

NATUS MEDICAL INC
Form S-3
April 29, 2008
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2008

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

the Securities Act of 1933

NATUS MEDICAL INCORPORATED

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

1501 Industrial Road
San Carlos, CA 94070-4111

77-154833
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

(650) 802-0400
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

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James B. Hawkins

President and Chief Executive Officer

1501 Industrial Road

San Carlos, CA 94070-4111

(650) 802-0400

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Daniel J. Winnike, Esq.

Fenwick & West LLP

801 California Street

Mountain View, CA 94041

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instructions I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated Filer
 Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities	Amount to be registered	Proposed Maximum	Proposed Maximum	Amount of Registration Fee
to be Registered (1)	(1)(2)	Offering Price Per Unit	Aggregate Offering Price	(3)
(4)	(5)	(6)	Price	(7)
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value				
	(5)	(6)	\$ 150,000,000 (5)	\$ 5,895 (7)

- (1) There is being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of common stock of the Registrant as may be sold from time to time by the Registrant and as shall have an aggregate initial offering price under this registration statement not to exceed \$150 million.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 416(a), this registration statement also covers any additional securities that may be offered or issued in connection with any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction.
- (3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (4) Each share of common stock registered in this offering also includes one preferred stock purchase right pursuant to our Amended and Restated Preferred Stock Rights Agreement.
- (5) In no event will the aggregate offering price of the shares of common stock issued by the Registrant from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$150 million.
- (6) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per share will be determined from time to time by the Registrant in connection with the issuance by the Registrant of the shares of common stock registered hereunder.
- (7) The Registrant filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 2006 a registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-133480) (the Previous Registration Statement) pursuant to which the Registrant registered common stock to be offered by it in a primary offering for aggregate gross proceeds of up to \$100 million and paid a filing fee of \$10,700 with respect thereto. On August 23, 2006, the Registrant completed the offering of 2,645,000 shares of its common stock at \$11.63 per share pursuant to the Previous Registration Statement for aggregate gross proceeds of \$30,761,350. On April 9, 2008, the Registrant completed the offering of 885,500 shares of its common stock at \$18.27 per share pursuant to the Previous Registration Statement for aggregate gross proceeds of \$161,178,085. Accordingly, the Registrant has issued an aggregate of \$46,939,435 of common stock pursuant to the Previous Registration Statement and may now offer common stock for aggregate gross proceeds of up to \$53,060,565 under the Previous Registration Statement. Pursuant to Rule 457(p) of the Securities Act, the Registrant is offsetting \$5,677 of the registration fee with the unused portion of the registration fee previously paid in connection with the Previous Registration Statement.

The Registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The prospectus filed herewith is a combined prospectus pursuant to Rule 429 under the Securities Act, which relates to the shares registered hereby and the shares registered on the Previous Registration Statement (File No. 333-133480). Accordingly, upon effectiveness, this registration statement shall at as a post-effective amendment to the Previous Registration Statement.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities or accept an offer to buy these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any state where such offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED APRIL 28, 2008

PROSPECTUS

\$150,000,000

Common Stock

From time to time, we may sell the common stock in one or more offerings in amounts, at prices and on the terms that we will determine at the time of the offering, with an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$150,000,000.

You should read this prospectus, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol **BABY**. On April 25, 2008, the last reported sales price for our common stock was \$19.13 per share. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on the NASDAQ Global Market or any securities market or exchange of the common stock covered by the prospectus supplement.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMON STOCK INVOLVES RISKS. SEE RISK FACTORS BEGINNING ON PAGE 3.

The common stock may be sold by us to or through underwriters or dealers, directly to purchasers or through agents designated from time to time. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled **Plan of Distribution** in this prospectus. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any common stock with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable discounts or commissions and over-allotment options will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such common stock and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

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

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2008

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of the common stock to be sold under this prospectus in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of this prospectus or the prospectus supplement, or that the information contained in any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of a security.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell common stock in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$150,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the common stock we may offer. Each time we sell any common stock under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of the offering. We may also add, update or change in a prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, includes all material information relating to this offering. You should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under **Where You Can Find More Information** before buying securities in this offering.

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SUMMARY

The following summary does not contain all the information that may be important to you. You should read the entire prospectus, including the financial statements and other information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision.

Natus Medical Incorporated

Natus is a provider of healthcare products used for the screening, detection, treatment, monitoring and tracking of common medical ailments such as hearing impairment, neurological dysfunction, epilepsy, sleep disorders, and certain newborn conditions. We develop, manufacture, and market advanced neurodiagnostic and newborn care products to healthcare professionals in over 80 countries. Our product offerings include computerized neurodiagnostic systems for audiology, neurology, polysomnography, and neonatology, as well as newborn care products such as hearing screening systems, phototherapy devices for the treatment of newborn jaundice, head-cooling products for the treatment of brain injury in newborns, and software systems for managing and tracking disorders and diseases for public health laboratories.

