

STANLEY WORKS
Form 424B1
March 16, 2007
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(B)(1)
Registration No. 333-117607

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus Dated July 23, 2004)

\$200,000,000

The Stanley Works

5.00% Notes due 2010

We will pay interest on the notes on March 15 and September 15 of each year, commencing on September 15, 2007. The notes mature on March 15, 2010. The notes will be issued only in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

See “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-12 of this prospectus supplement to read about important factors you should consider before buying the notes.

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

	Per Note	Total
Initial public offering price	99.856%	\$ 199,712,000
Underwriting discount	0.400%	\$ 800,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to The Stanley Works	99.456%	\$ 198,912,000

The initial public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the notes will accrue from March 20, 2007 and must be paid by the purchasers if the notes are delivered after March 20, 2007.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company against payment in New York, New York on March 20, 2007.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

UBS Investment Bank

Banc of America Securities LLC

Citigroup

Morgan Stanley

Barclays Capital

BNP PARIBAS

HSBC

Merrill Lynch & Co.

March 15, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	<u>S-2</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>S-3</u>
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>S-4</u>
<u>Summary</u>	<u>S-6</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-12</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-13</u>
<u>Description of The Notes</u>	<u>S-14</u>
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations For Non-U.S. Holders</u>	<u>S-17</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-19</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-22</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>S-22</u>

Prospectus

<u>About this Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>The Stanley Works</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Securities</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>23</u>

Legal Matters

26

Experts

26

S-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should rely only upon the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents they incorporate by reference. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the underwriters are making an offer to sell the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

This prospectus supplement contains the terms of this offering of notes. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. In addition, the information incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus may have added, updated or changed information in the accompanying prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with any information in the accompanying prospectus (or any information incorporated therein by reference), this prospectus supplement will apply and will supersede such information in the accompanying prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents they incorporate by reference in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the additional information under the caption "Where You Can Find More Information."

S-2

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). You may read and copy this information at the following location of the SEC:

Public Reference Room
100 F Street, N.E.
Room 1580
Washington, DC 20549

You may also obtain copies of this information at prescribed rates by mail from the Public Reference Room of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the

Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

The SEC also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, like us, who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is www.sec.gov.

You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus supplement. Any information contained in this prospectus supplement or any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to be modified, superseded or updated to the extent that information contained in this prospectus supplement or any subsequently filed document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement modifies, supersedes or updates such earlier information. Any information so modified, superseded or updated will not be deemed, except as so modified, superseded or updated, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all future documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than current reports furnished under items 2.02 and 7.01 of Form 8-K):

- Annual Report filed on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2006; and
- Current Reports filed on Form 8-K on January 11, 2007 and January 17, 2007.

You may request a copy of any filings referred to above, at no cost, by contacting us at the following address or telephone number: The Stanley Works, 1000 Stanley Drive New Britain, Connecticut 06053, Attention: Treasurer, telephone number (860) 225-5111.

S-3

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain or incorporate statements that are “forward-looking” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Those statements include trend analyses and other information relative to markets for our products and trends in our operations or financial results as well as other statements that can be identified by the use of forward-looking language such as “may,” “should,” “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “plans,” “estimates,” “intends,” “projects,” “goals,” “similar expressions. Our actual results, performance or achievements could be materially different from the results expressed in, or implied by, those forward-looking statements. Those statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to the risks described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and other documents incorporated by reference. When considering those forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the risks, uncertainties and other cautionary statements made in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

A variety of factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from the expected results expressed in the company's forward-looking statements, including those set forth in the risk factors and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from those we contemplate by the forward-looking statements include, among others, the following possibilities:

- inability to maintain and improve the overall profitability of the Company's operations;
- inability to limit the impact of steel and other commodity and material price inflation through price increases and other measures;
- inability to capitalize on future acquisition opportunities and fund other initiatives;
- inability to invest in routine business needs;
- inability to efficiently and promptly integrate recent (as well as future) acquisitions and achieve anticipated synergies;
- failure to continue improvements in productivity and cost reductions in all aspects of the Company's operations;
- failure to identify and effectively execute overhead cost reduction opportunities;
- inability to successfully settle routine tax audits;
- inability to access credit markets under satisfactory terms;
- inability to negotiate satisfactory payment terms for the purchase and sale of goods, material and products;
- inability to sustain the success of the Company's marketing and sales efforts, including the Company's ability to recruit and retain an adequate sales force and to maintain its customer base;
- inability of the sales force to adapt to any changes made in the sales organization and achieve adequate customer coverage;
- inability to stimulate demand for the Company's products;
- loss of significant volumes of sales from the Company's larger customers;
- inability to maintain current production rates in the Company's manufacturing facilities, to respond to significant changes in product demand, or to fulfill demand for new and existing products;
- inability to continue successfully managing and defending claims and litigation;
- increased pricing pressures and other changes from customers and competitors and the inability to defend market share in the face of competition;

S-4

Table of Contents

- continued consolidation of customers, particularly in consumer channels;
- inventory management pressures on the Company's customers;
- changes in trade, monetary, tax and fiscal policies and laws;
- the final geographic distribution of future earnings and the effect of currency exchange fluctuations and impact of dollar/foreign currency exchange and interest rates on the competitiveness of products, the Company's debt program and the Company's cash flow;
- the strength of the United States and global economies;
- the impact of events that cause or may cause disruption in the Company's distribution and sales networks, such as war, terrorist activities, political unrest, and recessionary or expansive trends in world economies; and

- inability to mitigate cost increases generated by, for example, continued increases in the cost of energy or significant Chinese Renminbi or other currency appreciation.

There can be no assurance that other factors not currently anticipated by us will not materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by us or on our behalf. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement was made. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement.

S-5

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary contains basic information about us and this offering. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the notes. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, including the sections entitled “Risk Factors,” in this prospectus supplement, as well as the section entitled “Risk Factors” on Form 10-K incorporated by reference herein and our financial statements and the notes thereto incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement before making an investment decision. Unless otherwise indicated, all references in this prospectus supplement to “the Company,” “Stanley,” “we,” “our,” “us,” or similar terms mean The Stanley Works and its subsidiaries.

The Company

The Stanley Works was founded in 1843 by Frederick T. Stanley and incorporated in 1852. The Company is a worldwide producer of tools for professional, industrial and consumer use and security products. Stanley® is a brand recognized around the world for quality and value.

In 2006, the Company had net sales of \$4.0 billion from continuing operations and employed approximately 17,600 people worldwide. The Company’s principal executive office is located at 1000 Stanley Drive, New Britain, Connecticut 06053 and its telephone number is (860) 225-5111.

Business Segments

The Company’s operations are classified into three business segments: Consumer Products, Industrial Tools and Security Solutions.

Consumer Products

The Consumer Products segment manufactures and markets hand tools, consumer mechanics tools, storage units and hardware. These products are sold to retailers (including home centers, mass merchants, hardware stores, and retail lumber yards) as well as through third party distributors.

Hand tools include measuring and leveling tools, planes, hammers, demolition tools, knives and blades, screwdrivers, saws, chisels, consumer tackers and staples, as well as electronic leveling and measuring devices. The Company markets its hand tools under the Stanley®, FatMax®, FatMax® Xtreme,™ FatMax® XL,™ Powerlock® and IntelliTools™ brands, as well as under certain retailers’ private label brands.

Consumer mechanics tools include wrenches, sockets, metal tool boxes and cabinets which are marketed under the Stanley® and ZAG® brands, as well as under certain retailers' private label brands.

Storage units include plastic tool boxes and storage systems which are marketed under the Stanley® and ZAG® brands.

Hardware includes hinges, gate hardware, cabinet pulls, hooks, braces and shelf brackets which are marketed under the Stanley® and National® brands.

Industrial Tools

The Industrial Tools segment manufactures and markets: professional mechanics tools and storage systems; pneumatic tools and fasteners; plumbing, heating, air conditioning and roofing tools; hydraulic tools and accessories; assembly tools and systems; electronic leveling and measuring tools; and Stanley supply and services (specialty tools). These products are sold to customers and distributed primarily through third party distributors as well as through direct sales forces.

Professional mechanics tools and storage include wrenches, sockets, electronic diagnostic tools, tool boxes and high-density industrial storage and retrieval systems. Professional mechanics tools are marketed under the Stanley®, Proto®, Facom®, USAG®, MAC®, Jensen®, Vidmar® and Blackhawk™ by Proto® brands.

S-6

Table of Contents

Pneumatic tools and fasteners include Stanley®, Bostitch®, and Atro® fastening tools and fasteners (nails and staples) used for construction, remodeling, furniture making, pallet manufacturing and other applications involving the attachment of wooden materials.

Plumbing, heating, air conditioning and roofing tools include pipe wrenches, pliers, press fitting tools, and tubing cutters which are marketed under the Virax® brand.

Hydraulic tools and accessories include Stanley® hand-held hydraulic tools and accessories used by contractors, utilities, railroads and public works as well as LaBounty® mounted demolition hammers and compactors designed to work on skid steer loaders, mini-excavators, backhoes and large excavators.

Assembly tools and systems include electric and pneumatic assembly tools marketed under the Stanley® brand. These are high performance precision tools, controllers and systems for tightening threaded fasteners used chiefly by vehicle manufacturers.

Electronic leveling and measuring tools include laser and optical leveling and measuring devices and accessories utilized primarily by contractors, surveyors, engineers and other professionals and do-it-yourself individuals. These products are marketed under the CST®, David White® and Rolatape® brands.

Stanley supply and services distributes specialty tools for assembling, repairing and testing electronic equipment.

