Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.
Form 10-Q
October 30, 2014

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2014

¨ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Commission File Number 001-34581

KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	20-0411521 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
15710 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Suite 300 Houston, TX 77032 (Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)	281-504-4700 (Registrant’s telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer:	x	Accelerated filer:	¨
Non-accelerated filer:	¨	Smaller reporting company:	¨

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

Number of shares of Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. Common Stock, $0.01 par value, outstanding as of October 27, 2014: 32,829,732.

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on Form 10-Q for

Quarter Ended September 30, 2014

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Some of the statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q under the headings “Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and elsewhere contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We may also make written or oral forward-looking statements in our periodic reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K, in press releases and other written materials and in oral statements made by our officers, directors or employees to third parties. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are often characterized by the use of words such as “believes,” “estimates,” “expects,” “projects,” “may,” “intends,” “plans” or “anticipates,” or by discussions of strategy, plans or intentions: anticipated benefits of or performance of our products; beliefs regarding opportunities for new, high-margin applications and other innovations; adequacy of cash flows to fund our working capital requirements; our investment in the joint venture with Formosa Petrochemical Corporation (“FPCC”); our expectations regarding indebtedness to be incurred by our joint venture with FPCC; debt payments, interest payments, capital expenditures, benefit plan contributions, and income tax obligations; our anticipated 2014 capital expenditures, compliance with the MACT rule, health, safety and environmental and infrastructure and maintenance projects, projects to optimize the production capabilities of our manufacturing assets and to support our innovation platform; our ability to ensure full access to our senior secured credit facilities; expectations regarding our counterparties’ ability to perform, including with respect to trade receivables; estimates regarding the tax expense of repatriating certain cash and short-term investments related to foreign operations; expectations regarding high-margin applications; our ability to realize certain deferred tax assets and our beliefs with respect to tax positions; expectations regarding our full year effective tax rate; estimates related to the useful lives of certain assets for tax purposes; expectations regarding our pension contributions for fiscal year 2014; estimates or expectations related to monomer costs, ending inventory levels and related estimated charges; the outcome and financial impact of legal proceedings; expectations regarding the spread between FIFO and ECRC in future periods; and projections regarding environmental costs and capital expenditures and related operational savings. Such forward-looking statements involve assumptions, known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other important factors that could cause the actual results, performance or our achievements, or industry results, to differ materially from historical results, any future results, or performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this report. Further description of these risks and uncertainties and other important factors are set forth in this report, in our latest Annual Report on Form 10-K, including but not limited to “Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Part II, Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” therein, and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and include, but are not limited to, risks related to:

our reliance on LyondellBasell Industries for the provision of significant operating and other services;
conditions in the global economy and capital markets;
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;
limitations in the availability of raw materials we need to produce our products in the amounts or at the prices necessary for us to effectively and profitably operate our business;
significant fluctuations in raw material costs may result in volatility in our quarterly operating results and impact the market price of our common stock;
competition in our end use markets by other producers of styrenic block copolymers and by producers of products that can be substituted for our products;
our ability to produce and commercialize technological innovations;
our ability to protect our intellectual property, on which our business is substantially dependent;
the possibility that our products infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others;
a major failure of our information systems, which could harm our business;

seasonality in our business, particularly in our Paving and Roofing end use market;

our substantial indebtedness, which could adversely affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the senior secured credit facilities, the senior notes, and the KFPC loan agreement;
financial and operating constraints related to our indebtedness;
the inherently hazardous nature of chemical manufacturing;
product liability claims and other lawsuits arising from environmental damage, personal injuries, other damages associated with chemical manufacturing or our products;
lawsuits arising from the termination of the Combination Agreement with LCY Chemical Corp.;
political, economic and local business risks in the various countries in which we operate;
health, safety and environmental laws, including laws that govern our employees' exposure to chemicals deemed harmful to humans;
regulation of our company or our customers, which could affect the demand for our products or result in increased compliance and other costs;
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;
fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
we may have additional tax liabilities;
our formation of a joint venture to expand HSBC capacity in Asia;
our relationship with our employees;
loss of key personnel or our inability to attract and retain new qualified personnel;
the fact that we generally do not enter into long-term contracts with our customers;
a decrease in the fair value of our pension assets could require us to materially increase future funding requirements of the pension plan;
domestic or international natural disasters or terrorist attacks may disrupt our operations;
Delaware law and some provisions of our organizational documents that make a takeover of our company more difficult;
our expectation that we will not pay dividends for the foreseeable future; and
we are a holding company with nominal net worth and will depend on dividends and distributions from our subsidiaries to pay any dividends.

There may be other factors of which we are currently unaware or that we deem immaterial that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we express in our forward-looking statements. Although we believe the assumptions underlying our forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of these assumptions, and, therefore, also the forward-looking statements based on these assumptions could themselves prove to be inaccurate.

Forward-looking statements are based on current plans, estimates, assumptions 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.

Presentation of Financial Statements

The terms “Kraton,” “our company,” “we,” “our,” “ours” and “us” as used in this report refer collectively to Kraton Performan Polymers, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

This Form 10-Q includes financial statements and related notes that present the condensed consolidated financial position, results of operations, comprehensive income (loss), and cash flows of Kraton and its subsidiaries. Kraton is a holding company whose only material asset is its investment in its wholly owned subsidiary, Kraton Polymers LLC. Kraton Polymers LLC and its subsidiaries own all of our consolidated operating assets.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc.:

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet of Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of September 30, 2014, and the related condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, and the related condensed consolidated statements of changes in equity and cash flows for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2014 and 2013. These condensed consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our reviews in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the condensed consolidated financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We have previously audited, in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of the Company as of December 31, 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), changes in equity, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated February 27, 2014, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2013 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Houston, Texas
October 30, 2014

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.
KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except par value)