We have completed a number of acquisitions since 2003, consisting of either the purchase of a company, substantially all of the assets of the company, or individual products or product lines. The businesses we have acquired include Neometrics in 2003, Fischer-Zoth in 2004, and Bio-logic, Deltamed, and Olympic in 2006. On November 29, 2007 we acquired Excel-Tech Ltd. (Xltek), based in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Xltek develops and markets computer-based electrodiagnostic systems and disposable supplies used by medical practitioners to aid in the detection, diagnosis, and monitoring of neurologic and sleep disorders.

We were incorporated in California in May 1987 and reincorporated in Delaware in August 2000. Our principal executive offices are located at 1501 Industrial Road, San Carlos, California 94070 and our telephone number is (650) 802-0400. We currently have approximately 438 employees worldwide. Our website address is <http://www.natus.com>. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Unless the context indicates otherwise, as used in this prospectus, the terms Natus, we, us and our refer to Natus Medical Incorporated, a Delaware corporation.

Natus®, *AABR®*, *ABaer®*, *ALGO®*, *AuDX®*, *Biliband®*, *Bio-logic®*, *Ceegrath®*, *CHAMP®*, *Cool-Cap®*, *Ear Couplers®*, *Flexicoupler®*, *MASTER®*, *Navigator®*, *neoBLUE®*, *Oxydome®*, *Sleepscan®*, *Smart Scale®*, *Traveler®*, *Warmette®* and *VAC-PAC®* are registered trademarks of Natus Medical Incorporated. *Accuscreen*, *Bili-Lite Pad*, *Bili-Lite*, *Billi-Bassinet*, *Bili-Mask*, *Bili-Meter*, *Circumstraint*, *EchoLink*, *MiniMuffs*, *Neometrics*, *Papoose Board*, *Smartpack* and *Warm-Lamp* are non-registered trademarks of Natus. *Solutions for Newborns* is a non-registered service mark of Natus. *Deltamed®* and *Coherence®* are registered trademarks of Deltamed SA. *Fischer-Zoth®*, *AOAE®*, *Cochlea-Scan®* and *Echo-Screen®* are registered trademarks of Fischer-Zoth GmbH. *Sleeprite®* is a registered trademark of Excel Tech Ltd. *Neuromax* and *Xltek* are non-registered trademarks of Excel Tech Ltd.

The Securities We May Offer

We may offer shares of our common stock with a total offering price of up to \$150 million from time to time under this prospectus, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the common stock we may offer. Each time we offer common stock, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amount, price and other important terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

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

We may sell the common stock directly or through underwriters, dealers or agents. We, and our underwriters, dealers or agents, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of common stock. If we do offer common stock through underwriters or agents, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of the those underwriters or agents;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

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details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

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the net proceeds to us.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share for the election of directors and on all matters that require stockholder approval. Subject to any preferential rights of any then outstanding preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in the assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preferences of any then outstanding preferred stock. Our common stock does not carry any preemptive rights enabling a holder to subscribe for, or receive shares of, any class of our common stock or any other securities convertible into shares of our common stock, or any redemption rights.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before deciding whether to invest in our common stock, you should read and carefully consider the following risk factors before making an investment decision. In addition, you should read and carefully consider the risk factors discussed in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement, as well as in any subsequent filings we make with the SEC. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flow could be harmed. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline, resulting in a loss of all or part of your investment.

We have completed a number of acquisitions and expect to complete additional acquisitions in the future. There are numerous risks associated with acquisitions and we may not achieve the expected benefit of any of our acquisitions

Our acquisitions of products, technology assets, or businesses may have a negative impact on our business if we fail to achieve the anticipated financial, strategic, and other benefits of acquisitions or investments, and our operating results may suffer because of this.

We acquired intellectual property assets and technology patents from Pemstar Pacific Consultants during 2002; we acquired the assets of Neometrics Inc. and affiliated entities during 2003; and we acquired Fischer-Zoth in 2004. We completed the acquisitions of Bio-logic, Deltamed and Olympic Medical, and of certain assets from Nascor in 2006. In November 2007 we completed the acquisition of Xltek.

We expect to continue to pursue opportunities to acquire other businesses in future periods. The acquisitions that we have completed may not result in improved operating results for us, or in our achieving a financial condition superior to that which we would have achieved had we not completed them. Our results of operations may be adversely impacted by costs associated with our acquisitions, including one-time charges associated with restructurings or in-process research and development assets. Our acquisitions could fail to produce the benefits that we anticipate, or could have other adverse effects that we currently do not foresee. In addition, some of the assumptions that we have relied upon, such as achievement of operating synergies, may not be realized. In this event, one or more of the acquisitions could result in reduced earnings of Natus as compared to the earnings that would have been achieved by Natus if the acquisition had not occurred.

