

PREFORMED LINE PRODUCTS CO

Form 10-K

March 15, 2013

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

**Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

Commission file number 0-31164

Preformed Line Products Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or Other Jurisdiction of)

34-0676895
(I.R.S. Employer)

Edgar Filing: PREFORMED LINE PRODUCTS CO - Form 10-K

Incorporation or Organization)

Identification No.)

660 Beta Drive

Mayfield Village, Ohio
(Address of Principal Executive Office)

44143
(Zip Code)

(440) 461-5200

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Shares, \$2 par value per share	NASDAQ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☒

Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller Reporting Company ☐

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

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2012 was \$130,022,196 based on the closing price of such common shares, as reported on the NASDAQ National Market System. As of March 8, 2013, there were 5,376,254 common shares of the Company (\$2 par value) outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Definitive Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 7, 2013 are incorporated by reference into Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Part I.</u>	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	4
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	12
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	14
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	15
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	16
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	16
<u>Item 4A. Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>	16
<u>Part II.</u>	
<u>Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	17
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	19
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	20
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	35
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	36
<u>Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	67
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	67
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	70
<u>Part III.</u>	
<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	70
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	70
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	70
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships, Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	70
<u>Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	70
<u>Part IV.</u>	
<u>Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	71
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	73
<u>Schedule II. Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	74

Table of Contents

Forward-Looking Statements

This Form 10-K and other documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) contain forward-looking statements regarding Preformed Line Products Company's (the Company) and management's beliefs and expectations. As a general matter, forward-looking statements are those focused upon future plans, objectives or performance (as opposed to historical items) and include statements of anticipated events or trends and expectations and beliefs relating to matters not historical in nature. Such forward-looking statements are subject to uncertainties and factors relating to the Company's operations and business environment, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond the Company's control. Such uncertainties and factors could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those matters expressed in or implied by such forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could affect the Company's future performance and cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements made in this report:

The overall demand for cable anchoring and control hardware for electrical transmission and distribution lines on a worldwide basis, which has a slow growth rate in mature markets such as the United States (U.S.), Canada, and Western Europe and may not grow as expected in developing regions;

The ability of our customers to raise funds needed to build the facilities their customers require;

Technological developments that affect longer-term trends for communication lines such as wireless communication;

The decreasing demands for product supporting copper-based infrastructure due to the introduction of products using new technologies or adoption of new industry standards;

The Company's success at continuing to develop proprietary technology and maintaining high quality products and customer service to meet or exceed new industry performance standards and individual customer expectations;

The Company's success in strengthening and retaining relationships with the Company's customers, growing sales at targeted accounts and expanding geographically;

The extent to which the Company is successful in expanding the Company's product line or production facilities into new areas;

The Company's ability to identify, obtain funding for, complete and integrate acquisitions for profitable growth;

The potential impact of consolidation, deregulation and bankruptcy among the Company's suppliers, competitors and customers;

The relative degree of competitive and customer price pressure on the Company's products;

The cost, availability and quality of raw materials required for the manufacture of products;

Edgar Filing: PREFORMED LINE PRODUCTS CO - Form 10-K

The effects of fluctuation in currency exchange rates upon the Company's reported results from international operations, together with non-currency risks of investing in and conducting significant operations in foreign countries, including those relating to political, social, economic and regulatory factors;

Table of Contents

Changes in significant government regulations affecting environmental compliances;

The telecommunication market's continued deployment of Fiber-to-the-Premises;

The potential impact of the global economic condition and the depressed U.S. housing market on the Company's ongoing profitability and future growth opportunities in our core markets in the U.S. and other foreign countries where the financial situation is expected to be similar going forward;

The continued support by federal, state, local and foreign governments in incentive programs for upgrading electric transmission lines and promoting renewable energy deployment; and

Those factors described under the heading "Risk Factors" on page 12.

Part I

Item 1. Business

Background

Preformed Line Products Company and its subsidiaries (the "Company") is an international designer and manufacturer of products and systems employed in the construction and maintenance of overhead and underground networks for the energy, telecommunication, cable operators, information (data communication) and other similar industries. The Company's primary products support, protect, connect, terminate and secure cables and wires. The Company also provides solar hardware systems and mounting hardware for a variety of solar power applications. The Company's goal is to continue to achieve profitable growth as a leader in the innovation, development, manufacture and marketing of technically advanced products and services related to energy, communications and cable systems and to take advantage of this leadership position to sell additional quality products in familiar markets.