Security Solutions

The Security Solutions segment is a provider of access and security solutions as well as security monitoring systems and services primarily for retailers, educational and healthcare institutions, government, financial institutions, and commercial and industrial customers. The Company provides an extensive suite of mechanical and electronic security products and systems, and a variety of security services. The Company manufactures and markets automatic doors, door locking systems, commercial hardware and integrates security access control systems. Products in the Security Solutions segment include security integration systems, software, related installation, maintenance, and monitoring services, automatic doors, door closers, exit devices and locking mechanisms. Security products are marketed under the Stanley[®], Blick[®], Frisco Bay[®], PAC[®], ISR,[™]WanderGuard[®], StanVision,[™]Sargent and Greenleaf[®], HSM[®] and BEST[®] brands and are sold primarily on a direct sales basis as well as, in certain instances, through third party distributors.

Competition

The Company competes on the basis of its reputation for product quality, its well-known brands, its commitment to customer service, strong customer relationships, the breadth of its product lines and its emphasis on product innovation.

The Company encounters active competition in all of its businesses from both larger and smaller companies that offer the same or similar products and services or that produce different products appropriate for the same uses. The Company has a large number of competitors; however, aside from a small number of competitors in the consumer hand tool and consumer hardware businesses who produce a range of products somewhat comparable to the Company's, the majority of its competitors compete only with respect to one or more individual products or product lines within a particular segment. Certain large customers offer private label brands ("house brands") that compete across a wider spectrum of the Company's product offerings. The Company is one of the largest manufacturers of hand tools in the world, featuring a broader line of products than any other toolmaker. The Company is a significant manufacturer of pneumatic fastening tools and related fasteners to the construction, furniture and pallet industries as well as a leading manufacturer of hand-held hydraulic tools used for heavy construction, railroad, utilities and public works. The Company also believes that it is among the largest direct providers of access security integration services in North America.

S-7

Table of Contents

Several of the Company's largest retail customers have elected to compete with the Company by developing house brands and sourcing products (generally from low cost countries).

Customers

A substantial portion of the Company's products are sold to home centers and mass merchants in the U.S. and Europe. In 2006, net sales to The Home Depot were 10% of the Company's consolidated sales from continuing operations. A consolidation of retailers both in North America and abroad has occurred over time. While this consolidation and the domestic and international expansion of these large retailers provide the Company with opportunities for growth, the increasing size and importance of individual customers creates a certain degree of exposure to potential volume loss. The loss of the customer referred to above, or the loss of certain of the other larger home centers or mass merchants as customers, could have a material adverse effect on the Company until either such customers were replaced or the Company made the necessary adjustments to compensate for the loss of business.

Despite the trend toward customer consolidation, the Company has been able to maintain a diversified customer base and has decreased the potential customer concentration risk over the past years, as sales from continuing operations in markets outside of the home center and mass merchant distribution channels have grown at a greater rate through a combination of efforts to broaden the customer base, primarily in the Security Solutions and Industrial Tools segments. In this regard, sales to the Company's largest customer as a percentage of the total Company's sales have decreased from 22% to 10% since 2002.

Raw Materials

The Company's products are manufactured of both ferrous and non-ferrous metals including, but not limited to steel, aluminum, zinc, brass, copper and nickel, as well as resin. Additionally, the Company uses other commodity based materials for components and packaging including, but not limited to, plastics, wood, and other corrugated products. The raw materials required are available from a number of sources at competitive prices and the Company has annual or quarterly spot contracts with many of its key suppliers. Certain commodity prices, particularly energy related and non-ferrous metals are expected to remain volatile in 2007, but the Company does not anticipate difficulties in obtaining supplies for any raw materials used in its production processes.

Backlog

Due to short order cycles and rapid inventory turnover in most of the Company's Consumer Products and Industrial Tools businesses, backlog is generally not considered a significant indicator of future performance. At February 3, 2007, the Company had approximately \$347 million in unfilled orders compared with \$274 million in unfilled orders at February 5, 2006. All of these orders are reasonably expected to be filled within the current fiscal year. Most customers place orders for immediate shipment and as a result, the Company produces primarily for inventory, rather than to fill specific orders.

Patents and Trademarks

No business segment is dependent, to any significant degree, on patents, licenses, franchises or concessions and the loss of these patents, licenses, franchises or concessions would not have a material adverse effect on any of the business segments. The Company owns numerous patents, none of which individually are material to the Company's operations as a whole. These patents expire at various times over the next 20 years. The Company holds licenses, franchises and concessions, none of which individually or in the aggregate are material to the Company's operations as a whole. These licenses, franchises and concessions vary in duration, but generally run from one to 20 years.

The Company has numerous trademarks that are used in its businesses worldwide. The STANLEY® and STANLEY in a notched rectangle design trademarks are material to all three

S-8

Table of Contents

business segments. These well-known trademarks enjoy a reputation for quality and value and are among the world's most trusted brand names. The Company's tagline, "Make Something GreatTM" is the centerpiece of the brand strategy for all segments. The Bostitch®, Besco, Powerlock®, Tape Rule Case Design (Powerlock), FatMax®, FatMax® XtremeTM, FatMax® XLTM, LaBounty®, MAC®, Proto®, Jensen®, Vidmar®, CST®, Zag®, Rolatape®, BlackhawkTM by Proto®, Atro®, National®, Facom®, Virax® and USAG® trademarks are also material to the Consumer Products and Industrial Tools segments. In the Security Solutions segment, the BEST®, Blick®, Frisco Bay®, PAC®, WanderGuard®, StanVisionTM

Safemasters[®], Sargent and Greenleaf[®], HSM[®] and ISR[™] trademarks are also material to this segment. The terms of these trademarks vary, typically, from 10 to 20 years, with most trademarks being renewable indefinitely for like terms.

Environmental Regulations

The Company is subject to various environmental laws and regulations in the U.S. and foreign countries where it has operations. Future laws and regulations are expected to be increasingly stringent and will likely increase the Company's expenditures related to environmental matters.

The Company is a party to a number of proceedings before federal and state regulatory agencies relating to environmental remediation. Additionally, the Company, along with many other companies, has been named as a potentially responsible party ("PRP") in a number of administrative proceedings for the remediation of various waste sites, including fifteen active Superfund sites.

Current laws potentially impose joint and several liabilities upon each PRP. In assessing its potential liability at these sites, the Company has considered the following: whether responsibility is being disputed, the terms of existing agreements, experience at similar sites, and the Company's volumetric contribution at these sites.

The Company's policy is to accrue environmental investigatory and remediation costs for identified sites when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. The amount of liability recorded is based on an evaluation of currently available facts with respect to each individual site and includes such factors as existing technology, presently enacted laws and regulations, and prior experience in remediation of contaminated sites. The liabilities recorded do not take into account any claims for recoveries from insurance or third parties. As assessments and remediation progress at individual sites, the amounts recorded are reviewed periodically and adjusted to reflect additional technical and legal information that becomes available. As of December 30, 2006, the Company had reserves of approximately \$31 million, for remediation activities associated with Company-owned properties as well as for Superfund sites, for losses that are probable and estimable.

The amount recorded for identified contingent liabilities is based on estimates. Amounts recorded are reviewed periodically and adjusted to reflect additional technical and legal information that becomes available. Actual costs to be incurred in future periods may vary from the estimates, given the inherent uncertainties in evaluating environmental exposures. Subject to the imprecision in estimating future environmental costs, the Company does not expect that any sum it may have to pay in connection with environmental matters in excess of the amounts recorded will have a materially adverse effect on its consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

Employees

At December 30, 2006, the Company had approximately 17,600 employees, nearly 8,200 of whom were employed in the U.S. Approximately 765 U.S. employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements negotiated with 13 different local labor unions who are, in turn, affiliated with approximately 6 different international labor unions. The majority of the Company's hourly-paid and weekly-paid employees outside the U.S. are not covered by collective bargaining agreements. The Company's labor agreements in the U.S. expire in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. There have been no significant interruptions or curtailments of the Company's operations in recent years due to labor disputes. The Company believes that its relationship with its employees is good.

Table of Contents

Concurrent Transactions

Concurrently with this offering, we are offering to sell, subject to market and other conditions, Equity Units consisting of \$300 million aggregate principal amount of convertible notes due 2012 and contracts to purchase a variable number of shares of common stock (which is not expected to exceed 5,509,800 shares in the aggregate), in a registered public offering. The Equity Units are offered by a separate prospectus supplement to the prospectus dated July 23, 2004. The convertible notes will be convertible into shares of common stock at a conversion price that will represent a premium of between 15% and 20% above the current market price. We expect to grant to the underwriters an option to purchase additional Equity Units to cover over-allotments, if any.

In connection with the Equity Units offering, we have entered into convertible note hedge transactions with affiliates of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and Banc of America Securities LLC, whom we refer to as the hedge participants. We have also entered into warrant transactions with the hedge participants. The convertible note hedge transactions are expected to eliminate potential dilution upon conversion of the convertible notes. However, the warrant transactions could have a dilutive effect on our earnings per share to the extent that the price of our common stock exceeds the strike price of the warrants. We intend to use approximately \$28.0 million of the net proceeds from our concurrent Equity Units offering to pay the net cost of the convertible note hedge and warrant transactions.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is set forth below. For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represents income from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges are the sum of (i) interest expense, (ii) the portion of rents representative of interest, and (iii) amortization of capitalized interest. See Exhibit 12 of the Company's annual report on Form 10K for the year ended December 30, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference) for a detailed computation of the ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

	For the Fiscal Year Ended December				
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	5.3	7.7	7.7	3.9	7.5

S-10

Table of Contents

The Offering

Issuer	The Stanley Works
Securities Offered	\$200,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of 5.00% notes due 2010.
Interest	The notes will bear interest at the rate of 5.00% per annum, payable semiannually, in arrears, on March 15 and September 15, commencing on September 15, 2007. See

	“Description of the Notes.”
Issue Price	99.856% of principal amount plus accrued interest, if any, from March 20, 2007.
Ranking	Payment of the principal and interest on the notes will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated debt of The Stanley Works. As of December 30, 2006, The Stanley Works had \$549.1 million of indebtedness that would have ranked equally with the notes, including \$31.1 million of commercial paper, \$150.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 3.5% notes due 2007, \$200.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 4.9% notes due 2012, \$75.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 4.5% notes due 2007, \$5.6 million of indebtedness under industrial revenue bonds, a \$4.8 million guarantee of indebtedness of The Stanley Account Value Plan (an employee benefit plan) and \$82.6 million of other indebtedness.
Use of Proceeds	We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$199.05 million, after expenses and underwriters’ discounts and commissions. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to reduce borrowings under our extendible commercial notes program and commercial paper program. See “Use of Proceeds.”
Additional Issuances	We may, at any time, create and issue additional notes having the same terms as the notes. See “Description of the Notes — General.”