If we fail to successfully manage the combined operations of Natus and the businesses we have acquired, we may not realize the potential benefits of the acquisition. Our corporate headquarters are located in San Carlos, California. Bio-logic's primary offices are located in Illinois, Olympic Medical's operations are in Washington, Xltek's operations are located in Ontario, Canada, Neometrics' operations are located in New York, Deltamed's operations are in France, and Fischer-Zoth's operations are in Germany. The geographical distance between our various facilities may further adversely affect our ability to manage these operations. If we fail to manage these disparate operations effectively, our results of operations could be harmed, employee morale could decline, key employees could leave, and customers could cancel existing orders or choose not to place new ones. In addition, we may not achieve the synergies or other benefits of the acquisition that we anticipate. We may encounter the following additional difficulties, costs, and delays involved in integrating and managing these operations, and the operations of companies we may acquire:

Failure of customers to continue using the products and services of the combined company;

Failure to successfully develop the acquired technology into the desired products or enhancements;

Assumption of unknown liabilities;

Failure to understand and compete effectively in markets and with products or technologies with which we have limited previous experience;

Impairment charges incurred to write down the carrying amount of intangible assets, including goodwill, generated as a result of the acquisition;

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Decreased liquidity, restrictive bank covenants, and incremental financing costs associated with debt we may incur to complete future acquisitions; and

Diversion of the attention of management from other ongoing business concerns.

Indicative of the types of risks associated with our acquisitions, on October 15, 2007 we received a warning letter from the United States Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) related to the operations of our Olympic Medical manufacturing facility in Seattle, Washington. The letter focused on process deficiencies that were identified during an FDA inspection in April 2007. In November 2007 we instituted a voluntary suspension of operations at the Olympic Medical

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facility in order to better enable us to continue to address the findings identified by the FDA in its warning letter. We responded to the FDA's warning letter in late November. We have not had further communication from the FDA since we responded to their warning letter. However, we do not know what the ultimate outcome of the FDA's action will be or that our business will not be adversely affected by these or similar actions. A more comprehensive discussion of the risks associated with FDA oversight of our business and our regulatory environment is contained in this Item 1A, *Risk Factors*.

In November 2007 we completed the acquisition of Xltek for cash and used substantially all of our available cash and entered into a credit facility to fund the acquisition

We used virtually all of our existing cash resources to complete the acquisition of Xltek, and also incurred indebtedness under a new bank facility for a portion of the purchase price. This usage of cash had an adverse impact on our liquidity and forces us to place more reliance on cash flow from operations for our liquidity. If our cash flow from operations is not sufficient for our needs, our business could be adversely affected. If we are required to seek additional external financing to support our need for cash, we may not have access to financing on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all. Alternatively, we may feel compelled to access additional financing on terms that are dilutive to existing holders of our common stock or that include covenants that restrict our business, or both.

The senior secured borrowing facility that we established to obtain a portion of the funds needed to complete the acquisition of Xltek contains various covenants that directly or indirectly restrict our ability to engage in activities that we may otherwise believe to be in the best interest of the Company. The loan is secured by the assets of the Company, and this security interest may also negatively impact our flexibility to engage in financing or other activities in future periods.

Our growth in recent years has depended substantially on the completion of acquisitions and we may not be able to complete acquisitions of this nature or of a relative size in the future to support a similar level of growth

The acquisitions that we have completed have been the primary source of our growth in revenue over the last four years. We expend considerable effort in seeking to identify attractive acquisition candidates and, upon doing so, to convince the potential target to consider a sale to us and, ultimately, to negotiate mutually agreeable acquisition terms. If we are not successful in these efforts in the future, our growth rate will not increase at a rate corresponding to that which we have achieved in recent years. Further, as we grow larger it will be necessary to complete the acquisition of larger companies and product lines to support a growth similar to that which we have achieved in the past. The market for attractive acquisitions is competitive and others with greater financial resources than we have may be better positioned than we are to acquire desirable targets. Further, we may not be able to negotiate acquisition terms with target companies that will allow us to achieve positive financial returns from the transaction.

Following our acquisitions we have implemented integration and restructuring activities that could be disruptive to our operations, and we could fail to achieve the synergies and cost savings the activities are designed to produce

Following our acquisition of Xltek we initiated an integration plan that resulted in a reduction in force and realignment of our domestic sales force. In addition, in February 2008, we adopted an integration and restructuring plan that is designed to eliminate redundant costs resulting from our acquisitions and to improve efficiencies in operations. This plan will be implemented over the first three quarters of 2008.

The realignment of our domestic sales organization could be disruptive to our sales efforts while this new structure is implemented, and once implemented may not be effective. In addition, our integration and restructuring activities may not result in the acquisition synergies or cost savings these activities are designed to produce and could, among other things, impair new products development and our support of existing products.

Future changes in technology or market conditions could result in adjustments to our recorded asset balance for intangible assets, including goodwill, resulting in additional charges that could significantly impact our operating results

At December 31, 2007, we had significant intangible assets, including goodwill and other acquired intangible assets. The determination of related estimated useful lives and whether these assets are impaired involves significant judgments. Our ability to accurately predict future cash flows related to these intangible assets might be hindered by events over which we have no control. Due to the highly competitive nature of the medical device industry, new technologies could impair the value of our intangible assets if they create market conditions that adversely affect the competitiveness of our products. Any future determination that these assets are carried at greater than their fair value could result in substantial impairment charges, which could significantly impact our operating results.