The Company serves a worldwide market through strategically located domestic and international manufacturing facilities. Each of the Company's domestic and international manufacturing facilities have obtained an International Organization of Standardization ("ISO") 9001:2008 Certified Management System, with the exception of Direct Power and Water Corporation (DPW), which was acquired during 2007. The ISO 9001:2008 certified management system is a globally recognized quality standard for manufacturing and assists the Company in marketing its products throughout the world. The Company's customers include public and private energy utilities and communication companies, cable operators, financial institutions, governmental agencies, contractors and subcontractors, distributors and value-added resellers. The Company is not dependent on a single customer or a few customers. No single customer accounts for more than ten percent of the Company's consolidated revenues.

The Company's products include:

Formed Wire and Related Hardware Products

Protective Closures

Data Communication Cabinets

Plastic Products

Other Products

Formed Wire Products and Related Hardware Products are used in the energy, communications, cable and special industries (i.e., metal building, tower and antenna industries, the agriculture and arborist industries, and marine systems industry) to support, protect, terminate and secure both power conductor and communication cables and to control cable dynamics (e.g., vibration). Formed wire products are based on the principle of forming a variety of stiff wire materials into a helical (spiral) shape. Advantages of using the Company's helical formed wire products are that they are economical, dependable and easy to use. The Company introduced formed wire products to the power industry over 60 years ago and such products enjoy an almost universal acceptance in the Company's markets. Related hardware products include hardware for supporting and protecting transmission conductors, spacers, spacer-dampers, stockbridge dampers, corona suppression devices and various compression fittings for dead-end applications. Formed wire and related hardware products are approximately 69% of the Company's revenues in 2012, 67% in 2011 and 65% in 2010.

Table of Contents

Protective Closures, including splice cases, are used to protect fixed line communication networks, such as copper cable or fiber optic cable, from moisture, environmental hazards and other potential contaminants. Protective closures are approximately 16% of the Company's revenues in 2012, 16% in 2011 and 17% in 2010.

Data Communication Cabinets are products used in high-speed data systems to hold and protect electronic equipment. Data communication cabinets are approximately 3% of the Company's revenues in 2012, 3% in 2011 and 4% in 2010.

Plastic Products, including guy markers, tree guards, fiber optic cable markers and pedestal markers, are used in energy, communications, cable television and special industries to identify power conductors, communication cables and guy wires. Plastic products are approximately 4% of the Company's revenues in 2012 and 3% of the Company's revenues in 2011 and 2010.

Other Products include hardware assemblies, pole line hardware, resale products, underground connectors, solar hardware systems and urethane products. They are used by energy, renewable energy, communications, cable and special industries for various applications and are defined as products that complement the Company's core line offerings. Other products are approximately 8% of the Company's revenues in 2012 and 11% of the Company's revenues in 2011 and 2010.

Corporate History

The Company was incorporated in Ohio in 1947 to manufacture and sell helically shaped armor rods which are sets of stiff helically shaped wires applied on an electrical conductor at the point where they are suspended or held. Thomas F. Peterson, the Company's founder, developed and patented a unique method to manufacture and apply these armor rods to protect electrical conductors on overhead power lines. Over a period of years, Mr. Peterson and the Company developed, tested, patented, manufactured and marketed a variety of helically shaped products for use by the electrical and telephone industries. Although all of Mr. Peterson's patents have now expired, those patents served as the nucleus for licensing the Company's formed wire products abroad.

The success of the Company's formed wire products in the U.S. led to expansion abroad. The first international license agreement was established in the mid-1950s in Canada. In the late 1950s the Company's products were being sold through joint ventures and licensees in Canada, England, Germany, Spain and Australia. Additionally, the Company began export operations and promoted products into other selected offshore markets. The Company continued its expansion program, bought out most of the original licensees, and, by the mid-1990s, had complete ownership of operations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa and Spain and held a minority interest in two joint ventures in Japan. The Company's international subsidiaries have the necessary infrastructure (i.e. manufacturing, engineering, marketing and general management) to support local business activities. Each is staffed with local personnel to ensure that the Company is well versed in local business practices, cultural constraints, technical requirements and the intricacies of local client relationships.

In 1968, the Company expanded into the underground telecommunications field by its acquisition of the Smith Company located in California. The Smith Company had a patented line of buried closures and pressurized splice cases. These closures and splice cases protect copper cable openings from environmental damage and degradation. The Company continued to build on expertise acquired through the acquisition of the Smith Company and in 1995 introduced the highly successful COYOTE® Closure line of products. Since 1995 fourteen domestic and three international patents have been granted to the Company on the COYOTE Closure. None of the COYOTE Closure patents have expired. The earliest COYOTE Closure patent was filed April 1995 and will not expire until April 2015.

Table of Contents

In 2007, the Company acquired the shares of DPW, located in New Mexico, U.S. This acquisition broadened the Company's product lines and manufactures mounting hardware for a variety of solar power applications and provides designs and installations of solar power systems.

