouts to participants will be determined. The total award payable under the Incentive Compensation Plan ranged from \$0 to \$18.0 million, depending on the level of achievement against performance goals. As of December 31, 2008, we recorded a total liability for incentive compensation of approximately \$17.6 million.

Table of Contents**8. Commitments and Contingencies*****(a) Lease Commitments***

We have entered into various long-term non-cancelable operating leases. Future minimum lease commitments at December 31, 2008, are as follows: 2009 \$7.4 million; 2010 \$6.6 million; 2011 \$4.7 million; 2012 \$4.9 million; 2013 \$2.9 million and thereafter \$16.5 million. We recorded \$8.4 million, \$8.5 million and \$7.3 million in rent expense for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

(b) Environmental and Safety Matters

Our finished products are not classified as hazardous. However, our operations involve the handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of potentially hazardous materials that are extensively regulated by environmental, health and safety laws, regulations and permit requirements. Environmental permits required for our operations are subject to periodic renewal and can be revoked or modified for cause or when new or revised environmental requirements are implemented. Changing and increasingly strict environmental requirements can affect the manufacturing, handling, processing, distribution and use of our chemical products and the raw materials used to produce such products and, if so affected, our business and operations may be materially and adversely affected. In addition, changes in environmental requirements can cause us to incur substantial costs in upgrading or redesigning our facilities and processes, including waste treatment, disposal, and other waste handling practices and equipment.

We conduct environmental management programs designed to maintain compliance with applicable environmental requirements at all of our facilities. We routinely conduct inspection and surveillance programs designed to detect and respond to leaks or spills of regulated hazardous substances and to correct identified regulatory deficiencies. We believe that our procedures for waste handling are consistent with industry standards and applicable requirements. In addition, we believe that our operations are consistent with good industry practice. However, a business risk inherent with chemical operations is the potential for personal injury and property damage claims from employees, contractors and their employees, and nearby landowners and occupants. While we believe our business operations and facilities generally are operated in compliance, in all material respects, with all applicable environmental and health and safety requirements, we cannot be sure that past practices or future operations will not result in material claims or regulatory action, require material environmental expenditures, or result in exposure or injury claims by employees, contractors and their employees, and the public. Some risk of environmental costs and liabilities are inherent in our operations and products, as it is with other companies engaged in similar businesses.

The Paulinia, Brazil and Belpre, Ohio facilities are subject to a number of actual and/or potential environmental liabilities primarily relating to contamination caused by former operations at those facilities. Some environmental laws could impose on us the entire costs of cleanup regardless of fault, legality of the original disposal, or ownership of the disposal site. In some cases, the governmental entity with jurisdiction could seek an assessment for damage to the natural resources caused by contamination from those sites. Shell Chemicals has agreed, subject to certain limitations, in time and amounts, to indemnify us against most environmental liabilities related to the acquired facilities that arise from conditions existing prior to the closing.

We had no material operating expenditures for environmental fines, penalties, government imposed remedial or corrective actions in each of the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006.

(c) Legal Proceedings

We and certain of our subsidiaries are parties to several legal proceedings that have arisen in the ordinary course of business. While the outcome of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, management does not expect these matters, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect upon our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Furthermore, Shell Chemicals has agreed, subject to certain limitations, to indemnify us for certain claims brought with respect to matters occurring before February 28, 2001.

Table of Contents

9. Fair Value Measurements

Effective January 1, 2008, we adopted SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, for financial assets and liabilities. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 requires entities to, among other things, maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

SFAS No. 157 defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

SFAS No. 157 specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market assumptions. In accordance with SFAS No. 157, these two types of inputs have created the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 Quoted unadjusted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets.

Level 3 Model-derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. From time to time, we enter into derivative financial instruments that are measured at fair value. See Note 15 for further discussion.

10. Significant Contracts

We are party to significant contracts with subsidiaries and affiliates of Shell Chemicals and LyondellBasell. These contracts are for: (1) leases of land and facilities at some of our foreign locations; (2) operating agreements where Shell Chemicals and LyondellBasell operate some of our foreign manufacturing facilities; (3) site services, utilities, material and facilities agreements at some of our foreign manufacturing facilities; (4) raw material supply agreements; and (5) transitional and interim service agreements.

