Altra Holdings, Inc. Form 10-K March 30, 2007

#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

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#### Form 10-K

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

(Mark One)

 ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the year ended December 31, 2006

OR

• TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the transition period from to

Commission file number: 001-33209

#### ALTRA HOLDINGS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

#### Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

14 Hayward Street, Quincy, Massachusetts (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (617) 328-3300

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

61-1478870

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

#### 02171

(Zip Code)

#### **Title of Each Class**

# Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value

NASDAQ Global Market

### Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE

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

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

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 b No o

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer o Accelerated Filer o Non-Accelerated Filer þ

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

The registrant completed the initial public offering of its common stock in December 2006. Accordingly, there was no public market for the registrant s common stock on June 30, 2006, the last day of the registrant s most recently completed second quarter.

As of March 15, 2007, there were 23,087,591 shares of Common Stock, \$.001 par value per share, outstanding.

## **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:**

Certain portions of the Proxy Statement for the Annual meeting of stockholders of Altra Holdings, Inc. to be held May 8, 2007, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after December 31, 2006, are incorporated by reference in Part III of the From 10-K.

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#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We make forward-looking statements throughout this Form 10-K. Whenever you read a statement that is not solely a statement of historical fact, such as when we state that we believe, expect, anticipate or plan that an event will occu and other similar statements, you should understand that our expectations may not be correct, although we believe they are reasonable, and that our plans may change. We do not guarantee that the transactions and events described in this Form 10-K will happen as described or that any positive trends noted in this Form 10-K will continue. The forward-looking information contained in this Form 10-K is generally located under the headings, Risk Factors, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Business, but may be found in other locations as well. These forward-looking statements generally relate to our strategies, plans and objectives for, and potential results of, future operations and are based upon management s current plans and beliefs or

current estimates of future results or trends.

Forward-looking statements regarding management s present plans or expectations for new product offerings, capital expenditures, increasing sales, cost-saving strategies and growth involve risks and uncertainties relative to among other things, return expectations, allocation of resources and changing economic or competitive conditions, and as a result, actual results could differ from present plans or expectations and such differences could be material. Similarly, forward-looking statements regarding management s present expectations for operating results and cash flow involve risks and uncertainties relative to these and other factors, such as the ability to increase revenues and/or to achieve cost reductions, and other factors discussed under Risk Factors or elsewhere in this Form 10-K, which also would cause actual results to differ from present plans or expectations. Such differences could be material.

#### Item 1. Business

#### **Our Company**

We are a leading global designer, producer and marketer of a wide range of mechanical power transmissions, or MPT, and motion control products serving customers in a diverse group of industries, including energy, general industrial, material handling, mining, transportation and turf and garden. Our product portfolio includes industrial clutches and brakes, enclosed gear drives, open gearing, couplings, engineered bearing assemblies, linear components and other related products. Our products are used in a wide variety of high-volume manufacturing processes, where the reliability and accuracy of our products are critical in both avoiding costly down time and enhancing the overall efficiency of manufacturing operations. Our products are also used in non-manufacturing applications where product quality and reliability are especially critical, such as clutches and brakes for elevators and residential and commercial lawnmowers. For the year ended December 31, 2006, we had net sales of \$462.3 million, net income of \$8.9 million and EBITDA of \$54.8 million. For a discussion of how we calculate and utilize EBITDA and limitations on its usefulness as a measure of our performance, see Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations .

We market our products under well recognized and established brand names, including Warner Electric, Boston Gear, Kilian Manufacturing, Nuttall Gear, Ameridrives, Wichita Clutch, Formsprag Clutch, Bibby Transmissions, Stieber, Matrix International, Inertia Dynamics, Twiflex Limited, Industrial Clutch, Huco Dynatork, Marland Clutch, Delroyd Worm Gear, Warner Linear and Saftek. Most of these brands have been in existence for over 50 years.

Our products are either incorporated into products sold by original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, sold directly to end users or sold through industrial distributors. We sell our products in over 70 countries to over 700 direct OEM customers and over 3,000 distributor outlets through our global sales and marketing network.

We file reports and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549.

You should call 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to you on the SEC s internet site at http://www.sec.gov.

Our internet address is <u>www.altramotion.com</u>. We are not including the information contained in our website as part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this annual report on Form 10-K.

#### **Our Industry**

Based on industry data supplied by Penton Information Services, we estimate that industrial power transmission products generated sales in the United States of approximately \$33.3 billion in 2006. These products are used to generate, transmit, control and transform mechanical energy. The industrial power transmission industry can be divided into three areas: MPT products; motors and generators; and adjustable speed drives. We compete primarily in the MPT area which, based on industry data, we estimate was a \$16.7 billion market in the United States in 2006.