In 2007, the Company acquired 83.74% of Belos SA (Belos), located in Bielsko-Biala, Poland. Belos is a manufacturer and supplier of fittings for various voltage power networks. This acquisition complements the Company's existing line of energy products. From 2008 to 2010, the Company acquired the remaining outstanding shares of Belos.

In 2008, the Company divested its data communication business, Superior Modular Products.

In 2008, the Company formed a joint venture between the Company's Australian subsidiary, Preformed Line Products Australia Pty Ltd (PLP-AU) and BlueSky Energy Pty Ltd, a solar systems integration and installation business based in Sydney, Australia. PLP-AU held a 50% ownership interest in the joint venture company, which operates under the name BlueSky Energy Australia (BlueSky), with the option to acquire the remaining 50% ownership interest from BlueSky Energy Pty Ltd over the next five years. In 2011, the Company acquired the additional 50% ownership interest from BlueSky Energy Pty Ltd.

In 2009, the Company acquired a 33.3% investment in Proxisafe Ltd. Proxisafe is a Canadian developmental company formed to design and commercialize new industrial safety equipment located in Calgary, Alberta. As of December 31, 2012, the Company owned 32.57% in Proxisafe.

In 2009, the Company acquired the Dulmison business from Tyco Electronics Group S.A. (Tyco Electronics), which included both the acquisition of equity of certain Tyco Electronics entities and the acquisition of assets from other Tyco Electronics entities. Dulmison was a leader in the supply and manufacturer of electrical transmission and distribution products. Dulmison designed, manufactured and marketed pole line hardware and vibration control products for the global electrical utility industry. Dulmison had operations in Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and the United States. The Dulmison business has been fully integrated into the Company's core businesses.

In 2010, the Company acquired Electropar Limited (Electropar), a New Zealand corporation. Electropar designs, manufactures and markets pole line and substation hardware for the global electrical utility industry. Electropar is based in New Zealand with a subsidiary operation in Australia. The acquisition has strengthened and is expected to continue to strengthen the Company's position in the power distribution, transmission and substation hardware markets and expands the Company's presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

In January 2012, the Company acquired Australian Electricity Systems Pty Ltd. (AES), an Australian company. AES designs, manufactures and markets hardware for the electrical utility industry. The acquisition has strengthened and is expected to continue to strengthen the Company's position in the power distribution, transmission and substation hardware markets and will expand the Company's presence in the Asia-Pacific region. For accounting purposes, the acquisition was an immaterial business combination.

The Company's World headquarters is located at 660 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143.

Business

The demand for the Company's products comes primarily from new, maintenance and repair construction for the energy (including solar), telecommunication, data communication and special industries. The Company's customers use many of the Company's products, including formed wire products, to revitalize the aging outside plant infrastructure. Many of the Company's products are used on a proactive basis by the Company's customers to reduce and prevent lost revenue. A single malfunctioning line could cause the loss of thousands of dollars per hour for a power or communication customer. A malfunctioning fiber cable could also result in substantial revenue loss. Repair construction by the Company's customers generally occurs in the case of emergencies or natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, floods or ice storms. Under these circumstances, the Company provides the repair products to customers as quickly as possible.

Table of Contents

The Company has adapted the formed wire products helical technology for use in a wide variety of fiber optic cable applications that have special requirements. The Company's formed wire products are uniquely qualified for these applications due to the gentle gripping over a greater length of the fiber cable. This is an advantage over traditional pole line hardware clamps that compress the cable to the point of possible fatigue and optical signal deterioration.

The Company's protective closures and splice cases are used to protect cable from moisture, environmental hazards and other potential contaminants. The Company's splice cases are easily re-enterable closures that allow utility maintenance workers access to the cables located inside the closure to repair or add communications services. Over the years, the Company has made many significant improvements in the splice case that have greatly increased its versatility and application in the market place. The Company also designs and markets custom splice cases to satisfy specific customer requirements. This has allowed the Company to remain a strong partner with several primary customers and has earned the Company the reputation as a responsive and reliable supplier.

Fiber optic cable was first deployed in the outside plant environment in the early 1980s. Through fiber optic technologies, a much greater amount of both voice and data communication can be transmitted reliably. In addition, this technology solved the cable congestion problem that the large count copper cable was causing in underground, buried and aerial applications. The Company developed and adapted copper closures for use in the emerging fiber optic world. In the late 1980s, the Company developed a series of splice cases designed specifically for fiber application. In the mid-1990s, the Company developed its plastic COYOTE Closure, and has since expanded the product line to address Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) applications. The COYOTE Closure is an example of the Company developing a new line of proprietary products to meet the changing needs of its customers.