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Our acquisitions have included in-process research and development assets (IPR&D assets) for which we hope to generate future cash flows; our results of operations could be adversely affected if we are unable to bring these assets to market

Through our acquisitions of other businesses, we have acquired IPR&D assets from which we hope to generate future cash flows. There is inherent risk in bringing these IPR&D assets to market and we may be unable to realize the full value we have assigned to them. We may be unable to complete the development of these IPR&D assets within a timely manner, or we may encounter technological difficulties that prevent us from completing their development. If we are unable to derive future revenue from our IPR&D assets, our results of operations could be adversely impacted.

We may not be able to preserve the value of our intellectual property because we may not be able to protect access to it or we may lose our intellectual property rights due to expiration of our licenses or patents

If we fail to protect our intellectual property rights or if our intellectual property rights do not adequately cover the technology we employ, other medical device companies could sell products with features similar to ours, and this could reduce demand for our products. We protect our intellectual property through a combination of patent, copyright, trade secret and trademark laws. Despite our efforts to protect our proprietary rights, others may attempt to copy or otherwise improperly obtain and use our products or technology. Policing unauthorized use of our technology is difficult and expensive, and we cannot be certain that the steps we have taken will prevent misappropriation. Our means of protecting our proprietary rights may be inadequate. Enforcing our intellectual property rights could be costly and time consuming and may divert our management's attention and resources. Failing to enforce our intellectual property rights could also result in the loss of those rights.

If health care providers are not adequately reimbursed for procedures conducted with our devices or supplies, or if reimbursement policies change adversely, we may not be successful marketing and selling products or technologies

Clinicians, hospitals, and government agencies are unlikely to purchase our products if clinicians are not adequately reimbursed for the procedures conducted with our devices or supplies. Unless a sufficient amount of conclusive, peer-reviewed clinical data about our products has been published, third-party payors, including insurance companies and government agencies, may refuse to provide reimbursement. Furthermore, even if reimbursement is provided, it may not be adequate to fully compensate the clinicians or hospitals. Some third-party payors may impose restrictions on the procedures for which they will provide reimbursement. If health care providers cannot obtain sufficient reimbursement from third-party payors for our products or the screenings conducted with our products, we may not achieve significant market acceptance of our products. Acceptance of our products in international markets will depend upon the availability of adequate reimbursement or funding within prevailing health care payment systems. Reimbursement, funding, and health care payment systems vary significantly by country. We may not obtain approvals for reimbursement in a timely manner or at all.

Adverse changes in reimbursement policies in general could harm our business. We are unable to predict changes in the reimbursement methods used by third-party health care payors, particularly those in countries and regions outside the U.S. For example, some payors are moving toward a managed care system in which providers contract to provide comprehensive health care for a fixed cost per person. In a managed care system the cost of our products may not be incorporated into the overall payment for patient care or there may not be adequate reimbursement for our products separate from reimbursement for other procedures.

If we fail in our efforts to educate clinicians, government agency personnel, and third-party payors on the effectiveness of our products, we will not achieve future sales growth

It is critical to the success of our sales efforts that we educate a sufficient number of clinicians, hospital administrators, and government agencies about our products and the costs and benefits of their use. The commercial success of our products depends upon clinician, government agency and other third-party payor confidence in the economic and clinical benefits of our products as well as their comfort with the efficacy, reliability, sensitivity and specificity of our products. We believe that clinicians will not use our products unless they determine, based on published peer-reviewed journal articles and experience, that our products provide an accurate and cost-effective alternative to other means of testing or treatment. Our customers may choose to use competitive products, which may be less expensive or may provide faster results than our devices. Clinicians are traditionally slow to adopt new products, testing practices and clinical treatments, partly because of perceived liability risks and the uncertainty of third-party reimbursement. If clinicians, government agencies and hospital administrators do not adopt our products, we may not maintain profitability. Factors that may adversely affect the medical community's acceptance of our products include:

Publication of clinical study results that demonstrate a lack of efficacy or cost-effectiveness of our products;

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Changing governmental and physician group guidelines;

Actual or perceived performance, quality, price, and total cost of ownership deficiencies of our products relative to other competitive products;

Our ability to maintain and enhance our existing relationships and to form new relationships with leading physicians, physician organizations, hospitals, state laboratory personnel, and third-party payors;

Changes in state and third-party payor reimbursement policies for our products; and

Repeal of laws requiring universal newborn hearing screening and metabolic screening.