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$62,287	$175,872
Receivables, net of allowances of $343 and $315	134,310	129,356
Inventories of products	345,831	328,772
Inventories of materials and supplies	11,175	10,947
Deferred income taxes	9,319	7,596
Other current assets	24,044	20,665
Total current assets	586,966	673,208
Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated depreciation of $382,770 and $353,428	449,492	414,257
Intangible assets, less accumulated amortization of $87,172 and $78,784	52,548	57,488
Investment in unconsolidated joint venture	13,007	14,074
Debt issuance costs	7,876	9,213
Deferred income taxes	1,594	1,326
Other long-term assets	25,196	25,231
Total assets	$1,136,679	$1,194,797
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	$49	$0
Accounts payable-trade	81,212	115,736
Other payables and accruals	43,856	54,539
Deferred income taxes	332	182
Due to related party	15,288	24,603
Total current liabilities	140,737	195,060
Long-term debt, net of current portion	351,849	350,989
Deferred income taxes	15,982	18,359
Other long-term liabilities	71,801	75,991
Total liabilities	580,369	640,399
Commitments and contingencies (note 10)		
Equity:		
Kraton stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, $0.01 par value; 100,000 shares authorized; none issued	—	—
	328	325

Common stock, $0.01 par value; 500,000 shares authorized; 32,828 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2014; 32,547 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2013		
Additional paid in capital	372,780	363,590
Retained earnings	190,676	170,827
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(46,903)	(21,252)
Total Kraton stockholders' equity	516,881	513,490
Noncontrolling interest	39,429	40,908
Total equity	556,310	554,398
Total liabilities and equity	$1,136,679	$1,194,797

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share data)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Revenue	$318,971	$327,109	$954,394	$1,001,759
Cost of goods sold	255,147	279,659	761,417	834,537
Gross profit	63,824	47,450	192,977	167,222
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	7,440	7,413	23,736	23,772
Selling, general and administrative	16,374	22,430	78,872	73,548
Depreciation and amortization	16,552	15,814	49,630	46,653
Total operating expenses	40,366	45,657	152,238	143,973
Earnings of unconsolidated joint venture	80	117	324	372
Interest expense, net	6,099	5,741	18,667	24,948
Income (loss) before income taxes	17,439	(3,831)	22,396	(1,327)
Income tax expense	1,122	2,021	3,405	4,372
Consolidated net income (loss)	16,317	(5,852)	18,991	(5,699)
Net loss attributable to noncontrolling interest	(298)	(254)	(858)	(182)
Net income (loss) attributable to Kraton	$16,615	$(5,598)	$19,849	$(5,517)
Earnings (loss) per common share:				
Basic	0.51	(0.17)	0.61	(0.17)
Diluted	0.50	(0.17)	0.60	(0.17)
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	32,315	32,073	32,249	32,069
Diluted	32,600	32,073	32,590	32,069

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

	Three months ended		Nine months ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net income (loss) attributable to Kraton	$16,615	$(5,598)	$19,849	$(5,517)
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax of $0	(28,587)	9,511	(25,651)	(3,735)
Realized gain from interest rate swap, net of tax of $0	-	-	-	837
Unrealized loss from net investment hedge, net of tax of $0	-	(265)	-	(490)
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	(28,587)	9,246	(25,651)	(3,388)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Kraton	(11,972)	3,648	(5,802)	(8,905)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest	(1,092)	178	(1,479)	111
Consolidated comprehensive income (loss)	$(13,064)	$3,826	$(7,281)	$(8,794)

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total Kraton Stockholders' Equity	Noncontrolling Interest	Total Equity
Balance at December 31, 2012	$ 323	$ 354,957	$ 171,445	$ (34,510)	$ 492,215	$ —	$ 492,215
Net loss	—	—	(5,517)	—	(5,517)	(182)	(5,699)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	(3,388)	(3,388)	293	(3,095)
Consolidation of variable interest entity	—	—	—	—	—	30,216	30,216
Exercise of stock options	2	308	—	—	310	—	310
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	—	6,362	—	—	6,362	—	6,362
Balance at September 30, 2013	$ 325	$ 361,627	$ 165,928	$ (37,898)	$ 489,982	$ 30,327	$ 520,309
Balance at December 31, 2013	$ 325	$ 363,590	$ 170,827	$ (21,252)	$ 513,490	$ 40,908	$ 554,398
Net income (loss)	—	—	19,849	—	19,849	(858)	18,991
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	(25,651)	(25,651)	(621)	(26,272)
Retired treasury stock	—	(704)	—	—	(704)	—	(704)
Exercise of stock options	1	1,428	—	—	1,429	—	1,429
Non-cash compensation related to equity awards	2	8,466	—	—	8,468	—	8,468
Balance at September 30, 2014	$ 328	$ 372,780	$ 190,676	$ (46,903)	$ 516,881	$ 39,429	$ 556,310

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

	Nine months ended September 30, 2014	2013
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Consolidated net income (loss)	$18,991	$(5,699)
Adjustments to reconcile consolidated net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	49,630	46,653
Amortization of debt premium	(121)	(114)
Amortization of debt issuance costs	1,665	6,841
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(33)	(37)
Earnings from unconsolidated joint venture, net of dividends received	163	51
Deferred income tax benefit	(3,222)	(2,737)
Share-based compensation	8,468	6,362
Decrease (increase) in:		
Accounts receivable	(11,179)	(18,737)
Inventories of products, materials and supplies	(28,796)	25,538
Other assets	(4,606)	5,772
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable-trade	(30,007)	(8,081)
Other payables and accruals	(5,915)	(12,334)
Other long-term liabilities	(4,937)	3,304
Due to related party	(8,878)	11,305
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(18,777)	58,087
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Kraton purchase of property, plant and equipment	(47,539)	(49,638)
KFPC purchase of property, plant and equipment	(33,807)	(8,284)
Purchase of software and other intangibles	(2,724)	(3,106)
Settlement of net investment hedge	—	(2,490)
Net cash used in investing activities	(84,070)	(63,518)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from debt	29,000	40,000
Repayments of debt	(29,000)	(136,875)
Capital lease payments	(6,007)	(950)
Contribution from noncontrolling interest	—	30,216
Purchase of treasury stock	(704)	—
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options	1,429	310
Debt issuance costs	(485)	(4,794)
Net cash used in financing activities	(5,767)	(72,093)
Effect of exchange rate differences on cash	(4,971)	(1,012)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(113,585)	(78,536)

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	175,872	223,166
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	$62,287	$144,630
Supplemental disclosures:		
Cash paid during the period for income taxes, net of refunds received	$9,267	$7,397
Cash paid during the period for interest, net of capitalized interest	$23,053	$24,207
Capitalized interest	$2,214	$2,951
Supplemental non-cash disclosures:		
Property, plant and equipment accruals	$6,057	$7,170
Asset acquired through capital lease	$7,033	$2,900

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. General

Description of our Business. We are a leading global producer of styrenic block copolymers ("SBCs") and other engineered polymers. We market our products under the Kraton®, Cariflex™ and NEXAR™ brands. SBCs are highly-engineered synthetic elastomers, which we invented and commercialized almost 50 years ago, that enhance the performance of numerous end use products by imparting greater flexibility, resilience, strength, durability and processability.