The Company also designs and manufactures data communication cabinets and enclosures for data communication networks, offering a comprehensive line of copper and fiber optic cross-connect systems. The product line enables reliable, high-speed transmission of data over customers' local area networks.

With the acquisition of DPW in 2007, the Company expanded into the renewable energy sector. DPW provides a comprehensive line of mounting hardware for a variety of solar power applications including residential roof mounting, commercial roofing systems, top of pole mounting and customized solutions. DPW also provides design and installation services for residential and commercial solar power systems primarily in the western U.S.

Markets

The Company markets its products to the energy, telecommunication, cable, data communication and special industries. While rapid changes in technology have blurred the distinctions between telephone, cable, and data communication, the energy industry is clearly distinct. The Company's role in the energy industry is to supply formed wire products and related hardware used with the electrical conductors, cables and wires that transfer power from the generating facility to the ultimate user of that power. Formed wire products are used to support, protect, terminate and secure both power conductor and communication cables and to control cable dynamics.

Electric Utilities Transmission. The electric transmission grid is the interconnected network of high voltage aluminum conductors used to transport large blocks of electric power from generating facilities to distribution networks. Currently, there are three major power grids in the U.S.: the Eastern Interconnect, the Western Interconnect and the Texas Interconnect. Virtually all electrical energy utilities are connected with at least one other utility by one of these major grids. The Company believes that the transmission grid has been neglected throughout much of the U.S. for more than two decades. Additionally, because of deregulation, some electric utilities have turned this responsibility over to Independent System Operators (ISOs), who have also been slow to add transmission lines. With demand for power now exceeding supply in some areas, the need for the movement of bulk power from the energy-rich areas to the energy-deficient areas means that new transmission lines will likely be built and many existing lines will likely be refurbished. In addition, passage of the economic stimulus bill in early 2009 that contains provisions for upgrading the aging transmission infrastructure and connecting renewable energy sources to the grid should attract new investment to fund new infrastructure projects in the industry. The Company believes that this will generate growth for the Company's products in this market over at least the next several years. In addition, increased construction of international transmission grids is occurring in many regions of the world. However, consolidations in the markets that the Company services may also have an adverse impact on the Company's revenues.

Table of Contents

Electric Utilities Distribution. The distribution market includes those utilities that distribute power from a substation where voltage is reduced to levels appropriate for the consumer. Unlike the transmission market, distribution is still handled primarily by local electric utilities. These utilities are motivated to reduce cost in order to maintain and enhance their profitability. The Company believes that its growth in the distribution market will be achieved primarily as a result of incremental gains in market share driven by emphasizing the Company's quality products and service over price. Internationally, particularly in the developing regions, there is increasing political pressure to extend the availability of electricity to additional populations. Through its global network of factories and sales offices, the Company is prepared to take advantage of this new growth in construction.

Renewable Energy. The renewable energy market includes residential consumers, commercial businesses, off-grid operators, and utility companies that have an interest in alternative energy sources. Environmental concerns along with federal, state, and local utility incentives have fueled demand for renewable energy systems including solar, wind, and biofuel. The industry continues to grow as advancements in technology lead to greater efficiencies which drive down overall system costs. The Company currently provides hardware solutions, system design and installation services for solar power applications. The Company markets and sells these products and services to end-users, distributors, installers and integrators.

Communication and Cable. Major developments, including growing competition between the cable and communications industries and increasing overall demand for high-speed communication services, have led to a changing regulatory and competitive environment in many markets throughout the world. The deployment of new access networks and improvements to existing networks for advanced applications continues to gain momentum.

Cable operators, local communication operators and power utilities are building, rebuilding or upgrading signal delivery networks in developed countries. These networks are designed to deliver video and voice transmissions and provide Internet connectivity to individual residences and businesses. Operators deploy a variety of network technologies and architectures to carry broadband and narrowband signals. These architectures are constructed of electronic hardware connected via coaxial cables, copper wires or optical fibers. The Company manufactures closures that these industries use to securely connect and protect these vital networks.

As critical components of the outdoor infrastructure, closures provide protection against weather and vandalism, and permit technicians who maintain and manage the system ready access to the devices. Cable operators and local telephone network operators place great reliance on manufacturers of protective closures because any material damage to the signal delivery networks is likely to disrupt communication services. In addition to closures, the Company supplies the communication and cable industry with its formed wire products to hold, support, protect and terminate the copper wires and cables and the fiber optic cables used by that industry to transfer voice, video or data signals.

The industry has developed technological methods to increase the usage of copper-based plant through high-speed digital subscriber lines (DSLs). The popularity of these services, the regulatory environment and the increasingly fierce competition between communications and cable operators has driven the move toward building out the "last mile" in fiber networks. FTTP technology supports the next wave in broadband innovation by carrying fiber optic technology into homes and businesses. The Company has been actively developing products that address this market.

