

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

NATCO GROUP INC
Form 10-K
March 15, 2004

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, 2003 COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 1-15603

NATCO GROUP INC.
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

DELAWARE
(STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF
INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION)

22-2906892
(I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.)

2950 N. LOOP WEST, 7TH FLOOR, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092
(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES) (ZIP CODE)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 683-9292

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

TITLE OF EACH CLASS -----	NAME OF EACH EXCHANGE ON WHICH REGISTERED -----
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT: NONE

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 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 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 an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes No

State the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter.

As of June 30, 2003

\$64,077,503

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

As of March 10, 2004 Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share 15,922,661 shares

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (TO THE EXTENT INDICATED HEREIN)

Specified portions of the 2004 Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement (Part III)

NATCO GROUP INC.
FORM 10-K FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE NO. ----
PART I		
Item 1.	Business.....	3
Item 2.	Properties.....	17
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings.....	18
Item 4.	Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.....	18
PART II		
Item 5.	Market for the Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters.....	18
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data.....	20
Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.....	21
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.....	37
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.....	38
	Consolidated Financial Statements.....	40
	Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.....	44
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.....	73
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures.....	73
PART III		
Item 10.	Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant.....	74
Item 11.	Information called for by Part III, Item 11, has been omitted as the Registrant intends to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the close of its fiscal year a definitive Proxy Statement pursuant to Regulation 14A or an amendment to this Annual Report on Form 10-K	77
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.....	77

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.....	79
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services.....	81

PART IV

Item 15.	Exhibits, Financial Statements Schedules and Reports on Form 8-K.....	82
Signatures.....		87
Certifications		

2

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

NATCO Group Inc. is a leading provider of equipment, systems and services used in the production of crude oil and natural gas to separate oil, gas and water within a production stream and to remove contaminants. Our products and services are used in onshore and offshore fields in most major oil and gas producing regions in the world. Separation and decontamination of a production stream is needed at almost every producing well in order to meet the specifications of transporters and end users.

We design and manufacture a diverse line of production equipment including, among other items: heaters, which prevent hydrates from forming in gas streams and reduce the viscosity of oil; dehydration and desalting units, which remove water and salt from oil and gas; separators, which separate wellhead production streams into oil, gas and water; gas conditioning units and membrane separation systems, which remove carbon dioxide and other contaminants from gas streams; control systems, which monitor and control production equipment; and water processing systems, which include systems for water re-injection, oily water treatment and other treatment applications.

We offer our products and services as either integrated systems or individual components primarily through three business lines:

- traditional production equipment and services, which provides standardized components, replacement parts and used components and equipment servicing, primarily in North America, and operates domestic CO(2) separation facilities;
- engineered systems, which provides customized, large scale integrated oil, gas and water production and processing systems; and
- automation and control systems, which provides and services control panels and systems that monitor and control oil and gas production, as well as repair, testing and inspection services for existing systems.

NATCO Group Inc. is a Delaware corporation formed in 1989. Through our subsidiaries, we have designed, manufactured and marketed production equipment and systems for more than 75 years. We operate seven primary manufacturing facilities located in the U.S. and Canada and 36 sales and service facilities, 34 of which are located in the U.S. and Canada, and 2 of which are located outside of the U.S. and Canada. We have engineering offices in the U.S., Canada and the U.K., as well as engineered systems sales offices in these and other international locations. We also have offices in the U.S. and overseas from which we supply control systems, equipment and services. We believe that, among our competitors, we have one of the largest installed base of production equipment in the industry. We have achieved our position in the industry by maintaining technological leadership, capitalizing on our strong brand name

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

recognition and offering a broad range of quality products and services.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, are available free of charge through our website, www.natcogroup.com, as soon as reasonably practicable after we file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC.

INDUSTRY

Demand for oil and gas production equipment and services is driven primarily by the following: levels of production of oil and gas in response to worldwide demand; the changing production profiles of existing fields (meaning the mix of oil, gas and water in the production stream and the level of contaminants); the discovery of new oil and gas fields; the quality of new hydrocarbon production; and investment in exploration and production efforts by oil and gas producers.

3

We believe that the oil and gas production equipment and services market continues to have significant growth potential due to the following:

- Increasing demand for oil and natural gas. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, petroleum and natural gas consumption in the United States are expected to increase through 2025, with higher consumption rates expected worldwide, driven by demand for refined products and the use of natural gas to power plants that generate electricity.
- Long-term demand for oil and gas products should lead to increases in drilling activity. The number of drilling rigs operating in North America and internationally has fluctuated in recent years, depending on market conditions. The average North American rig count for 2003 was 1,403 versus 1,093 for 2002 and 1,497 for 2001, as published by Baker Hughes Incorporated. The international rig count as of December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was 803, 753 and 752, respectively, as published by Baker Hughes Incorporated. We believe that rig counts will increase over the long-term as demand for oil and gas products and services increases. With such increases, we anticipate increased demand for oil and gas production equipment and services.
- Changing profile of existing production. The production profile of existing fields changes over time, either naturally or due to implementation of enhanced recovery techniques. Consequently, the mix of oil, gas, water and contaminants changes, and the production stream requires additional, more sophisticated processing equipment. Changing production profiles often require retrofitting and debottlenecking of existing production equipment, which is one of our specialties.
- Increasing focus on large-scale complicated equipment packages and integrated systems projects. Due to the increased demand for oil and gas, oil companies are pursuing larger and more complex development projects that often require specialized production equipment. These projects may be in remote, deepwater or harsh environments, may involve complex production profiles and operations and typically involve more sophisticated equipment.
- Increasing need for technology solutions. Higher specification and performance standards, environmental regulation, cost reduction requirements, desire to reduce space and weight of equipment and other similar considerations have increased demand for technology in production equipment. We are a leader in process technology for upstream

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

applications.

COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS

We believe that our key competitive strengths are:

- Market leadership and industry reputation. We have designed, manufactured and marketed production equipment and systems for more than 75 years. We believe that, among our competitors, we have the largest installed base of production equipment in the industry. We will continue to enhance our products and services in order to meet the demands of our customers.
- Technological leadership. We believe that we have established a position of global technological leadership by pioneering the development of innovative separation technologies. We continue to be a technological leader in areas such as carbon dioxide separation using membrane technology, oil-water emulsion treatment using the latest electrostatic technology, seawater injection systems, complex produced oily water treatment systems and a variety of specialty applications. We hold 37 active U.S. and equivalent foreign patents and continue to invest in research and development. Applications have been filed for nine additional patents in the U.S.
- Extensive line of products and services. We provide a broad range of high quality production equipment and services, ranging from standard processing and control equipment, to highly specialized engineered systems and fully integrated solutions to our customers around the world. By providing the broadest range of products and services in the industry, we offer our customers the time and cost savings resulting from the use of a single supplier for process engineering, design, manufacturing and installation of production and related control systems.

4

- Experienced and focused management team. Our senior management team has extensive experience in our industry with an average of over 20 years of experience. We believe that our management team has successfully demonstrated its ability to grow our business and integrate acquisitions. Additionally, our management team has a substantial financial interest in our continued success through equity ownership or incentives.
- Leading role in CO(2) separation for domestic enhanced oil recovery and ownership and operation of Sacroc facilities. Our membrane systems have a dominant position in U.S. CO(2) flood enhanced oil recovery applications, led by our Sacroc facility in West Texas. We own and operate facilities at Sacroc capable of processing up to 367 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) under long-term contract processing agreements. We received an order in early 2004 to manufacture and sell an additional capacity expansion of 180 mmcf per day at this facility. This expansion is expected to be placed in service in mid-2004, for which we plan to enter into a separate operating agreement. In addition, we have sold membrane facilities to five other major CO(2) flood operations in West Texas.

BUSINESS STRATEGY

Our primary objective is to maximize cash flow by maintaining and enhancing our position as a leading provider of equipment, systems, services and solutions used in the production of crude oil and natural gas. We intend to achieve this goal by pursuing the following business strategies:

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- Focusing on Customer Relationships. We believe that our customers prefer to work on a regular basis with a small number of leading suppliers. We believe our size, scope of products, technological expertise and service orientation provide us with a competitive advantage in establishing preferred supplier relationships with customers. We intend to generate growth in revenue and market share by establishing new, and further developing existing, customer relationships.
- Providing Integrated Systems and Solutions. We believe our integrated design and manufacturing capabilities enable us to reduce our customers' production equipment and systems costs and shorten delivery times. Our strategy is to be involved in projects early, to provide the broadest and most complete scope of equipment and services in our industry and to focus on larger, sophisticated and integrated systems.
- Introducing New Technologies and Products. Since our inception, we have developed and acquired leading technologies that enable us to address the global market demand for increasingly sophisticated production equipment and systems. We will continue to pursue new technologies through internal development, acquisitions and licenses.
- Pursuing Complementary Acquisitions. Our industry is fragmented and contains smaller competitors with less extensive product lines and geographic scope. We continue to review potential strategic alternatives involving companies that provide complementary technologies, enhance our ability to offer integrated systems or expand our geographic reach.
- Expanding International Presence. We have operated in various international markets for more than 50 years. We intend to continue to expand internationally in targeted geographic regions, such as Latin America, West Africa and Southeast Asia. International operations provided approximately 33% of total revenues for the year ended December 31, 2003.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

A SUBSTANTIAL OR EXTENDED DECLINE IN OIL OR GAS PRICES COULD RESULT IN LOWER EXPENDITURES BY THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, THEREBY NEGATIVELY AFFECTING OUR REVENUE.

Our business is substantially dependent on the condition of the oil and gas industry and its willingness to spend capital on the exploration for and development of oil and gas reserves. A substantial or extended decline in these expenditures may result in the discovery of fewer new reserves of oil and gas, adversely affecting the market for our production equipment and services. The level of these expenditures is generally dependent on

5

the industry's view of future oil and gas prices, which have been characterized by significant volatility in recent years. Oil and gas prices are affected by numerous factors, including: the level of exploration activity; worldwide economic activity; interest rates, the cost of capital and currency exchange rate fluctuations; environmental regulation; tax policies; political requirements of national governments; coordination by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC"); political environment, including the threat of war and terrorism; the cost of producing oil and gas; technological advances; changes in the supply of and demand for oil, natural gas and electricity; and weather conditions.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

MOST OF OUR CONTRACTS ARE FIXED-PRICE CONTRACTS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO GROSS PROFIT FLUCTUATIONS, WHICH MAY IMPACT OUR MARGIN EXPECTATIONS.