(a) Leases with Shell Chemicals and LyondellBasell

Each of our manufacturing facilities located in Berre, France and Pernis, the Netherlands are located on property which is leased to us by Shell Chemicals or LyondellBasell affiliates under long-term arrangements. The land on which our manufacturing facility in Berre, France is located was leased to us by Shell Petrochimie Mediterranee (SPM) through April 1, 2008, at which time the site was sold to LyondellBasell, who now operates the site and with whom our tenancy now exists under a long-term lease due to expire in 2030. Our manufacturing facility in Pernis, the Netherlands is subleased to us by Shell Nederland Chimie (SNC) and is located on a site shared with other occupants. SNC itself leases the property from the Rotterdam Harbor Authorities. The term of the sublease expires on June 30, 2024, with an option for us to renew for a further period until June 30, 2044. Our Wesseling, Germany manufacturing facility is located on an industrial site belonging to LyondellBasell. LyondellBasell owns the land and buildings at our Wesseling facility and leases same to us. The lease is for a term of 30 years, beginning from March 31, 2000 and is extended automatically for a successive period of 10 years unless terminated upon one-year prior written notice by either party.

Shell Chemicals leased space to us and provided services to us at their research and development sites in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. We exited these sites in January 2007 and relocated our applicable research and

Table of Contents

development functions to our site in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. We lease from Shell Chemicals space in its Westhollow Technology Center in Houston, Texas. In 2008, we amended this lease with various termination dates effective September 2008, April 2009 and February 2011. In August 2008, we signed a new lease with Eastbourne Park Row, LP for a building that will house our Houston-based Research and Technology Service organization. The new facility will be occupied in the first-half of 2009.

These lease agreements, including the financial terms thereof, have all been negotiated at arm's length.

(b) Operating Agreements

Shell Nederland Refinery operates our manufacturing facility located in Pernis, the Netherlands. This facility is situated on a major Shell petrochemical site at which other third party tenants also own manufacturing facilities. Shell charges us fees based on certain costs incurred in connection with operating and maintaining this facility, including the direct and indirect costs of employees and subcontractors, reasonable insurance costs, certain taxes imposed on Shell (other than income taxes) and depreciation and capital charges on certain assets. Pursuant to the agreement, Shell employs and provides all staff, other than certain plant managers, assistant plant managers and technical personnel whom we may appoint. The agreement has an initial term of 20 years, and thereafter will automatically renew indefinitely for consecutive 5-year periods. Either party may terminate the agreement (totally or partially) under various circumstances, including if the terminating party ceases its operations at the facility and provides 18 months prior written notice; or if any of the services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements have been terminated, and the terminating party provides notice as required by such agreement. LyondellBasell operates our manufacturing facility located in Berre, France. This facility is situated on a major LyondellBasell refinery and petrochemical site at which other third party tenants also own facilities and lease space. LyondellBasell charges us fees based on certain costs incurred in connection with operating and maintaining this facility, including the direct and indirect costs of employees and subcontractors, reasonable insurance costs, certain taxes imposed on LyondellBasell (other than income taxes) and depreciation and capital charges on certain assets. Pursuant to the applicable operating agreement, LyondellBasell employs and provides all staff, other than certain plant managers, assistant plant managers and technical personnel whom we may appoint. The agreement has an initial term of 20 years, and thereafter will automatically renew indefinitely for consecutive 5-year periods. Either party may terminate the agreement (totally or partially) under various circumstances, including if the terminating party ceases its operations at the facility and provides 18 (eighteen) months prior written notice; or if any of the services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements have been terminated, and the terminating party provides notice as required by such agreement.

Pursuant to an agreement dated March 31, 2000, LyondellBasell operates and provides certain services, materials and utilities required to operate our manufacturing facility in Wesseling, Germany. We pay LyondellBasell a monthly fee, as well as costs incurred by LyondellBasell in providing the various services, even if the facility fails to produce any output (whether or not due to events within LyondellBasell's control), and even if we reject some or all output. This agreement has an initial term of 40 years and will automatically renew, subject to 5 (five) years prior written notice of non-renewal. This agreement will terminate at any earlier date as of which the facility can no longer be operated in a safe and efficient manner.

These operating agreements, including the financial terms thereof, have all been negotiated at arm's length.