Increased sales through group purchasing organizations and sales to high volume purchasers may reduce our average selling prices, which would reduce our revenue and gross profits

We have entered, and expect in the future to enter into agreements with customers who purchase high volumes of our products. Our agreements with these customers may contain discounts from our normal selling prices and other special pricing considerations, which could cause our revenue and profits to decline. In addition, we have entered into agreements to sell our products to members of GPOs, which negotiate volume purchase prices for medical devices and supplies for member hospitals, group practices and other clinics. While we make sales directly to GPO members, the GPO members receive volume discounts from our normal selling price and may receive other special pricing considerations from us. Sales to members of all GPOs accounted for approximately 35%, 31% and 28% of our total revenue during 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively, and sales to members of one GPO, Novation LLC, accounted for approximately 9%, 12% and 15% of our total revenue in 2007, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Other of our existing customers may be members of GPOs with which we do not have agreements. Our sales efforts through GPOs may conflict with our direct sales efforts to our existing customers. If we enter into agreements with new GPOs and some of our existing customers begin purchasing our products through those GPOs, our revenue and profits could decline.

Demand for some of our products depends on the capital spending policies of our customers, and changes in these policies could harm our business

A majority of customers for our products are hospitals, physician offices, and clinics. Many factors, including public policy spending provisions, available resources, and economic cycles have a significant effect on the capital spending policies of these entities and therefore the amount that they can spend on our equipment products. If budget resources limit the capital spending of our customers, they will be unlikely to either purchase any new equipment from us or upgrade to any of our newer equipment products. These factors can have a significant adverse effect on the demand for our products.

Our markets are very competitive and in the United States we sell certain of our products in a mature market

We face competition from other companies in all of our product lines. Our competitors range from small, privately-held companies to multinational corporations and their product offerings vary in scope and breadth. We do not believe that any single competitor is dominant in any of our product lines.

The markets for certain of our products in the U.S., including the newborn hearing screening and EEG monitoring markets, are mature and we are unlikely to see significant growth for such products in the U.S. In the U.S. we derive a significant portion of our revenue from the sale of disposable supplies that are used with our hearing screening devices. Because these disposable supply products can generate high margins, we expect that our products, particularly our hearing screening disposable supply products, could face increasing competition, including competitors offering lower prices, which could have an adverse affect on our revenue and margins.

We believe that our primary competitive strengths relate to the functionality and reliability of our products, our recognized brands, and our developed sales channels. Our competitors may have certain competitive advantages, which include the ability to devote greater resources to the development, promotion, and sale of their products. Consequently, we may need to increase our efforts, and related expenses for research and development, marketing, and selling to maintain or improve our position.

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We expect recurring sales to our existing customers to generate a majority of our revenue in the future, and if our existing customers do not continue to purchase products from us, our revenue may decline.

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Our operating results may decline if we do not succeed in developing, acquiring and marketing additional products or improving our existing products

We intend to develop additional products and technologies, including enhancements of existing products, for the screening, detection, treatment, monitoring and tracking of common medical ailments. Developing new products, and improving our existing products, to meet the needs of current and future customers requires significant investments in research and development. If we fail to successfully sell new products, update our existing products, or timely react to changes in technology, our operating results may decline as our existing products reach the end of their commercial life cycles.

Our plan to expand our international operations will result in increased costs and is subject to numerous risks; if our efforts are not successful, this could harm our business

We have expanded our international operations through acquisitions and plan to expand our international sales and marketing efforts to increase sales of our products in foreign countries. We may not realize corresponding growth in revenue from growth in international unit sales, due to the lower average selling prices we receive on sales outside of the U.S. Even if we are able to successfully expand our international selling efforts, we cannot be certain that we will be able to create or increase demand for our products outside of the U.S. Our international operations are subject to other risks, which include:

Impact of possible recessions in economies outside the U.S.;

Political and economic instability, including instability related to war and terrorist attacks in the U.S. and abroad;

Contractual provisions governed by foreign law, such as local law rights to sales commissions by terminated distributors;

Decreased health care spending by foreign governments that would reduce international demand for our products;

A strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies that could make our products less competitive because most of our international sales are denominated in the U.S. dollar;

Greater difficulty in accounts receivable collection and longer collection periods;

Difficulties of staffing and managing foreign operations;

Reduced protection for intellectual property rights in some countries and potentially conflicting intellectual property rights of third parties under the laws of various foreign jurisdictions;

Difficulty in obtaining and maintaining foreign regulatory approval; and

Attitudes by clinicians, and cost reimbursement policies, towards use of disposable supplies that are potentially unfavorable to our business.

If guidelines mandating universal newborn hearing screening do not continue to develop in foreign countries and governments do not mandate testing of all newborns as we anticipate, or if those guidelines have a long phase-in period, our revenue may be adversely

impacted

We estimate that approximately 95% of the children born in the U.S. are currently being tested for hearing impairment prior to discharge from the hospital. To date, there has been only limited adoption of newborn hearing screening prior to hospital discharge by foreign governments, and the phase-in period generally spans several years. The widespread adoption of guidelines depends, in part, on our ability to educate foreign government agencies, neonatologists, pediatricians, third-party payors, and hospital administrators about the benefits of universal newborn hearing screening as well as the use of our products to perform the screening and monitoring. Our revenue from our newborn hearing screening product lines may not grow if foreign governments do not require universal newborn hearing screening prior to hospital discharge, if physicians or hospitals are slow to comply with those guidelines, or if governments provide for a lengthy phase-in period for compliance.