Most of our projects, including larger engineered systems projects, are performed on a fixed-price basis. We are responsible for all cost overruns, other than any resulting from change orders. Our costs and any gross profit realized on our fixed-price contracts will often vary from the estimated amounts on which these contracts were originally based. This may occur for various reasons, including: errors in estimates or bidding; changes in availability and cost of labor and material; and variations in productivity from our original estimates.

These variations and the risks inherent in engineered systems projects may result in reduced profitability or losses on our projects. Depending on the size of a project, variations from estimated contract performance can have a significant negative impact on our operating results or our financial condition.

OUR QUARTERLY SALES AND CASH FLOW MAY FLUCTUATE SIGNIFICANTLY.

Our revenues are substantially derived from significant contracts that are often performed over periods of two to six or more quarters. As a result, our revenues and cash flow may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter, depending upon our ability to replace existing contracts with new orders and upon the extent of any delays in completing existing projects.

WE HAVE RELIED AND WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS FOR A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR REVENUES.

There have been and are expected to be periods where a substantial portion of our revenues is derived from a single customer or a small group of customers. We had revenues of \$24.2 million, or 9% of total revenues, provided by ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, \$18.7 million, or 7% of total revenues, provided by ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates and \$14.6 million, or 5% of total revenues, provided by BP and affiliates for the year ended December 31, 2003. We had revenues of \$28.8 million, or 10% of total revenues, provided by ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, \$17.2 million, or 6% of revenues, provided by BP and affiliates excluding the Carigali-Triton Operating Company SDN BHD ("CTOC"), and \$16.5 million, or 5%, provided by ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, for the year ended December 31, 2002. We had revenues of \$15.7 million, or 5% of our total revenues, provided by Anadarko and affiliates, \$15.5 million, or 5% of total revenues, provided by ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, and \$13.4 million, or 5% of total revenues provided by BP and affiliates excluding CTOC, for the year ended December 31, 2001.

We have a number of ongoing relationships with major oil companies, national oil companies and large independent producers. The loss of one or more of these ongoing relationships could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF OUR BACKLOG, AS STATED AT ANY GIVEN TIME, IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF OUR FUTURE CASH FLOW.

Backlog consists of firm customer orders that have satisfactory credit or financing arrangements in place, for which authorization to begin work or purchase materials has been given and for which a delivery date has been established. As of December 31, 2003, we had backlog of \$64.0 million, of which approximately 13% related to ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, 12% related to an Aker/Kvaerner joint venture, 9% related to TSS Dalia Angola and 8% related to Sembawang Singapore.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

We cannot guarantee that the revenues projected in our backlog will be realized, or if realized, will result in profits. To the extent that we experience significant terminations, suspensions or adjustments in the scope of our projects as reflected in our backlog contracts, we could be materially adversely affected.

Occasionally, a customer will cancel or delay a project for reasons beyond our control. In the event of a project cancellation, we are generally reimbursed for our costs but typically have no contractual right to the total revenues expected from such project as reflected in our backlog. In addition, projects may remain in our backlog for extended periods of time. If we were to experience significant cancellations or delays of projects in our backlog, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

OUR ABILITY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SKILLED LABOR IS CRUCIAL TO OUR PROFITABILITY.

Our ability to succeed depends in part on our ability to attract and retain skilled manufacturing workers, equipment operators, engineers and other technical personnel. Our ability to expand our operations depends primarily on our ability to increase our labor force. Demand for these workers can fluctuate in line with overall activity levels within our industry. A significant increase in the wages paid by competing employers could result in a reduction in our skilled labor force, increases in the rates of wages we must pay or both. If this were to occur, the immediate effect would be a reduction in our profits and the extended effect would be diminishment of our production capacity and profitability and impairment of our growth potential.

POSTRETIREMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS THAT WE PROVIDE TO CERTAIN RETIREES OF A PREDECESSOR COMPANY EXPOSE US TO POTENTIAL INCREASES IN FUTURE CASH OUTLAYS THAT CANNOT BE RECOUPED THROUGH INCREASED PREMIUMS.

We are obligated to provide postretirement health care benefits to a group of retirees of a predecessor company who retired before June 21, 1989. For the year ended December 31, 2003, our cash costs related to these benefits were \$1.6 million, net of reimbursement of \$157,000 from the predecessor plan sponsor. At that date, there were 500 retirees and surviving eligible dependents covered by the specified postretirement benefit obligations. As of December 31, 2003, our accumulated pre-tax postretirement benefit obligation was calculated to be approximately \$16.7 million as determined by actuarial calculations. The costs of the actual benefits could exceed those projected, and future actuarial assessments of the extent of those costs could exceed the current assessment. Inflationary trends in medical costs may outpace our ability to recoup these increases through higher premium charges, benefit design changes or both. As a result, our actual cash costs of providing this benefit may increase in the future and could have a negative impact on our future cash flow.

OUR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS MAY EXPERIENCE INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RISKS.

We operate our business and market our products and services throughout the world. We are, therefore, subject to the risks customarily attendant to international operations and investments in foreign countries. Moreover, oil and gas producing regions in which we operate include many countries in the Middle East and other less developed parts of the world, where risks have increased significantly in the recent past. We cannot accurately predict whether these risks will increase or abate. These risks include: nationalization; expropriation; war, terrorism and civil disturbances; restrictive actions by local governments; limitations on repatriation of earnings; changes in foreign tax laws; and changes in currency exchange rates.

The occurrence of any of these risks could have an adverse effect on regional demand for our products and services or our ability to provide them.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Further, we may experience restrictions in travel to visit customers or start-up projects, and we incur added costs by implementing security precautions. An interruption of our international operations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The occurrence of some of these risks, such as changes in foreign tax laws and changes in currency exchange rates, may have extended consequences.

Axsia Group Limited and its subsidiaries, our U.K.-based operations, and our Canadian subsidiary have made sales (as part of their ongoing businesses) and have informed us that they expect to continue making sales of equipment and services to customers in certain countries that are subject to U.S. government trade

7

sanctions ("Embargoed Countries"). In the past, these included sales to the Iraqi national oil companies permitted under the United Nations Food-for-Oil Program. Sales to customers in Embargoed Countries were approximately 1% of our consolidated revenue in 2003, approximately 3 1/2% in 2002 and approximately 2 1/2% in 2001.

OUR INSURANCE POLICIES MAY NOT COVER ALL PRODUCT LIABILITY CLAIMS AGAINST US OR MAY BE INSUFFICIENT IN AMOUNT TO COVER SUCH CLAIMS.

Some of our products are used in potentially hazardous production applications that can cause personal injury; loss of life; damage to property, equipment or the environment; and suspension of operations. We maintain insurance coverage against these risks in accordance with standard industry practice. This insurance may not protect us against liability for some kinds of events, including events involving pollution or losses resulting from business interruption or acts of terrorism. We cannot assure you that our insurance will be adequate in risk coverage or policy limits to cover all losses or liabilities that we may incur. Moreover, we cannot assure you that we will be able in the future to maintain insurance at levels of risk coverage or policy limits that we deem adequate. Any future damages caused by our products or services that are not covered by insurance or are in excess of policy limits could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

LIABILITY TO CUSTOMERS UNDER WARRANTIES MAY MATERIALLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR CASH FLOW.

We typically warrant the workmanship and materials used in the equipment we manufacture. At the request of our customers, we occasionally warrant the operational performance of the equipment we manufacture. Failure of this equipment to operate properly or to meet specifications may increase our costs by requiring additional engineering resources, replacement of parts and equipment or service or monetary reimbursement to a customer. Our warranties are often backed by letters of credit. At December 31, 2003, we had provided to our customers approximately \$6.9 million in letters of credit related to warranties. We have received warranty claims in the past, and we expect to continue to receive them in the future. To the extent that we should incur warranty claims in any period substantially in excess of our warranty reserve, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

OUR ABILITY TO SECURE AND RETAIN NECESSARY FINANCING MAY BE LIMITED.

Our ability to execute our growth strategies may be limited by our ability to secure and retain reasonably priced financing. From time to time we have utilized significant amounts of letters of credit to secure our performance on large projects as well as provide warranties to our customers. Outstanding

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

letters of credit can consume a significant portion of our available liquidity under our revolving credit facilities. Some of our competitors are larger companies with better access to capital, which could give them a competitive advantage over us should our access to capital be limited. Additionally, the industry in which we compete is often characterized by significant cyclical fluctuations in activity levels that can adversely impact our financial results. Our revolving credit and term loan facilities contain restrictive loan covenants with which we are required to comply. There is no assurance that our financial results will be adequate to ensure we remain in compliance with these covenants in the future, nor is there any assurance we can obtain amendments to or waivers of these covenants should we not be in compliance.

COMPETITION COULD RESULT IN REDUCED PROFITABILITY AND LOSS OF MARKET SHARE.

Contracts for our products and services are generally awarded on a competitive basis. Historically, the existence of overcapacity in our industry has caused increased price competition in many areas of our business. The most important factors considered by our customers in awarding contracts include: the availability and capabilities of our equipment; our ability to meet the customer's delivery schedule; price; our reputation; our technology; our experience; and our safety record.

In addition, we may encounter obstacles in our international operations that impair our ability to compete in individual countries. These obstacles may include: subsidies granted in favor of local companies; taxes,

8

import duties and fees imposed on foreign operators; lower wage rates in foreign countries; and fluctuations in the exchange value of the United States dollar compared with the local currency. Any or all these factors could adversely affect our ability to compete and thus adversely affect our results of operations.