S-11

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the notes involves certain risks. In consultation with your own financial and legal advisers, you should carefully consider, among other matters, the following discussion of risks and the discussion of risks relating to our business under the caption “Risk Factors” in our annual report on Form 10-K before deciding whether an investment in the notes is suitable for you. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are unsophisticated with respect to the significant terms of the notes or financial matters.

Risk Factors Relating to the Notes

An active trading market for the notes may not develop.

We cannot assure you that an active trading market for the notes will develop or as to the liquidity or sustainability of any such market, the ability of the holders to sell their notes or the price at which holders of the notes will be able to sell their notes. Future trading prices of the notes will depend on many factors, including, among other things, prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our performance and other factors. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or other market.

We cannot assure you as to the market price for the notes. If you are able to resell your notes, the price you receive will depend on many other factors that may vary over time, including:

- the number of potential buyers;
- the level of liquidity of the notes;
- our financial performance;
- the amount of total indebtedness we have outstanding;
- the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally;
- the market for similar securities;
- the repayment and redemption features of the notes; and
- the time remaining until your notes mature.

As a result of these and other factors, you may be able to sell your notes only at a price below that which you believe to be appropriate, including a price below the price you paid for them.

There is no limit on our ability to create additional notes.

Under the terms of the Indenture (as defined herein) under which the notes will be issued, we may from time to time without notice to, or the consent of, the holders of the notes, create and issue additional notes identical to the notes in all respects (except for the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of the new notes or except for the first payment of interest following the issue date of the new notes) so that the new notes may be consolidated and form a single series with the notes.

We are both an operating company and a holding company and may require cash from our subsidiaries to make payments on the notes.

The notes are solely our obligation, and no other entity will have any obligation, contingent or otherwise, to make payments in respect of the notes. While we have substantial operations of our own, we are also a holding company for several direct and indirect subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries will have no obligation to make payments in respect of the notes. Accordingly, we may depend, in part, on dividends and other distributions from our subsidiaries to generate the funds necessary to meet our obligations under the indenture governing the notes, including payment of interest. As described above, as an equity holder of our subsidiaries, our ability to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary is “structurally subordinate” to the claims of the creditors of that subsidiary. If we are unable to obtain cash from our subsidiaries, we may be unable to fund required payments in respect of the notes.

S-12

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$199.05 million, after expenses and underwriters’ discounts and commissions. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to reduce our outstanding borrowings under our extendible commercial notes program and commercial paper program.

The Credit Facility consists of a \$500 million revolving credit agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) we entered into on January 8, 2007 with Citibank, N.A., as Administrative Agent and lender, to obtain extensions of credit and commitments. We used borrowings from the Credit Facility, our extendible notes and our commercial paper

borrowings to finance our January 16, 2007 acquisition of HSM Electronic Protection Systems, Inc. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest at a floating rate or rates equal to, at our option, the Eurocurrency rate or the prime rate, plus a margin specified in the Credit Agreement for Eurocurrency rate advances. We must repay all borrowings pursuant to the Credit Agreement by the earlier of (i) January 8, 2008 or (ii) the date of termination in whole, at our election, of the commitments by the lenders under the Credit Agreement, pursuant to the terms of the Credit Agreement. Our extendible commercial note borrowings bear an interest rate of 5.36% and will mature on March 28, 2007. Our commercial paper borrowings consist of six tranches. Each of these tranches bears an interest rate from 5.28% to 5.31% and will mature between March 13, 2007 and March 19, 2007.

As of March 12, 2007, we had approximately \$130.0 million outstanding under the Credit Facility, \$50.0 million of extendible notes outstanding and \$409.0 million of commercial paper borrowings.

The proceeds of our concurrent Equity Units offering will be used to repay amounts outstanding under our Credit Facility and to pay the net cost of hedging transactions in connection with the issuance of our Equity Units, with any remaining balance used to reduce our outstanding borrowings under our extendible commercial notes and commercial paper programs.

S-13

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

General

The notes will be issued under an indenture dated as of November 1, 2002 (the "Indenture"), between us and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. successor trustee (the "Trustee") to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The following description of the particular terms of the notes supplements the description of the general terms and provisions of the debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes:

- will be unsecured, unsubordinated debt securities,
- will initially be limited to \$200,000,000 aggregate principal amount,
- will mature on March 15, 2010,
- will bear interest from March 20, 2007 at the rate of 5.00% per annum,
- will pay interest semiannually, in arrears, on March 15, and September 15, commencing on September 15, 2007, to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business on the preceding March 1 and September 1, respectively, and
- will be issued in book-entry form only.

Change of Control

If a Change of Control Triggering Event occurs, you will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part (equal to \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof) of your notes pursuant to the offer described below (the "Change of Control Offer"). In the Change of Control Offer, we will offer payment in cash equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount of notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes repurchased, to the date of purchase (the "Change of Control Payment"). Within 30 days following any Change of

Control Triggering Event, we will mail a notice to you describing the transaction or transactions that constitute the Change of Control Triggering Event and offering to repurchase the notes on the date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed (the “Change of Control Payment Date”), pursuant to the procedures and described in such notice. We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the notes as a result of a Change of Control Triggering Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control provisions of the notes, we will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control provisions of the Indenture by virtue of such conflicts.

On the Change of Control Payment Date, we will, to the extent lawful:

- accept for payment all notes or portions of notes properly tendered pursuant to the Change of Control Offer;
- deposit with the paying agent an amount equal to the Change of Control Payment in respect of all notes or portions of notes properly tendered; and
- deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the notes properly accepted together with an officers’ certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of notes or portions of notes being purchased by us and the amount to be paid by the paying agent.

For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase at the option of holders, the following definitions are applicable:

“Below Investment Grade Rating Event” means the notes are rated below an Investment Grade Rating by each of the Rating Agencies on any date from the date of the public notice of an

S-14

Table of Contents

arrangement that could result in a Change of Control until the end of the 60-day period following public notice of the occurrence of the Change of Control (which 60-day period shall be extended so long as the rating of the notes is under publicly announced consideration for possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies).

“Change of Control” means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of us and our subsidiaries taken as a whole to any “person” (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than us or one of our subsidiaries; (2) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any “person” (as defined above) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the then outstanding total voting power of all shares of our capital stock entitled to vote generally in elections of directors; or (3) the first day on which a majority of the members of our board of directors are not Continuing Directors.

“Change of Control Triggering Event” means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Below Investment Grade Rating Event.

“Continuing Directors” means, as of any date of determination, any member of the board of directors of the Company

who (1) was a member of such board of directors on the date the notes were first issued; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to such board of directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such board of directors at the time of such nomination or election.

“Investment Grade Rating” means a rating equal to or higher than Baa3 (or the equivalent) by Moody’s and BBB– (or the equivalent) by S&P.

“Moody’s” means Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., and its successors.

“Rating Agencies” means (1) each of Moody’s and S&P; and (2) if either of Moody’s or S&P ceases to rate the notes or fails to make a rating of the notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a “nationally recognized statistical rating organization” within the meaning of Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act, as amended, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our board of directors) as a replacement agency for Moody’s or S&P, or both, as the case may be.

“S&P” means Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., and its successors.

Defeasance

The defeasance provisions described under “Description of Debt Securities — Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance” in the accompanying prospectus will apply to the Notes.

Book-Entry System

The notes will be issued in the form of one or more registered global securities and will be deposited with, or on behalf of The Depository Trust Company, as Depository, and registered in the name of the Depository’s nominee.

The Depository has advised us as follows: the Depository is a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York banking law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Depository was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among its participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. The Depository’s participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom

S-15

Table of Contents

(and/or their representatives) own the Depository. Access to the Depository’s book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

Upon the issuance of a global security in registered form, the Depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, ownership of beneficial interests in notes represented by such global security to the accounts of institutions that have accounts with the Depository or its nominee. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global

security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests by participants in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by the Depository or its nominee. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security by persons that hold through a participant will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest within such participant will be effected only through, records maintained by such participant. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to own or to transfer beneficial interests in the notes as long as they continue to be issued in the form of a global security.

So long as the Depository or its nominee is the registered owner of a global security, it will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by such global security for all purposes under the Indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in such global security will not be entitled to have the notes represented thereby registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificates representing the notes and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the Indenture.

Payment of principal of, and any interest on, the notes represented by a global security will be made to the Depository or its nominee, as the registered owner or the holder of the global security. Neither we, the Trustee nor any paying agent or registrar for the notes will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We have been advised by the Depository that the Depository will credit participants' accounts with payments of principal, or interest on the payment date thereof in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of the global security as shown on the records of the Depository. We expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such participants.

A global security may not be transferred except as a whole to a nominee or successor of the Depository. If the Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository and a successor depository is not appointed by us within ninety days, we will issue certificates in registered form in exchange for the global security or securities representing the notes. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion determine not to have the notes represented by a global security and, in such event, will issue certificates in definitive form in exchange for the global security representing the notes.