Because we rely on distributors or sub-distributors to sell our products in most of our markets outside of the U.S., our revenue could decline if our existing distributors reduce the volume of purchases from us, or if our relationship with any of these distributors is terminated

We currently rely on our distributors or sub-distributors for a majority of our sales outside the U.S. Our reliance on international distributors has increased because of our decisions in 2004 and 2005 to close our Japanese and U.K. sales subsidiaries and sell through distributors in those countries, and because of our acquisition of Fischer-Zoth, which sells its products through distributors in Europe and Asia. We may also sell Deltamed products through distributors in countries outside of France and Germany. Some distributors also assist us with regulatory approvals and education of clinicians and

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government agencies. We intend to continue our efforts to increase our sales in Europe, Japan, and other developed countries. If we fail to sell our products through our international distributors, we would experience a decline in revenues unless we begin to sell our products directly in those markets. We cannot be certain that we will be able to attract new international distributors to market our products effectively or provide timely and cost-effective customer support and service. Even if we are successful in selling our products through new distributors, the rate of growth of our revenue could be harmed if our existing distributors do not continue to sell a large dollar volume of our products. None of our existing distributors are obligated to continue selling our products.

We may be subject to foreign laws governing our relationships with our international distributors. These laws may require us to make payments to our distributors if we terminate our relationship for any reason, including for cause. Some countries require termination payments under local law or legislation that may supersede our contractual relationship with the distributor. Any required payments would adversely affect our operating results.

Our operating results may suffer because of our exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations and may require us to engage in foreign currency hedging

Substantially all of our sales contracts with our U.S. based customers provide for payment in U.S. dollars. In addition, sales to most of our international distributors provide for payment in U.S. dollars. However, substantially all of the revenue and expenses of our foreign subsidiaries are denominated in the applicable foreign currency. To date we have not undertaken any significant foreign currency transactions to hedge these currency risks and, as a result, our future revenue and expenses may be subject to volatility due to exchange rate fluctuations that could result in foreign exchange gains and losses associated with foreign currency transactions and the translation of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies.

If we lose our relationship with any supplier of key product components or our relationship with a supplier deteriorates or key components are not available in sufficient quantities, our manufacturing could be delayed and our business could suffer

We contract with third parties for the supply of some of the components used in our products and the production of our disposable products. Some of our suppliers are not obligated to continue to supply us. We have relatively few sources of supply for some of the components used in our products and in some cases we rely entirely on sole-source suppliers. In addition, the lead-time involved in the manufacturing of some of these components can be lengthy and unpredictable. For example, during 2005, we relied on a single supplier of cables used in our ALGO hearing screening devices to help us complete a field replacement program of those cables. If our suppliers become unwilling or unable to supply us with components meeting our requirements, it might be difficult to establish additional or replacement suppliers in a timely manner, or at all. This would cause our product sales to be disrupted and our revenue and operating results to suffer.

Replacement or alternative sources might not be readily obtainable due to regulatory requirements and other factors applicable to our manufacturing operations. Incorporation of components from a new supplier into our products may require a new or supplemental filing with applicable regulatory authorities and clearance or approval of the filing before we could resume product sales. This process may take a substantial period of time, and we may not be able to obtain the necessary regulatory clearance or approval. This could create supply disruptions that would harm our product sales and operating results.

We depend upon key employees in a competitive market for skilled personnel, and, without additional employees, we cannot grow or maintain profitability

Our products and technologies are complex, and we depend substantially on the continued service of our senior management team. The loss of any of our key employees could adversely affect our business and slow our product development process. Our future success also will depend, in part, on the continued service of our key management personnel, software engineers, and other research and development employees and our ability to identify, hire, and retain additional personnel, including customer service, marketing, and sales staff. Hiring research and development, engineering, sales, marketing and customer service personnel in our industry is very competitive due to the limited number of people available with the necessary technical skills and understanding of our product technologies. We may be unable to attract and retain personnel necessary for the development of our business.

Our ability to market and sell products depends upon receipt of domestic and foreign regulatory approval of our products and manufacturing operations. Our failure to obtain or maintain regulatory approvals and compliance could negatively affect our business

Our products and manufacturing operations are subject to extensive regulation in the United States by the FDA and by similar regulatory agencies in many other countries in which we do business. Unless an exemption applies, each medical device that we propose to market in the U.S. must first receive one of the following types of FDA premarket review authorizations:

Clearance via Section 510(k) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act of 1938, as amended; or

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Premarket approval via Section 515 of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act if the FDA has determined that the medical device in question poses a greater risk of injury.

The FDA's Section 510(k) clearance process usually takes from three to 12 months, but can take longer. The process of obtaining premarket approval via Section 515 is much more costly, lengthy and uncertain. Premarket approval generally takes from one to three years, but can take even longer. The FDA may not grant either Section 510(k) clearance or premarket approval for any product we propose to market. The FDA may impose the more burdensome premarket approval requirement on modifications to our existing products or future products, which in either case could be costly and cause us to divert our attention and resources from the development of new products or the enhancement of existing products.