A FURTHER ECONOMIC DECLINE COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DEMAND FOR OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

Economic growth in several of our key markets, including the United States and Southeast Asia, declined throughout 2001 due to a world-wide recession, which was exacerbated by significant terrorist acts in the United States during September 2001. Slower than expected economic growth in the United States during 2002, as well as in other regions of the world, contributed to a decline in exploration and production activity in the oil and gas industry. Although several economic indicators, including the recent performance of the U.S. stock market, as measured by growth rates in 2003 for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Standard & Poor's 500 Index, may indicate improved economic growth for 2003 and further potential growth in 2004, we cannot provide assurance that the United States economy will continue to grow or remain stable. If the U.S. economy were to decline or if the economies of other nations in which we do business were to experience material problems, the demand and price for oil and gas and, therefore, for our products and services, could decline, which would adversely affect our results of operations.

OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IS DEPENDENT ON TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN OUR PRODUCTS, AND OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND TIMELY OR ADEQUATELY TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN OUR INDUSTRY MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

Our ability to succeed with our long-term growth strategy is dependent on the technological competitiveness of our products. If we are unable to innovate and implement advanced technology in our products, other competitors may be able to compete more effectively with us, and our business and results of operations

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

may be adversely affected.

FUTURE ACQUISITIONS, IF ANY, MAY BE DIFFICULT TO INTEGRATE, DISRUPT OUR BUSINESS AND ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OPERATING RESULTS.

We intend to continue our past practice of acquiring other companies, assets and product lines that complement or expand our existing businesses. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully identify suitable acquisition opportunities or to finance and complete any particular acquisition. Furthermore, acquisitions involve a number of risks and challenges, including: the diversion of our management's attention to the assimilation of the operations and personnel of the acquired business; possible adverse effects on our operating results during the integration process; potential loss of key employees and customers of the acquired companies; potential lack of experience operating in a geographic market of the acquired business; an increase in our expenses and working capital requirements; and the possible inability to achieve the intended objectives of the combination.

Any of these factors could adversely affect our ability to achieve anticipated levels of cash flow from an acquired business or realize other anticipated benefits of an acquisition.

WE MAY INCUR SUBSTANTIAL COSTS TO COMPLY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS.

In our equipment fabrication and refurbishing operations, we generate and manage hazardous wastes. These include: waste solvents; waste paint; waste oil; wash-down wastes; and sandblasting wastes.

We attempt to identify and address environmental issues before acquiring properties and to utilize industry accepted operating and disposal practices regarding the management and disposal of hazardous wastes. Nevertheless, either others or we may have released hazardous materials on our properties or in other locations where hazardous wastes have been taken for disposal. We may be required by federal, state or foreign environmental laws to remove hazardous wastes or to remediate sites where they have been released. We could also be subjected to civil and criminal penalties for violations of those laws. Our costs to comply with these laws may adversely affect our earnings.

9

OPERATIONS

We offer our products and services as either integrated systems or individual components primarily through three business lines: traditional production equipment and services, engineered systems and automation and control systems.

TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Traditional production equipment and services consists of production equipment, replacement parts, and used equipment refurbishing and servicing, which is sold primarily onshore in North America and in the Gulf of Mexico. Through our NATCO Canada subsidiary, we provide traditional production equipment with modifications to operate in a cold weather environment. The equipment built for the North American oil and gas industry are "off the shelf" items or are customized variations of standardized equipment requiring limited engineering. We market traditional production equipment and services through 28 sales and service centers in the United States, six in Canada, one in Mexico and one in Venezuela.

Traditional production equipment includes:

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- Separators. Separators are used for the primary separation of a hydrocarbon stream into oil, water and gas. In addition to traditional separator solutions, we offer customers new separation technologies like the Whirly Scrub(TM) Recycling Separators and Revolution(TM) Inlet Devices. The new separation technologies use proprietary devices inside separator vessels to achieve more efficient separation. This translates into smaller and lighter process equipment, and/or the ability to retrofit existing facilities to increase processing throughput. Customers benefit from the use of Porta-Test(R) Revolution(TM) tubes, perforated baffles and other proprietary internals that allow separation systems to be designed for specific needs, reduce size and weight, improve separation efficiency, and eliminate process problems like foaming. Our separator product line includes:
 - horizontal separators, used to separate hydrocarbon streams with large volumes of gas, liquids or foam;
 - vertical separators, used to separate hydrocarbon streams containing contaminants including salt and wax;
 - filter separators, used to remove particulate contaminants from gas streams and/or to coalesce liquids;
 - Thermo Pak(TM) Units, used for the combined heating and separating of production in cold climates; and
 - Whirly Scrub(TM) V centrifugal separators, used as state-of-the-art compact scrubbers.
- Oil Dehydration Equipment. Oil dehydrators are used to remove water from oil. Our oil dehydration product line includes:
 - horizontal PERFORMAX(R) treaters, which separate oil and water mixtures using gravity and proprietary technology;
 - Dual Polarity(R) and Electrodynamic Desalting(TM) electrostatic treaters, which dehydrate oil using high voltage electrical coalescence;
 - vertical treaters, which separate oil and water using gravity and heat;
 - Vertical Flow Horizontal (VFH(TM)) processors, which combine the advantages of horizontal and vertical vessels to remove gas and water from oil streams; and
 - heater-treaters, which use heat to accelerate the dehydration process.
- Heaters. Heaters are used to reduce the viscosity of oil to improve flow rates and to prevent hydrates from forming in gas streams. We manufacture both standardized and customized direct and indirect

10

fired heaters. In each system, heat is transferred to the hydrocarbon stream through a medium such as water, water/glycol, steam, salt or flue gas. Our heater product line includes:

- indirect fired water bath heaters;
- vaporizers used to vaporize propane and other liquefied gases;

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- salt bath heaters used to heat high pressure natural gas streams to elevated temperatures above that obtained with indirect heaters;
- steam bath heaters; and
- Controlled Heat Flux (CHF(TM)) heaters, which use flue gas to create a heat transfer medium.
- Gas Conditioning Equipment. Gas conditioning equipment removes contaminants from hydrocarbon and gas streams. Our gas conditioning equipment includes:
 - Cynara(R) membranes, which extract carbon dioxide from gas streams;
 - glycol dehydration equipment, which uses glycol to absorb water vapor from gas streams;
 - amine systems, which use amine to remove acidic gases such as hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide from gas streams;
 - Glymine(R) units, which combine the effects of glycol equipment and amine systems;
 - Paques(TM) and Shell-Paques(TM) licensed desulfurization technology, which utilizes a biological system to efficiently take hydrogen sulfide out of gas streams;
 - the BTEX-BUSTER(R), which virtually eliminates the emission of volatile hydrocarbons associated with glycol dehydration reboilers; and
 - DESI-DRI(R) Systems, which use highly compressed drying agents to remove water vapor from gas streams.
- Gas Processing Equipment. We offer standard and custom processing equipment for the extraction of liquid hydrocarbons to meet feed gas and liquid product requirements. We manufacture several standard mechanical refrigeration units for the recovery of salable hydrocarbon liquids from gas streams. Low Temperature Extractor (LTX(R)) units are mechanical separation systems designed for handling high-pressure gas at the wellhead. These systems remove liquid hydrocarbons from gas streams more efficiently and economically than other methods.
- Carbon Dioxide Field Operations. We also provide gas-processing facilities for the removal of carbon dioxide from hydrocarbon streams. These facilities use our proprietary Cynara(R) membrane technology that provides one of the most effective separation solutions for hydrocarbon streams containing carbon dioxide. The primary market for these facilities is production from wells such as those located in west Texas in which carbon dioxide injection is used to enhance the recovery of oil reserves. Utilizing this technology, we have entered into three separate service agreements with Kinder Morgan CO(2) Company, L.P. relative to gas processing of production at the Sacroc field in West Texas. Each contract has a term of ten years and is automatically renewed for successive one-year periods, unless either Kinder Morgan or we provide the other party with written notification of cancellation. Currently the earliest termination date is set for July 2012.
- Water Treatment Equipment. We offer a complete line of water treatment and conditioning equipment for the removal of contaminants from water extracted during oil and gas production. Our water treatment equipment includes:

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- PERFORMAX(R) Matrix Plate Coalescers, used in both primary separation and final skimming applications;
- TriPack(TM) Corrugated Plate Interceptors, used to remove oil and salable hydrocarbons from water;

11

- Oilspin AV(TM) and AVi(TM) liquid/liquid hydrocyclones, compact centrifugal separation devices used in primary water treatment applications;
- Tridair(TM) Sparger Gas Flotation units, used as secondary water cleanup systems; and
- PowerClean(TM) Nutshell Filters, used where tertiary water cleanup is required.
- Equipment Refurbishment. We source, refurbish and integrate used oil and gas production equipment. Customers that purchase this equipment benefit from reduced delivery times and lower equipment costs relative to new equipment. The used equipment market is focused primarily in North America, both onshore and offshore, although we have observed a growing interest internationally. We have entered into agreements with major, large independent oil companies in both the United States and Canada to evaluate, track and refurbish used production equipment and may act as a broker between another oil company and our customer or may purchase, refurbish and sell used equipment to our customers. We believe that we have one of the largest databases in the North American oil and gas industry of available surplus production equipment. This database, coupled with our extensive refurbishing facilities and experience, enables us to respond to customer requests for refurbished equipment quickly and efficiently.
- Parts, Service and Training. We provide replacement parts for our own equipment and for equipment manufactured by others. Each branch of our marketing network also serves as a local parts and service business. We offer operational and safety training to the oil and gas production industry, which provides a marketing tool for our other products and services.

ENGINEERED SYSTEMS

We design, engineer and manufacture engineered systems for large production development projects throughout the world and provide start-up services for our engineered products. Engineered systems typically require a significant amount of technology, engineering and project management.

We market engineered systems through our direct sales forces based in Houston, Texas; Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Camberley, England; Gloucester, England; Caracas, Venezuela; and Tokyo, Japan, augmented by independent representatives in other countries. We also use the unique oil testing capabilities at our research and development facilities to market engineered systems. This capability enables us to determine equipment specifications that best suit customers' requirements.

Engineered systems include:

- Integrated Oil and Gas Processing Trains. These consist of multiple units that process oil and gas from primary separation through

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

contaminant removal.