Further Issues

We may from time to time, without notice to or consent of the holders of the notes, issue additional notes of the same tenor, coupon and other terms as the notes, so that such notes and the notes offered hereby will form a single series. We refer to this additional issuance of notes as a "further issue."

Purchasers of the notes we are offering, after the date of any further issue, will not be able to differentiate between the notes sold as part of the further issue and previously issued notes. If we were to issue notes with original issue discount, persons that are subject to U.S. federal income taxation who purchase notes after such further issue may be required to accrue original issue discount with respect to their notes. This may affect the price of outstanding notes as a result of a further issue.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a general discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes. This discussion applies only to a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined below) that acquires the notes pursuant to this offering at the initial offering price. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), Treasury Regulations and judicial decisions and administrative interpretations thereof, all as of the date hereof and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion is limited to investors that hold the notes as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Furthermore, this discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be applicable to investors in light of their particular circumstances, or to investors subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax law, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, entities that are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, U.S. holders of notes, dealers in securities or currencies, expatriates, persons deemed to sell the notes under the constructive sale provisions of the Code and persons that hold the notes as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated investment. Furthermore, this discussion does not address any U.S. federal estate or gift tax consequences or any state, local or foreign tax consequences. Prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes.

For purposes of this summary, the term “Non-U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of a Note that is not, for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i) an individual that is a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that is created or organized under the laws of the United States, any of the States or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust (A) if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary control over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of such trust, or (B) that has made a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If a partnership (including any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) owns notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partners in a partnership that owns the notes should consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to them.

Non-U.S. Holders

Interest

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on payments of interest on the notes provided that (i) such interest is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder (or, if certain tax treaties apply, if such interest is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States and also is not attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder) and (ii) the Non-U.S. Holder (A) does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our voting stock, (B) is not a controlled foreign corporation related to us directly or constructively through stock ownership, and (C) satisfies certain certification requirements. Such certification requirements will be met if (x) the Non-U.S. Holder provides its name and address, and certifies on IRS Form W-8BEN (or a substantially similar form), under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person or (y) a securities clearing organization or certain other financial institutions holding the Note on behalf of the Non-U.S. Holder certifies on IRS Form W-8IMY, under penalties of perjury, that such certification has been received by it and

furnishes us or our paying agent with a copy thereof. In addition, we or our paying agent must not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner of the Note is a U.S. person.

S-17

Table of Contents

If interest on the notes is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by a Non-U.S. Holder, but such Non-U.S. Holder cannot satisfy the other requirements outlined above, interest on the notes will generally be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate (or a lower applicable treaty rate).

If interest on the notes is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder, and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States, then the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such interest in the same manner as if such holder were a U.S. person and, in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation, may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower applicable treaty rate). However, any such interest will not also be subject to withholding tax if the Non-U.S. Holder delivers to us a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI in order to claim an exemption from withholding tax.

Disposition of the notes

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax with respect to gain recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the notes. A Non-U.S. Holder also generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to such gain unless (i) the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States, or (ii) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a nonresident alien individual, such holder is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year and certain other conditions are satisfied. In the case described above in (i), gain or loss recognized on the disposition of such notes will generally be subject to U.S. federal income taxation in the same manner as if such gain or loss were recognized by a U.S. person, and, in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation, may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower applicable treaty rate). In the case described above in (ii), the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to 30% tax (or lower applicable treaty rate) on any capital gain recognized on the disposition of the notes, which may be offset by certain U.S. source capital losses.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will be required to comply with certain certification procedures in order to establish that such holder is not a U.S. person in order to avoid backup withholding with respect to payments of principal and interest on or the proceeds of a disposition of the notes. In addition, we must report annually to the IRS and to each Non-U.S. Holder the amount of any interest paid to such Non-U.S. Holder, regardless of whether any tax was actually withheld. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest payments and the amount of any tax withheld may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which a Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or credit against a Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely provided to the IRS.

S-18

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

We and the underwriters for the offering named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the notes. Subject to certain conditions, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase the principal amount of notes indicated in the following table.

	Principal Amount of Notes
Underwriters	
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$ 67,500,000
UBS Securities LLC	67,500,000
Banc of America Securities LLC	13,750,000
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	13,750,000
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	13,750,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	5,938,000
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	5,938,000
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	5,937,000
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	5,937,000
Total	\$200,000,000

The underwriters are committed to take and pay for all of the notes being offered, if any are taken.

Notes sold by the underwriters to the public will initially be offered at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. Any notes sold by the underwriters to securities dealers may be sold at a discount from the public offering price of up to 0.25% of the principal amount of notes. Any such securities dealers may resell any notes purchased from the underwriters to certain other brokers or dealers at a discount from the public offering price of up to 0.125% of the principal amount of notes. If all the notes are not sold at the initial offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and the other selling terms.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The company has been advised by the underwriters that the underwriters intend to make a market in the notes but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the notes.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of notes than they are required to purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased notes sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

These activities by the underwriters, as well as other purchases by the underwriters for their own accounts, may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the notes. As a result, the price of the notes may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued by the underwriters at any time. These transactions may be effected in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

We estimate that the total expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$150,000.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933.

S-19

Table of Contents

The underwriters and their affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various lending, financial advisory and investment banking services for us, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. In particular, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., one of the underwriters, is the lead arranger and book runner of our Credit Facility, and Citibank, N.A., an affiliate of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., is the sole lender under the Credit Facility.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an “offer of notes to the public” in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that

Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the “FSMA”)) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us, and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities

S-20

Table of Contents

and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Japan

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan (the Securities and Exchange Law) and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Securities and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Singapore

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this

prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

S-21

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Donald Riccitelli, Corporate Counsel of The Stanley Works and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York are representing The Stanley Works in connection with this offering. The underwriters are being represented by Davis Polk & Wardwell, New York, New York. Mr. Riccitelli beneficially owns options to purchase less than one percent of the of common stock of The Stanley Works.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of The Stanley Works incorporated by reference in The Stanley Work's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 30, 2006 (including the schedule appearing therein), and The Stanley Works management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 30, 2006 incorporated by reference therein, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in its reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements and management's assessment are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-22

Table of Contents

Prospectus

\$900,000,000

The Stanley Works

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Depositary Shares

Stock Purchase Contracts

and

Stock Purchase Units

We may offer, issue and sell, together or separately:

- shares of our common stock;
- shares of our preferred stock;
- debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;
- warrants to purchase our debt securities, shares of our common stock, shares of our preferred stock, depositary shares or securities of third parties or other rights;
- depositary shares representing an interest in our preferred stock;
- stock purchase contracts to purchase shares of our common stock; and
- stock purchase units, each representing ownership of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities or debt obligations of third-parties, including U.S. treasury securities or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holder's obligation to purchase our common stock or other securities under the stock purchase contracts.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters or dealers, through agents or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "SWK."

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

The date of this prospectus is July 23, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>The Stanley Works</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Securities</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>26</u>

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$900,000,000 or the equivalent denominated in foreign currencies. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of the offering of the securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus, and may also contain information about any material federal income tax considerations relating to the securities covered by the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

The information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate as of any other date.

When used in this prospectus, the terms “The Stanley Works,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer to The Stanley Works and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy all or any portion of this information at the SEC's principal office in Washington, D.C. , and copies of all or any part thereof may be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, and at the SEC's regional offices located at 175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60604 and at 233 Broadway, New York, New York 10279, after payment of fees prescribed by the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information about the public reference rooms. The SEC also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, like The Stanley Works, who file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is www.sec.gov.

You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about The Stanley Works at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

This prospectus is part of the registration statement and does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to any contract or other document of The Stanley Works, the reference may not be complete and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or document.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that The Stanley Works has previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about The Stanley Works and its finances.

1

Table of Contents

- Our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2004;
- Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 3, 2004;
- Our current reports on Form 8-K filed March 17, 2004, March 30, 2004, April 5, 2004, April 9, 2004 and April 26, 2004;
- The Definitive Proxy Statement of The Stanley Works filed with the Commission on March 29, 2004;
- The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (SEC file No. 001-5224), filed with the SEC on October 29, 1985, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- The description of the depositary preferred stock purchase rights associated with our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A (SEC file No. 001-5224), filed with the SEC on March 24, 1986, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on January 20, 1988, Amendment No. 2 thereto on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on August 7, 1990, Amendment No. 3 thereto on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on November 7, 1991 and Amendment No. 4 thereto on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on July 23, 2004.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering shall also be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference. In addition, all documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement shall be

deemed to be incorporated herein by reference. Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

To obtain a copy of these filings at no cost, you may write or telephone us at the following address:

The Stanley Works
1000 Stanley Drive
New Britain, Connecticut 06053
Attention: Treasurer
(860) 225-5111

Exhibits to the filings will not be sent, however, unless those exhibits have specifically been incorporated by reference into such documents.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document and the documents incorporated by reference in this document may include “forward looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events or developments that we intend, expect, project, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward looking statements. Those statements are characterized by terminology such as “believe,” “anticipate,” “should,” “intend,” “plan,” “will,” “expects,” “estimates,” “positioned,” “strategy” and similar expressions. These statements are based on assumptions and assessments made by our management in light of its experience and its perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors it believes to be appropriate, and are not guarantees of future performance.

