

Edgar Filing: THERMO ELECTRON CORP - Form SC 13G

THERMO ELECTRON CORP  
Form SC 13G  
January 30, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G  
(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT  
TO RULES 13d-1(b) (c), AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(b)

(Amendment No. \_\_)\*

Thermo Electron Corporation

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

common stock

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

883556102

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2001

-----  
(Date of Event Which requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this  
Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

-----  
\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's  
initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and  
for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the  
disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed  
to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of  
1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act  
but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the  
Notes).

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CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 2 of 15 Pages

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Iridian Asset Management LLC

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2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

---

3. SEC USE ONLY

---

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

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|           |    |                   |
|-----------|----|-------------------|
| NUMBER OF | 5. | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| SHARES    |    | 0                 |

---

|              |    |                     |
|--------------|----|---------------------|
| BENEFICIALLY | 6. | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| OWNED BY     |    | 10,791,457          |

---

|           |    |                        |
|-----------|----|------------------------|
| EACH      | 7. | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| REPORTING |    | 0                      |

---

|        |    |                          |
|--------|----|--------------------------|
| PERSON | 8. | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| WITH   |    | 10,791,457               |

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9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

10,791,457

---

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

---

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

6.1%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IA

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\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 3 of 15 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

LC Capital Management, LLC

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 10,791,457

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 10,791,457

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

10,791,457

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

6.1%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC

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\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 4 of 15 Pages

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

CL Investors, Inc.

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2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

---

3. SEC USE ONLY

---

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

---

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

---

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 10,791,457

---

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

---

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 10,791,457

---

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

10,791,457

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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

---

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

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6.1%

---

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC

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CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 5 of 15 Pages

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

COLE Partners LLC

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2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

---

3. SEC USE ONLY

---

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

---

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

---

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 329,400

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EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

---

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 329,400

---

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

329,400

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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

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11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.2%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC

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CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 6 of 15 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Iridian Partners Fund, L.P.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 49,200

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 49,200

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

49,200

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

---

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

Less than 0.1%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

PN

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\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 7 of 15 Pages

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Iridian Investors, L.P.

---

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

---

3. SEC USE ONLY

---

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

---

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

---

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 37,500

---

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

---

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 37,500

---

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

37,500

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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

less than 0.1%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

PN

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 8 of 15 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Iridian Private Business Value Equity Fund, L.P.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 242,700

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 242,700

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

242,700



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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.1%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

PN

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 9 of 15 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

David L. Cohen

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)   
(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER  
SHARES 0

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER  
OWNED BY 11,354,457

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
REPORTING 0

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
WITH 11,354,457

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

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11,354,457

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10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

---

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

6.4%

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12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IN

---

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP No. 883556102

Schedule 13G

Page 10 of 15 Pages

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Harold J. Levy

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2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*

(a)

(b)

---

3. SEC USE ONLY

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4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

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NUMBER OF 5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARES 0

---

BENEFICIALLY 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

OWNED BY 11,354,457

---

EACH 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING 0

---

PERSON 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 11,354,457

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9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11,354,457

---

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

---

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

6.4%

---

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IN

---

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

SCHEDULE 13G

Page 11 of 15 Pages

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Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

Thermo Electron Corporation

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Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

81 Wyman Street  
P.O. Box 9046  
Waltham, MA 02454-9046

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Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing.

This Statement is being filed by and on behalf of Iridian Asset Management LLC ("Iridian"), LC Capital Management, LLC ("LC Capital"), CL Investors, Inc. ("CL Investors"), COLE Partners LLC ("COLE"), Iridian Partners Fund, L.P. ("Iridian Partners"), Iridian Investors, L.P. ("Iridian Investors"), Iridian Private Business Value Equity Fund, L.P. ("Iridian Private Business"), David L. Cohen and Harold J. Levy (collectively, the "Reporting Persons").

(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

The Address of Principal Business Office of each of the Reporting Persons is c/o Iridian Asset Management LLC, 276 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06880-4704.

(c) Citizenship or Place of Organization:

Each of Iridian, LC Capital and COLE is a Delaware limited liability company. CL Investors is a Delaware corporation. Each of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business is a Delaware limited partnership. Each of David L. Cohen and Harold J. Levy is a citizen of the

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United States.

(d) Title of Class of Securities:

This Statement relates to the shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value, of Thermo Electron Corp.

(e) CUSIP Number: The CUSIP number is 883556102.

Item 3. If This Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.
- (b)  Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act.
- (c)  Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act.
- (d)  Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
- (e)  An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g)  A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h)  A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i)  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j)  Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), check this box.

SCHEDULE 13G

Page 12 of 15 Pages

Item 4. Ownership.

(a) and (b). Amount Beneficially Owned and Percent of Class:

As of the date of this Statement, the Reporting Persons beneficially owned in the aggregate the number of shares of Common Stock, and the percentage, set forth below (the percentage of shares of Common Stock owned being based upon 177,790,684 shares of Common Stock outstanding at October 26, 2001 as set forth in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 29, 2001). The Reporting Persons may be deemed to have direct beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock as follows:

| Name                 | Number of Shares | Approximate Percentage of Outstanding Shares |
|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Iridian (see Note 1) | 10,462,057       | 5.9%   |
| First Eagle          | 563,000          | 0.3%   |

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|                          |         |                |
|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Iridian Partners         | 49,200  | less than 0.1% |
| Iridian Investors        | 37,500  | less than 0.1% |
| Iridian Private Business | 242,700 | 0.1%           |

Note 1: The shares of Common Stock set forth above for Iridian do not include the shares of Common Stock held by Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business.