- Large Gas Processing Facilities. We provide large gas processing facilities for the separation, heating, dehydration and removal of liquids and contaminants to produce pipeline-quality natural gas. We also design and manufacture gas-processing facilities that remove carbon dioxide from hydrocarbon streams. These facilities use Cynara(R) membrane technology, which provides the most cost-effective separation solution for hydrocarbon streams containing high concentrations of carbon dioxide. Primary markets for this application are production from gas wells, such as those located in Southeast Asia, which have naturally occurring carbon dioxide, and production fields that use CO(2) flood enhanced oil recovery systems. We also design and supply systems for separation of H(2)S and sulfur recovery, using Shell-Paques(TM) technology.
- Floating Production Systems. These consist of large skid-mounted processing units used in conjunction with semi-submersible, converted tankers and other floating production vessels. Floating production equipment must be specially designed to overcome the detrimental effects of wave motion on floating vessels. We pioneered and patented the first wave-motion production vessel internals system and continue to advance this technology at our research and development facility using a wave-motion table, which simulates a variety of sea states. We also utilize Computational Fluid

12

Dynamic modeling and Finite Element Analysis to ensure that these facilities are optimally designed and are fabricated to meet the durability requirements at defined sea states.

- Dehydration and Desalting Systems. Dehydration and desalting involves the removal of water and salt from an oil stream. Desalting is a specialized form of dehydration. In this process, water is injected into an oil stream to dissolve the salt and the saltwater is then removed from the stream. Large production projects often use electrostatic technology to desalt oil. We believe that we are the leading developer of electrostatic technologies for oil treating and desalting. One of our dehydration and desalting systems, the Electro Dynamic(TM) Desalter, can be used in oil refineries, where stringent desalting requirements have grown increasingly important. These requirements have increased as crude quality has declined and catalysts have become more sensitive and sophisticated, requiring lower levels of contaminants. This technology reduces the number and size of vessels employed by this system and is particularly important in refinery and offshore applications where space is at a premium.
- Water Injection Systems. We provide water injection systems used both onshore and offshore to remove contaminants from water to be injected into a reservoir during production so that the formation or its production characteristics are not adversely affected. These systems may involve media and cartridge filters, de-aeration, chemical injection and sulfate removal. Offshore facilities to treat raw seawater involving use of sulfate removal membranes can be and often are very large projects, and are increasingly necessary for field development in locations such as West Africa and Brazil. For example, during 2002, we designed, manufactured and assembled SRM modules situated off the coast of West Africa that are capable of treating 350,000 barrels per day of seawater.
- Produced Water Cleanup Systems. We design and engineer systems that, through the use of liquid/liquid hydro-cyclone technology and induced or

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

dissolved gas flotation technology, remove oil and solids from a produced water stream. Oily water cleanup is often required prior to the disposal or re-injection of produced water.

- Other Proprietary Equipment. We design and supply a broad range of proprietary equipment that may be part of a larger system or may be sold separately to customers for application in an oil and gas field development or retrofit. Such equipment includes wellhead desanders, sand cleaning facilities, sand fluidization, specialty oil heaters and other process equipment.
- Downstream Facilities. We offer several technologies that have crossover applications in the refinery and petrochemical sectors. Most involve aspects of oil treating and water treating. We discussed above the use in refineries of one of our dehydration and desalting systems. Through our subsidiary operation in Camberley, England, we also design and supply process facilities for hydrogen generation and purification, for use in refineries and petrochemical plants or by industrial gas suppliers. In addition, we can provide DOX(TM) units to ethylene processors that clean both heavy and light dispersed oil from water.

AUTOMATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

The primary market for automation and control systems is in offshore applications throughout the world. We market and service these products through our TEST subsidiary, with U.S. locations in Houston, Texas and Harvey and New Iberia, Louisiana, and international locations in Kazakhstan and Nigeria. These automation and control systems include:

- Control Systems. We design, assemble and install pneumatic, hydraulic, electrical and computerized control panels and systems. These systems monitor and change key parameters of oil and gas production systems. Key parameters include wellhead flow control, emergency shutdown of production and safety systems. A control system consists of a control panel and related tubing, wiring, sensors and connections.
- Engineering and Field Services. We provide start-up support, testing, maintenance, repair, renovation, expansion and upgrade of control systems including those designed or installed by competitors,

13

for our customers in the U.S. and international locations. Our design and engineering staff also provide contract electrical engineering services.

- SCADA Systems. Supervisory control and data acquisition ("SCADA") systems provide remote monitoring and control of equipment, production facilities, pipelines and compressors via radio, cellular phone, microwave and satellite communication links. SCADA systems reduce the number of personnel and frequency of site visits and allow for continued production during periods of emergency evacuation, thereby reducing operating costs.

MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

We operate seven primary manufacturing facilities ranging in size from approximately 8,000 square feet to approximately 130,000 square feet of manufacturing space. We own four of these facilities and lease the other three. Our 51,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Covington, Louisiana was closed in December 2003, as part of a restructuring effort in late 2003, and is currently being held for sale.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Our major manufacturing facilities are located in:

- Electra, Texas. We produce various types of low- and high-pressure production vessels, as well as skid-mounted packages at this 130,000 square foot facility.
- Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We produce heavy wall and cold weather packaged equipment and systems primarily for the Canadian and Alaskan markets at this 100,000 square foot facility.
- New Iberia, Louisiana. We fabricate packaged production systems for delivery throughout the world at this 60,000 square foot and 16 acre waterfront facility, which can handle large equipment systems. We upgraded and expanded this facility in 2001.
- Magnolia, Texas. We fabricate various types of low-pressure production vessels as skid packages at this 38,000 square foot facility. This facility also refurbishes used equipment.
- Harvey, Louisiana. We fabricate control panels for delivery throughout the world at this 12,000 square foot climate-controlled facility.
- Pittsburg, California. We manufacture the membranes for our bulk carbon dioxide membrane separation equipment at this 8,000 square foot facility.
- Houston, Texas. We fabricate control panels for delivery throughout the world at this 8,000 square foot climate-controlled facility.

Our manufacturing operations are vertically integrated. At most locations, we are able to engineer, fabricate, heat treat, inspect and test our products. Consequently, we are able to control the quality of our products and the cost and schedule of our manufacturing activities.

Our New Iberia, Electra and Calgary facilities have been certified to ISO 9001 standards. This certification is an internationally recognized verification system for quality management overseen by the International Standards Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. The certification is based on a review of our programs and procedures designed to maintain and enhance quality production and is subject to annual review and re-certification.

We fabricate to the standards of the American Petroleum Institute, the American Welding Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and specific customer specifications. We use welding and fabrication procedures in accordance with the latest technology and industry requirements. We have instituted training programs to upgrade skilled personnel and maintain high quality standards. We believe that these programs generally enhance the quality of our products and reduce their repair rate.

14

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

We believe we are an industry leader in the development of oil and gas production equipment technology. We pioneered many of the original separation technologies for converting unprocessed hydrocarbon fluids into salable oil and gas. For example, we developed:

- the first high capacity oil and gas separator system;
- patented efficiencies for our cyclonic separation devices, including the

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Porta-Test(R) Revolution(TM) and WhirlyScrub(TM) V's and I's technologies;

- the first emulsion treating systems, which have been advanced through the application of our Dual Polarity(TM), TriVolt(TM), TriGrid(TM), TriGridmax(TM) and the EDD(TM) (ElectroDynamic Desalting(TM)) electrostatic oil treaters;
- a PC-based Load Responsive Controller(TM) (LRC(TM)) for controlling electrostatic treaters within ranges that are conducive to effective emulsion breaking;
- a composite electrostatic grid system for use in complex separation applications;
- DOX(TM) and OSX(TM) water filtration systems, technologies that have many years of successful testimonies and for which leading engineering contractors specify by name;
- the Oilspin AV(TM) and the automatic turndown capable AVi(TM) liquid/liquid hydro-cyclones;
- the Mozley Sandspin(TM) solid/liquid hydro-cyclones and the Mozley Wellspin(TM) wellhead desander;
- the Mozley SandClean(TM) System for cleanup of sand prior to offshore discharge;
- the Tridair(TM) Single Cell VersaFlo(TM) flotation unit;
- high pressure indirect and Controlled Heat Flux(TM) (CHF(TM)) heaters;
- internal system designs and devices used inside separators and other vessels to compensate for wave motion;
- PERFORMAX(R) oil and water coalescing systems, which are recognized and trusted internationally; and
- enhancements in Cynara(R) membrane fibers to allow for increased acid gas separation efficiencies.

As of December 31, 2003, we held 37 active U.S. and equivalent foreign patents and numerous U.S. and foreign trademarks. We also have applications pending for nine additional U.S. patents. In addition, we are licensed under several patents held by others.

We operate a research and development facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where we conduct technology and product development studies that are tailored to the needs of our customers. Such studies utilize our pilot facilities, including a simulation loop capable of flowing 6 thousand barrels per day and 10 mmcf per day of gas and a wave motion table that allows customers to validate 1/20(th) scale performance internals in dynamic wave motion conditions. In many cases, testing is applied to crude oil provided by our customers, resulting in an increase in our customer's understanding and comfort with the actual performance of our products.

At our manufacturing facility in Pittsburg, California, we are engaged in active, ongoing research and development in the area of membrane technology. We also have research and development operations at our facilities in the United Kingdom, where we focus primarily on water treatment developments.

As a contracted service to our customers, we utilize Computational Fluid

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Dynamic (CFD) Modeling to dynamically simulate the conditions of process equipment both offshore and onshore. CFD studies have been key to validating performance and durability of process equipment and are offered as a competitive advantage to our hardware sales.

At December 31, 2003, NATCO had 16 employees engaged in research and development and product commercialization activities.