2

Table of Contents

We have identified factors that could cause actual plans or results to differ materially from those included in any forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- failure to realize expected benefits of recent acquisitions;
- inability to maintain current production rates in its manufacturing facilities;
- failure of marketing and/or sales efforts;
- inability of the sales force to adapt to changes made in the sales organization and achieve adequate customer coverage;
- inability to fulfill demand for new and existing products;
- failure of acceptance of new products;
- failure to successfully integrate recently acquired businesses with existing businesses and the failure to achieve the sales plans for such businesses;
- increasing competition, and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, inflation, currency exchange fluctuations and the impact of dollar/foreign currency exchange rates and

interest rates on our competitiveness or the competitiveness of our products;

- pricing pressure and other changes within competitive markets and the ability to defend market share;
- continued consolidation of customers in consumer channels and inventory pressures on and from such customers;
- outcomes of pending and future litigation;
- events that cause or may cause disruption in distribution and sales networks such as port closures or labor shortages, war, political unrest and recessionary or expansive trends in world economies;
- future labor disputes;
- inability to continue improvements in productivity and cost reductions including inventory reductions, payment terms and reducing selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales;
- the strength of the United States economy and the strength of foreign currencies;
- inability to continue to successfully close certain facilities and reduce workforce;
- failure to increase the efficiency of routine business processes;
- failure to mitigate the effects of any material cost inflation;
- availability of vendors to perform outsourced functions; and
- failure to recruit and train new employees.

Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements. Please take into account that forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus or, in the case of documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the date of any such document. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward looking statement if we later become aware that it is not likely to be achieved. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

THE STANLEY WORKS

We were founded in 1843 by Frederick T. Stanley and incorporated in 1852. We are a worldwide producer of tools and security solutions for both consumer and industrial use. Stanley(R) is a brand recognized around the world for quality and value. Our principal executive office is located at 1000 Stanley Drive, New Britain, Connecticut 06053 and our telephone number is (860) 225-5111.

3

Table of Contents

Our businesses are reported in three business segments: Consumer Products, Industrial Tools and Security Solutions. The Consumer Products segment includes hand tools, consumer mechanic tools and storage units, hardware and home decor. Industrial Tools is comprised of Mac Tools, Proto mechanic tools, pneumatic tools, storage systems, specialty tools, assembly technologies, hydraulic tools and CST/Berger (measuring tools). The Security Solutions segment includes access technologies, Best Access, Blick and Frisco Bay; these businesses manufacture and install automatic doors, and related hardware and products, as well as mechanical and electronic lock sets and access controls.

We believe that we are one of the largest manufacturers of hand tools in the world featuring a broader line than any other toolmaker. We also believe that we are a leader in the manufacture and sale of pneumatic fastening tools and related fasteners to the construction, furniture and pallet industries as well as a leading manufacturer of hydraulic tools used for construction, railroads, utilities and public works. We believe that we are a United States leader in the

manufacture and sale of commercial hardware products, mirrored closet doors and hardware for sliding, folding and pocket doors and the United States leader in the manufacture, sale and installation of automatic sliding and swing powered doors.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities for general corporate purposes, including the financing of our operations, the possible repayment of short-term indebtedness, and possible business acquisitions. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of short-term indebtedness.

If required, we will include a more detailed description of the use of proceeds from any specific offering of securities in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	Twelve Months Ended				Three Months Ended		
	January 3, 2004	December 28, 2002	December 29, 2001	December 30, 2000	January 1, 2000	April 3, 2004	March 29, 2003
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges ^(a)	4.30x	7.13x	5.89x	6.68x	5.85x	8.93x	3.53x

(a)The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is calculated on a total enterprise basis. Earnings represent earnings before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges represent interest incurred plus that portion of rental expense deemed to be interest. The ratios are based solely on historical financial information.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units that we may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that we may issue separately, upon exercise of a debt warrant, in connection with a stock purchase contract or as part of a stock purchase unit from time to time. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities will be issued under a "Senior Indenture" and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a "Subordinated Indenture." This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture collectively as the "Indentures." The trustee under the Indentures is JPMorgan Chase Bank.

Table of Contents

The forms of Indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the Indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the Indentures and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

As used in this “Description of Debt Securities,” the terms “The Stanley Works,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer to The Stanley Works, a Connecticut corporation, and do not, unless otherwise specified, include the subsidiaries of this Connecticut corporation.

General

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our present and future senior indebtedness to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Subordinated Indenture.

Since our operations are partially conducted through our subsidiaries, the cash flow and the consequent ability to service our indebtedness, including the notes, is partially dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution of those earnings or upon the payments of funds by those subsidiaries to us. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due pursuant to the notes or to make funds available to us, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. In addition, the payment of dividends and the making of loans and advances to us by our subsidiaries may be subject to contractual or statutory restrictions, are contingent upon the earnings of those subsidiaries and are subject to various business considerations. Any right we may have to receive assets of any of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation or reorganization (and the consequent right of the holders of our debt securities to participate in those assets) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of such subsidiary’s creditors, including trade creditors.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue and provide that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. We may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture. The Indentures also do not limit our ability to incur other debt.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

- the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- the price or prices at which we will sell the debt securities;
- the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;
- the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;
-

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;

- the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive period during which interest payment periods may be extended;
- whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;

5

Table of Contents

- the dates on which we will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;
- the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable;
- if we possess the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which we may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;
- our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which we will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;
- the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;
- the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which we must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;
- the currency, currencies or currency unit in which we will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars;
- provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;
- any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or our covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;
- the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;
- whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;
- the terms, if any, upon which the holders may convert or exchange the debt securities into or for our common stock, preferred stock or other securities or property;
- whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;
- any change in the right of the trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;

- the depositary for global or certificated debt securities;
- any special tax implications of the debt securities;
- any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and
- any other terms of the debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will be issued in fully-registered form without coupons.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable

6

Table of Contents

prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

Subordination

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our Senior Indebtedness, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Subordinated Indenture.

Under the Subordinated Indenture, “Senior Indebtedness” means all of our obligations in respect of any of the following, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred or created:

- the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest due on our indebtedness for borrowed money;
- all obligations guaranteed by us for the repayment of borrowed money, whether or not evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other written instruments;
- all obligations guaranteed by us evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or similar written instruments, including obligations assumed or incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses (provided, however, that the deferred purchase price of any other business or property or assets shall not be considered indebtedness if the purchase price thereof is payable in full within 90 days from the date on which such obligation was created);
- any obligations of ours as lessee under leases required to be capitalized on the balance sheet of the lessee under generally accepted accounting principles;
- all of our obligations for the reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker’s acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;

- all of our obligations in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts and other similar agreements;
- all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons for the payment of which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and
- all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any of our property or assets (whether or not such obligation is assumed by us).

Senior Indebtedness does not include:

- indebtedness or monetary obligations to trade creditors created or assumed by us in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services;
- indebtedness that is by its terms subordinated to or ranks equal with the subordinated debt securities; and
- any of our indebtedness to our affiliates unless otherwise expressly provided in the terms of any such indebtedness.

Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Unless otherwise noted in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if we default in the payment of any principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due

7

Table of Contents

and payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise, then, unless and until such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, we will make no direct or indirect payment (in cash, property, securities, by set-off or otherwise) in respect of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the subordinated debt securities or in respect of any redemption, retirement, purchase or other requisition of any of the subordinated debt securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt securities, the holders of all senior debt securities outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt securities before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

If any of the following events occurs, we will pay in full all Senior Indebtedness before we make any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property (other than securities of The Stanley Works or any other corporation provided for by a plan of reorganization or readjustment the payment of which is subordinate, at the least to the extent provided pursuant to these subordination provisions, to the payment of all senior indebtedness then outstanding and to any securities issued in respect thereof under any such plan of reorganization or readjustment), to any holder of subordinated debt securities:

- any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of ours, whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership;
- any general assignment by us for the benefit of creditors; or
- any other marshaling of our assets or liabilities.

In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the Subordinated Indenture and before all the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution or security will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered and transferred to, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such Senior Indebtedness in full.

By reason of this subordination, in the event of insolvency, our creditors who are holders of Senior Indebtedness, as well as certain of our general creditors, may recover more, ratably, than the holders of the subordinated debt securities.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

Certain Covenants

Except as set forth below or in any indenture supplemental to the Indentures or in a board resolution of ours establishing a series of securities under the Indentures, the Indentures will not:

- limit the amount of indebtedness or lease obligations that may be incurred by us and our subsidiaries; or
- contain provisions which would give holders of the notes the right to require us to repurchase their notes in the event of a decline in the credit rating of our debt securities resulting from a change in control, recapitalization or similar restructuring or in the case of any other event.

Limitation on Liens

The Senior Indenture will provide that if we or any Restricted Subsidiary shall issue, assume or guarantee any evidence of indebtedness for money borrowed (“Indebtedness”) secured by a mortgage,

8

Table of Contents

security interest, pledge or lien (“Mortgage”) on any Principal Property, or shares of stock or Indebtedness of any Restricted Subsidiary, we will secure or cause such Restricted Subsidiary to secure any debt securities issued under the Senior Indenture (the “Senior Securities”) equally and ratably with such secured Indebtedness, unless the aggregate amount of all such secured Indebtedness, together with all Attributable Debt outstanding pursuant to the first paragraph of the “Limitation on Sale and Lease-back Transactions” covenant described below, would not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Worth. The Subordinated Indenture does not contain a similar limitation on liens.

Such limitation will not apply to Indebtedness secured by (a) Mortgages on property of any corporation existing at the time such corporation becomes a Restricted Subsidiary, (b) Mortgages on any property existing at the date of the indenture or at the time of acquisition by us or a Restricted Subsidiary (including acquisition through merger or consolidation), (c) Mortgages securing Indebtedness of a Restricted Subsidiary to us or to another Restricted Subsidiary, (d) purchase money and construction Mortgages entered into within specified time limits, (e) mechanics’

liens, tax liens, liens in favor of any governmental body to secure progress, advance or other payments or the acquisition of real or personal property from any governmental body pursuant to contract or provision of statute, any other liens, charges and encumbrances incidental to construction, conduct of business or ownership of property of ours or any Restricted Subsidiary which were not incurred in connection with borrowing money, obtaining advances or credits or the acquisition of property and in the aggregate do not materially impair use of any Principal Property or which are being contested in good faith, or (f) any extension, renewal or replacement of any of the aforementioned Mortgages not in excess of the principal amount of such Indebtedness plus the fee incurred in connection with such transaction.