Our polymers are typically formulated or compounded with other products to achieve improved, customer-specific performance characteristics in a variety of applications. We seek to maximize the value of our product portfolio by emphasizing complex or specialized polymers and innovations that yield higher margins than more commoditized products. We sometimes refer to these complex or specialized polymers or innovations as being more "differentiated."

Our products are found in many everyday applications, including personal care products such as disposable diapers and the rubberized grips of toothbrushes, razor blades and power tools. Our products are also used to impart tack and shear properties in a wide variety of adhesive products and to impart characteristics such as flexibility and durability in sealants and corrosion resistance in coatings. Our paving and roofing applications provide durability, extending road and roof life.

We also produce Cariflex isoprene rubber and isoprene rubber latex. Our Cariflex products are highly-engineered, non-SBC synthetic substitutes for natural rubber and natural rubber latex. Our Cariflex products, which have not been found to contain the proteins present in natural rubber latex and are, therefore, not known to cause allergies, are used in applications such as surgical gloves and condoms.

We have a portfolio of innovations at various stages of development and commercialization, including

- polyvinyl chloride alternatives for wire and cable and medical applications;
- polymers and compounds for soft skin and coated fabric applications for transportation and consumer markets;
- highly-modified asphalt ("HiMA") for high-performance paving applications;
- NEXAR family of membrane polymers for water filtration, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and breathable fabrics; and
- synthetic cement formulations and polymers used for viscosity modification in oilfield applications.

We manufacture our polymers at five manufacturing facilities globally, including our flagship facility in Belpre, Ohio, as well as facilities in Germany, France, Brazil and Japan. The facility in Japan is operated by an unconsolidated manufacturing joint venture. The terms "Kraton," "our company," "we," "our," "ours" and "us" as used in this report refer collectively to Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Basis of Presentation. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements presented herein are for us and our consolidated subsidiaries, each of which is a wholly-owned subsidiary, except our 50% investment in our joint venture, Kraton Formosa Polymers Corporation ("KFPC"), located in Mailiao, Taiwan. KFPC is a variable interest entity for which we have determined that we are the primary beneficiary and, therefore, have consolidated into our financial statements. Our 50% investment in our joint venture located in Kashima, Japan is accounted for under the equity method of accounting. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated. These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and reflect all normal recurring adjustments that are, in the opinion of management, necessary to present fairly our results of operations and financial position. Amounts reported in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations are not necessarily indicative of amounts expected for the respective annual periods or any other interim period, in particular due to the effect of seasonal changes and weather conditions that typically affect our sales into our Paving and Roofing end use market.

Significant Accounting Policies. Our significant accounting policies have been disclosed in Note 1 Description of Business, Basis of Presentation and Significant Accounting Policies in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no changes to the policies disclosed therein. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements we present in this report have been prepared in accordance with those policies.

Reclassifications. Certain amounts reported in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the current reporting presentation.

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

Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include

the useful lives of fixed assets;
allowances for doubtful accounts and sales returns;
the valuation of derivatives, deferred tax assets, property, plant and equipment, inventory, investments and share-based compensation; and
liabilities for employee benefit obligations, environmental matters, asset retirement obligations ("ARO"), income tax uncertainties and other contingencies.

Income Tax in Interim Periods. We conduct operations in separate legal entities in different jurisdictions. As a result, income tax amounts are reflected in these condensed consolidated financial statements for each of those jurisdictions. Tax laws and tax rates vary substantially in these jurisdictions and are subject to change based on the political and economic climate in those countries. We file our tax returns in accordance with our interpretations of each jurisdiction's tax laws. We record our tax provision or benefit on an interim basis using the estimated annual effective tax rate. This rate is applied to the current period ordinary income or loss to determine the income tax provision or benefit allocated to the interim period.

Losses from jurisdictions for which no benefit can be realized and the income tax effects of unusual and infrequent items are excluded from the estimated annual effective tax rate. Valuation allowances are provided against the future tax benefits that arise from the losses in jurisdictions for which no benefit can be realized. The effects of unusual and infrequent items are recognized in the impacted interim period as discrete items.

The estimated annual effective tax rate may be significantly affected by nondeductible expenses and by our projected earnings mix by tax jurisdiction. Adjustments to the estimated annual effective income tax rate are recognized in the period during which such estimates are revised.

We have established valuation allowances against a variety of deferred tax assets, including net operating loss carryforwards, foreign tax credits and other income tax credits. Valuation allowances take into consideration our expected ability to realize these deferred tax assets and reduce the value of such assets to the amount that is deemed more likely than not to be recoverable. Our ability to realize these deferred tax assets is dependent on achieving our forecast of future taxable operating income over an extended period of time. We review our forecast in relation to actual results and expected trends on a quarterly basis. If we fail to achieve our operating income targets, we may change our assessment regarding the recoverability of our net deferred tax assets and such change could result in a valuation allowance being recorded against some or all of our net deferred tax assets. A change in our valuation allowance would impact our income tax expense/benefit and our stockholders' equity and could have a significant impact on our results of operations or financial condition in future periods.

2. New Accounting Pronouncements

Adoption of Accounting Standards

We have implemented all new accounting pronouncements that are in effect and that management believes would materially affect our financial statements.

New Accounting Standard

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, which provides a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and will supersede most current revenue recognition guidance. The standard is effective for public entities for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016. Early adoption is not permitted. Our evaluation of this standard is currently ongoing and therefore, the effects of this standard on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows are not yet known.

3. Share-Based Compensation

We account for share-based awards under the provisions of ASC 718, "Compensation—Stock Compensation." Accordingly, share-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and we expense these costs using the straight-line method over the requisite service period. Share-based compensation expense was $2.3 million and $1.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and $8.5 million and $6.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. We have historically recorded these costs in selling, general and administrative expenses; however, beginning in the second quarter of 2013, a portion of these costs were recorded in cost of goods sold and research and development expenses.