15

MARKETING

Our products and services are marketed primarily through an internal sales force augmented by technical applications specialists for specific customer requirements. In addition, we maintain agency relationships in most energy producing regions of the world to enhance our efforts in countries where we do not have employees. Our traditional production equipment and services business has 34 operating branches in the U.S. and Canada through which we sell production equipment, spare parts and services directly to oil and gas operators. Our engineered systems business typically involves a significant pre-award effort during which we must provide technical qualifications, evaluate the requirements of the specific project, design a conceptual solution that meets the project requirements and estimate our cost to provide the system to the customer in the time frame required. Our automation and control systems business is primarily marketed through our internal sales force.

CUSTOMERS

We devote a considerable portion of our marketing time and effort to developing and maintaining relationships with key customers. Some of these relationships are project specific. However, our customer base ranges from independent operators to major and national oil companies worldwide. In 2003, ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates and BP and affiliates, provided 9%, 7% and 5% of our consolidated revenues, respectively, with no other customer contributing more than 5% of total sales for the year ended December 31, 2003. In 2002, ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, BP and affiliates excluding CTOC, and ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, provided 10%, 6% and 5% of our consolidated revenues, respectively, with no other customer providing more than 5% of our consolidated revenues during 2002. In 2001, Anadarko and affiliates, ChevronTexaco Corp. and affiliates, and BP and affiliates excluding CTOC, each provided 5% of our consolidated revenue, with no other customer contributing more than 5% of total revenues for the year ended December 31, 2001. Our level of technical expertise, extensive distribution network and breadth of product offerings contributes to the maintenance of good working relationships with our customers.

BACKLOG

Backlog consists of firm customer orders for which satisfactory credit or financing arrangements have been made, authorization has been given to begin work or purchase materials and a delivery date has been scheduled.

Our sales backlogs at December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, were \$64.0 million, \$90.1 million and \$101.3 million, respectively. The decline in backlog at December 31, 2003 compared to December 31, 2002 was primarily due to the run-off of backlog associated with several significant West African engineered systems projects recorded as bookings in 2002, with fewer significant bookings for the year ended December 31, 2003. Backlog at December 31, 2003 included \$8.3 million related to ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates and \$7.6 million related to an Aker/Kvaerner joint venture. Backlog at December 31, 2002 included \$28.7 million related to ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, and \$11.7 million for ChevronTexaco Corp. Backlog at December 31, 2001 included \$27.4 million for

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, and \$11.1 million for a North Sea consortium.

Occasionally, a customer will cancel or delay a project for reasons beyond our control. In the event of a project cancellation, we generally are reimbursed for costs incurred but typically have no contractual right to the total revenues reflected in our backlog. In addition, projects may remain in our backlog for extended periods of time. If we were to experience significant cancellations or delays of projects in our backlog, our results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

COMPETITION

Contracts for our products and services are generally awarded on a competitive basis. The most important factors considered by customers in awarding contracts include the availability and capabilities of equipment, the ability to meet the customer's delivery schedule, price, reputation, experience and safety record.

16

Historically, the existence of overcapacity in the industry has caused increased price competition in many areas of the business. In addition, we may encounter obstacles in our international operations that impair our ability to compete in individual countries. These obstacles may include: subsidies granted in favor of local companies; taxes, import duties and fees imposed on foreign operators; lower wage rates in foreign countries; fluctuations in the exchange value of the United States dollar compared with the local currency; and U.S. trade sanctions against embargoed countries. Any or all these factors could adversely affect our ability to compete and thus unfavorably affect our results of operations.

The primary competitors for our North American Operations business include Hanover Compressor Co., Flint Energy Services and numerous privately held, mainly regional companies. Competitors for our Engineered Systems business include Petreco, Kvaerner Process Systems, UOP, Hanover Compressor Co., U.S. Filter, Weir Techna and numerous engineering and construction firms. The primary competitors for our Automation and Control Systems business are W Industries, MMR-Radon, P2S/SECO and numerous privately held companies operating in the Gulf Coast region.

We believe that we are one of the largest crude oil and natural gas production equipment providers in North America and have one of the leading market shares internationally. We further believe that our size, research and development capabilities, brand names and marketing organization provide us with a competitive advantage over the other participants in the industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

We are subject to environmental regulation by federal, state and local authorities in the United States and in several foreign countries. Although we believe that we are in substantial compliance with all applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations ("laws"), the field of environmental regulation can change rapidly with the enactment or enhancement of laws and stepped up enforcement of these laws, either of which could require us to change or discontinue certain business activities. We have been named as a potentially responsible de minimis party in connection with two superfund sites. At present, we are not involved in any material environmental matters of any nature and are not aware of any material environmental matters threatened against us.

EMPLOYEES

At December 31, 2003, we had 1,664 employees. Of these, 131 Canadian

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

employees were represented under collective bargaining agreements that extend through July 2005. We believe that our relationships with our employees are satisfactory.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We operate seven primary manufacturing plants ranging in size from approximately 8,000 square feet to approximately 130,000 square feet of manufacturing space. We also own and lease distribution and service centers, sales offices and warehouses. We lease our corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas. At December 31, 2003, we owned or leased approximately 1.0 million square feet of facility of which approximately 485,000 square feet was leased, and approximately 538,000 square feet was owned. Of the total manufacturing space, approximately 218,000 square feet was located in the United States and approximately 100,000 square feet was located in Canada. Our Covington manufacturing facility was closed and held for sale, and our Edmonton manufacturing facility was sublet to a new tenant as of December 31, 2003. Square footage of manufacturing space at these facilities totaling 60,000 feet and 51,000 feet, respectively, was excluded from total manufacturing space above, but was included in total square footage owned or leased as of December 31, 2003.

17

The following chart summarizes the number of facilities owned or leased by us by geographic region and business segment.

	UNITED STATES -----	CANADA -----	OTHER -----
North American Operations.....	35	6	4
Engineered Systems.....	1	--	7
Automation and Control Systems.....	3	--	1
Corporate and Other.....	2	--	--
	--	--	--
Totals.....	41	6	12
	==	==	==

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Magnum Transcontinental Corp. Arbitration and Related Matter. These matters stem from an agreement among NATCO Group, Magnum Transcontinental Corporation, the U.S. procurement arm of Petroserv S.A., and Zephyr Offshore, Inc., a Petroserv subsidiary, to manufacture and install a processing plant on a Petroserv rig, and Petroserv's agency agreement with NATCO for certain projects in Brazil. NATCO claims Magnum owes it \$418,990 under the plant manufacturing agreement for additional work performed in excess of the days agreed in the contract. NATCO submitted the matter to binding American Arbitration Association arbitration on October 29, 2003. An arbitrator has been selected, and arbitration is scheduled in Houston, Texas during August 2004. In the arbitration, Magnum has counter-claimed for \$4,685,000, alleging breach of contract. NATCO disputes the amounts claimed by Magnum, and intends to vigorously pursue its claims while defending against the counterclaim. After NATCO filed its request for arbitration, Petroserv submitted a mediation request under its representation agreement with NATCO, claiming unpaid agency fees on several contracts, including the Magnum contract. No resolution resulted from the mediation, which was held on January 23, 2004. NATCO believes any fees owed

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

to Petroserv under the agency agreement are offset by NATCO's claims against Magnum. NATCO disputes that it owes any fees for the Magnum work or any work obtained in Brazil after the representation agreement terminated in early 2003. It is not presently known what, if any, further action Petroserv will take in this regard.

NATCO and its subsidiaries are defendants or otherwise involved in a number of other legal proceedings in the ordinary course of their business. While we insure against the risk of these proceedings to the extent deemed prudent by our management, we can offer no assurance that the type or value of this insurance will meet the liabilities that may arise from any pending or future legal proceedings related to our business activities. While we cannot predict the outcome of any legal proceedings with certainty, in the opinion of management, our ultimate liability with respect to these pending lawsuits is not expected to have a significant or material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of 2003.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Our authorized common stock consists of 50,000,000 shares of common stock. Prior to January 1, 2002, our common stock was divided into two classes designated as "Class A common stock" and "Class B common stock." On January 1, 2002, all outstanding shares of Class B common stock automatically converted into shares of Class A common stock, and the authorized common stock reverted to a single class designated as "common stock." We had 15,922,661 shares outstanding as of March 10, 2004, held by 82 record holders. The number of record holders of our common stock does not include the stockholders for whom shares are held in a "nominee" or "street" name. We had 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock authorized at March 10, 2004, of

18

which 500,000 shares are designated Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock and 15,000 shares are designated Series B Convertible Preferred Stock. At that date, there were no Series A preferred shares outstanding and 15,000 Series B preferred shares outstanding, issued to one record holder. Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol NTG.

The following table sets forth, for the calendar quarters indicated, the high and low sales prices of our common stock reported by the NYSE for each of the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001.

	COMMON STOCK	
	HIGH	LOW
2001		
First Quarter.....	\$11.50	\$8.06
Second Quarter.....	13.74	8.80
Third Quarter.....	9.02	6.82
Fourth Quarter.....	8.20	6.00

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

2002		
First Quarter.....	\$ 8.60	\$6.51
Second Quarter.....	9.12	6.80
Third Quarter.....	8.60	5.85
Fourth Quarter.....	7.54	5.85
2003		
First Quarter.....	\$ 6.90	\$5.24
Second Quarter.....	7.45	5.12
Third Quarter.....	7.24	5.85
Fourth Quarter.....	7.59	5.50

Pursuant to the terms of our Series B preferred stock, we pay an annual dividend to holders of such stock of 10% of the face value of the stock. We do not intend to declare or pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future, but rather intend to retain any future earnings in excess of the preferred stock dividend amount for use in the business. Our credit facility restricts our ability to pay dividends and other distributions.

In March 2003, we issued 15,000 shares of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Preferred Shares") and warrants to purchase 248,800 shares of our common stock, to Lime Rock Partners II, L.P., a private investment fund, for an aggregate purchase price of \$15.0 million. Approximately \$99,000 of the aggregate purchase price was allocated to the warrants. Proceeds from the issuance of these securities, net of related estimated issuance costs of approximately \$800,000, were used to reduce our outstanding revolving debt balances and for other general corporate purposes. These securities were issued in a private offering to a single purchaser and were exempt from registration under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Series B Preferred Shares and warrant are convertible into, or exercisable for, shares of our common stock. The terms of conversion and exercise are disclosed in Note 3, Capital Stock, Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock and Equity, to the Notes to our consolidated financials statements included in Item 8 of this document.