The global MPT market is highly fragmented, with over 1,000 small manufacturers. While smaller companies tend to focus on regional niche markets with narrow product lines, larger companies that each generate annual sales over \$100 million offer a much broader range of products and have global capabilities. The industry s customer base is broadly diversified across many sectors of the economy and typically places a premium on factors such as quality, reliability, availability and design and application engineering support. We believe the most successful industry participants are those that leverage their distribution network, their products reputations for quality and reliability and their service and technical support capabilities to maintain attractive margins on products and gain market share.

## **Our Strengths**

*Leading Market Shares and Brand Names.* We believe that we hold the number one or number two market position in key products across several of our core platforms. For example, under a report published by the Global Industry Analysts, Inc. in February 2005, we are one of the leading manufacturers of industrial clutches and brakes in the world. Our brands, most of which have been in existence for more than 50 years, are widely known in the MPT product markets. We believe over 50% of our sales are generated from products where, according to the most recently published Motion Systems Design magazine survey, our brands on a consolidated basis have the number one or number two brand recognition in the markets we serve.

*Large Installed Base and Diversified OEM Customers Supporting Aftermarket Sales.* With a history dating back to 1877 with the formation of Boston Gear, we believe we benefit from one of the largest installed customers bases in the industry. Given the moving, wearing nature of our products, which require regular replacement, our large installed base of products with a diversified group of end user customers, generates significant aftermarket replacement demand which creates a recurring revenue stream. Many of our products serve critical functions, where the cost of product failure would substantially exceed any potential cost reduction benefits from using cheaper, less proven parts. This end user preference and consistently recurring replacement demand in turn help to stabilize our revenue base from the cyclical nature of the broader economy. For the year ended December 31, 2006 we estimate that approximately 43% of our revenues were derived from aftermarket sales.

*Diversified End-Markets.* Our revenue base has balanced exposure across a diverse mix of end user industries, including energy, general industrial, material handling, mining, transportation and turf and garden, which helps mitigate the impact of business and economic cycles. No single industry represented more than 9% of our total sales, in 2006. In addition, for the year ended December 31, 2006, approximately 30% of our sales were from outside North America. Our geographic diversification is further enhanced because some of our products sold into the North American market are ultimately exported into international markets as part of the final product sold by the customer.

*Strong Relationship with Distributors and OEMs.* We have over 700 direct OEM customers and enjoy established, long-term relationships with the leading MPT industrial distributors, critical factors that contribute to our high base of recurring aftermarket revenues. We sell our products through more than 3,000 distributor

outlets worldwide. We believe our scale, end user preference and expansive product line make our product portfolio attractive to both large and multi-branch distributors, as well as regional and independent distributors in our industry.

*Experienced, High-Caliber Management Team.* We are led by a highly experienced management team with over 425 years of cumulative industrial business experience and an average of 14 years with our companies. Our Chairman and CEO, Michael Hurt, has over 40 years of experience in the MPT industry, while our President and COO Carl Christenson has over 26 years of experience. Our management team has established a proven track record of execution, successfully completing and integrating major strategic acquisitions and delivering significant growth and profitability.

*The Altra Business System( ABS ).* We benefit from an established culture of lean management emphasizing quality, delivery and cost through ABS. ABS is at the core of our performance-driven culture and drives both our strategic development and operational improvements. We estimate that in the period from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006, ABS has enabled us to achieve savings of over \$5 million through various initiatives, including: (a) set-up time reduction and productivity improvement, (b) finished goods inventory reduction, (c) improved quality and reduction of internal scrap, (d) on-time delivery improvement, (e) utilizing value stream mapping to minimize work in process inventory and increase productivity and (f) headcount reductions. We believe these initiatives will continue to provide us with recurring annual savings. We intend to continue to aggressively implement operational excellence initiatives by utilizing ABS tools throughout our company.

*Proven Product Development Capabilities.* Our extensive application engineering know-how drives both new and repeat sales. Our broad portfolio of products, knowledge and expertise across various MPT applications allows us to provide our customers customized solutions to meet their specific needs. We are highly focused on developing new products in response to customer requirements. We employ approximately 170 non-manufacturing engineers involved with product development, research and development, test and technical customer support. Recent new product development examples include the Foot/ Deck Mount Kopper Kool Brake which was designed for very high heat dissipation in extremely rugged tensioning applications such as drawworks for oil and gas wells and anchoring systems for on-shore and off-shore drilling platforms.

## **Our Business Strategy**

We intend to continue to increase our sales through organic growth, expand our geographic reach and product offering through strategic acquisitions and improve our profitability through cost reduction initiatives. We seek to achieve these objectives through the following strategies:

*Leverage Our Sales and Distribution Network.* We intend to continue to leverage our relationships with our distributors to gain shelf space, further integrate our recently acquired brands with our core brands and sell new products. We seek to capitalize on customer brand preference for our products to generate pull-through aftermarket demand from our distribution channel. We believe this strategy also allows our distributors to achieve high profit margins, further enhancing our preferred positions with them.