Limitation on Sale and Lease-back Transactions

The Senior Indenture will provide that neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary may enter into any sale and lease-back transaction involving any Principal Property unless the aggregate amount of all Attributable Debt with respect to such transactions, together with all Indebtedness outstanding pursuant to the first paragraph of the "Limitation on Liens" covenant described above, would not exceed 10% of Consolidated Net Worth.

Such limitation will not apply to any sale and lease-back transaction if (a) the lease is for a period of not more than three years, (b) the purchaser's commitment is obtained within a specified period after the acquisition, construction or placing in service of the Principal Property, (c) the rent payable pursuant to such lease is to be reimbursed under a contract with the United States Government or instrumentality or agency thereof, (d) the transaction is between us and a Restricted Subsidiary or between Restricted Subsidiaries, (e) we or such Restricted Subsidiary would be entitled as described in "Limitation on Liens," above, to mortgage such Principal Property without equally and ratably securing the Senior Securities, or (f) we or such Restricted Subsidiary, within 180 days after the effective date of the transaction, apply to the retirement of Senior Securities or other Indebtedness of ours or a Restricted Subsidiary an amount equal to (A) either (i) the lesser of the net proceeds of the sale or transfer or the book value at the date of such sale or transfer of the Principal Property leased, if the transaction is for cash, or (ii) the fair market value of the Principal Property leased, if the transaction is for other than cash, minus (B) the amount equal to the principal amount of Senior Securities delivered to the trustee within such 180 days for cancellation and the principal amount of Indebtedness voluntarily retired (including any premium or fee paid in connection therewith) within such 180 days.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may consolidate or merge with or into any other corporation, and we may sell or transfer all or substantially all of our assets to another corporation, provided, among other things, that (a) the corporation formed by or resulting from any such consolidation or merger or the transferee of such assets shall be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia and shall expressly assume by supplemental indenture payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities issued under either the

9

Table of Contents

Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture and the performance and observance of the indenture and (b) we or such successor corporation shall not immediately thereafter be in default under the indenture.

Definition of Certain Terms

“Restricted Subsidiary” means a Subsidiary (i) substantially all the property of which is located, or substantially all the business of which is carried on, within the United States, and (ii) which owns a Principal Property; provided, however, that the term shall not include any Subsidiary which is solely or primarily engaged in the business of providing or obtaining financing for the sale or lease of products sold or leased by us or any Subsidiary or which is primarily engaged in the business of a finance company either on a secured or an unsecured basis.

“Principal Property” means all real property and tangible personal property constituting a manufacturing plant located within the United States owned by us or a Restricted Subsidiary, exclusive of (i) motor vehicles, mobile materials-handling equipment and other rolling stock, (ii) office furnishings and equipment, information and electronic data processing equipment, (iii) any property financed through obligations issued by a state or possession of the United States, or any political subdivision or instrumentality of the foregoing, on which the interest is not, in the opinion of tax counsel of recognized standing or in accordance with a ruling issued by the Internal Revenue Service, includable in gross income of the holder by reason of Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (or any successor to such provision) as in effect at the time of the issuance of such obligations, (iv) any real property held for development or sale, or (v) any property the gross book value of which (including related land and improvements thereon and all machinery and equipment included therein without deduction of any depreciation reserves) is less than 10% of Consolidated Net Worth or which our board of directors determines is not material to the operation of our business and our Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

“Consolidated Net Worth” means the excess over current liabilities of all assets properly appearing on our consolidated balance sheet after deducting the minority interests of others in Subsidiaries. A Subsidiary is defined to mean any corporation of which at least a majority of all outstanding stock having ordinary voting power in the election of directors of such corporation is at the time, directly or indirectly, owned by us or by one or more Subsidiaries of ours or by us and one or more Subsidiaries.

“Attributable Debt” in respect of any Sale and Lease-Back Transaction means, as of the time of the determination, the lesser of (i) the sale price of the Principal Property so leased multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the remaining portion of the base term of the lease included in such transaction and the denominator of which is the base term of such lease, and (ii) the total obligation (discounted to present value at the implicit interest factor, determined in accordance with generally accepted financial practice, included in the rental payments or, if such interest factor cannot readily be determined, at a rate of interest of 10% per annum, compounded semi-annually) of the lessee for rental payments (other than amounts required to be paid on account of property taxes as well as maintenance, repairs, insurance, water rates and other items which do not constitute payments for property rights) during the remaining portion of the base term of lease included in such transaction.

Events of Default

The following events are defined in the Indentures as “Events of Default”:

- default in the payment of any installment of interest on any debt securities in such series for 30 days after becoming due;
- default in the payment of principal or premium, if any, of any debt securities in such series when due;
- default in the performance of any other covenant for 90 days after notice;
- involuntary acceleration of the maturity of our indebtedness in excess of \$10 million for money borrowed which acceleration shall not be rescinded or annulled or otherwise cured, or which indebtedness shall not be discharged, within 10 days after notice;

Table of Contents

- entry of certain court orders which would require us to make payment exceeding \$25 million and where 60 days have passed since the entry of the order without it having been satisfied or stayed;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and
- any other Event of Default that may be set forth in the supplemental indenture or board resolution with respect to a particular series of debt securities.

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to a series of debt securities, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the Securities of such series) of such series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of such series to be due and payable.

The Indentures will provide that the trustee shall, within 90 days after the occurrence of default with respect to a particular series of debt securities, give the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default known to it (the term default to mean the events specified above without grace periods); provided that, except in the case of default in the payment of principal or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on any of the debt securities of such series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines the withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

We are required to furnish the trustee annually a statement by certain of our officers to the effect that to the best of their knowledge we are not in default in the fulfillment of any of our obligations under the Indentures or, if there has been a default in the fulfillment of any such obligation, specifying each such default. No holder of any debt securities of any particular series shall have any right to institute any judicial or other proceeding with respect to the Indentures, or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any other remedy unless:

- an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing and such holder shall have given the trustee prior written notice of such continuing Event of Default;
- the holders of not less than 25% of the outstanding principal amount of debt securities of a particular series shall have requested the trustee for such series to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default;
- the trustee shall have been offered reasonable indemnity against its costs, expenses and liabilities in complying with such request;
- the trustee shall have failed to institute proceedings 60 days after the receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity; and
- no direction inconsistent with such written request shall have been given for 60 days by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of a particular series of debt securities outstanding will have the right, subject to certain limitations, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee with respect to such series or exercising any trust or power conferred to the trustee, and to waive certain defaults. The Indentures will provide that in case an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing, the trustee shall exercise such of its rights and powers under the Indentures, and use the same degree of care and skill in their exercise, as a prudent man would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indentures at the request of any of the holders of debt securities of a particular series unless they shall have offered to the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request.

Table of Contents

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may discharge or defease our obligations under each Indenture as set forth below.

We may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the trustee funds in U.S. dollars or in the foreign currency in which debt securities of such series are payable in an amount sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on debt securities of such series with respect to principal (and premium and additional amounts, if any) and interest to the date of such deposit (if debt securities of such series have become due and payable) or to the maturity thereof or the date of redemption of debt securities of such series, as the case may be.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except for, among other things, the obligation to pay additional amounts, if any, upon the occurrence of certain events of taxation, assessment or governmental charge with respect to payments on debt securities of such series and other obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of such series, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency with respect to the debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust) (“defeasance”) or (ii) to be released from our obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series of debt securities and any omission to comply with such obligations shall not constitute an Event of Default with respect to such series of debt securities (“covenant defeasance”), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, we must deliver to the trustee (i) an opinion of counsel stating that the money and government obligations or other property deposited with the trustee to be held in trust will not be subject to any case or proceeding under any Federal or State bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law, or any decree or order for relief, and (ii) an officers’ certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

We may exercise our defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding our prior exercise of our covenant defeasance option.

Modification and Waiver

Modification and amendments of the indenture may be made by us and the trustee with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected

thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any premium or installment of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, debt securities of any series,
- reduce the principal amount of, or the rate (or modify the calculation of such rate) of interest on, or any additional amounts with respect to, or any premium payable upon the redemption of, debt securities of any series,

12

Table of Contents

- change our obligation to pay additional amounts with respect to debt securities of any series or reduce the amount of the principal of an original issue discount debt securities that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof or the amount thereof provable in bankruptcy,
- change the redemption provisions of debt securities of any series or adversely affect the right of repayment at the option of any holder of debt securities of any series,
- change the place of payment or the coin or currency in which the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of any series is payable,
- impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of debt securities of any series,
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of an outstanding series of debt securities, the consent of whose holders is required in order to take certain actions,
- reduce the requirements for quorum or voting by holders of a particular series of debt securities in Section 15.4 of the Indentures,
- modify any of the provisions in the Indentures regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by the holders of a particular series of debt securities except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indentures cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each debt security of such series affected thereby,
- make any change that adversely affects the right to convert or exchange any series of debt security into or for our common stock or other securities in accordance with its terms, or
- modify any of the above provisions.

The holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such series, waive our compliance with certain restrictive provisions of the applicable indenture. The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such series, waive any past default and its consequences under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series, except a default:

- in the payment of principal of (or premium, if any), any interest on or any additional amounts with respect to debt securities of such series; or
- in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each debt security of any series.