19

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following summary consolidated historical financial information for the periods and the dates indicated should be read in conjunction with our consolidated historical financial statements.

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999

	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)				
Statement of Operations Data:					
Revenues.....	\$281,462	\$289,539	\$286,582	\$224,552	\$169,94
Cost of goods sold.....	215,459	219,354	210,512	162,757	127,60
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gross profit.....	66,003	70,185	76,070	61,795	42,33
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	51,476	53,947	51,471	39,443	32,43
Depreciation and amortization expense...	5,069	4,958	8,143	5,111	4,68
Closure and other.....	2,105	548	1,600	1,528	-

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Interest expense.....	4,085	4,527	4,941	1,588	3,25
Interest cost on postretirement benefit liability.....	837	471	888	1,287	1,04
Revaluation gain on post-retirement benefit liability.....	--	--	--	--	(1,01
Interest income.....	(190)	(248)	(660)	(181)	(25
Other expense, net.....	1,211	400	429	13	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	1,410	5,582	9,258	13,006	2,18
Income tax provision.....	1,243	1,705	3,895	5,345	1,54
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	167	3,877	5,363	7,661	64
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net of income tax(1).....	34	--	--	(10)	--
Preferred stock dividends.....	1,152	--	--	--	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.....	\$ (1,019)	\$ 3,877	\$ 5,363	\$ 7,671	\$ 64
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Basic earnings per share available to common stockholders before cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.0
Diluted earnings per share available to common stockholders before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.0
Balance Sheet Data (at the end of the period)					
Total assets.....	\$237,728	\$231,595	\$232,751	\$153,126	\$106,83
Stockholders' equity.....	\$ 92,476	\$ 91,852	\$ 88,930	\$ 86,179	\$ 28,51
Series B preferred stock, net.....	\$ 14,101	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Long-term debt, excluding current installments.....	\$ 38,003	\$ 45,257	\$ 51,568	\$ 14,959	\$ 31,18
Postretirement and other long-term obligations.....	\$ 12,771	\$ 12,718	\$ 14,107	\$ 14,589	\$ 15,85

(1) We recorded the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles associated with the adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." See Note 13, Change in Accounting Principle in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

20

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion of our historical results of operations and financial condition should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

OVERVIEW

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

We offer products and services as either integrated systems or individual components primarily through three business lines:

- traditional production equipment and services, through which we provide standardized components, replacement parts and used components and equipment servicing;
- engineered systems, through which we provide customized, large scale integrated oil, gas and water production and processing systems; and
- automation and control systems, through which we provide control panels and systems that monitor and control oil and gas production, as well as repair, testing and inspection services for existing systems.

We report three separate business segments: North American Operations, Engineered Systems and Automation and Control Systems.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, including Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, includes 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 (each a "Forward-Looking Statement"). The words "believe," "expect," "plan," "intend," "estimate," "project," "will," "could," "may" and similar expressions are intended to identify Forward-Looking Statements. Forward-Looking Statements in this document include, but are not limited to, discussions of accounting policies and estimates, indicated trends in the level of oil and gas exploration and production and the effect of such conditions on our results of operations (see "--Industry and Business Environment"), future uses of and requirements for financial resources (see "--Liquidity and Capital Resources"), and anticipated backlog levels for 2004. Our expectations about our business outlook, customer spending, oil and gas prices and the business environment for the industry, in general, and us, in particular, are only our expectations regarding these matters. Actual results may differ materially from those in the Forward-Looking Statements herein for reasons including, but not limited to: market factors such as pricing and demand for petroleum related products, the level of petroleum industry exploration and production expenditures, the effects of competition, world economic conditions, the level of drilling activity, the legislative environment in the United States and other countries, policies of OPEC, conflict in major petroleum producing or consuming regions, acts of terrorism, the development of technology which could lower overall finding and development costs, weather patterns and the overall condition of capital markets for countries in which we operate.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements, related notes and other financial information appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Readers are also urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures advising interested parties of the factors that affect us, including, without limitation, the disclosures made under the caption "Risk Factors" and the other factors and risks discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and in subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any Forward-Looking Statement to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any Forward-Looking Statement is based.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements requires us to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the results reported in our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes.

These estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and on our future expectations that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements contains a summary of our significant accounting policies. We believe the following accounting policies are the most critical in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue Recognition: Percentage-of-Completion Method. We recognize revenues from significant contracts (contracts greater than \$250,000 and longer than four months in duration) and certain automation and controls contracts and orders on the percentage of completion method of accounting. Earned revenue is based on the percentage that costs incurred to date relate to total estimated costs of the project, after giving effect to the most recent estimates of total cost. The timing of costs incurred, and therefore recognition of revenue, could be affected by various internal or external factors including, but not limited to: changes in project scope (change orders), changes in productivity, scheduling, the cost and availability of labor, the cost and availability of raw materials, the weather, client delays in providing approvals at benchmark stages of the project and the timing of deliveries from third-party providers of key components. The cumulative impact of revisions in total cost estimates during the progress of work is reflected in the period in which these changes become known. Earned revenue reflects the original contract price adjusted for agreed claims and change order revenues, if applicable. Losses expected to be incurred on the jobs in progress, after consideration of estimated probable minimum recoveries from claims and change orders, are charged to income as soon as such losses are known. Claims for additional contract revenue are recognized if it is probable that the claim will result in additional revenue and the amount can be reliably estimated. We generally recognize revenue and earnings to which the percentage-of-completion method applies over a period of two to six or more quarters. In the event a project is terminated by our customer before completion, our customer is liable for costs incurred under the contract. We believe that our operating results should be evaluated over a term of several years to evaluate our performance under long-term contracts, after all change orders, scope changes and cost recoveries have been negotiated and realized. We record revenues and profits on all other sales as shipments are made or services are performed.

Impairment Testing: Goodwill. As required by Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," we evaluate goodwill annually for impairment by comparing the fair value of operating assets to the carrying value of those assets, including any related goodwill. As required by SFAS No. 142, we identify separate reportable units for purposes of this evaluation. In determining carrying value, we segregate assets and liabilities that, to the extent possible, are clearly identifiable by specific reportable unit. Certain corporate and other assets and liabilities, that are not clearly identifiable by specific reportable unit, are allocated in accordance with the standard. Fair value is determined by discounting projected future cash flows at our cost of capital rate, as calculated. The fair value is then compared to the carrying value of the reportable unit to determine whether or not impairment has occurred at the reportable unit level. In the event an impairment is indicated, an additional test is performed whereby an implied fair value of goodwill is determined through an allocation of the fair value to the reporting unit's assets and liabilities, whether recognized or unrecognized, in a manner similar to a purchase price allocation, in accordance with SFAS No. 141, "Business Combinations." Any residual fair value after this purchase price allocation would be assumed to relate to goodwill. If the carrying value of the goodwill exceeded the residual fair value, we would record an impairment charge for that amount. Net goodwill was \$80.1 million at December 31, 2003. We tested

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

goodwill for impairment as required by SFAS No. 142 at December 31, 2003, and we did not record an impairment charge as a result of this testing.

Deferred Income Tax Assets: Valuation Allowance. We account for income taxes in accordance with SFAS No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes." SFAS No. 109 requires us to provide a valuation allowance for any net deferred income tax assets that we believe will not be utilized through future operations. For the most recent fiscal years, our Canadian subsidiary has recorded net losses, as consolidated, partially due to certain restructuring efforts undertaken in late 2002 and early 2003, and the impact of certain foreign currency transactions. As a result of these losses, we recorded a \$349,000 valuation allowance at December 31, 2003 to fully reserve for the net deferred tax asset at this subsidiary. We have a \$258,000 valuation allowance related to the realizability of certain net operating losses related to Axsia, and another \$152,000 related to other foreign operations. Based upon the level of historical taxable income and projected future taxable income over

22

the periods to which our deferred tax assets are deductible, we believe it is more likely than not that we will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances at December 31, 2003. However, the amount of the deferred tax asset considered realizable, and thus the amount of these valuation allowances, could change if future taxable income differs from our projections.

ACQUISITIONS

In November 1998, we acquired all the outstanding common stock of The Cynara Company ("Cynara"), a designer and manufacturer of specialized production equipment utilizing membrane technology to separate bulk carbon dioxide from natural gas streams, for approximately \$15.5 million, 500,000 shares of our then outstanding Class B Common Stock and the right to receive additional shares of common stock based upon the financial performance of the Cynara assets. Ultimately, we issued 752,501 additional shares, as Class B Common Stock to former Cynara stockholders under this provision. All Class B Common Stock automatically converted to common stock, on a share-for-share basis, on January 1, 2002.

In March 2001, we acquired all the outstanding share capital of Axsia Holdings Limited, a privately held process and design company based in the United Kingdom, for approximately \$42.8 million, net of cash acquired. Axsia specializes in the design and supply of equipment for water re-injection systems for oil and gas fields, oily water treatment, oil separation, hydrogen production and other oil and gas processing equipment systems. This acquisition was financed with borrowings under our 2001 term loan and revolving credit facility.

We accounted for each of the above transactions using the purchase method of accounting.

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

As a leading provider of wellhead process equipment, systems and services used in the production of oil and gas, our revenues and results of operations are closely tied to demand for oil and gas products and spending by oil and gas companies for exploration and development of oil and gas reserves. These companies generally invest more in exploration and development efforts during periods of favorable oil and gas commodity prices, and invest less during periods of unfavorable oil and gas prices. As supply and demand change, commodity prices fluctuate producing cyclical trends in the industry. During

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

periods of lower demand, revenues for service providers such as NATCO generally decline, as existing projects are completed and new projects are postponed. During periods of recovery, revenues for service providers can lag behind the industry due to the timing of new project awards.