*Focus our Strategic Marketing on New Growth Opportunities.* We intend to expand our emphasis on strategic marketing to focus on new growth opportunities in key end-user markets. Through a systematic process that leverages our core brands and products, we seek to identify attractive markets and product niches, collect customer and market data, identify market drivers, tailor product and service solutions to specific market and customer requirements and deploy resources to gain market share and drive future sales growth.

Accelerate New Product and Technology Development. We are highly focused on developing new products across our business in response to customer needs in various markets. We expect new products developed by

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us during the past three years to generate approximately \$60 million in revenues in 2007.

*Capitalize on Growth and Sourcing Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific Market.* We intend to leverage our established sales offices in China, Taiwan and Singapore, as well as add representation in Japan and

South Korea. We also intend to expand our manufacturing presence in Asia beyond our current plant in Shenzhen, China, to increase sales in the high-growth Asia-Pacific region. This region also offers opportunities for low-cost country sourcing of materials. During 2006, we sourced approximately 17% of our purchases from low-cost countries, resulting in average cost reductions of over 45% for these products. Within the next five year, we intend to utilize our sourcing office in Shanghai to significantly increase our current level of low-cost country sourced purchases. We may also consider opportunities to outsource some of our production from North American and Western European locations to Asia.

*Continue to Improve Operational and Manufacturing Efficiencies through ABS.* We believe we can continue to improve profitability through cost control, overhead rationalization, global process optimization, continued implementation of lean manufacturing techniques and strategic pricing initiatives. Our operating plan, based on manufacturing centers of excellence, provides additional opportunities to reduce costs by sharing best practices across geographies and business lines and by consolidating purchasing processes. We have implemented these principles with our recent acquisitions of Hay Hall Holdings Limited, or Hay Hall, and Bear Linear LLC, or Warner Linear, and intend to apply such principles to future acquisitions. We have been operating Bear Linear as a division under the name Warner Linear.

*Pursue Strategic Acquisitions that Complement our Strong Platform.* Management believes that there may be a number of attractive potential acquisition candidates in the future, in part due to the fragmented nature of the industry. We plan to continue our disciplined pursuit of strategic acquisitions to accelerate our growth, enhance our industry leadership and create value. On February 17, 2007, we entered into an agreement and plan of merger to acquire all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of TB Wood s Corporation, or TB Wood s. With our extensive MPT and motion control products, our strong customer and distributor relationships and our know-how in implementing lean enterprise initiatives through ABS, we have an ideal platform for acquiring and successfully integrating related businesses, as evidenced through our acquisition and integration of Hay Hall and Bear Linear. We intend to cause TB Wood s, to become a subsidiary of Altra Industrial Motion, our wholly-owned subsidiary, or Altra Industrial. We expect to finance the acquisition, in part, through the tack-on offering of Altra Industrial s 9% senior secured notes due 2011, or the 9% senior secured notes, borrowings under our senior revolving credit facility and cash on hand. The transaction is expected to close in April 2007.

#### **Products**

We produce and market a wide variety of MPT products. Our product portfolio includes industrial clutches and brakes, open and enclosed gearing, couplings, engineered bearing assemblies and other related power transmission components which are sold across a wide variety of industries. Our products benefit from our industry leading brand names including Warner Electric, Boston Gear, Kilian Manufacturing, Nuttall Gear, Ameridrives, Wichita Clutch, Formsprag Clutch, Bibby Transmissions, Stieber, Matrix International, Inertia Dynamics, Twiflex Limited, Industrial Clutch, Huco Dynatork, Marland Clutch, Delroyd Worm Gear, Warner Linear and Saftek. Our products serve a wide variety of end markets including aerospace, energy, food processing, general industrial, material handling, mining, petrochemical, transportation and turf and garden. We primarily sell our products to OEMs and through long-standing relationships with the industry s leading industrial distributors such as Motion Industries, Applied Industrial Technologies and W.W. Grainger.

Our products, principal brands and markets and sample applications are set forth below:

Products	Principal Brands	Principal Markets	Sample Applications
Clutches and Brakes	Warner Electric, Wichita Clutch, Formsprag Clutch, Stieber Clutch, Matrix International, Inertia Dynamics, Twiflex Limited, Industrial Clutch, Marland Clutch	Aerospace, energy, material handling, metals, turf and garden, mining	Elevators, forklifts, lawn mowers, oil well drawworks, punch presses, conveyors
Gearing	Boston Gear, Nuttall Gear, Delroyd Worm Gear	Food processing, material handling, metals, transportation	Conveyors, ethanol mixers, packaging machinery, rail car wheel drives
Engineered Couplings	Ameridrives, Bibby Transmissions	Energy, metals, plastics	Extruders, turbines, steel strip mills
Engineered Bearing Assemblies	Kilian Manufacturing	Aerospace, material handling, transportation	Cargo rollers, steering columns, conveyors
Power Transmission Components	Warner Electric, Boston Gear, Huco Dynatork, Warner Linear, Matrix International, Saftek	Material handling, metals, turf and garden	Conveyors, lawn mowers, machine tools

*Clutches and Brakes.* Clutches are devices which use mechanical, magnetic, hydraulic, pneumatic, or friction type connections used to facilitate engaging or disengaging two rotating members. Brakes are combinations of interacting parts that work to slow or stop machinery. We manufacture a variety of clutches and brakes in three main product categories: electromagnetic, overrunning and heavy duty. Our core clutch and brake manufacturing facilities are located in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Texas, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and China.