Under the Indentures, we will be required to furnish the trustee annually a statement as to performance by us of certain of our obligations under the Indentures and as to any default in such performance. We are also required to deliver to the trustee, within five days after occurrence thereof, written notice of any Event of Default or any event which after notice or lapse of time or both would constitute an Event of Default.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as we may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at our option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

13

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by us and located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by us for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium has become due and payable will be repaid to us upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Denominations, Registrations and Transfer

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. In such case, each holder's beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC's records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder's name if:

- DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or
- We determine, in our sole discretion, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the trustee's corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by us under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

Governing Law

The Indentures and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

Regarding the Trustee

The trustee under the Indentures is JPMorgan Chase Bank. The trustee is permitted to engage in other transactions with us and our subsidiaries from time to time, provided that if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest it must eliminate such conflict upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, or else resign.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of our common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

14

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following summary description of our capital stock is based on the provisions of the Connecticut Business Corporation Act, or CBCA, our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and our bylaws, as amended. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the terms of the restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which are included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See “Where You Can Find More Information.” As used in this “Description of Capital Stock,” the terms “The Stanley Works,” “we,” “our” and “us” refer to The Stanley Works, a Connecticut corporation, and do not, unless otherwise specified, include the subsidiaries of this Connecticut corporation.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value. As of June 30, 2004, we had 81,857,583 shares of our common stock outstanding and no shares of preferred stock outstanding. The number of authorized shares of any class may be increased or decreased by an amendment to our restated certificate of incorporation proposed by our board of directors and approved by a majority of voting shares voted on the issue at a meeting at which a quorum exists.

Common Stock

Each shareholder of record of our common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on every matter properly submitted to the shareholders for their vote. Holders of our common stock do not have cumulative voting rights. After satisfaction of the dividend rights of holders of preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled ratably to any dividend declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available for this purpose.

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably our net assets available, if any, after the payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock.

Holders of our common stock have no redemption or conversion rights, no sinking fund provisions and no preemptive right to subscribe for or purchase additional shares of any class of our capital stock.

The outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable, and any shares of common stock issued in an offering pursuant to this prospectus and any shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of common stock warrants or conversion or exchange of debt securities which are convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, or in connection with the obligations of a holder of stock purchase contracts to purchase our common stock, when issued in accordance with their terms will be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Preferred Stock

This section describes the general terms and provisions of preferred stock that we are authorized to issue. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the shares of preferred stock offered through that prospectus supplement, as well as any general terms described in this section that will not apply to those shares of preferred stock. We will file a copy of the certificate of amendment to our certificate of incorporation that contains the terms of each new series of preferred stock with the Secretary of the State of Connecticut and with the SEC each time we issue a new series of preferred stock. Each such certificate of amendment will establish the number of shares included in a designated series and fix the designation, powers, privileges, preferences and rights of the shares of each series as well as any applicable qualifications, limitations or restrictions. You should refer to the applicable certificate of amendment as well as our certificate of incorporation before deciding to buy shares of our preferred stock as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

15

Table of Contents

Our board of directors has been authorized to provide for the issuance of up to 10,000,000 shares of our preferred stock in multiple series without the approval of shareholders. With respect to each series of our preferred stock, our board of directors has the authority to fix the following terms:

- the designation of the series;
- the number of shares within the series;
- whether dividends are cumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends are cumulative;
- the rate of any dividends, any conditions upon which dividends are payable, and the dates of payment of dividends;
- whether the shares are redeemable, the redemption price and the terms of redemption;
- the amount payable to you for each share you own if we dissolve or liquidate;
- whether the shares are convertible or exchangeable, the price or rate of conversion or exchange, and the applicable terms and conditions;
- any restrictions on issuance of shares in the same series or any other series;

- voting rights applicable to the series of preferred stock; and
- any other rights, priorities, preferences, restrictions or limitations of such series.

Your rights with respect to your shares of preferred stock will be subordinate to the rights of our general creditors. Shares of our preferred stock that we issue in accordance with their terms will be fully paid and nonassessable, and will not be entitled to preemptive rights unless specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our ability to issue preferred stock, or rights to purchase such shares, could discourage an unsolicited acquisition proposal. For example, we could impede a business combination by issuing a series of preferred stock containing class voting rights that would enable the holders of such preferred stock to block a business combination transaction. Alternatively, we could facilitate a business combination transaction by issuing a series of preferred stock having sufficient voting rights to provide a required percentage vote of the shareholders. Additionally, under certain circumstances, our issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common stock. Although our board of directors is required to make any determination to issue any preferred stock based on its judgment as to the best interests of our shareholders, our board of directors could act in a manner that would discourage an acquisition attempt or other transaction that some, or a majority, of our shareholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which shareholders might receive a premium for their stock over prevailing market prices of such stock. Our board of directors does not at present intend to seek shareholder approval prior to any issuance of currently authorized stock, unless otherwise required by law or applicable stock exchange requirements.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws and Other Agreements.

The rights of our shareholders and related matters are governed by the CBCA, the certificate of incorporation, the bylaws and the Rights Agreement, dated January 31, 1996, which is referred to herein as the 1996 Rights Agreement. Provisions of the CBCA, the certificate of incorporation, the bylaws and the 1996 Rights Agreement, which are summarized below, may discourage or make more difficult a takeover attempt that shareholders might consider in their best interest. These provisions may also adversely affect prevailing market prices for our common stock.

Board of Directors

The certificate of incorporation provides that the board of directors will be classified with approximately one-third elected each year. The number of directors will be fixed from time to time by a majority of the total number of directors which we would have at the time such number is fixed if

16

Table of Contents

there were no vacancies. The directors elected by the holders of common stock are divided into three classes, designated class I, class II and class III. Each class consists, as nearly as may be possible, of one-third of the total number of such directors. At each annual meeting of shareholders, successors to the class of directors whose term expires at that annual meeting will be elected for a three-year term. In addition, if the number of directors is changed, any increase or decrease will be apportioned among the classes so as to maintain the number of directors in each class as nearly equal as possible, and any additional director of any class elected to fill a vacancy resulting from an increase in such class will hold office for a term that will coincide with the remaining term of that class, but in no case will a decrease in the number of directors shorten the term of any incumbent director. Any vacancy on the board of directors may be filled by the shareholders or by the board of directors, whether such vacancy occurs as a result of an increase in the number of directors or otherwise. The certificate of incorporation also provides that directors elected by the

holders of common stock may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast thereon.

Shareholder Action by Written Consent; Special Meetings

Under the CBCA our shareholders may take action by written unanimous consent of holders of all of our shares in lieu of an annual or special meeting. Otherwise, shareholders will only be able to take action at an annual or special meeting called in accordance with the bylaws.

The bylaws provide that special meetings of shareholders may only be called by:

- the chairman of the board,
- the president,
- the secretary, or
- the chairman of the board, the president or the secretary upon the written request of the holders of not less than thirty-five percent (35%) of our outstanding voting stock.

In addition, the CBCA provides that a corporation with a class of voting stock registered under the Exchange Act shall hold a special meeting of shareholders if the holders of thirty-five percent (35%) of the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered demand such a meeting.

Advance Notice Requirements for Director Nominations and Other Proposals

Director Nominations. The bylaws contain advance notice procedures with regard to shareholder proposals related to the nomination of candidates for election as directors. These procedures provide that notice of shareholder proposals related to shareholder nominations for the election of directors must be received by our corporate secretary, in the case of an annual meeting, not less than 30 days prior to the election meeting. Our bylaws require that all directors be shareholders of record.

A shareholder's notice to our corporate secretary must be in proper written form and must set forth some information relating to each person whom the shareholder proposes to nominate for election as a director:

- the name, age, business and residence addresses, and the principal occupation or employment of the person;
- the number of shares of our capital stock which are beneficially owned by the person; and
- any other information relating to the person that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors pursuant to the Exchange Act.

Other Proposals. In addition to the procedures for nominating directors, the bylaws also contain notice procedures for other shareholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting. To be timely, we must receive shareholder proposals at least 60 days, but no more than 90 days, prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of shareholders; provided, however, that in the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within 30 days before or after that anniversary date, notice by the shareholder in order to be timely must be received not later than

the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting was made, whichever occurs first.

A shareholder's notice to our corporate secretary must be in proper written form and must set forth, as to each matter that shareholder proposes to bring before the meeting:

- a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting that business at the meeting;
- the name and record address of that shareholder;
- the class and series and number of shares of each class and series of our capital stock which are owned beneficially or of record by that shareholder;
- a description of all arrangements or understandings between that shareholder and any other person in connection with the proposal of that business and any material interest of that shareholder in that business; and
- a representation that the shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to bring that business before the meeting.

1996 Rights Agreement

On January 31, 1996, the board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one right for each share of our common stock outstanding on the close of business on March 10, 1996, and we entered into the 1996 Rights Agreement, which sets forth the terms of those rights. Each outstanding share of common stock currently has one half of a share purchase right. Each purchase right may be exercised to purchase one two-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at an exercise price of \$220.00, subject to adjustment. The rights, which do not have voting rights, expire on March 10, 2006, and may be redeemed by us at a price of \$0.01 per right at any time prior to the tenth day following the public announcement that a person has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of common stock.

In the event that we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction, provision shall be made so that each holder of a right (other than a holder who is a 10%-or-more shareowner) shall have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof, that number of shares of common stock of the surviving company having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the right. Similarly, if anyone becomes the beneficial owner of more than 10% of the then outstanding shares of common stock (except pursuant to an offer for all outstanding shares of common stock which the independent directors have deemed to be fair and in our best interest), provision will be made so that each holder of a right (other than a holder who is a 10%-or-more shareowner) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or our other securities) having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the right. At June 30, 2004 there were 40,638,411 outstanding rights. There are 250,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock reserved for issuance in connection with the rights.