Data Communication. The data communication market is being driven by the continual demand for increased bandwidth. Growing Internet Service Providers (ISPs), construction in Wide Area Networks (WANs) and demand for products in the workplace are all key elements to the increased demand for the connecting devices made by the Company. The Company's products are sold to a number of categories of customers including, (i) ISPs, (ii) large companies and organizations which have their own local area network for data communication, and (iii) distributors of structured cabling systems and components for use in the above markets.

Table of Contents

Special Industries. The Company's formed wire products are also used in other industries which require a method of securing or terminating cables, including the metal building, tower and antenna industries, the agriculture and arborist industries, and various applications within the marine systems industry. Products other than formed wire products are also marketed to other industries. For example, the Company's urethane capabilities allow it to market products to the light rail industry. The Company continues to explore new and innovative uses of its manufacturing capabilities; however, these markets remain a small portion of overall consolidated sales.

International Operations

The international operations of the Company are essentially the same as its domestic (PLP-USA) business. The Company manufactures similar types of products in its international plants as are sold domestically, sells to similar types of customers and faces similar types of competition (and in some cases, the same competitors). Sources of supply of raw materials are not significantly different internationally. See Note K in the Notes To Consolidated Financial Statements for information and financial data relating to the Company's international operations that represent reportable segments.

While a number of the Company's international plants are in developed countries, the Company believes it has strong market opportunities in developing countries where the need for the transmission and distribution of electrical power is significant. In addition, as the need arises, the Company is prepared to establish new manufacturing facilities abroad.

Sales and Marketing

Domestically and internationally, the Company markets its products through a direct sales force and manufacturing representatives. The direct sales force is employed by the Company and works with the manufacturer's representatives, as well as key direct accounts and distributors who also buy and resell the Company's products. The manufacturer's representatives are independent organizations that represent the Company as well as other complimentary product lines. These organizations are paid a commission based on the sales amount.

Research and Development

The Company is committed to providing technical leadership through scientific research and product development in order to continue to expand the Company's position as a supplier to the communications and power industries. Research is conducted on a continuous basis using internal experience in conjunction with outside professional expertise to develop state-of-the-art materials for several of the Company's products. These products capitalize on cost-efficiency while offering exacting mechanical performance that meets or exceeds industry standards. The Company's research and development activities have resulted in numerous patents being issued to the Company (see "Patents and Trademarks" below).

Early in its history, the Company recognized the need to understand the performance of its products and the needs of its customers. To that end, the Company developed a 29,000 square foot Research and Engineering Center located at its corporate headquarters in Mayfield Village, Ohio. Using the Research and Engineering Center, engineers and technicians simulate a wide range of external conditions encountered by the Company's products to ensure quality, durability and performance. The work performed in the Research and Engineering Center includes advanced studies and experimentation with various forms of vibration. This work has contributed significantly to the collective knowledge base of the industries the Company serves and is the subject matter of many papers and seminars presented to these industries.

The Company believes that its Research and Engineering Center is one of the most sophisticated in the world in its specialized field. The Research and Engineering Center also has an advanced prototyping technology machine on-site to develop models of new designs where intricate part details are studied prior to the construction of expensive production tooling. Today, the Company's reputation for vibration testing, tensile testing, fiber optic cable testing, environmental testing, field vibration monitoring and third-party contract testing is a competitive advantage. In addition to testing, the work done at the Company's Research and Development Center continues to fuel product development efforts. For example, the Company estimates that approximately 16% of 2012 revenues were attributed to products developed by the Company in the past five years. In addition, the Company's position in the industry is further reinforced by its long-standing leadership role in many key international technical organizations which are charged with the responsibility of establishing industry wide specifications and performance criteria, including IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), CIGRE (Comité International des Grands Réseaux Electriques a Haute Tension), and IEC (International Electromechanical Commission). Research and development costs are expensed as incurred. Research and development costs for new products were \$2.1 million in 2012, \$2.4 million in 2011 and \$1.7 million in 2010.

Table of Contents

Patents and Trademarks

The Company applies for patents in the U.S. and other countries, as appropriate, to protect its significant patentable developments. As of December 31, 2012, the Company had in force 33 U.S. patents and 66 international patents in 11 countries and had pending 12 U.S. patent applications and 41 international applications. While such domestic and international patents expire from time to time, the Company continues to apply for and obtain patent protection on a regular basis. Patents held by the Company in the aggregate are of material importance in the operation of the Company's business. The Company, however, does not believe that any single patent, or group of related patents, is essential to the Company's business as a whole or to any of its businesses. Additionally, the Company owns and uses a substantial body of proprietary information and numerous trademarks. The Company relies on nondisclosure agreements to protect trade secrets and other proprietary data and technology. As of December 31, 2012, the Company had obtained U.S. registration on 31 trademarks and three trademark applications remained pending. International registrations amounted to 249 registrations in 38 countries, with nine pending international registrations.