*Electromagnetic Clutches and Brakes.* Our industrial products include clutches and brakes with specially designed controls for material handling, forklift, elevator, medical mobility, mobile off-highway, baggage handling and plant productivity applications. We also offer a line of clutch and brake products for walk-behind mowers, residential lawn tractors and commercial mowers. While industrial applications are predominant, we also manufacture several vehicular niche applications including on-road refrigeration compressor clutches and agricultural equipment clutches. We market our electromagnetic products under the Warner Electric, Inertia Dynamics and Matrix brand names.

*Overrunning Clutches.* Specific product lines include the Formsprag and Stieber indexing and backstopping clutches. Primary industrial applications include conveyors, gear reducers, hoists and cranes, mining machinery, machine tools, paper machinery, packaging machinery, pumping equipment and other specialty machinery. We market and sell these products under the Formsprag, Marland and Stieber brand names.

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*Heavy Duty Clutches and Brakes.* Our heavy duty clutch and brake product lines serve various markets including metal forming, off-shore and land-based oil and gas drilling platforms, mining material handling, marine applications and various off-highway and construction equipment segments. Our line of heavy duty pneumatic, hydraulic and caliper clutches and brakes are marketed under the Wichita Clutch and Twiflex brand names.

*Gearing.* Gears reduce the output speed and increase the torque of an electric motor or engine to the level required to drive a particular piece of equipment. These products are used in various industrial, material handling, mixing, transportation and food processing applications. Specific product lines include vertical and

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horizontal gear drives, speed reducers and increasers, high-speed compressor drives, enclosed custom gear drives, various enclosed gear drive configurations and open gearing products such as spur, helical, worm and miter/bevel gears. We design and manufacture a broad range of gearing products under the Boston Gear, Nuttall Gear and Delroyd Worm Gear brand names. We manufacture our gearing products at our facilities in New York and North Carolina and sell to a variety of end markets.

*Engineered Couplings.* Couplings are the interface between two shafts, which enable power to be transmitted from one shaft to the other. Because shafts are often misaligned, we designed our couplings with a measure of flexibility that accommodates various degrees of misalignment. Our coupling product line includes gear couplings, high-speed disc and diaphragm couplings, grid couplings, universal joints and spindles. Our coupling products are used in the power generation, steel and custom machinery industries. We manufacture a broad range of coupling products under the Ameridrives and Bibby brand names. Our engineered couplings are manufactured in our facilities in Pennsylvania and the United Kingdom.

*Engineered Bearing Assemblies.* Bearings are components that support, guide and reduce friction of motion between fixed and moving machine parts. Our engineered bearing assembly product line includes ball bearings, roller bearings, thrust bearings, track rollers, stainless steel bearings, polymer assemblies, housed units and custom assemblies. We manufacture a broad range of engineered bearing products under the Kilian brand name. We sell bearing products to a wide range of end markets, including the general industrial and automotive markets, with a particularly strong OEM customer focus. We manufacture our bearing products at our facilities in New York and Canada.

*Power Transmission Components.* Power transmission components are used in a number of industries to generate, transfer or control motion from a power source to an application requiring rotary or linear motion. Power transmission products are applicable in most industrial markets, including, but not limited to metals processing, turf and garden and material handling applications. Specific product lines include linear actuators, miniature and small precision couplings, air motors, friction materials and other various items. We manufacture or market a broad array of power transmission components under several businesses including Warner Linear, Huco Dynatork, Saftek, Boston Gear, Warner Electric and Matrix. Our core power transmission component manufacturing facilities are located in Illinois, North Carolina, the United Kingdom and China.

*Warner Linear*. Warner Linear is a designer and manufacturer of rugged service electromechanical linear actuators for off-highway vehicles, agriculture, turf care, special vehicles, medical equipment, industrial and marine applications.

*Huco Dynatork*. Huco Dynatork is a leading manufacturer and supplier of a complete range of precision couplings, universal joints, rod ends and linkages.

*Saftek.* Saftek manufactures a broad range of high quality non-asbestos friction materials for industrial, marine, construction, agricultural and vintage and classic cars and motorcycles.

*Other Accessories.* Our Boston Gear, Warner Electric and Matrix businesses make or market several other accessories such as sensors, sleeve bearings, AC/ DC motors, adjustable speed drives, shaft accessories, face tooth couplings and fluid power components that are used in numerous end markets.