4. Detail of Certain Balance Sheet Accounts

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(In thousands)	
Inventories of products:		
Finished products	$261,499	$246,758
Work in progress	6,465	5,384
Raw materials	77,867	76,630
Total inventories of products	$345,831	$328,772
Other payables and accruals:		
Employee related	$13,503	$16,066
Interest payable	2,047	7,955
Other	28,306	30,518
Total other payables and accruals	$43,856	$54,539
Other long-term liabilities:		

Pension and other postretirement benefits	$54,364	$57,924
Other	17,437	18,067
Total other long-term liabilities	$71,801	$75,991
Accumulated other comprehensive loss:		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	$(2,893)	$22,758
Net unrealized loss on net investment hedge	(1,926)	(1,926)
Pension liability	(42,084)	(42,084)
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss	$(46,903)	$(21,252)

5. Earnings Per Share ("EPS")

Basic EPS is computed by dividing net income attributable to Kraton by the weighted-average number of shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net income attributable to Kraton by the diluted weighted-average number of shares outstanding during the period and, accordingly, reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other agreements to issue common stock, such as stock options, were exercised, settled or converted into common stock and were dilutive. The diluted weighted-average number of shares used in our diluted EPS calculation is determined using the treasury stock method.

Unvested awards of share-based payments with rights to receive dividends or dividend equivalents, such as our restricted stock awards are considered to be participating securities, and therefore, the two-class method is used for purposes of calculating EPS. Under the two-class method, a portion of net income is allocated to these participating securities and is excluded from the calculation of EPS allocated to common stock. Our restricted stock awards are subject to forfeiture and restrictions on transfer until vested and have identical voting, income and distribution rights to the unrestricted common shares outstanding. Our weighted average restricted stock awards outstanding were 491,926 and 454,726 for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and 491,684 and 401,844 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. We withheld 1,793 and 27,173 shares of restricted stock upon vesting to satisfy employee payroll tax withholding requirements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. We immediately retired all shares withheld and the transactions were reflected in additional paid in capital in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity and as a purchase of treasury stock in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

The computation of diluted EPS includes weighted average restricted share units of 87,696 and 80,335 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. All outstanding restricted share units of 57,591 are excluded from the computation of diluted EPS as they are anti-dilutive for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013.

The computation of diluted EPS includes weighted average performance share units of 34,811 and 27,032 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. The computation of diluted earnings per share excludes the effect of performance share units for which the performance contingencies had not been met as of the reporting date, amounting to 102,396 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 67,585 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013. .

The computation of diluted EPS includes stock options added under the treasury stock method, which amounted to 162,049 and 0 for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively and 233,594 and 0 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The computation of diluted earnings per share excludes the effect of the potential exercise of stock options that are anti-dilutive, amounting to 1,008,497 and 1,643,950 for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and 987,843 and 1,643,950 for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

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The calculations of basic and diluted EPS are as follows:

	Three months ended September 30, 2014			Three months ended September 30, 2013		
	Net Income Attributable to Kraton	Weighted Average Shares Outstanding	Earnings Per Share	Net Loss Attributable to Kraton	Weighted Average Shares Outstanding	Loss Per Share
	(In thousands, except per share data)			(In thousands, except per share data)		
Basic:						
As reported	$16,615	32,807		$(5,598)	32,528	
Amounts allocated to unvested restricted shares	(249)	(492)		78	(455)	
Amounts available to common stockholders	16,366	32,315	$ 0.51	(5,520)	32,073	$(0.17)
Diluted:						
Amounts allocated to unvested restricted shares	249	492		(78)	455	
Non participating share units	—	123		—	—	
Stock options added under the treasury stock method	—	162		—	—	
Amounts reallocated to unvested restricted shares	(247)	(492)		78	(455)	
Amounts available to stockholders and assumed conversions	$16,368	32,600	$ 0.50	$(5,520)	32,073	$(0.17)

	Nine months ended September 30, 2014			Nine months ended September 30, 2013		
	Net Income Attributable to Kraton	Weighted Average Shares Outstanding	Earnings Per Share	Net Loss Attributable to Kraton	Weighted Average Shares Outstanding	Loss Per Share
	(In thousands, except per share data)			(In thousands, except per share data)		
Basic:						
As reported	$19,849	32,741		$(5,517)	32,471	
Amounts allocated to unvested restricted shares	(298)	(492)		68	(402)	
Amounts available to common stockholders	19,551	32,249	$ 0.61	(5,449)	32,069	$(0.17)
Diluted:						
Amounts allocated to unvested restricted shares	298	492		(68)	402	
Non participating share units	—	107		—	—	
Stock options added under the treasury stock method	—	234		—	—	
Amounts reallocated to unvested restricted shares	(295)	(492)		68	(402)	
	$19,554	32,590	$ 0.60	$(5,449)	32,069	$(0.17)

Amounts available to stockholders and assumed conversions

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6. Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(In thousands)	
6.75% unsecured notes	$350,867	$350,989
Capital lease obligation	1,031	—
Total debt	351,898	350,989
Less current portion of total debt	49	—
Long-term debt	$351,849	$350,989

Senior Secured Credit Facilities. In March 2013, we entered into an asset-based revolving credit facility consisting of a $150.0 million U.S. senior secured revolving credit facility (the "U.S. Facility") and a $100.0 million Dutch senior secured revolving credit facility (the "Dutch Facility," and together with the U.S. Facility, the "Senior Secured Credit Facilities"). Borrowing under the Senior Secured Credit Facilities is subject to borrowing base limitations based on the level of receivables and inventory available for security.

We may request up to an aggregate of $100.0 million of additional revolving facility commitments of which up to an aggregate of $40.0 million may be additional Dutch revolving facility commitments, provided that we satisfy additional conditions described in the Senior Secured Credit Facilities, and provided further that the U.S. revolver commitment is at least 60% of the commitments after giving effect to such increase.

Kraton Polymers U.S. LLC and Kraton Polymers Nederland B.V. are the borrowers under the Senior Secured Credit Facilities, and Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc., Kraton Polymers LLC, Elastomers Holdings LLC and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation are the guarantors for both the U.S. Facility and the Dutch Facility. In addition, K.P. Global Holdings C.V. and Kraton Polymers Holdings B.V. are guarantors for the Dutch Facility. The Senior Secured Credit Facilities terminate on March 27, 2018; however, we may from time to time request that the lenders extend the maturity of their commitments. Availability under the Senior Secured Credit Facilities is limited to the lesser of the borrowing base and total commitments (less certain reserves).