Since June 8, 1995, U.S. patents have been issued for terms of 20 years beginning with the date of filing of the patent application. Prior to that time, a U.S. patent had a term of 17 years from the date of its issuance. Patents issued by international countries generally expire 20 years after filing. U.S. and international patents are not renewable after expiration of their initial term. U.S. and international trademarks are generally perpetual, renewable in 10-year increments upon a showing of continued use. To the knowledge of management, the Company has not been subject to any significant allegation or charges of infringement of intellectual property rights by any organization.

In the normal course of business, the Company occasionally makes and receives inquiries with regard to possible patent and trademark infringement. The extent of such inquiries from third parties has been limited generally to verbal remarks to Company representatives. The Company believes that it is unlikely that the outcome of these inquiries will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position.

Competition

All of the markets that the Company serves are highly competitive. In each market, the principal methods of competition are price, performance, and service. The Company believes, however, that several factors (described below) provide the Company with a competitive advantage.

The Company has a strong and stable workforce. This consistent and continuous knowledge base has afforded the Company the ability to provide superior service to the Company's customers and representatives.

The Company's Research and Engineering Center in Mayfield Village, Ohio and Research and Engineering department's subsidiary worldwide locations maintain a strong technical support function to develop unique solutions to customer problems.

The Company is vertically integrated both in manufacturing and distribution and is continually upgrading equipment and processes.

The Company is sensitive to the marketplace and provides an extra measure of service in cases of emergency, storm damage and other rush situations. This high level of customer service and customer responsiveness is a hallmark of the Company.

The Company's 19 manufacturing locations ensure close support and proximity to customers worldwide.

Table of Contents

Domestically, there are several competitors for formed wire products. Although it has other competitors in many of the countries where it has plants, the Company has leveraged its expertise and is very strong in the global market. The Company believes that it is the world's largest manufacturer of formed wire products for energy and communications markets. However, the Company's formed wire products compete against other pole line hardware products manufactured by other companies.

Minnesota Manufacturing and Mining Company (3M) is the primary domestic competitor of the Company for pressurized copper closures. Based on its experience in the industry, the Company believes it maintains a strong market share position.

The fiber optic closure market is one of the most competitive product areas for the Company, with the Company competing against, among others, Tyco Electronics, 3M and Corning Cable Systems. There are a number of primary competitors and several smaller niche competitors that compete at all levels in the marketplace. The Company believes that it is one of four leading suppliers of fiber optic closures.

Sources and Availability of Raw Materials

The principal raw materials used by the Company are galvanized wire, stainless steel, aluminum covered steel wire, aluminum rod, plastic resins, glass-filled plastic compounds, neoprene rubbers and aluminum castings. The Company also uses certain other materials such as fasteners, packaging materials and communications cable. The Company believes that it has adequate sources of supply for the raw materials used in its manufacturing processes and it regularly attempts to develop and maintain sources of supply in order to extend availability and encourage competitive pricing of these products.

Most plastic resins are purchased under contracts to stabilize costs and improve delivery performance and are available from a number of reliable suppliers. Wire and aluminum rod are purchased in standard stock diameters and coils under contracts from a number of reliable suppliers. Contracts have firm prices except for fluctuations of base metals and petroleum prices, which result in surcharges when global demand is greater than the available supply.

The Company also relies on certain other manufacturers to supply products that complement the Company's product lines, such as aluminum and ferrous castings, fiber optic cable and connectors and various metal racks and cabinets. The Company believes there are multiple sources of supply for these products.

The Company relies on sole source manufacturers for certain raw materials used in production. The current state of economic uncertainty presents a risk that existing suppliers could go out of business. However, there are other potential sources for these materials available, and the Company could relocate the tooling and processes to other manufacturers if necessary.

Raw material costs were, in general, flat during 2012. The Company expects price levels to continue to be stable during 2013.

Backlog Orders

The Company's backlog was approximately \$58.4 million at the end of 2012 and \$74.6 million at the end of 2011. The Company's order backlog generally represents two to seven weeks of sales. All customer orders entered are firm at the time of entry. Substantially all orders are shipped within a two to four week period unless the customer requests an alternative date.

Seasonality

The Company markets products that are used by utility maintenance and construction crews worldwide. The products are marketed through distributors and directly to end users, who maintain stock to ensure adequate supply for their customers or construction crews. As a result, the Company does not have a wide variation in sales from quarter to quarter.