(c) Site Services, Utilities, Materials and Facilities Agreements with Shell Nederland Refinery. Shell, through local operating affiliates, provides various site services, utilities, materials and facilities at the locations they operate and maintain for us in Pernis, the Netherlands; and Houston, Texas (Westhollow). Generally these services, utilities, materials and facilities are provided by Shell on either a long-term basis, short-term basis or a sole-supplier basis. Items provided on a sole-supplier basis may not be terminated except upon termination of the applicable agreement in its entirety. Items provided on a long-term or short-term basis may be terminated individually under certain circumstances. An analogous agreement is in place with LyondellBasell for the Berre, France manufacturing site.

Table of Contents

All such site services, utilities, materials and facilities agreements, including the financial terms thereof, have all been negotiated at arm's length.

(d) Raw Materials Agreements

Styrene, butadiene and isoprene used by our U.S. and European facilities are primarily supplied by Shell Chemicals or its affiliates, one or more LyondellBasell entities or affiliates, and other suppliers under long-term supply contracts with various expiration dates. For our U.S. facilities, we also procure a substantial amount of isoprene from a variety of suppliers from Russia, China and Japan. These purchases include both spot and contract arrangements. We generally contract with them on a short-term basis, although the number of such contracts has been increasing since 2008.

We believe our contractual arrangements with our suppliers of styrene, butadiene and isoprene provide an adequate supply of raw materials at competitive, market-based prices.

Shell Chemicals supplies minimum annual quantities of styrene and isoprene to our manufacturing facilities in Europe and supplies butadiene and isoprene to our facility in the United States at Belpre, Ohio. We currently source our butadiene requirements in Europe pursuant to contracts with certain LyondellBasell entities.

Under each of the agreements summarized below, reasonably unforeseen circumstances, including, without limitations, plant breakdowns, will excuse performance by either party. In addition, inability to acquire any supplies or components necessary for manufacturing the applicable raw material from Shell Chemicals' usual sources and on terms Shell Chemicals deems reasonable will excuse Shell Chemicals' nonperformance. If performance is excused in the United States, Shell Chemicals is not required to purchase the isoprene or butadiene, as the case may be, to satisfy its obligations to us in the United States, and can apportion its available supply among all its customers and its own internal uses as it deems fair and reasonable. As is the case in the United States, in Europe, if Shell Chemicals' performance is excused, Shell Chemicals is not required to purchase the styrene or isoprene, as the case may be, to satisfy its obligations to us and can, during the affected period, reduce, on a pro rata basis, the quantities it supplies to us and other contractual customers.

Styrene. We have historically sourced all of our styrene requirements in the United States from Shell Chemicals pursuant to a contract that expired on June 30, 2006. We have fully satisfied our styrene requirements in the United States with new purchase contracts that meet our present needs at slightly improved conditions.

We historically sourced our styrene requirements in Europe from Shell Chemicals pursuant to a contract that expired on February 28, 2007, and from BASF pursuant to a contract that expired on July 31, 2007. We have fully satisfied our styrene requirements in Europe with new purchase contracts that meet our present needs.

For our agreements covering our manufacturing facility in the United States, the price we pay for styrene varies with the published prices of styrene and/or the raw materials used to produce styrene. The price we pay for styrene under our agreements covering the Netherlands, France and Germany varies to reflect the published price for styrene, even though our purchase price is subject to certain minimums and maximums that vary with other factors.

Butadiene. We currently source butadiene in the United States pursuant to a contract with Shell Chemicals. Our U.S. butadiene supply contract provides that the price we pay for butadiene is scheduled and varies based on the published prices for butadiene on world markets. On April 24, 2008, we received a notice of termination from Shell Chemicals for our U.S. butadiene supply contract effective April 30, 2009. We are currently engaged in discussions with Shell Chemicals and other potential suppliers regarding butadiene supply for periods after April 30, 2009, and we expect to negotiate and enter into one or more replacement agreements with Shell Chemicals and/or other suppliers.

We currently source our butadiene in Europe pursuant to contracts with certain LyondellBasell entities. The contract covering Germany will expire on December 31, 2040, and will be renewed automatically at the conclusion

Table of Contents

of the current term unless terminated with prior written notice by either party. The contract covering France expired pursuant to its terms on December 31, 2007; provided, however, that on December 12, 2006, we were notified by LyondellBasell of its intention to allow the contract to automatically renew for one year, and to terminate effective December 31, 2008. We are presently acquiring butadiene from an LyondellBasell entity in France under a commercial term sheet, reflecting an agreement in principle that has been reached between the parties. The price we pay for butadiene under our arrangements or agreements covering France and Germany vary based upon the published price for butadiene, the amount of butadiene purchased during the preceding calendar year, and/or the cost of butadiene manufactured. In Brazil, butadiene is obtained from a local third-party source. In Kashima, Japan, a majority of our butadiene needs are sourced from JSR Corporation (JSR), on a commercial supply basis.