Domestic regulation of our products and manufacturing operations, other than that which is administered by the FDA, includes the Environmental Protection Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and state and local counterparts to these Acts.

Our business would be harmed if the FDA determines that we have failed to comply with applicable regulations or we do not pass an inspection

We are subject to market surveillance by the FDA concerning compliance with pertinent regulatory requirements. If the FDA finds that we have failed to comply with these requirements, the Agency can institute a wide variety of enforcement actions, ranging from a public warning letter to more severe sanctions such as:

Fines, injunctions and civil penalties;

Recall or seizure of our products;

Issuance of public notices or warnings;

Imposition of operating restrictions, partial suspension, or total shutdown of production;

Refusal of our requests for Section 510(k) clearance or premarket approval of new products;

Withdrawal of Section 510(k) clearance or premarket approvals already granted; or

Criminal prosecution.

Our facilities are subject to inspection by the FDA. Upon completing these inspections, the FDA may take a variety of actions, including issuing observations on Form FDA-483 or issuing a warning letter. The issuance of a warning letter by the FDA could result in regulatory action being initiated by the FDA without further notice, and these actions could include seizure, injunction, and/or civil money penalties. In the past, we have cooperated fully with the FDA in their inspections and have responded to their observations on Form 483 in the ordinary course of business, and to the warning letter received in October 2007. To date, these inspections and observations have not resulted in a significant adverse impact on the operations of the Company; however, they could have a significant adverse impact in the future.

We have received clearance from the FDA to market a new product that will potentially expose us to greater products liability exposure and FDA regulation

In December 2006 we received clearance from the FDA to market the Olympic Cool-Cap, a product designed to lower the cerebral temperature of newborns born with a particular medical condition. This product is a Class III minimally invasive medical device, and as such we may be subject to an increased product liability risk relative to our other Class I and Class II non-invasive products. In addition, this type of product is subject to greater FDA oversight than our other products and there is greater risk that sales of the product could be interrupted due to the

premarket approval processes of the FDA and other regulatory bodies.

Our business may suffer if we are required to revise our labeling or promotional materials, or the FDA takes an enforcement action against us for off-label uses

We are prohibited by the FDA from promoting or advertising our medical device products for uses not within the scope of our clearances or approvals, or from making unsupported promotional claims about the benefits of our products. If the FDA determines that our claims are outside the scope of our clearances, or are unsupported, it could require us to revise our promotional claims or take enforcement action against us. If we were subject to such an action by the FDA, our sales could

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be delayed, our revenue could decline, and our reputation among clinicians could be harmed. Likewise, if we acquire new products, either through the purchase of products, technology assets, or businesses, that are subsequently deemed to have inadequate supporting data, then we may be required to: (i) obtain adequate data, which could be costly and impede our ability to market these products, or (ii) modify the labeling on these products, which could impair their marketability, as described above.

If we, or our suppliers, fail to comply with applicable regulations, sales of our products could be delayed and our revenue could be harmed

Every manufacturer of a finished medical device, including Natus and some of our contract manufacturers and suppliers, is required to demonstrate and maintain compliance with the FDA's quality system regulation and comparable regulations of states and other countries. The FDA enforces the quality system regulation through periodic inspections. For example in October 2007 we received a warning letter from the FDA that focused on process deficiencies at our Olympic facility in Seattle, Washington. As a result, we initiated a voluntary plant shutdown of the Olympic facility for the month of November 2007. After reviewing processes at the facility, we responded to the FDA's warning letter in late November 2007. To date, the FDA has not further communicated with us concerning this matter, but they could decide that we undertook insufficient remedial actions, which could have an adverse impact on the operations of the Company.

If we or our contract manufacturers fail to take adequate corrective action in a timely fashion in response to a quality system regulation inspection, the FDA could shut down our or our contract manufacturers' manufacturing operations or require us, among other things, to recall our products, either of which would harm our business.

Our operating results would suffer if we were subject to a protracted infringement claim

The medical technology industry has, in the past, been characterized by a substantial amount of litigation and related administrative proceedings regarding patents and intellectual property rights. We expect that medical screening and diagnostic products may become increasingly subject to third-party infringement claims as the number of competitors in our industry segment grows and the functionality of products in different industry segments overlap. Third parties such as individuals, educational institutions or other medical device companies may claim that we infringe their intellectual property rights. Any claims, with or without merit, could have any of the following negative consequences:

Result in costly litigation and damage awards;

Divert our management's attention and resources;

Cause product shipment delays or suspensions; or

Require us to seek to enter into royalty or licensing agreements.

A successful claim of infringement against us could result in a substantial damage award and materially harm our financial condition. Our failure or inability to license the infringed or similar technology, or design and build non-infringing products, could prevent us from selling our products and adversely affect our business and financial results.