Changes in commodity prices have impacted our business over the past several years. The following table summarizes the price of domestic crude oil per barrel and the wellhead price of natural gas per thousand cubic feet ("mcf"), as published by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the number of rotary drilling rigs in operation, as published by Baker Hughes Incorporated, for the most recent five years:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Average price of crude oil per barrel in the U.S.	\$27.56	\$22.51	\$21.86	\$26.72	\$15.56
Average wellhead price of natural gas per mcf in the U.S.	\$ 4.97	\$ 2.95	\$ 4.12	\$ 3.69	\$ 2.19
Average U.S. rig count.....	1,030	830	1,156	918	625

At December 31, 2003, the spot price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil was \$32.51 per barrel, the price of natural gas was \$5.96 per mcf, and the U.S. rig count was 1,114. At February 27, 2004, the spot price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil was \$36.08 per barrel, the price of Henry Hub natural gas was \$5.27 per mcf, as per the New York Mercantile Exchange, and the U.S. rig count was 1,134, per Baker Hughes Incorporated. These spot prices reflect the overall volatility of oil and gas commodity prices in the current and recent years. Historically, we have viewed operating rig counts as a benchmark of spending in the oil and gas industry for exploration and development efforts. Our traditional equipment sales and services business generally correlates to changes in rig activity, but tends to lag behind the North American rig count trend. From a longer-term perspective, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that U.S. demand for and

23

consumption of petroleum and natural gas products will increase through 2025, with higher consumption rates expected worldwide, driven by demand for refined products and the use of natural gas to power plants that generate electricity. As demand grows and reserves in the United States decline, producers and service providers in the oil and gas industry may continue to rely more heavily on global sources of energy and expansion into new markets. The industry continues to seek more innovative and technologically efficient means to extract hydrocarbons from existing fields, as production profiles change. As a result, additional and more complex equipment may be required to produce oil and gas from these fields, especially since many new oil and gas fields produce lower quality or contaminated hydrocarbon streams, requiring more complex production equipment. In general, these trends should increase the demand for our products and services.

Our Engineered Systems business is impacted largely by the awarding and completion of larger, more complex oil and gas projects, primarily for international offshore locations. These projects typically have a longer bidding, evaluation, awarding and construction period than our traditional equipment and services business and are more subject to our customers' long-term

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

view of the oil and gas supply and demand outlook for the related region, as well as expected commodity prices and political or governmental situations. In recent periods, we have experienced the absence of, delays in, or lack of large international projects with favorable economic terms, which has impacted our Engineered Systems business results as well as our current level of project bookings for this segment.

During the fourth quarter of 2002 and throughout 2003, we streamlined certain of our operations to decrease excess capacity and be more responsive to current market trends, including the closure and consolidation of manufacturing facilities in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Covington, Louisiana. Furthermore, we reallocated certain internal resources, consolidated certain Engineered Systems operations in the U.K., and closed an Engineered Systems business development office in Singapore.

In December 2003, we placed into service an expansion of our gas-processing facilities at Sacroc. This expansion will increase our operating capacity at this facility from 180 mmcf per day to 367 mmcf per day. Our operating agreement for this facility provides for daily processing minimums, and we project that this operation will contribute significantly to earnings and cash flows for 2004 compared to 2003. Therefore, we expect a larger percentage of our revenues and margins in 2004, compared to 2003, to be attributable to our CO(2) gas-processing business, a component of our North American Operations segment.

The following discussion of our historical results of operations and financial condition should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
	(IN THOUSANDS)		
Statement of Operations Data:			
Revenues.....	\$281,462	\$289,539	\$286,582
Cost of goods sold.....	215,459	219,354	210,512
	-----	-----	-----
Gross profit.....	66,003	70,185	76,070
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	51,476	53,947	51,471
Depreciation and amortization expense.....	5,069	4,958	8,143
Closure and other.....	2,105	548	1,600
Interest expense.....	4,085	4,527	4,941
Interest cost on postretirement benefit liability.....	837	471	888
Interest income.....	(190)	(248)	(660)
Other expense, net.....	1,211	400	429
	-----	-----	-----
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and change in accounting principle.....	1,410	5,582	9,258

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

	2003	2002	2001
	(IN THOUSANDS)		
Provision for income taxes.....	1,243	1,705	3,895
Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	167	3,877	5,363
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle (net of income tax benefit of \$18 in 2003).....	34	--	--
Net income.....	\$ 133	\$ 3,877	\$ 5,363
Preferred stock dividends.....	(1,152)	--	--
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.....	(1,019)	3,877	5,363

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

Revenues. Revenues for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$8.1 million, or 3%, to \$281.5 million, from \$289.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. The overall decline in revenues was primarily attributable to a slower than expected recovery in the oil and gas industry, following a downturn in 2001, and the cyclical nature of the industry. The following table summarizes revenues by business segment for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively:

REVENUES:	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		CHANGE	
	2003	2002	DOLLARS	PERCENTAGE
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PERCENTAGES)			
North American Operations.....	\$132,670	\$137,374	\$ (4,704)	(3)%
Engineered Systems.....	98,280	107,041	(8,761)	(8)
Automation and Control Systems.....	56,679	52,142	4,537	9
Corporate and Inter-segment Eliminations.....	(6,167)	(7,018)	851	(12)
Total.....	\$281,462	\$289,539	\$ (8,077)	(3)%

Revenues from our North American Operations segment for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$4.7 million, or 3%, to \$132.7 million from \$137.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease was related primarily to a decline in the number of traditional equipment projects in progress in 2003 compared to 2002, and a decline in revenues contributed by our operations in Mexico and membrane replacement sales for the respective periods. These declines were partially offset by higher parts and service sales, as well as an increase in revenues derived from our CO(2) gas-processing business. The increase in parts and service sales was directly attributable to an increase in oilfield activity in 2003 compared to 2002, as the average U.S. rotary rig count increased from 830 for the year ended December 31, 2002 to 1,030 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Revenues from our Canadian operations increased during 2003 due to several large projects that were completed during the year. Canadian rotary rig counts increased from an average of 263 for the year ended December 31, 2002 to 372 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Inter-segment revenues for this business segment were approximately \$1.4 million and \$917,000 for the years

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Revenues from our Engineered Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$8.8 million, or 8%, to \$98.3 million from \$107.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease was primarily due to a decline in the number of large international production system jobs in 2003 relative to 2002, partially due to project delays and increased competition. Engineered Systems revenues of \$98.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 included inter-segment revenues of \$784,000, compared to \$1.8 million of inter-segment revenues for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Revenues from our Automation and Control Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2003 increased \$4.5 million, or 9%, to \$56.7 million from \$52.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. The increase was primarily related to a general increase in the number of jobs in progress during 2003 compared to

25

2002, and the completion of several larger projects in 2003. Inter-segment revenues decreased from \$4.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2002 to \$4.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2003.

The change in revenues for corporate and inter-segment eliminations represents the elimination of inter-segment revenues discussed above.

Gross Profit. Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$4.2 million, or 6%, to \$66.0 million from \$70.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins declined from 24% for the year ended December 31, 2002 to 23% for the year ended December 31, 2003, largely due to the decline in margins associated with our North American Operations business and an overall decline in sales for the respective periods. The following table summarizes gross profit by business segment for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively:

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		CHANGE	
GROSS PROFIT: -----	2003	2002	DOLLARS	PERCENT
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PERCENTAGES)			
North American Operations.....	\$33,775	\$37,583	\$(3,808)	(10)
Engineered Systems.....	22,525	23,213	(688)	(3)
Automation and Control Systems.....	9,703	9,389	314	3
	\$66,003	\$70,185	\$(4,182)	(6)
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Gross profit from our North American Operations segment for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$3.8 million, or 10%, to \$33.8 million from \$37.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease in gross profit was primarily due to a 3% decline in sales for the segment for the respective period, including a decline in more favorable margin sales related to our Latin American operations and our membrane replacement sales, as several higher margin membrane sales were completed in 2002. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for the segment were 25% and 27% for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Gross profit from our Engineered Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$688,000, or 3%, to \$22.5 million from \$23.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decline in gross profit was primarily related to an 8% decline in sales, partially offset by improved overall performance. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for this segment were 23% and 22% for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Gross profit from our Automation and Control Systems segment for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 increased \$314,000, or 3%, to \$9.7 million from \$9.4 million. This increase was primarily due to a 9% increase in sales for the segment for the respective period, partially offset by an unfavorable mix of projects in 2003 and increased competition for jobs in the Gulf of Mexico. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for this segment were 17% and 18% for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense. Selling, general and administrative expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$2.5 million, or 5%, to \$51.5 million from \$53.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease was largely due to a decline in variable compensation based on operating results and the impact of restructuring activities in Canada during the fourth quarter of 2002 and other restructuring efforts in the U.S. and U.K. during the last six months of 2003. These expense decreases were partially offset by higher employee medical costs, workers' compensation insurance claim costs, higher professional fees and other corporate insurance policies. Overall headcount declined from 1,700 employees at December 31, 2002 to 1,664 employees at December 31, 2003.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense. Depreciation and amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 increased \$111,000, or 2%, to \$5.1 million from \$5.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. The increase in depreciation expense relates to the Sacroc gas processing facility expansions. Amortization expense was approximately \$100,000 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, and related primarily to patents and other intangible assets.

26

Closure and Other. Closure and other charges for the year ended December 31, 2003 of \$2.1 million related to certain restructuring activities in the third quarter of 2003 including the closure of a manufacturing facility in Covington, Louisiana, the consolidation of operations in the U.K., and post-employment benefits for terminated employees at these locations and at our corporate office. In addition, costs were incurred related to the closure of our Singapore marketing office in the fourth quarter of 2003, including certain lease termination costs and post-employment benefits for terminated employees. During the year ended December 31, 2002, we incurred costs of \$548,000 related to the closure of a manufacturing and engineering facility in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Costs included the involuntary termination of certain employees, relocation of equipment and certain personnel and the modification of related operating lease arrangements. At December 31, 2002, our remaining accrued liability related to this Canadian restructuring effort was \$304,000, and we incurred additional relocation and shop moving costs totaling \$230,000 during 2003.

Interest Expense. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$442,000, or 10%, to \$4.1 million from \$4.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease was due to a decline in outstanding debt from \$52.4 million at December 31, 2002 to \$43.6 million at December 31, 2003. The weighted average interest rate of our outstanding borrowings was approximately 4% for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002.