#### **Research and Development and Product Engineering**

We closely integrate new product development with marketing, manufacturing and product engineering in meeting the needs of our customers. We have product engineering teams that work to enhance our existing products and develop new product applications for our growing base of customers that require custom solutions. We believe these

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capabilities provide a significant competitive advantage in the development of high quality industrial power transmission products. Our product engineering teams focus on:

lowering the cost of manufacturing our existing products;

redesigning existing product lines to increase their efficiency or enhance their performance; and

developing new product applications.

Our continued investment in new product development is intended to help drive customer growth as we address key customer needs. Research and development expenses were \$4.9 million, \$4.7 million and \$4.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

#### **Sales and Marketing**

We sell our products in over 70 countries to over 700 direct OEM customers and over 3,000 distributor outlets. We offer our products through our direct sales force comprised of 101 company-employed sales associates as well as independent sales representatives. Our worldwide sales and distribution presence enables us to provide timely and responsive support and service to our customers, many of which operate globally, and to capitalize on growth opportunities in both developed and emerging markets around the world.

We employ an integrated sales and marketing strategy concentrated on both key industries and individual product lines. We believe this dual vertical market and horizontal product approach distinguishes us in the marketplace allowing us to quickly identify trends and customer growth opportunities and deploy resources accordingly. Within our key industries, we market to OEMs, encouraging them to incorporate our products into their equipment designs, to distributors and to end users, helping to foster brand preference. With this strategy, we are able to leverage our industry experience and product breadth to sell MPT and motion control solutions for a host of industrial applications.

#### Distribution

Our MPT components are either incorporated into end products sold by OEMs or sold through industrial distributors as aftermarket products to end users and smaller OEMs. We operate a geographically diversified business. For the year ended December 31, 2006, 70% of our net sales were derived from customers in North America, 22% from customers in Europe and 8% from customers in Asia and the rest of the world. Our global customer base is served by an extensive global sales network comprised of our sales staff as well as our network of over 3,000 distributor outlets. Refer to note 13 of our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K for additional information on sales and assets by geographic location.

Rather than serving as passive conduits for delivery of product, our industrial distributors are active participants in influencing product purchasing decisions in the MPT industry. In addition, distributors play a critical role through stocking inventory of our products, which affects the accessibility of our products to aftermarket buyers. It is for this reason that distributor partner relationships are so critical to the success of the business. We enjoy strong established relationships with the leading distributors as well as a broad, diversified base of specialty and regional distributors.

#### Competition

We operate in highly fragmented and very competitive markets within the MPT market. Some of our competitors have achieved substantially more market penetration in certain of the markets in which we operate, such as helical gear drives and couplings, and some of our competitors are larger than us and have greater financial and other resources. In particular, we compete with Emerson Power Transmission Manufacturing, L.P., Regal Beloit Corporation and Baldor Electric Company. In addition, with respect to certain of our products, we compete with divisions of our OEM customers. Competition in our business lines is based on a number of considerations including quality, reliability, pricing, availability and design and application engineering support. Our customers increasingly demand a broad product range and we must continue to develop our expertise in order to manufacturing, customer service and support, marketing, sales, research and development and intellectual property protection. We may have to adjust the prices of some of our products to stay competitive. In addition, some of our larger, more sophisticated customers are attempting

to reduce the number of vendors from which they purchase in order to increase their efficiency. There is substantial and continuing pressure on major OEMs and larger distributors to reduce costs, including the cost of products purchased from outside suppliers such as us. As a result of cost pressures from our customers, our ability to

compete depends in part on our ability to generate production cost savings and, in turn, find reliable, cost-effective outside component suppliers or manufacture our products.

#### Seasonality

We experience seasonality in our turf and garden business, which in recent years has represented approximately 10% of our net sales. As our large OEM customers prepare for the spring season, our shipments generally start increasing in December, peak in February and March, and begin to decline in April and May. This allows our customers to have inventory in place for the peak consumer purchasing periods for turf and garden products. The June-through-November period is typically the low season for us and our customers in the turf and garden market. Seasonality is also affected by weather and the level of housing starts.

#### **Intellectual Property**

We rely on a combination of patents, trademarks, copyright and trade secret laws in the United States and other jurisdictions, as well as employee and third-party non-disclosure agreements, license arrangements and domain name registrations to protect our intellectual property. We sell our products under a number of registered and unregistered trademarks, which we believe are widely recognized in the MPT industry. With the exception of Boston Gear and Warner Electric, we do not believe any single patent, trademark or trade name is material to our business as a whole. Any issued patents that cover our proprietary technology and any of our other intellectual property rights may not provide us with adequate protection or be commercially beneficial to us and, if applied for, may not be issued. The issuance of a patent is not conclusive as to its validity or its enforceability. Competitors may also be able to design around our patents. If we are unable to protect our patented technologies, our competitors could commercialize technologies or products which are substantially similar to ours.