The Senior Secured Credit Facilities are primarily secured by receivables and inventory. The U.S. Facility provides for borrowings in the United States and is secured by assets located in the United States. The Dutch Facility provides for borrowings outside of the United States and is secured by assets located outside of the United States.

Borrowings under the U.S. Facility (other than swingline loans) bear interest at a rate equal to, at the applicable borrower's option, either (a) a base rate determined by reference to the greater of (1) the prime rate of Bank of America, N.A., (2) the federal funds rate plus 0.5% and (3) LIBOR plus 1.0%, or (b) a rate based on LIBOR, in each case plus an applicable margin. U.S. swingline loans shall bear interest at a base rate determined by reference to the greater of (1) the prime rate of Bank of America, N.A., (2) the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or (3) LIBOR plus 1.0%, in each case plus an applicable margin.

Borrowings under the Dutch Facility (other than swingline loans) bear interest at a rate equal to, at the applicable borrower's option, either (a) a fluctuating rate, with respect to Euros, Pounds Sterling and Dollars outside of the U.S. and Canada, equal to the rate announced by the European Central Bank and used as a base rate by the local branch of Bank of America in the jurisdiction in which such currency is funded, or (b) a rate based on LIBOR, in each case plus an applicable margin. Dutch swingline loans shall bear interest at a fluctuating rate, with respect to Euros, Pounds Sterling and Dollars outside of the U.S. and Canada, equal to the rate announced by the European Central Bank and used as a base rate by the local branch of Bank of America in the jurisdiction in which such currency is funded.

The applicable margin is subject to a minimum of 0.5% and a maximum of 1.0% with respect to U.S. base rate loans, and a minimum of 1.5% and maximum of 2.0% for foreign base rate borrowings, and a minimum of 1.5% and maximum of 2.0% for both U.S. and foreign LIBOR loans and is subject to adjustment based on the borrowers' excess availability of the applicable facility for the most recent fiscal quarter.

In addition to paying interest on outstanding principal amounts under the Senior Secured Credit Facilities, the borrowers will be required to pay a commitment fee in respect of the unutilized commitments at an annual rate of 0.375%.

The Senior Secured Credit Facilities contain a financial covenant that if either (a) excess availability is less than the greater of (i) 12.5% of the lesser of the commitments and the borrowing base and (ii) $31,250,000 or (b) U.S. availability is less than the greater of (i) 12.5% of the lesser of the U.S. commitments and U.S. borrowing base and (ii) $18,750,000, then following such event, Kraton and its restricted subsidiaries must maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.0 to 1.0 for four fiscal quarters (or for a shorter duration if certain financial conditions are met). The Senior Secured Credit Facilities contain certain customary events of default, including, without limitation, a failure to make payments under the facility, cross-default and cross-judgment default, certain bankruptcy events and certain change of control events.

As of September 30, 2014, our available borrowing capacity was $214.8 million of which $0.0 million was drawn. As of the date of this filing, our available borrowing capacity was $211.9 million, of which $0.0 million was drawn.

6.75% Senior Notes due 2019. Kraton Polymers LLC and its wholly-owned financing subsidiary Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation issued $350.0 million aggregate principal amount of 6.75% senior notes that mature on March 1, 2019 pursuant to an indenture dated February 11, 2011 ($250.0 million senior notes) and supplemental indenture thereto dated March 20, 2012 ($100.0 million senior notes). The indenture provides that the notes are general unsecured, senior obligations and will be unconditionally guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis. We pay interest on the notes at 6.75% per annum, semi-annually in arrears on March 1 and September 1 of each year.

Capital Lease. In January 2014, we entered into a 10 year capital lease with a principal amount of $7.0 million to fund a portion of our capital expenditures.

KFPC Loan Agreement. On July 17, 2014, KFPC executed a syndicated loan agreement (the “KFPC” Loan Agreement”) in the amount of 5.5 billion New Taiwan Dollars (“NTD”), or $182.9 million (converted at the July 17, 2014 exchange rate), to provide additional funding to construct the HSBC facility in Taiwan and to provide funding for working capital requirements and/or general corporate purposes.

The KFPC Loan Agreement is comprised of a NTD 4.29 billion Tranche A, or $142.7 million (converted at the July 17, 2014 exchange rate), to fund KFPC’s capital expenditures, and a NTD 1.21 billion Tranche B, or $40.2 million (converted at the July 17, 2014 exchange rate), to fund working capital requirements and/or general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2014, no draws have been made on the KFPC Loan Agreement. The initial term of the KFPC Loan Agreement is five years from the date of the first drawing of either tranche. To the extent that the first drawing has not occurred within six months from the date of the KFPC Loan Agreement, the term will be five years from expiration of this six-month period. Subject to certain conditions, KFPC can request a two-year extension of the term of the KFPC Loan Agreement.

The total outstanding principal amount is payable in six semi-annual installments with the first payment due upon the expiry of a thirty-month period commencing on the date of the first drawing of loans and each subsequent payment due every six months thereafter. The first five installments shall be in an amount equal to 10% of the outstanding principal amount and the final installment shall be in an amount equal to the remaining 50% of the outstanding principal amount. In the event the extension period is granted, the final 50% of the outstanding principal amount shall be repaid in five equal semi-annual installments with the first installment due on the original final maturity date.

The KFPC Loan Agreement is subject to a variable interest rate composed of a fixed 0.8% margin plus the secondary market fixing rate in NTD denominated 90 day or 180 day commercial paper, (depending on the interest period as selected by KFPC in the drawdown request or the interest period notice), subject to a floor of 1.7%. Interest is payable on a monthly basis.

The KFPC Loan Agreement contains certain financial covenants which change during the term of the KFPC Loan Agreement. The financial covenants include a maximum debt to equity ratio of 3.0 to 1.0 commencing in 2014, which will decrease over time to 1.2 to 1.0 in 2018; a minimum tangible net worth requirement of $50.0 million commencing in 2014, which will increase to $100.0 million in 2019; and a minimum interest coverage ratio of 2.5 to 1.0 commencing in 2016, which will increase to 5.0 to 1.0 in 2017. In each case, these covenants are calculated and tested on an annual basis. Formosa Petrochemical Corporation and Kraton Polymers LLC are the guarantors of the KFPC Loan Agreement with each guarantor guaranteeing fifty percent (50%) of the indebtedness.