Isoprene. We source the majority of our isoprene requirements in the United States and Europe pursuant to contracts with Shell Chemicals. The agreements providing isoprene to our Belpre, Ohio facility and to our Pernis, The Netherlands facility will expire on December 31, 2009 and are renewed automatically unless prior written notice of termination is given. On December 13, 2007, we received Shell Chemicals' termination notice for isoprene supply to Pernis, the Netherlands, effective December 31, 2009, and are in the process of reviewing the strategic and economic options for our Pernis assets. The agreement with Shell Chemicals in the United States was amended in December 2008 to provide that the agreement will renew automatically unless either party provides nine (9) months prior written notice. We are engaged in discussions with Shell Chemicals regarding an isoprene supply contract for periods after December 31, 2009. We also purchase some additional supplies of isoprene from various suppliers at prevailing market prices. In Brazil, isoprene is obtained from a local third party supplier. In Kashima, Japan, the majority of our isoprene needs are sourced from JSR on a commercial supply basis and from alternative suppliers as needed.

We have operated under isoprene agreements with Shell Chemicals, which provide a market-based price component as well as a formula component for determining our net transaction price.

Under the foregoing arrangements, if we fail to purchase 95% of the agreed quantity of isoprene in either the U.S. or The Netherlands in a given year, unless excused because of reasonably unforeseen circumstances, including plant breakdowns, we must pay Shell Chemicals an idle capacity fee pursuant to formulas set forth in the contract.

(e) Infineum

We have entered into several commercial agreements with Infineum, a joint venture between Shell Chemicals and ExxonMobil, related to: (1) the sharing by Infineum of certain production capacity at our Belpre, Ohio manufacturing facility; and (2) our production of certain additives for Infineum at our Belpre, Ohio and our Berre, France manufacturing facilities. The Belpre, Ohio agreements have a 30-year term, and the Berre, France agreement has a term ending in December 2010.

11. Related Party Transactions

Related-party transactions between us and our 50% equity investment in a manufacturing joint venture at our Kashima site are as follows:

(a) Related-Party Amounts

The aggregate amounts of related-party transactions were as follows:

	2008	December 31, 2007	2006
	(in thousands)		
Sales to related party	\$ 626	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,117
Purchases from related party	\$ 37,894	\$ 39,741	\$ 33,394

Table of Contents

(b) Other

At the time of the acquisition we entered into an agreement with the owners of TJ Chemical to provide consulting and management advisory services to us for an annual fee of \$2 million, plus reimbursement of expenses incurred.

In connection with the acquisition, TJ Chemical acquired from us an option to purchase all of our outstanding equity interests in us free and clear of all liens, claims and encumbrances other than those created by us in connection with our senior secured credit facility. The option is exercisable at any time until the seventh anniversary of the acquisition (December 23, 2010), for a purchase price in cash, referred to as the Call Option Price, equal to \$400 million on or prior to the first anniversary of the acquisition, \$405 million thereafter but on or prior to the second anniversary of the acquisition, \$410 million thereafter but on or prior to the third anniversary of the acquisition, \$286 million thereafter but on or prior to the fourth anniversary of the acquisition, \$771 million thereafter but on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the acquisition, \$1.071 billion thereafter but on or prior to the sixth anniversary of the acquisition and \$1.371 billion thereafter until the option expires. The Call Option Price shall be adjusted under certain circumstances, to take into account contributions made by Polymer Holdings to us or any material distributions made by us to Polymer Holdings.

12. Member s Equity

Our capitalization is governed by a Second Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement dated as of March 31, 2004, or the LLC Agreement. As of December 31, 2008, one (1) membership unit was issued and outstanding, with no stated value, and owned by Polymer Holdings LLC, the sole member of Kraton Polymers LLC.