Iridian has direct beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock in the accounts which it manages. In addition, Iridian is the investment adviser for Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business. In such capacity, Iridian has the right to vote and direct the disposition of shares of Common Stock held by such entities and, consequently, has beneficial ownership of such shares.

LC Capital, as the controlling member of Iridian, may be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Iridian. CL Investors, as the controlling member of LC Capital, may be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by LC Capital. Messrs. Cohen and Levy, as controlling stockholders of CL Investors, may be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by CL Investors. Messrs. Cohen and Levy may also be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Iridian by virtue of their service as Principals of Iridian, to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by LC Capital by virtue of their service as Principals and managers of LC Capital, and to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by CL Investors by virtue of the fact that they constitute a majority of CL Investors' Board of Directors. Messrs. Cohen and Levy disclaim beneficial ownership of such shares for all other purposes.

COLE, as the sole general partner of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business, may be deemed to own beneficially shares of Common Stock that Iridian Partners and Iridian Private Business may be deemed to possess direct beneficial ownership. Iridian, as the sole member of COLE, may be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock that are beneficially owned by COLE.

Messrs. Cohen and Levy, by virtue of their ability to exercise voting and dispositive power over the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by First Eagle pursuant to their employment agreements with A&SB Advisers described in Item 8 of this Statement (which description is incorporated hereby by reference), may be deemed to possess beneficial ownership of such shares. Messrs. Cohen and Levy disclaim beneficial ownership of such shares for all other purposes.

As used herein, "beneficial ownership" has the meaning set forth in Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

SCHEDULE 13G

Page 13 of 15 Pages

(c) Power to vote or dispose.

Iridian has the direct power to vote or direct the vote, and the direct power to dispose or direct the disposition, of 10,462,057 shares of Common Stock. LC Capital, CL Investors and Messrs. Cohen and Levy may be deemed to share with Iridian the power to vote or direct the vote and to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares.

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Iridian has the direct power to vote or direct the vote, and the direct power to dispose or direct the disposition, of the 242,700 shares of Common Stock held in the aggregate by Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business. COLE (in addition to LC Capital, CL Investors and Messrs. Cohen and Levy) may be deemed to share with Iridian the power to vote or direct the vote and to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares.

Messrs. Cohen and Levy have the power to vote or direct the vote, and the power to dispose or direct the disposition, of the 563,000 shares of Common Stock held by First Eagle.

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Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following: \_\_\_\_\_

Not Applicable.

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Item 6. Ownership of More Than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Not Applicable.

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Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not Applicable.

SCHEDULE 13G

Page 14 of 15 Pages

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Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Iridian is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and its principal business is managing a number of accounts containing securities over which Iridian has voting and dispositive power. Iridian is also the sole member of COLE. The principal business of LC Capital is serving as the controlling member of Iridian. The principal business of CL Investors is serving as the controlling member of LC Capital.

The principal business of COLE is serving as the general partner of each of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business. The principal business of each of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business is investing in securities. Iridian serves as the investment adviser to Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business. COLE, as the general partner of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business, and Iridian, as the sole member of COLE and investment adviser to Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business, share voting and dispositive power over the investments of Iridian Partners, Iridian Investors and Iridian Private Business.

Each of Messrs. Cohen and Levy owns 50% of the common stock of CL Investors and, as his principal occupation, serves as a director of CL Investors, a manager and Principal of LC Capital and as a Principal and portfolio manager of Iridian. Each of Messrs. Cohen and Levy also serves as an employee of Arnhold & S. Bleichroeder Advisers, Inc. ("A&SB Advisers"), an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

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A&SB Advisers acts as the investment adviser to First Eagle Fund of America, an open-end non-diversified mutual fund ("First Eagle"), which is a separate series or portfolio of First Eagle Trust, an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. To the Reporting Persons' knowledge, pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory agreement between A&SB Advisers and First Eagle, A&SB Advisers has the authority, for and in the name of First Eagle, to vote and to dispose of securities owned by First Eagle. Pursuant to employment agreements with A&SB Advisers, Messrs. Cohen and Levy perform A&SB's investment advisory duties and functions with respect to First Eagle, including the exercise of voting and dispositive power over securities held by First Eagle.

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Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

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Item 10. Certifications.

By signing below the undersigned certifies that, to the best of its or his knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

SCHEDULE 13-G

Page 15 of 15 Pages

SIGNATURE.

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of its or his knowledge and belief, we certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: January 30, 2002

IRIDIAN ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott  
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Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

LC CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott  
-----  
Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

CL INVESTORS, INC.

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott  
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Jeffrey M. Elliott, President

COLE PARTNERS LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott

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Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

IRIDIAN PARTNERS FUND, L.P.

By: COLE PARTNERS LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott

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Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

IRIDIAN INVESTORS, L.P.

By: COLE PARTNERS LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott

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Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

IRIDIAN PRIVATE BUSINESS VALUE EQUITY FUND, L.P.

By: COLE PARTNERS LLC

By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Elliott

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Jeffrey M. Elliott, Executive Vice President

By: /s/ David L. Cohen

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David L. Cohen, individually

By: /s/ Harold J. Levy

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Harold J. Levy, individually