With respect to proprietary know-how, we rely on trade secret laws in the United States and other jurisdictions and on confidentiality agreements. Monitoring the unauthorized use of our technology is difficult and the steps we have taken may not prevent unauthorized use of our technology. The disclosure or misappropriation of our intellectual property could harm our ability to protect our rights and our competitive position.

Some of our registered and unregistered trademarks include: Warner Electric, Boston Gear, Kilian Manufacturing, Nuttall Gear, Ameridrives, Wichita Clutch, Formsprag Clutch, Bibby Transmissions, Stieber, Matrix International, Inertia Dynamics, Twiflex Limited, Industrial Clutch, Huco Dynatork, Marland Clutch, Delroyd Worm Gear, Warner Linear and Saftek.

#### Backlog

Our backlog of unshipped orders was \$128.2 million at December 31, 2006 and \$102.0 million at December 31, 2005, an increase of \$26.2 million. The increase in backlog was primarily due to the acquisition of Hay Hall, which accounted for approximately \$16.7 million of the increase.

#### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2006, we had approximately 2,500 full-time employees, of whom approximately 57% were located in North America, 28% in Europe, and 14% in Asia. Approximately 21% of our full-time factory North American employees are represented by labor unions. In addition, approximately 60% of our employees in our facility in Scotland are represented by a labor union. The four U.S. collective bargaining agreements to which we are a party will expire on August 10, 2007, September 19, 2007, June 2, 2008 and February 1, 2009, while our agreement in Scotland expires on March 31, 2007. We are currently in negotiations with the union in Scotland. We do not expect

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the negotiations to have a material adverse effect on operations. Two of the four U.S. collective bargaining agreements contain provisions for additional, potentially significant lump-sum severance payments to all employees covered by the agreements who are terminated as the result of a plant closing. See Risk Factors we may be subjected to work stoppages at our facilities or

our customers may be subjected to work stoppages, which could seriously impact the profitability of our business.

The remainder of our European facilities have employees who are generally represented by local and national social works councils which are common in Europe. Social works councils meet with employer industry associations every two to three years to discuss employee wages and working conditions. Our facilities in France and Germany often participate in such discussions and adhere to any agreements reached.

#### **Suppliers and Raw Materials**

We obtain raw materials, component parts and supplies from a variety of sources, generally from more than one supplier. Our suppliers and sources of raw materials are based in both the United States and other countries and we believe that our sources of raw materials are adequate for our needs for the foreseeable future. We do not believe the loss of any one supplier would have a material adverse effect on our business or result of operations. Our principal raw materials are steel, castings and copper. We generally purchase our materials on the open market, where certain commodities such as steel and copper have increased in price significantly in recent years. We have not experienced any significant shortage of our key materials and have not historically engaged in hedging transactions for commodity suppliers.

#### Regulation

We are subject to a variety of government laws and regulations that apply to companies engaged in international operations. These include compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, U.S. Department of Commerce export controls, local government regulations and procurement policies and practices (including regulations relating to import-export control, investments, exchange controls and repatriation of earnings). We maintain controls and procedures to comply with laws and regulations associated with our international operations. In the event we are unable to remain compliant with such laws and regulations, our business may be adversely affected.

#### **Environmental and Health and Safety Matters**

We are subject to a variety of federal, state, local, foreign and provincial environmental laws and regulations, including those governing health and safety requirements, the discharge of pollutants into the air or water, the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and the responsibility to investigate and cleanup contaminated sites that are or were owned, leased, operated or used by us or our predecessors. Some of these laws and regulations require us to obtain permits, which contain terms and conditions that impose limitations on our ability to emit and discharge hazardous materials into the environment and periodically may be subject to modification, renewal and revocation by issuing authorities. Fines and penalties may be imposed for non-compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and the failure to have or to comply with the terms and conditions of required permits. From time to time our operations may not be in full compliance with environmental laws and requirements. We believe that our operations generally are in material compliance with applicable environmental laws and requirements and that any non-compliance would not be expected to result in us incurring material liability or cost to achieve compliance. Historically, the costs of achieving and maintaining compliance with environmental laws and requirements.

Certain environmental laws in the United States, such as the federal Superfund law and similar state laws, impose liability for the cost of investigation or remediation of contaminated sites upon the current or, in some cases, the former site owners or operators and upon parties who arranged for the disposal of wastes or transported or sent those wastes to an off-site facility for treatment or disposal, regardless of when the release of hazardous substances occurred or the lawfulness of the activities giving rise to the release. Such liability can be imposed without regard to fault and,

under certain circumstances, can be joint and several, resulting in one party being held responsible for the entire obligation. As a practical matter, however, the costs of investigation and remediation generally are allocated among the viable responsible parties on some form of

equitable basis. Liability also may include damages to natural resources. We have not been notified that we are potentially responsible party in connection with any sites we currently or formerly owned or operated or for liability at any off-site waste disposal facility.