Debt Maturities. The remaining principal payments on our outstanding total debt as of September 30, 2014, are as follows:

	Principal Payments (In thousands)
September 30:	
2015	$ 49
2016	91
2017	97
2018	93
Thereafter	350,702
Total debt	$ 351,032

See Note 8 Fair Value Measurements, Financial Instruments and Credit Risk for fair value information related to our long-term debt.

7. Debt Issuance Costs

We capitalize the debt issuance costs related to issuing long-term debt and amortize these costs using the effective interest method, except for costs related to revolving debt, which are amortized using the straight-line method. Amortization of debt issuance costs and the accelerated write-off of debt issuance costs in connection with refinancing activities are recorded as a component of interest expense. We had net debt issuance costs of $10.1 million and $11.4 million (of which $2.3 million and $2.2 million were included in other current assets) as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively. In connection with the March 2013 refinancing of our indebtedness, we charged to interest expense $5.0 million of unamortized debt issuance costs related to our previously existing indebtedness and we capitalized $4.8 million of debt issuance costs related to our new indebtedness. In the three months ended September 30, 2014, our consolidated joint venture, KFPC, capitalized $0.5 million of debt issuance costs related to the KFPC Loan Agreement executed in July 2014. We amortized $0.6 million and $0.5 million of debt issuance costs for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and $1.7 million and $1.8 million (which excludes the $5.0 million of accelerated amortization) of debt issuance costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

8. Fair Value Measurements, Financial Instruments and Credit Risk

ASC 820, “Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures” defines fair value, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. ASC 820 requires entities to, among other things, maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

ASC 820 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.

ASC 820 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 ASC 820, these two types of inputs have created the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1—Inputs that are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Level 2—Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability, including:
- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means; and
- Level 3—Inputs that are unobservable and reflect our assumptions used in pricing the asset or liability based on the best information available under the circumstances (e.g., internally derived assumptions surrounding the timing and amount of expected cash flows).

Recurring Fair Value Measurements. The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy our financial assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013. These financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Our assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment, which judgment may affect the valuation of their fair value and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

			Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
	Balance Sheet Location	September 30, 2014	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
		(In thousands)			
Retirement plan asset	Other long-term assets	$2,109	$2,109	$ -	$ -

		Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
Balance Sheet Location	December 31, 2013	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Significant Other Observable Inputs	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)

			for Identical Assets (Level 1)	(Level 2)	
		(In thousands)			
Retirement plan asset	Other long-term assets	$1,908	$1,908	$ -	$ -

The use of derivatives creates exposure to credit risk relating to potential losses that could be recognized in the event that the counterparties to these instruments fail to perform their obligations under the contracts, which we seek to minimize by limiting our counterparties to major financial institutions with acceptable credit ratings and by monitoring the total value of positions with individual counterparties. In the event of a default by one of our counterparties, we may not receive payments provided for under the terms of our derivatives.

The following table presents the carrying values and approximate fair values of our long-term debt.

	September 30, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
6.75% unsecured notes (quoted prices in active market for identical assets - level 1)	$350,867	$362,250	$350,989	$369,250
Capital lease obligation (significant other observable inputs - level 2)	$1,031	$1,031	$—	$—

Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Swap Agreement. On March 27, 2013, in connection with the refinancing of our credit facility, we terminated and settled an interest rate swap agreement, and as a result, recognized $0.7 million of interest expense for the three months ended March 31, 2013. We did not have any interest rate swap agreements in effect during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Fair Value Hedges. In April 2012, we entered into a series of non-deliverable forward contracts to reduce our exposure to fluctuations in the Canadian dollar ("CAD") against the U.S. dollar associated with the funding of certain capital expenditures. These non-deliverable forward contracts qualified for hedge accounting and were designated as fair value hedges in accordance with ASC 815-25 "Fair Value Hedges." The only non-deliverable forward contract outstanding as of September 30, 2013 had a notional amount of CAD $1.6 million with a settlement date of October 8, 2013. This hedge was effective in offsetting our exposure to the CAD and therefore the $0.1 million gain on the hedge was offset by the $0.1 million loss on the exposure associated with the funding of our semi-works facility for the three months ended September 30, 2013. There was no net impact for the nine months ended September 30, 2013. We did not have any fair value hedges in place during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Net Investment Hedges. During 2012, we entered into a series of non-deliverable forward and foreign currency option contracts to protect our net investment in our European subsidiaries against adverse changes in exchange rates by fixing the U.S. dollar/Euro exchange rate. The notional amounts of these contracts ranged from €50.0 million to €100.0 million with all contracts expiring after thirty days. In June 2013, we entered into a TWD 450.0 million notional amount non-deliverable forward contract to protect our net investment in our subsidiary in Taiwan against adverse changes in exchange rates by fixing the New Taiwan Dollar/Euro exchange rate. These contracts qualify for hedge accounting and were designated as net investment hedges in accordance with ASC 815-35 "Net Investment Hedges." We recorded an aggregate $0.5 million loss in accumulated other comprehensive loss related to the settlement of the effective portion of these contracts during the nine months ended September 30, 2013. We did not have any net investment hedges in place during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Foreign Currency Hedges. Periodically, we enter into foreign currency agreements to hedge or otherwise protect against fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. These agreements typically do not qualify for hedge accounting and gains/losses resulting from both the up-front premiums and/or settlement of the hedges at expiration of the agreements are recognized in the period in which they are incurred. For the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, we settled these hedges and recorded a loss of $3.9 million and a gain of $0.3 million, respectively, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, we recorded a loss of $4.3 million and a loss of $1.5 million, respectively, which are recorded in cost of goods sold. These contracts are structured such that these gains/losses from the mark-to-market impact of the hedging instruments materially offset the underlying foreign currency exchange gains/losses to reduce the overall impact of foreign currency exchange movements throughout the period.

Credit Risk

We analyze our counterparties' financial condition prior to extending credit and we 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.

9. Income Taxes

Our income tax expense was $1.1 million and $2.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and $3.4 million and $4.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Our effective tax rate was 6.4% and (52.8%) for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and 15.2% and (329.5%) for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Our effective tax rates differed from the U.S. corporate statutory tax rate of 35.0%, primarily due to the mix of pre-tax income or loss earned in certain jurisdictions and the change in our valuation allowance.