Table of Contents

Environmental

The Company is subject to extensive and changing federal, state, and local environmental laws, including laws and regulations that (i) relate to air and water quality, (ii) impose limitations on the discharge of pollutants into the environment, (iii) establish standards for the treatment, storage and disposal of toxic and hazardous waste, and (iv) require proper storage, handling, packaging, labeling, and transporting of products and components classified as hazardous materials. Stringent fines and penalties may be imposed for noncompliance with these environmental laws. In addition, environmental laws could impose liability for costs associated with investigating and remediating contamination at the Company's facilities or at third-party facilities at which the Company has arranged for the disposal treatment of hazardous materials.

The Company believes it is in compliance in all material respects, with all applicable environmental laws and the Company is not aware of any noncompliance or obligation to investigate or remediate contamination that could reasonably be expected to result in a material liability. The Company does not expect to make any material capital expenditure during 2013 for environmental control facilities. The environmental laws continue to be amended and revised to impose stricter obligations, and compliance with future additional environmental requirements could necessitate capital outlays. However, the Company does not believe that these expenditures should ultimately result in a material adverse effect on its financial position or results of operations. The Company cannot predict the precise effect such future requirements, if enacted, would have on the Company. The Company believes that such regulations would be enacted over time and would affect the industry as a whole.

Employees

At December 31, 2012, the Company had 2,901 employees. Approximately 27% of the Company's employees are located in the U.S.

Available Information

The Company maintains an Internet site at <http://www.preformed.com>, on which the Company makes available, free of charge, the annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the SEC. The Company's SEC reports can be accessed through the investor relations section of its Internet site. The information found on the Company's Internet site is not part of this or any other report that is filed or furnished to the SEC.

The public may read and copy any materials the Company files with or furnishes to the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F. Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room is available by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information filed with the SEC by electronic filers. The SEC's Internet site is <http://www.sec.gov>. The Company also has a link from its Internet site to the SEC's Internet site, this link can be found on the investor relations page of the Company's Internet site.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Due to the Company's dependency on the energy and telecommunication industries, the Company is susceptible to negative trends relating to those industries that could adversely affect the Company's operating results.

The Company's sales to the energy and telecommunication industries represent a substantial portion of the Company's historical sales. The concentration of revenue in such industries is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Demand for products to these industries depends primarily on capital spending by customers for constructing, rebuilding, maintaining or upgrading their systems. The amount of capital spending and, therefore, the Company's sales and profitability are affected by a variety of factors, including general economic conditions, access by customers to financing, government regulation, demand for energy and cable services, and technological factors. As a result, some customers may significantly reduce their spending or may not continue as going concerns, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. Consolidation and deregulation present the additional risk to the Company in that combined or deregulated customers will rely on relationships with a source other than the Company. Consolidation and deregulation may also increase the pressure on suppliers, such as the Company, to sell product at lower prices.

Table of Contents

The Company's business will suffer if the Company fails to develop and successfully introduce new and enhanced products that meet the changing needs of the Company's customers.

The Company's ability to anticipate changes in technology and industry standards and to successfully develop and introduce new products on a timely basis will be a significant factor in the Company's ability to grow and remain competitive. New product development often requires long-term forecasting of market trends, development and implementation of new designs and processes and a substantial capital commitment. The trend toward consolidation of the energy, telecommunication and data communication industries may require the Company to quickly adapt to rapidly changing market conditions and customer requirements. Any failure by the Company to anticipate or respond in a cost-effective and timely manner to technological developments or changes in industry standards or customer requirements, or any significant delays in product development or introduction or any failure of new products to be widely accepted by the Company's customers, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition as a result of reduced net sales.

The intense competition in the Company's markets, particularly telecommunication, may lead to a reduction in sales and profits.

The markets in which the Company operates are highly competitive. The level of intensity of competition may increase in the foreseeable future due to anticipated growth in the telecommunication and data communication industries. The Company's competitors in the telecommunication and data communication markets are larger companies with significant influence over the distribution network. The Company may not be able to compete successfully against its competitors, many of which may have access to greater financial resources than the Company. In addition, the pace of technological development in the telecommunication and data communication markets is rapid and these advances (i.e., wireless, fiber optic network infrastructure, etc.) may adversely affect the Company's ability to compete in this market.

Competitors introduction of products embodying new technologies or the emergence of new industry standards can render existing products or products under development obsolete or unmarketable and result in lost sales.

The energy, telecommunication and data communication industries are characterized by rapid technological change. Satellite, wireless and other communication technologies currently being deployed may represent a threat to copper, coaxial and fiber optic-based systems by reducing the need for wire-line networks. Future advances or further development of these or other new technologies may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition as a result of lost sales.