13. Industry Segment and Foreign Operations

We operate in one segment for the manufacture and marketing of styrenic block copolymers. In accordance with SFAS No. 131, *Disclosures About Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*, or SFAS No. 131, our chief operating decision-maker has been identified as the President and Chief Executive Officer, who reviews operating results to make decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance for the entire company. Since we operate in one segment and in one group of similar products, all financial segment and product line information required by SFAS No. 131 can be found in the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

For geographic reporting, revenues are attributed to the geographic location in which the customers' facilities are located. Long-lived assets consist primarily of property, plant, equipment, and are attributed to the geographic location in which they are located. Net revenues and long-lived assets by geographic region were as follows:

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)	2006
Total Operating Revenues:			
United States	\$ 395,568	\$ 366,048	\$ 366,783
Germany	149,011	145,649	123,054
The Netherlands	80,980	49,334	55,013
Japan	70,169	53,479	58,631
Italy	48,328	51,569	56,938
Brazil	40,868	36,732	31,920
United Kingdom	40,401	38,364	39,823
France	39,757	30,358	26,094
China	31,421	33,956	32,821
Belgium	30,079	30,751	29,520
Poland	26,934	22,604	18,069
Canada	25,361	22,300	25,279
Thailand	22,877	14,916	15,192
Taiwan	18,527	20,196	14,661
Argentina	17,174	14,109	13,727
Turkey	15,979	14,432	13,607
Australia	15,939	8,856	10,135
Mexico	14,028	9,460	8,419
Austria	13,062	9,973	7,395
Sweden	13,002	12,418	9,860
Republic of Korea	11,013	8,877	5,905
Denmark	9,147	8,795	6,443
Hong Kong	7,430	8,369	8,609
All other countries	88,978	78,042	70,223
	\$ 1,226,033	\$ 1,089,587	\$ 1,048,121

During the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, no single customer accounted for 10% or more of our total operating revenues.

	2008	December 31, 2007 (in thousands)	2006
Long-lived Assets:			
United States	\$ 303,278	\$ 298,979	\$ 283,171
Germany	39,361	40,406	32,506
Japan	6,699	3,743	3,225
France	108,665	111,441	100,476
The Netherlands	34,018	34,454	29,436
Brazil	48,237	56,721	48,485
China	2,317	2,119	54
All other countries	11,685	12,050	11,609
	\$ 554,260	\$ 559,913	\$ 508,962

Table of Contents

14. Supplemental Guarantor Information

We and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation, a financing subsidiary, collectively, the Issuers, are co-issuers of the 8.125% Notes. The Guarantor Subsidiaries include Elastomers Holdings LLC, a U.S. holding company, and Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC, a U.S. operating subsidiary, collectively, the Guarantor Subsidiaries, fully and unconditionally guarantee on a joint and several basis, the Issuers' obligations under the 8.125% Notes. Our remaining subsidiaries are not guarantors of the 8.125% Notes. We do not believe that separate financial statements and other disclosures concerning the Guarantor Subsidiaries would provide any additional information that would be material to investors in making an investment decision.

Table of Contents

POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC
CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2008

(In thousands)

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	\$	\$ 65,460	\$ 35,936	\$	\$ 101,396
Receivables, net of allowance		944	45,322	68,148	(18,971)	95,443
Inventories of products, net			145,654	187,396	(8,857)	324,193
Inventories of materials and supplies, net			6,816	4,239		11,055
Deferred income taxes			14,778			14,778
Other current assets		2,905	720	3,144		6,769
Total current assets		3,849	278,750	298,863	(27,828)	553,634
Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated depreciation		93,782	164,396	113,830		372,008
Identifiable intangible assets, less accumulated amortization		20,113		46,938		67,051
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	182,767	898,565			(1,081,332)	
Investment in unconsolidated joint venture		813		11,558		12,371
Deferred financing costs		8,184				8,184
Deferred income taxes	31	20,131			(20,162)	
Other long-term assets		137,954	411,841	11,739	(542,908)	18,626
Total Assets	\$ 182,798	\$ 1,183,391	\$ 854,987	\$ 482,928	\$ (1,672,230)	\$ 1,031,874
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER S EQUITY						
Current Liabilities						
Current portion of long-term debt	\$	\$ 3,343	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,343
Accounts payable-trade		2,700	36,806	35,671		75,177
Other payables and accruals		15,815	26,184	27,350		69,349
Due to related party			9,546	35,010	(18,971)	25,585
Total current liabilities		21,858	72,536	98,031	(18,971)	173,454
Long-term debt, net of current portion	245	571,728				571,973
Deferred income taxes			53,435	1,681	(20,162)	34,954
Long-term liabilities		408,416	53,626	143,983	(542,908)	63,117
Total liabilities	245	1,002,002	179,597	243,695	(582,041)	843,498
Commitments and contingencies (note 8)						
Member s equity						
Common equity	182,553	182,767	694,170	213,252	(1,090,189)	182,553
Accumulated other comprehensive income		(1,378)	(18,780)	25,981		5,823