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. As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, a valuation allowance of $85.4 million and $90.0 million, respectively, has been provided for net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets. We decreased our valuation allowance by $4.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014, of which $2.5 million represents utilization of net operating losses in the current period and $1.9 million relates to the assessment of our ability to utilize net operating losses in future periods. We increased our valuation allowance by $3.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2013, of which $3.5 million represents current period net operating losses and $0.1 million represents changes in other comprehensive income (loss). We decreased our valuation allowance by $4.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, of which $2.7 million represents utilization of net operating losses in the current period and $1.9 million relates to the assessment of our ability to utilize net operating losses in future periods. We increased our valuation allowance by $7.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, of which $8.0 million represents current period net operating losses, partially offset by $0.1 million which represents changes in other comprehensive income (loss). Excluding the change in our valuation allowance, our effective tax rate would have been a 31.7% expense and a 38.3% benefit for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and a 35.8% expense and a 276.9% benefit for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

As of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, we had total unrecognized tax benefits of $6.6 million and $6.4 million, respectively, related to uncertain foreign tax positions, all of which, if recognized, would impact our effective tax rate. During the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, we had a decrease in uncertain tax positions of $0.3 million and an increase of $0.7 million, respectively, and an increase of $0.2 million and an increase of $1.8 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, primarily related to uncertain tax positions in Europe. We recorded interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits within the provision for income taxes. We believe that no current tax positions that have resulted in unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease within one year.

We file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and in various state and foreign jurisdictions. For our U.S. federal income tax returns, the statute of limitations has expired through the tax year ended December 31, 2003. As a result of net operating loss carryforwards from 2004, the statute of limitations remains open for all years subsequent to 2003. In addition, open tax years for state and foreign jurisdictions remain subject to examination.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Proceedings. We received notice from the tax authorities in Brazil assessing R$6.1 million, or $2.5 million (converted at the September 30, 2014 exchange rate), in connection with tax credits that were generated from the purchase of certain goods which were subsequently applied by us against taxes owed. We have appealed the assertion by the tax authorities in Brazil that the goods purchased were not eligible to earn the credits. While the outcome of this proceeding cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not expect this matter to have a material adverse effect upon our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

On January 28, 2014, we executed a definitive agreement (the "Combination Agreement") to combine with the styrenic block copolymer ("SBC") operations of Taiwan-based LCY Chemical Corp. ("LCY"). The Combination Agreement called for LCY to contribute its SBC business in exchange for newly issued shares in the combined company, such that Kraton's stockholders and LCY would each own 50% of the outstanding shares of the combined enterprise.

On June 30, 2014, Kraton notified LCY that its Board of Directors intended to withdraw its recommendation to Kraton's stockholders to approve the Combination Agreement unless the parties could agree upon mutually acceptable revised terms to the Combination Agreement. This notice cited the decline in operating results for LCY's SBC business in the first quarter of 2014 and a related decline in forecasted results thereafter, together with the decline in Kraton's stock price and negative reactions from Kraton's stockholders. Following Kraton's notification of its Board's intention to change its recommendation, the parties engaged in discussions to determine whether they could mutually agree to changes to the terms of the Combination Agreement that would enable the Kraton Board to continue to recommend that Kraton's stockholders approve the Combination Agreement. The parties engaged in numerous discussions subsequent to June 30, 2014 regarding possible revisions to the terms of the Combination Agreement.

On July 31, 2014, an explosion occurred in a pipeline owned by LCY in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, causing substantial property damage and loss of life, and numerous governmental and private investigations and claims have been initiated and asserted against LCY. On August 4, 2014, LCY notified Kraton that it would no longer negotiate, and would not agree to, any revisions to the terms of the Combination Agreement. On August 6, 2014, the Kraton Board withdrew its recommendation that Kraton's stockholders approve the Combination Agreement. On August 8, 2014, Kraton received notice from LCY that LCY had exercised its right to terminate the Combination Agreement.

The provisions of the Combination Agreement provide for Kraton to pay LCY a $25 million break-up fee upon a termination of the Combination Agreement following a withdrawal of the Kraton Board's recommendation, unless an LCY material adverse effect has occurred and is continuing at the time of the withdrawal of the Kraton Board's recommendation. In LCY's notice terminating the Combination Agreement, LCY requested payment of such $25 million termination fee. On October 6, 2014, LCY filed a lawsuit against Kraton in connection with Kraton's refusal to pay the $25 million termination fee. We believe that the impact upon LCY of the July 31, 2014 explosion in a gas pipeline in Kaohsiung, Taiwan constitutes an LCY material adverse effect as defined in the Combination Agreement, and Kraton has notified LCY that accordingly Kraton is not obligated to pay the termination fee. While the ultimate resolution of this matter cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not expect any material adverse effect upon our financial position, results of operations or cash flows from the ultimate outcome of this matter.

We and certain of our subsidiaries, from time to time, are parties to various other legal proceedings, claims and disputes that have arisen in the ordinary course of business. These claims may involve significant amounts, some of which would not be covered by insurance. A substantial settlement payment or judgment in excess of our accruals could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. While the outcome of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, we do not expect any of these existing matters, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect upon our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Asset Retirement Obligations.

The changes in the aggregate carrying amount of our ARO liability are as follows:

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013
	(In thousands)	
Beginning balance	$10,497	$9,837
Accretion expense	403	377

Obligations settled	(73)	—
Foreign currency translation, net	(362)	93
Ending Balance	$10,465	$10,307

Production downtime. In the first quarter of 2014 we experienced weather-related downtime at our Belpre, Ohio facility. In addition, our facility in Berre, France, experienced an operating disruption resulting from a small fire that impacted one of the production lines at this facility. We incurred $12.0 million of net costs in the nine months ended September 30, 2014 associated with these two events, of which $2.6 million is included in other payables and accruals at September 30, 2014 based on management's estimates of the remaining costs to be incurred. In the third quarter 2014, we recorded a $1.0 million reduction of costs due to the confirmation of a partial insurance recovery which is included in receivables as of September 30, 2014.

There have been no other material changes to our Commitments and Contingencies disclosed in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K.

11. Employee Benefits

Retirement Plans.