Price increases of raw materials could result in lower earnings.

The Company's cost of sales may be materially adversely affected by increases in the market prices of the raw materials used in the Company's manufacturing processes. The Company may not be able to pass on price increases in raw materials to the Company's customers through increases in product prices. As a result, the Company's operating results could be adversely affected.

The Company's international operations subject the Company to additional business risks that may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

International sales account for a substantial portion of the Company's net sales (59%, 60% and 58% in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively) and the Company expects these sales will increase as a percentage of net sales in the future. Due to its international sales, the Company is subject to the risks of conducting business internationally, including unexpected changes in, or impositions of, legislative or regulatory requirements, fluctuations in the U.S. dollar which could materially adversely affect U.S. dollar revenues or operating expenses, tariffs and other barriers and restrictions, potentially longer payment cycles, greater difficulty in accounts receivable collection, reduced or limited protection of intellectual property rights, potentially adverse taxes and the burdens of complying with a variety of international laws and communications standards. The Company is also subject to general geopolitical risks, such as political and economic instability and changes in diplomatic and trade relationships, in connection with its international operations. These risks of conducting business internationally may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

Table of Contents

The Company may not be able to successfully integrate businesses that it may acquire in the future or complete acquisitions on satisfactory terms, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

A portion of the Company's growth in sales and earnings has been generated from acquisitions. The Company expects to continue a strategy of identifying and acquiring businesses with complementary products. In connection with this strategy, the Company faces certain risks and uncertainties relating to acquisitions. The factors affecting this exposure are in addition to the risks faced in the Company's day-to-day operations. Acquisitions involve a number of special risks, including the risks pertaining to integrating acquired businesses. In addition, the Company may incur debt to finance future acquisitions, and the Company may issue securities in connection with future acquisitions that may dilute the holdings of current and future shareholders. Covenant restrictions relating to additional indebtedness could restrict the Company's ability to pay dividends, fund capital expenditures, consummate additional acquisitions and significantly increase the Company's interest expense. Any failure to successfully complete acquisitions or to successfully integrate such strategic acquisitions could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

The Company may have interruptions in or lost business due to the uncertainty of the global economy, specifically the potential impact of bankruptcy among the Company's suppliers and lack of available funding for the Company's customers.

The Company relies on sole source manufacturers for certain materials that complement the Company's product lines. The current state of economic uncertainty presents a risk that existing suppliers could go out of business or significantly raise their prices. If, due to any of these risk factors, the Company had to relocate the tooling and processes to other manufacturers, there could be an adverse effect on the supply and the Company's ability to make products on a timely basis. Additionally, as the financial markets are experiencing unprecedented volatility, lower levels of liquidity may be available. The inability to obtain funding may postpone customer spending and adversely affect the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

The Company does not have any unresolved staff comments.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Properties**

The Company currently owns or leases 20 facilities, which together contain approximately 1.9 million square feet of manufacturing, warehouse, research and development, sales and office space worldwide. Most of the Company's international facilities contain space for offices, research and engineering (R&E), warehousing and manufacturing with manufacturing using a majority of the space. The following table provides information regarding the Company's principal facilities:

Location	Use	Owned/Leased	Square Feet	Reportable Segment
1. Mayfield Village, Ohio	Corporate Headquarters R&E	Owned	62,000	PLP-USA
2. Rogers, Arkansas	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Owned	310,000	PLP-USA
3. Albemarle, North Carolina	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Owned	261,000	PLP-USA
4. Sydney, Australia	Manufacturing R&E Warehouse Office	Owned; Warehouse Leased	139,400	Asia-Pacific
5. São Paulo, Brazil	Manufacturing R&E Warehouse Office	Owned	148,500	The Americas
6. Cambridge, Ontario, Canada	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Owned	73,300	The Americas
7. Andover, Hampshire, England	Manufacturing R&E Warehouse Office	Building Owned; Land Leased	89,400	EMEA
8. Queretaro, Mexico	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Owned	82,900	The Americas
9. Beijing, China	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Building Owned; Land Leased	132,100	Asia-Pacific
10. Pietermaritzburg, South Africa	Manufacturing R&E Warehouse Office	Owned	73,100	EMEA
11. Sevilla, Spain	Manufacturing R&E Warehouse Office	Owned	63,300	EMEA
12. Albuquerque, New Mexico	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Leased	27,200	The Americas
13. Bielsko-Biala, Poland	Manufacturing Warehouse Office	Buildings Owned; Land Leased	174,400	EMEA
14. Bekasi, Indonesia	Manufacturing Office	Owned	60,100	Asia-Pacific