We license intellectual property rights from third parties and would be adversely affected if our licensors do not appropriately defend their proprietary rights or if we breach any of the agreements under which we license commercialization rights to products or technology from others

We license rights from third parties for products and technology that are important to our business. If our licensors are unsuccessful in asserting and defending their proprietary rights, including patent rights and trade secrets, we may lose the competitive advantages we have through selling products that we license from third parties. Additionally, if it is found that our licensors infringe on the proprietary rights of others, we may be prohibited from marketing our existing products that incorporate those proprietary rights. Under our licenses, we are subject to commercialization and development, sublicensing, royalty, insurance and other obligations. If we fail to comply with any of these requirements, or otherwise breach a license agreement, the licensor may have the right to terminate the license in whole or to terminate the exclusive nature of the license.

Product liability suits against us could result in expensive and time consuming litigation, payment of substantial damages, and an increase in our insurance rates

The sale and use of our products could lead to the filing of a product liability claim by someone claiming to have been injured using one of our products or claiming that one of our products failed to perform properly. A product liability claim could result in substantial damages and be costly and time consuming to defend, either of which could materially harm our

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business reputation or financial condition. Our product liability insurance may not protect our assets from the financial impact of defending a product liability claim. Any product liability claim brought against us, with or without merit, could increase our product liability insurance rates or prevent us from securing any coverage in the future.

We have experienced seasonality in the sale of our products

We experience seasonality in our revenue. For example, our sales typically decline from our fourth fiscal quarter to our first fiscal quarter, due to patterns in the capital budgeting and purchasing cycles of our current and prospective customers, many of which are government agencies. We may also experience declining sales in the third fiscal quarter due to summer holiday and vacation schedules. We anticipate that we will continue to experience these seasonal fluctuations, which may lead to fluctuations in our quarterly operating results. We believe that you should not rely on our results of operations for interim periods as an indication of our expected results in any future period.

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, regarding, among other things, our expectations, beliefs, plans, intentions, future operations, financial condition and prospectus, and business strategies. The words *may*, *will*, *continue*, *estimate*, *project*, *intend*, *believe*, *expect*, *anticipate*, and other similar expressions generally identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the following: the effectiveness and advantages of our products, factors relating to demand for and economic advantages of our products, our plan to develop and acquire additional technologies, products or businesses, our expectations regarding growth in international sales, our marketing, technology enhancement and product development strategies, our intention to enter into agreements with group purchasing organizations, our intention to seek strategic partners, our belief that we bring products to market efficiently, development of technologies into successful products, our estimate of the length of time for patents to issue, identity of our competition and factors for competition, our compliance with regulatory requirements and laws, and our plan to seek approval to sell our products in additional countries.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results predicted in the forward-looking statements as well as our future financial condition and results of operations to differ materially from our historical results or currently anticipated results. Investors should carefully review the information incorporated by reference under the caption *Risk Factors* in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and in our other filings with the SEC.

Although our forward-looking statements reflect good faith beliefs of our management, these statements are based only on facts and circumstances currently known to us. As a result, we cannot guarantee future results, events, levels of activity, performance or achievement as expressed in or implied by our forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by law.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any prospectus supplement, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of common stock under this prospectus for general corporate purposes including potential acquisitions of, or investments in, companies and technologies that complement our business, capital expenditures and additions to our working capital and the repayment of any outstanding balance under our Amended and Restated Credit Facility with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. Pending these uses, we expect to invest the net proceeds in accordance with our investment policy. Our investment policy permits us to invest funds in:

corporate securities, including commercial paper, rated A1, P1 or better, and corporate debt instruments, including medium term notes and floating rate notes issued by foreign and domestic corporations, that pay in U.S. dollars and carry a rating of A or better;

bank certificates of deposit and banker's acceptances that are rated at least A1 or P1;

U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds and U.S. AAA-rated agency securities that carry the direct or implied guarantee of the U.S. government, including notes, discount notes, medium term notes and floating rate notes;

asset-backed securities rated A or better;

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repurchase agreements with major banks and dealers that are recognized as primary dealers by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York;

money market mutual funds that offer daily purchase and redemption; and

tax exempt/tax advantage investments in money market funds, variable rate demand notes, municipal notes or bonds and auction preferred municipal and corporate securities.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the common stock covered by this prospectus in any of three ways (or in any combination): (i) to or through underwriters or dealers; (ii) directly to a limited number of purchasers or to a single purchaser; or (iii) through agents.

A prospectus supplement will set forth the specific terms of the offering of the common stock covered by this prospectus, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any underwriting discounts or commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

the initial public offering price of the common stock and the proceeds to us and any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges or markets on which the common stock may be listed.

Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Underwriters may offer and sell the common stock 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. If underwriters are used in the sale of any common stock, the common stock will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions described above. The common stock may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the common stock will be subject to certain conditions precedent. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the common stock they have committed to purchase if they purchase any of the common stock. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in a prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter.

We may sell common stock through agents from time to time. A prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the common stock and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Any dealers or agents that are involved in selling the common stock may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by such dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the shares purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the common stock from us at a public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed deli