However, there is contamination at some of our current facilities, primarily related to historical operations at those sites, for which we could be liable for the investigation and remediation under certain environmental laws. The potential for contamination also exists at other of our current or former sites, based on historical uses of those sites. We currently are not undertaking any remediation or investigations and our costs or liability in connection with potential contamination conditions at our facilities cannot be predicted at this time because the potential existence of contamination has not been investigated or not enough is known about the environmental conditions or likely remedial requirements. Currently, other parties with contractual liability are addressing or have plans or obligations to address those contamination conditions that may pose a material risk to human health, safety or the environmental conditions currently unknown to us relating to our prior, existing or future sites or operations or those of predecessor companies whose liabilities we may have assumed or acquired which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We are being indemnified, or expect to be indemnified by third parties subject to certain caps or limitations on the indemnification, for certain environmental costs and liabilities. Accordingly, based on the indemnification and the experience with similar sites of the environmental consultants who we have hired, we do not expect such costs and liabilities to have a material adverse effect on our business, operations or earnings. We cannot assure you, however, that these third parties will in fact satisfy their indemnification obligations. If third parties become unable to, or otherwise do not, comply with their respective indemnity obligations, or if certain contamination or other liability for which we are obligated is not subject to these indemnities, we could become subject to significant liabilities.

#### **Executive Officers of Registrant**

The following sets forth certain information with regard to our executive officers as of March 15, 2007 (ages are as of December 31, 2006):

*Michael L. Hurt*, P.E.(age 61) has been our Chief Executive Officer and a director since our formation in 2004. In November 2006, Mr. Hurt was elected as chairman of our board. During 2004, prior to our formation, Mr. Hurt provided consulting services to Genstar Capital, L.P. and was appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kilian in October 2004. From January 1991 to November 2003, Mr. Hurt was the President and Chief Executive Officer of TB Wood s Incorporated, a manufacturer of industrial power transmission products. Prior to TB Wood s, Mr. Hurt spent 23 years in a variety of management positions at the Torrington Company, a major manufacturer of bearings and a subsidiary of Ingersoll Rand. Mr. Hurt holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University and an M.B.A. from Clemson-Furman University.

*Carl R. Christenson* (age 47) has been our President and Chief Operating Officer since January 2005. From 2001 to 2005, Mr. Christenson was the President of Kaydon Bearings, a manufacturer of custom-engineered bearings and a division of Kaydon Corporation. Prior to joining Kaydon, Mr. Christenson held a number of management positions at TB Wood s Incorporated and several positions at the Torrington Company. Mr. Christenson holds a M.S. and B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and a M.B.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic.

*David A. Wall* (age 48) has been our Chief Financial Officer since January 2005. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Wall was the Chief Financial Officer of Berman Industries, a manufacturer and distributor of portable lighting products. From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Wall was the Chief Financial Officer of DoALL Company, a manufacturer and distributor of machine tools and industrial supplies. Mr. Wall is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois and a M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Chicago.

*Gerald Ferris* (age 57) has been Altra Industrial s Vice President of Global Sales since November 2004 and held the same position with Power Transmission Holdings, LLC, our Predecessor, since March 2002. He is responsible for the worldwide sales of our broad product platform. Mr. Ferris joined our Predecessor in 1978 and since joining has held various positions. He became the Vice President of Sales for Boston Gear in 1991. Mr. Ferris holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from Stonehill College.

*Timothy McGowan* (age 50) has been Altra Industrial s Vice President of Human Resources since November 2004 and held the same position with our Predecessor since June 2003. Prior to joining us, from 1994 to 1998 and again from 1999 to 2003 Mr. McGowan was Vice President, Human Resources for Bird Machine, part of Baker Hughes, Inc., an oil equipment manufacturing company. Before his tenure with Bird Machine, Mr. McGowan spent many years with Raytheon in various Human Resources positions. Mr. McGowan holds a B.A. degree in English from St. Francis College in Maine.

*Edward L. Novotny* (age 54) has been Altra Industrial sVice President and General Manager of Boston Gear, Overrunning Clutch, Huco since November 2004 and held the same position with our Predecessor since May 2001. Prior to joining our Predecessor in 1999, Mr. Novotny served in a plant management role and then as the Director of Manufacturing for Stabilus Corporation, an automotive supplier, since October 1990. Prior to Stabilus, Mr. Novotny held various plant management and production control positions with Masco Industries and Rockwell International. Mr. Novotny holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Youngstown State University.

*Craig Schuele* (age 43) has been Altra Industrial s Vice President of Marketing and Business Development since November 2004 and held the same position with our Predecessor since July 2004. Prior to his current position, Mr. Schuele has been Vice President of Marketing since March 2002, and previous to that he was a Director of Marketing. Mr. Schuele joined our Predecessor in 1986 and holds a B.S. degree in Management from Rhode Island College.