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Total member s equity	182,553	181,389	675,390	239,233	(1,090,189)	188,376
Total Liabilities and Member s Equity.	\$ 182,798	\$ 1,183,391	\$ 854,987	\$ 482,928	\$ (1,672,230)	\$ 1,031,874

- (1) Polymer Holdings LLC and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 12% Discount Notes. Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the issuers would provide information that would be useful.
- (2) Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 8.125% Notes. Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the Issuers would provide additional information that would be useful.

F-40

Table of Contents

POLYMERS HOLDINGS LLC
CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2007

(In thousands)

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	\$	11,152	\$ 37,125		\$ 48,277
Receivables, net of allowance		1,873	69,990	96,478	(28,020)	140,321
Inventories of products, net			124,052	138,772	(6,501)	256,323
Inventories of materials and supplies, net			6,817	5,353		12,170
Other current assets		2,172	1,671	8,561		12,404
Total current assets		4,045	213,682	286,289	(34,521)	469,495
Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated depreciation		104,945	166,948	130,377		402,270
Identifiable intangible assets, less accumulated amortization		29,418		46,938		76,356
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	143,149	807,543			(950,692)	
Investment in unconsolidated joint venture		813		9,513		10,326
Deferred financing costs		10,323				10,323
Deferred income taxes	22	52,048			(52,070)	
Other long-term assets		97,301	400,861	16,997	(499,035)	16,124
Total Assets	\$ 143,171	\$ 1,106,436	\$ 781,491	\$ 490,114	\$ (1,536,318)	\$ 984,894
LIABILITIES AND MEMBER S EQUITY						
Current Liabilities						
Current portion of long-term debt	\$	\$ 3,445	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,445
Accounts payable-trade		2,700	48,030	52,222		102,952
Other payables and accruals		13,503	17,988	24,325		55,816
Due to related party			6,291	46,234	(28,020)	24,505
Deferred income taxes				9,827		9,827
Insurance note payable		494				494
Total current liabilities		20,142	72,309	132,608	(28,020)	197,039
Long-term debt, net of current portion	221	535,020				535,241
Deferred income taxes			84,417	7,074	(52,070)	39,421
Long-term liabilities		405,552	22,980	101,185	(499,035)	30,682
Total liabilities	221	960,714	179,706	240,867	(579,125)	802,383
Commitments and contingencies (note 8)						
Member s equity						
Common equity	142,950	145,722	621,110	190,361	(957,193)	142,950
Accumulated other comprehensive income			(19,325)	58,886		39,561

Edgar Filing: Polymer Holdings LLC - Form 424B4

Total member s equity	142,950	145,722	601,785	249,247	(957,193)	182,511
Total Liabilities and Member s Equity.	\$ 143,171	\$ 1,106,436	\$ 781,491	\$ 490,114	\$ (1,536,318)	\$ 984,894

- (1) Polymer Holdings LLC and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 12% Discount Notes. Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the issuers would provide information that would be useful.
- (2) Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 8.125% Notes. Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the Issuers would provide additional information that would be useful.

F-41

Table of Contents

POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year Ended December 31, 2008

(In thousands)

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Operating Revenues						
Sales	\$	\$	\$ 607,428	\$ 750,165	\$ (186,340)	\$ 1,171,253
Other				54,780		54,780
Total operating revenues			607,428	804,945	(186,340)	1,226,033
Cost of Goods Sold		2,356	467,079	688,188	(186,340)	971,283
Gross Profit		(2,356)	140,349	116,757		254,750
Operating Expenses						
Research and development expenses			15,829	11,220		27,049
Selling, general and administrative expenses		902	52,729	47,800		101,431
Depreciation		18,127	21,676	13,359		53,162
Total operating expenses		19,029	90,234	72,379		181,642
Earnings in consolidated subsidiaries	28,434	85,848			(114,282)	
Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture				437		437
Interest Expense (Income), net	24	39,394	(10,576)	7,853		36,695
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	28,410	25,069	60,691	36,962	(114,282)	36,850
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	(9)	(3,365)	220	11,585		8,431
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 28,419	\$ 28,434	\$ 60,471	\$ 25,377	\$ (114,282)	\$ 28,419

- (1) Polymer Holdings LLC and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 12% Discount Notes. Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the issuers would provide information that would be useful.
- (2) Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 8.125% Notes. Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the Issuers would provide additional information that would be useful.