The components of net periodic benefit cost related to U.S. pension benefits are as follows:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
Service cost	$700	$828	$2,100	$2,528
Interest cost	1,543	1,384	4,628	4,179
Expected return on plan assets	(1,918)	(1,654)	(5,753)	(4,959)
Amortization of prior service cost	460	880	1,380	2,745
Net periodic benefit cost	$785	$1,438	$2,355	$4,493

We made contributions of $7.2 million and $4.8 million to our pension plan in the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The components of net periodic benefit cost related to other post-retirement benefits are as follows:

	Three months ended September 30,	Nine months ended September 30,

	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
Service cost	$140	$130	$375	$420
Interest cost	348	285	953	870
Amortization of prior service cost	155	161	315	525
Net periodic benefit cost	$643	$576	$1,643	$1,815

12. Industry Segment and Foreign Operations

We operate in one segment for the manufacturing and marketing of engineered polymers. In accordance with the provisions of ASC 280, “Segment Reporting,” 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 ASC 280 can be found in the condensed consolidated financial statements.

We manufacture our products along the following primary product lines based upon polymer chemistry and process technologies:

un-hydrogenated SBCs (“USBCs”);
hydrogenated SBCs (“HSBCs”);
Cariflex™ isoprene rubber and isoprene rubber latex; and
compounds.

Revenue for our product lines is as follows:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
USBCs	$177,978	$192,714	$524,614	$582,030
HSBCs	93,872	98,572	303,827	311,603
Cariflex	39,959	28,231	104,564	84,504
Compounds	7,014	7,187	21,058	22,635
Other	148	405	331	987
	$318,971	$327,109	$954,394	$1,001,759

For geographic reporting, revenue is attributed to the geographic location in which the customers’ facilities are located. Long-lived assets consist primarily of property, plant and equipment, which are attributed to the geographic location in which they are located and are presented at historical cost.

Revenue and long-lived assets by geographic region are as follows:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(In thousands)		(In thousands)	
Revenue:				
United States	$95,816	$99,726	$298,434	$313,963
Germany	45,380	49,263	125,992	134,948
Japan	24,224	20,341	61,706	57,472
China	19,212	17,872	58,517	54,065
Thailand	15,155	10,457	42,339	30,621
Brazil	11,867	14,701	38,375	41,582
France	10,644	12,534	34,654	35,729
Belgium	8,544	9,751	33,830	32,865
United Kingdom	8,893	8,011	27,313	28,770
Italy	8,299	9,424	25,865	32,822
Netherlands	6,673	6,118	19,959	22,332
Malaysia	7,877	6,664	19,944	19,802
Sweden	4,248	4,333	15,169	13,905
Taiwan	4,021	3,649	14,690	13,588
Mexico	5,338	4,460	13,548	14,143
Canada	3,652	3,585	12,316	13,264
Argentina	2,721	3,798	11,317	12,709
South Korea	2,786	2,532	10,681	9,691
Austria	4,058	3,699	10,508	9,769
Turkey	3,054	7,743	9,606	19,333
Poland	2,836	5,589	7,432	9,400
All other countries	23,673	22,859	62,199	80,986
	$318,971	$327,109	$954,394	$1,001,759

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(In thousands)	
Long-lived assets, at cost:		
United States	$491,382	$453,157
France	118,435	123,804
Brazil	76,152	76,524
Germany	60,565	64,258
Netherlands	29,086	27,865
Taiwan	47,531	12,935
China	7,270	7,226
Japan	1,641	1,696
All other countries	200	220

	$832,262	$767,685

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13. Related Party Transactions

We own a 50% equity investment in a SBC manufacturing joint venture in Kashima, Japan. Our due to related party liability on the condensed consolidated balance sheet is related to this joint venture and the purchases from the joint venture amounted to $9.4 million and $15.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively, and $30.0 million and $37.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

14. Variable Interest Entity

The following table summarizes the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013 for KFPC before intercompany eliminations. See Note 6 Long Term Debt, for further discussion related to the KFPC Loan Agreement executed on July 17, 2014.

	September 30, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(In thousands)	
Cash and cash equivalents	22,015	66,816
Other current assets	1,775	256
Property, plant and equipment	47,459	12,912
Intangible assets	9,936	10,094
Other long-term assets	1,028	462
Total assets	$82,213	$ 90,540
Current liabilities	3,355	8,724
Total liabilities	$3,355	$ 8,724

15. Subsequent Events

On October 27, 2014, Kraton’s board of directors approved a share repurchase program through which the Company may repurchase outstanding shares of the Company’s common stock having an aggregate purchase price of up to $50.0 million. Kraton intends to finance the share repurchase program through a combination of cash and debt. The Company plans to repurchase shares of its common stock over the next two years in the open market at prevailing market prices, through privately negotiated transactions, or through a trading program under Rule 10b5-1, subject to market and business conditions, applicable legal requirements and other considerations.

We have evaluated significant events and transactions that occurred after the balance sheet date and determined that there were no other events or transactions that would require recognition or disclosure in our condensed consolidated financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2014.

16. Supplemental Guarantor Information

Kraton Polymers LLC and Kraton Polymers Capital Corporation, a financing subsidiary, collectively, (“the Issuers”), are co-issuers of the 6.75% senior notes due March 1, 2019. Kraton Performance Polymers, Inc. and Elastomers Holdings LLC, a U.S. holding company and wholly-owned subsidiary of Kraton Polymers LLC, collectively, (“the Guarantors”), fully and unconditionally guarantee on a joint and several basis, the Issuers’ obligations under the 6.75% senior notes. Our remaining subsidiaries are not guarantors of the 6.75% senior 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.

KRATON PERFORMANCE POLYMERS, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

September 30, 2014

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except par value)

	Kraton	Kraton Polymers LLC (1)	Guarantor Subsidiaries	Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Consolidated
ASSETS						
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	$—	$ 427	$ 5,711	$ 56,149	$ —	$ 62,287
Receivables, net of allowances	—	266	45,888	88,156	—	134,310
Inventories of products	—	(800)	197,310	149,321	—	345,831
Inventories of materials and supplies	—	—	9,260	1,915	—	11,175
Deferred income taxes	—	—	3,953	5,366	—	9,319
Other current assets	—	4,580	712	18,752	—	24,044
Total current assets	—	4,473	262,834	319,659	—	586,966
Property, plant and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	—	48,239	250,187	151,066	—	449,492
Intangible assets, less accumulated amortization	—	48,127	4,219	202	—	52,548
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	563,784					