## Item 1A. Risk Factors

# We operate in the highly competitive mechanical power transmission industry and if we are not able to compete successfully our business may be significantly harmed.

We operate in highly fragmented and very competitive markets in the MPT industry. Some of our competitors have achieved substantially more market penetration in certain of the markets in which we operate, such as helical gear drives and couplings, and some of our competitors are larger than us and have greater financial and other resources. With respect to certain of our products, we compete with divisions of our OEM customers. Competition in our business lines is based on a number of considerations, including quality, reliability, pricing, availability and design and application engineering support. Our customers increasingly demand a broad product range, and we must continue to develop our expertise in order to manufacture and market these products successfully. To remain competitive, we will need to invest regularly in manufacturing, customer service and support, marketing, sales, research and development and intellectual property protection. In the future we may not have sufficient resources to continue to make such investments and may not be able to maintain our competitive position within each of the markets we serve. We may have to adjust the prices of some of our products to stay competitive.

Additionally, some of our larger, more sophisticated customers are attempting to reduce the number of vendors from which they purchase in order to increase their efficiency. If we are not selected to become one of these preferred providers, we may lose market share in some of the markets in which we compete.

## Edgar Filing: Altra Holdings, Inc. - Form 10-K

There is substantial and continuing pressure on major OEMs and larger distributors to reduce costs, including the cost of products purchased from outside suppliers such as us. As a result of cost pressures from our customers, our ability to compete depends in part on our ability to generate production cost savings and, in turn, find reliable, cost effective outside suppliers to source components or manufacture our products. If we are unable to generate sufficient cost savings in the future to offset price reductions, then our gross margin could be materially adversely affected.

# Changes in general economic conditions or the cyclical nature of our markets could harm our operations and financial performance.

Our financial performance depends, in large part, on conditions in the markets that we serve and on the U.S. and global economies in general. Some of the markets we serve are highly cyclical, such as the metals, mining, industrial equipment and energy markets. In addition, these markets may experience cyclical downturns. The present uncertain economic environment may result in significant quarter-to-quarter variability in our performance. Any sustained weakness in demand or continued downturn or uncertainty in the economy generally would further reduce our sales and profitability.

#### We rely on independent distributors and the loss of these distributors could adversely affect our business.

In addition to our direct sales force and manufacturer sales representatives, we depend on the services of independent distributors to sell our products and provide service and aftermarket support to our customers. We support an extensive distribution network, with over 3,000 distributor locations worldwide. Rather than serving as passive conduits for delivery of product, our independent distributors are active participants in the overall competitive dynamics in the MPT industry. During the year ended December 31, 2006, approximately 36% of our net sales were generated through independent distributors. In particular, sales through our largest distributor accounted for approximately 8% of our net sales for the year ended December 31, 2006. Almost all of the distributors with whom we transact business offer competitive products and services to our customers. In addition, the distribution agreements we have are typically non-exclusive and cancelable by the distributor after a short notice period. The loss of any major distributor or a substantial number of smaller distributors or an increase in the distributors sales of our competitors products to our customers could materially reduce our sales and profits.

### We must continue to invest in new technologies and manufacturing techniques; however, our ability to develop or adapt to changing technology and manufacturing techniques is uncertain and our failure to do so could place us at a competitive disadvantage.

The successful implementation of our business strategy requires us to continuously invest in new technologies and manufacturing techniques to evolve our existing products and introduce new products to meet our customers needs in the industries we serve and want to serve. For example, motion control products offer more precise positioning and control compared to industrial clutches and brakes. If manufacturing processes are developed to make motion control products more price competitive and less complicated to operate, our customers may decrease their purchases of MPT products.

Our products are characterized by performance and specification requirements that mandate a high degree of manufacturing and engineering expertise. If we fail to invest in improvements to our technology and manufacturing techniques to meet these requirements, our business could be at risk. We believe that our customers rigorously evaluate their suppliers on the basis of a number of factors, including:

product quality and availability;

price competitiveness;

technical expertise and development capability;

reliability and timeliness of delivery;

product design capability;

manufacturing expertise; and

sales support and customer service.

Our success depends on our ability to invest in new technologies and manufacturing techniques to continue to meet our customers changing demands with respect to the above factors. We may not be able to make required capital expenditures and, even if we do so, we may be unsuccessful in addressing technological

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advances or introducing new products necessary to remain competitive within our markets. Furthermore, our own technological developments may not be able to produce a sustainable competitive advantage.

#### Our operations are subject to international risks that could affect our operating results.

Our net sales outside North America represented approximately 30% of our total net sales for the year ended December 31, 2006. In addition, we sell products to domestic customers for use in their products sold overseas. Our business is subject to risks associated with doing business internationally, and our future results could be materially adversely affected by a variety of factors, including:

fluctuations in currency exchange rates;