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

Year Ended December 31, 2007

(In thousands)

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Operating Revenues						
Sales	\$	\$	\$ 545,203	\$ 669,809	\$ (148,968)	\$ 1,066,044
Other				23,543		23,543
Total operating revenues			545,203	693,352	(148,968)	1,089,587
Cost of Goods Sold		2,728	458,148	626,648	(148,968)	938,556
Gross Profit		(2,728)	87,055	66,704		151,031
Operating Expenses						
Research and development expenses			7,851	17,014		24,865
Selling, general and administrative expenses		(193)	39,612	29,601		69,020
Depreciation		19,687	20,299	11,931		51,917
Total operating expenses		19,494	67,762	58,546		145,802
Earnings in consolidated subsidiaries	(43,743)	22,273			21,470	
Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture				626		626
Interest Expense (Income), net	24	45,954	(9,480)	6,986		43,484
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	(43,767)	(45,903)	28,773	1,798	21,470	(37,629)
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	(18)	(2,160)	4,681	3,617		6,120
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (43,749)	\$ (43,743)	\$ 24,092	\$ (1,819)	\$ 21,470	\$ (43,749)

- (1) Polymer Holdings LLC and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 12% Discount Notes. Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the issuers would provide information that would be useful.
- (2) Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 8.125% Notes. Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the Issuers would provide additional information that would be useful.

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

Year Ended December 31, 2006

(In thousands)

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Operating Revenues						
Sales	\$	\$	\$ 514,994	\$ 654,155	\$ (153,383)	\$ 1,015,766
Other			216	32,139		32,355
Total operating revenues			515,210	686,294	(153,383)	1,048,121
Cost of Goods Sold						
		(1,900)	415,837	583,172	(153,383)	843,726
Gross Profit						
		1,900	99,373	103,122		204,395
Operating Expenses						
Research and development expenses			14,153	10,445		24,598
Selling, general and administrative expenses			42,840	30,936		73,776
Depreciation		16,199	19,202	8,173		43,574
Total operating expenses		16,199	76,195	49,554		141,948
Earnings in consolidated subsidiaries	(3,558)	30,612			(27,054)	
Equity in Earnings of Unconsolidated Joint Venture						
				168		168
Interest Expense (Income), net	26,090	41,643	(9,063)	7,967		66,637
Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	(29,648)	(25,330)	32,241	45,769	(27,054)	(4,022)
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	4,188	(21,772)	27,471	19,927		29,814
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (33,836)	\$ (3,558)	\$ 4,770	\$ 25,842	\$ (27,054)	\$ (33,836)

- (1) Polymer Holdings LLC and Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 12% Discount Notes. Polymer Holdings Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the issuers would provide information that would be useful.
- (2) Kraton and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the issuers of the 8.125% Notes. Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation has minimal assets and income. We do not believe that separate financial information concerning the Issuers would provide additional information that would be useful.

Table of Contents**POLYMER HOLDINGS LLC****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS****Year Ended December 31, 2008****(In thousands)**

	Polymer Holdings(1)	Kraton(2)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
Cash flows provided by (used in) operating activities	\$	\$ (7,968)	\$ 83,530	\$ (35,335)	\$	\$ 40,227
Cash flows used in investing activities						
Purchase of plant and equipment, net of proceeds from sales of equipment			(19,123)	(4,944)		(24,067)
Proceeds from (payments on) intercompany loans		(11,357)	0	11,357		
Net cash used in investing activities		(11,357)	(19,123)	6,413		(24,067)
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities						
Proceeds from debt		316,250				316,250
Repayment of debt		(279,644)				(279,644)
Cash contribution from member		10,000				10,000
Proceeds from insurance note payable		(494)				(494)
Proceeds from (payments on) intercompany loans		(26,787)	(10,099)	36,886		
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		19,325	(10,099)	36,886		46,112
Effect of exchange rate difference on cash				(9,153)		(9,153)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			54,308	(1,189)		53,119
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period			11,152	37,125		