Antitakeover Legislation

We are subject to the provisions of Section 33-844 of the CBCA which prohibits a Connecticut corporation from engaging in a "business combination" with an "interested shareholder" for a period of five years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested shareholder, unless the business combination or the purchase of stock by which such person becomes an interested shareholder is approved by our board of directors, and by a majority of our non-employee directors, prior to the date on which the person becomes an interested shareholder. A "business combination" generally includes mergers, asset sales, some types of stock issuances and other transactions resulting in a disproportionate financial benefit to the interested shareholder. Subject to exceptions, an "interested shareholder" is a person who owns 10% or more of our voting power, or is an affiliate or associate of The Stanley Works and owned 10% or more of our voting power within the past five years.

Table of Contents

Under our certificate of incorporation, the affirmative vote by the holders of 80% of our outstanding voting stock is required for the approval or authorization of any “business combination” involving an interested shareholder. This voting requirement does not apply if:

- 2/3 of our disinterested directors expressly approve the proposed business combination; or
- The following conditions are satisfied:
 - The cash and fair market value of other consideration received on a per share basis by each shareholder is no less than the highest share price (or the equivalent value) paid by the interested shareholder in acquiring our capital stock; and
 - A proxy statement is mailed to all shareholders of the corporation for the purpose of soliciting shareholder approval of the business combination.

This 80% vote is required even if no vote or a lesser percentage is required by any applicable laws. Additionally, the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than 80% of our outstanding shares of capital stock is required to modify this section of our certificate of incorporation.

Notwithstanding the 80% vote required by our certificate of incorporation, we are also subject to Section 33-841 and Section 33-842 of the CBCA. These provisions generally require business combinations with an interested shareholder to be approved by the board of directors and then by the affirmative vote of at least:

- the holders of 80% of the voting power of the outstanding shares of our voting stock; and
- the holders of 2/3 of the voting power of the outstanding shares of our voting stock, excluding the voting stock held by the interested shareholder,

unless the consideration to be received by the shareholders meets certain price and other requirements set forth in Section 33-842 of the CBCA or unless the board of directors of the corporation has by resolution determined to exempt business combinations with that interested shareholder prior to the time that such shareholder became an interested shareholder.

We are also subject to Section 33-756(d) of the CBCA, requiring directors acting with respect to mergers, sales of assets and other specified transactions to consider, in determining what they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the corporation, specified interests, including those of the corporation’s employees, customers, creditors and suppliers and any community in which any office or other facility of the corporation is located.

Limitation of Liability of Directors

The certificate of incorporation contains provisions permitted under the CBCA relating to the personal liability of directors. The provisions limit the personal liability to us or our shareholders of a director for monetary damages for breach of duty as a director to an amount that is not more than the compensation received by that director for serving us during the year of the violation. Our bylaws provide for the indemnification and reimbursement of, and advances of expenses to, any person that is made a party to an action by reason of the fact that he or she:

- is or was our director, officer, employee or agent, or
- served at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation.

Our bylaws provide for indemnification of directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Connecticut law.

Listing.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “SWK.”

Transfer Agent and Registrar.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services, LLC.

19

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our warrants to acquire our securities that we may issue from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the warrants offered through that prospectus supplement. As of June 30, 2004, we had no warrants outstanding.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares or securities of third parties or other rights, including rights to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing. We may issue warrants independently or together with other securities, and they may be attached to or separate from the other securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement that we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, as detailed in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation, or agency or trust relationship, with you. We will file a copy of the warrant and warrant agreement with the SEC each time we issue a series of warrants, and these warrants and warrant agreements will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A holder of our warrants should refer to the provisions of the applicable warrant agreement and prospectus supplement for more specific information.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of those warrants, including, when applicable:

- the offering price;
- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of the warrants may be payable;
- the number of warrants offered;
- the securities underlying the warrants, including the securities of third parties or other rights, if any, to receive payment in cash or securities based on the value, rate or price of one or more specified commodities, currencies, securities or indices, or any combination of the foregoing, purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- the exercise price and the amount of securities you will receive upon exercise;
- the procedure for exercise of the warrants and the circumstances, if any, that will cause the warrants to be automatically exercised;
- the rights, if any, we have to redeem the warrants;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the warrants will expire;

- the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;
- the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- U.S. federal income tax consequences;
- the name of the warrant agent; and
- any other material terms of the warrants.

After your warrants expire they will become void. All warrants will be issued in registered form. The prospectus supplement may provide for the adjustment of the exercise price of the warrants.

Warrants may be exercised at the appropriate office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Before the exercise of warrants, holders will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon exercise and will not be entitled to payments made to holders of those securities.

20

Table of Contents

The applicable warrant agreement may be amended or supplemented without the consent of the holders of the warrants to which it applies to effect changes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the warrants and that do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of warrants will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the applicable warrants then outstanding approve the amendment. Every holder of an outstanding warrant at the time any amendment becomes effective, by continuing to hold the warrant, will be bound by the applicable warrant agreement as amended. The prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of warrants may provide that certain provisions of the warrants, including the securities for which they may be exercisable, the exercise price and the expiration date, may not be altered without the consent of the holder of each warrant.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do so, we may issue receipts for depositary shares that each represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us (the “Bank Depositary”). Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

We have summarized some common provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts. The forms of the depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares will be filed with the SEC each time we issue depositary shares, and you should read those documents for provisions that may be important to you.

Dividends and Other Distributions

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the Bank Depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. However, if the Bank Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the Bank Depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the Bank Depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the Bank Depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the Bank Depositary may determine.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the Bank Depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary

21

Table of Contents

shares on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, may instruct the Bank Depositary as to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The Bank Depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action that the Bank Depositary deems necessary in order to enable the Bank Depositary to do so. The Bank Depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the Bank Depositary and us. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the Bank Depositary or us only if (1) all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or (2) there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

Charges of Bank Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the Bank Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon

surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement to be for their accounts.

Withdrawal of Preferred Stock

Except as may be provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the Bank Depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the Bank Depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Miscellaneous

The Bank Depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the Bank Depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither the Bank Depositary nor we will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the depositary agreement. The obligations of the Bank Depositary and us under the depositary agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder, and we will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

22

Table of Contents

Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary

The Bank Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the Bank Depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor Bank Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor Bank Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company meeting the requirements of the depositary agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from or sell to us, and obligating us to sell to or purchase from the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock or other securities at a future date or dates, which we refer to in this prospectus as stock purchase contracts. The price per share of the securities and the number of shares of the securities may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts, and may be subject to adjustment under anti-dilution formulas. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as part of units

consisting of a stock purchase contract and debt securities, preferred securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. treasury securities, any other securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement or any combination of the foregoing, securing the holders' obligations to purchase the securities under the stock purchase contracts, which we refer to herein as stock purchase units. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations under the stock purchase contracts in a specified manner. The stock purchase contracts also may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase contracts or the stock purchase units, as the case may be, or vice versa, and those payments may be unsecured or pre-funded on some basis.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. This description is not complete and the description in the prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete, and reference is made to the stock purchase contracts, and, if applicable, collateral or depositary arrangements relating to the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units, which will be filed with the SEC each time we issue stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units. If any particular terms of the stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units described in the prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described herein, then the terms described herein will be deemed superseded by that prospectus supplement. Material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the stock purchase units and the stock purchase contracts will also be discussed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

General

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- to underwriters for resale to purchasers;
- directly to purchasers; or
- through agents or dealers to purchasers.

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out

23

Table of Contents

any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement with respect to each offering of securities will include:

- the terms of the offering;
- the names of any underwriters or agents;
- the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;
- the purchase price or initial public offering price of the securities;

- the net proceeds from the sale of the securities;
- any delayed delivery arrangements;
- any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any commissions paid to agents.

The offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus by us, underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

- at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices relating to such prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

Offerings of our equity securities pursuant to this prospectus may also be made into an existing trading market for such securities in transactions at other than a fixed price, either

- on or through the facilities of any national securities exchange or quotation service on which such securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale; or
- to or through a market maker otherwise than on such exchanges.

Such at-the-market offerings will be conducted by underwriters acting as our principal or agent, who may also be third-party sellers of securities as described above.

Sales through Underwriters or Dealers

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering.

24

Table of Contents

The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, which means that selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue these activities at any time.

Some or all of the securities that we offer through this prospectus may be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom we sell our securities for public offering and sale may make a market in those securities, but they will not be obligated to do so and they may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you of the liquidity of, or continued trading markets for, any securities that we offer.

In addition, we may sell some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus through:

- purchases by a dealer, as principal, who may then resell those securities to the public for its account at varying prices determined by the dealer at the time of resale;
- block trades in which a dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction; or
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers.

We will include in the applicable prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales through Agents

We may sell the securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents designated from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Remarketing Arrangements

Offered securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreements, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

General Information

We may have agreements with the agents, dealers, underwriters, remarketing firms and other third parties described above to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities

Table of Contents

under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute with respect to payments that the agents, dealers, underwriters, remarketing firms or such other third parties may be required to make. Agents, dealers, underwriters, remarketing firms and such other parties may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

LEGAL MATTERS

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP New York, New York and Bruce H. Beatt, Esq., our general counsel, represent us in connection with this registration statement. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York and Bruce H. Beatt. If the validity of any securities is also passed upon by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of those securities, that counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering. Mr. Beatt beneficially owns, or has rights to acquire under employee benefit plans, an aggregate of less than one percent of the common stock of The Stanley Works.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of The Stanley Works and subsidiaries appearing in The Stanley Works' Annual Report (Form 10K) for the year ended January 3, 2004, have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, as set forth in their report thereon included therein and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

26

Table of Contents

\$200,000,000

The Stanley Works

5.00% Notes due 2010

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

March 15, 2007

Joint Book-Running Managers

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

UBS Investment Bank



Banc of America Securities LLC

Citigroup

Morgan Stanley

Barclays Capital

BNP PARIBAS

HSBC

Merrill Lynch & Co.