Interest Cost on Postretirement Benefit Liability. Interest cost on

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

postretirement benefit liability increased \$366,000, or 78%, from \$471,000 for the year ended December 31, 2002 to \$837,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003. This increase in interest cost was due to a decrease in the discount rate used to actuarially determine the present value of our postretirement obligation under this arrangement, consistent with a general decline in interest rates in recent years.

Other Expense, net. Other expense, net of \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2003, increased \$811,000, or 203%, compared to the year ended December 31, 2002. The change related primarily to net foreign currency losses incurred through our operations in the United Kingdom and Canada, due to a significant devaluation of the U.S. dollar relative to these foreign currencies during the year ended December 31, 2003.

Provision for Income Taxes. Income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2003 decreased \$462,000, or 27%, to \$1.2 million from \$1.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decline in income tax expense was primarily due to a decrease in income before income taxes, which was \$5.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2002, compared to \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. The increase in the effective tax rate from 30.5% for the year ended December 31, 2002 to 90.2% for the year ended December 31, 2003, was due primarily to the decline in pre-tax income, as permanent tax differences represented a greater portion of total taxable income, and a valuation allowance recorded as of December 31, 2003, to reserve for certain deferred tax assets related to our Canadian operations.

Preferred Stock Dividends. We recorded preferred stock dividends totaling \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 related to our Series B Convertible Preferred Stock, issued to a private investment fund in March 2003.

27

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

Revenues. Revenues for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$3.0 million, or 1%, to \$289.5 million, from \$286.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. The following table summarizes revenues by business segment for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively:

REVENUES: -----	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		CHANGE	
	2002	2001	DOLLARS	PERCENTAGE
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PERCENTAGES)			
North American Operations.....	\$137,374	\$145,147	\$ (7,773)	(5) %
Engineered Systems.....	107,041	99,021	8,020	8
Automation and Control Systems.....	52,142	47,693	4,449	9
Corporate and Inter-segment Eliminations.....	(7,018)	(5,279)	(1,739)	(33)
	\$289,539	\$286,582	\$ 2,957	1 %
	=====	=====	=====	

Revenues from our North American Operations segment for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$7.8 million, or 5%, to \$137.4 million from \$145.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This decrease was directly related to a decline in oilfield activity throughout 2002. The average North American

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

rotary rig count declined from 1,497 for the year ended December 31, 2001 to 1,093 for the year ended December 31, 2002. Although revenues for our traditional equipment and finished goods declined, results for our Latin American operations and CO2 gas-processing operations and field services improved during 2002 relative to 2001. Revenues from our Canadian operations decreased as Canadian rotary rig counts continued to decline from an average of 341 for the year ended December 31, 2001 to an average of 263 for the year ended December 31, 2002. Inter-segment revenues for this business segment were approximately \$917,000 and \$781,000 for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Revenues from our Engineered Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$8.0 million, or 8%, to \$107.0 million from \$99.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase was primarily due to several large projects, primarily in West Africa, that provided revenues of approximately \$31.0 million during 2002, offset by a decline in revenues from our U.K.-based operations and a decline in revenues earned in Southeast Asia, with the substantial completion of the CTOC project in late 2001. Engineered systems revenues of \$107.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2002 included inter-segment revenues of \$1.8 million, as compared to \$748,000 of inter-segment revenues for the year ended December 31, 2001.

Revenues from our Automation and Control Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$4.4 million, or 9%, to \$52.1 million from \$47.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. The increase was due to higher demand for our control equipment and field services, partially associated with repair projects in the Gulf of Mexico following several tropical weather systems in 2002. Inter-segment revenues increased from \$3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2001 to \$4.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2002.

The change in revenues for corporate and inter-segment eliminations represents the elimination of inter-segment revenues as discussed above.

28

Gross Profit. Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$5.9 million, or 8%, to \$70.2 million from \$76.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins declined from 27% for the year ended December 31, 2001 to 24% for the year ended December 31, 2002. The following table summarizes gross profit by business segment for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively:

GROSS PROFIT:	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		CHANGE	
-----	2002	2001	DOLLARS	PERCENT
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PERCENTAGES)			
North American Operations.....	\$37,583	\$35,475	\$ 2,108	6
Engineered Systems.....	23,213	31,221	(8,008)	(26)
Automation and Control Systems.....	9,389	9,374	15	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total.....	\$70,185	\$76,070	\$ (5,885)	(8)
	=====	=====	=====	

Gross profit from our North American Operations segment for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$2.1 million, or 6%, to \$37.6 million from \$35.5

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase in margin was primarily due to the contribution of our Latin American operations and our CO(2) gas-processing operations and field services, reflecting increased throughput from the expansion at our Sacroc facility. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for the segment were 27% and 24% for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Gross profit from our Engineered Systems segment for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$8.0 million, or 26%, to \$23.2 million from \$31.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2001, despite an 8% increase in revenues. This decline was due to the completion of several high-margin projects during 2001 in Southeast Asia and within our U.K.-based operations, partially offset by new projects for 2002 awarded at more traditional margins. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for this segment were 22% and 32% for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Gross profit from our Automation and Control Systems segment for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 remained constant, despite a 9% increase in revenues for the period, primarily due to an increase in labor costs attributable to higher medical benefit costs and an unfavorable mix of labor and materials in 2002 compared to 2001. As a percentage of revenue, gross margins for this segment were 18% and 20% for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense. Selling, general and administrative expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$2.5 million, or 5%, to \$53.9 million from \$51.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase was largely related to the following factors: one year of operating expenses at Axsia during 2002 compared to nine months during fiscal 2001; additional costs associated with the start-up of the Singapore office in March 2001; costs associated with the start-up of the Mexico marketing office opened in late 2001; and additional costs associated with employee medical claims.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense. Depreciation and amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$3.2 million, or 39%, to \$5.0 million from \$8.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 increased \$764,000, or 19%, to \$4.9 million from \$4.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This increase was primarily due to the inclusion of depreciation expense on assets acquired through the purchase of Axsia in March 2001, and depreciation on assets placed in service in late 2001 and 2002, including a significant upgrade of our drying plant facility in Pittsburg, California, and the expansion of our gas-processing plant at the Sacroc field. Amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$3.9 million, or 98%, to \$92,000 from \$4.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This decrease in amortization expense was attributable to a change in accounting method prescribed by SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." This pronouncement, adopted on January 1, 2002, requires that goodwill no longer be amortized over a prescribed period but rather intangible assets not assigned a useful life be evaluated annually for impairment. See "--Recent Accounting Pronouncements." Therefore, no goodwill amortization was recorded for the year

29

ended December 31, 2002, compared to \$3.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. In addition, the results for the year ended December 31, 2001 include amortization expense associated with certain employment contracts that were fully amortized as of December 31, 2001.

Closure and Other. Closure and other charges for the year ended December

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

31, 2002 of \$548,000 related to the closure of a manufacturing and engineering facility in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Costs include the involuntary termination of certain employees, relocation of equipment and certain personnel and the modification of related operating lease arrangements. At December 31, 2002, our remaining accrued liability related to this restructuring was \$304,000, and we expect to incur additional relocation and shop moving costs, which will expensed as incurred through the second quarter of 2003. During the year ended December 31, 2001, we incurred a charge totaling \$920,000 related to certain restructuring costs to streamline activities and consolidate offices in connection with the acquisition of Axsia in March 2001, and an additional \$680,000 related to our decision to withdraw a private debt offering.

Interest Expense. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$414,000, or 8%, to \$4.5 million from \$4.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This decrease was due to a decline in outstanding debt from \$58.6 million at December 31, 2001 to \$52.4 million at December 31, 2002. The weighted average interest rate of our outstanding borrowings remained constant for the respective periods.

Interest Cost on Postretirement Benefit Liability. Interest cost on postretirement benefit liability decreased \$417,000, or 47%, from \$888,000 for the year ended December 31, 2001 to \$471,000 for the year ended December 31, 2002. This decrease in interest cost was due to an amendment to the plan that provides medical and dental coverage to retirees of a predecessor company. Under the amended plan, retirees will bear more cost for coverages, thereby reducing our projected liability and the related interest cost.

Interest Income. Interest income decreased \$412,000, or 62%, from \$660,000 for the year ended December 31, 2001 to \$248,000 for the year ended December 31, 2002. This change in interest income was primarily due to interest earned on a federal income tax refund paid during 2001 by the Canadian taxing authorities.

Other Expense, net. Other expense, net of \$400,000 for the year ended December 31, 2002, declined \$29,000, or 7%, compared to the year ended December 31, 2001. The change relates primarily to foreign currency gains and losses incurred through our operations in the United Kingdom and Canada.

Provision for Income Taxes. Income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2002 decreased \$2.2 million, or 56%, to \$1.7 million from \$3.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. This decline in income tax expense was primarily due to a decrease in income before income taxes, which was \$5.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2002 as compared to \$9.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2001. The decrease in the effective tax rate from 42.1% for the year ended December 31, 2001 to 30.5% for the year ended December 31, 2002, was due primarily to no longer recognizing non-deductible goodwill amortization expense, as per SFAS No. 142, adopted January 1, 2002.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of January 31, 2004, we had cash and working capital of \$2.0 million and \$34.6 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2003, we had cash and working capital of \$1.8 million and \$34.6 million, respectively, as compared to \$1.7 million and \$36.3 million at December 31, 2002, respectively. The decline in working capital is primarily due to the change in current maturities of long-term debt related to our term loan and revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility portion of this loan was to mature on March 31, 2004. Effective March 15, 2004, we replaced this facility with a new term loan and revolving credit facility that matures on March 15, 2007, as described in more detail below.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was \$12.6 million, \$10.5 million and \$19.9 million,

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

respectively. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities for fiscal 2003 was primarily due to a decline in accounts receivable due to increased collection efforts, and an increase in customer advance payments, partially offset by lower net income and a decline in accrued liabilities. The timing of accounts receivable billings or collections and the receipt of advance

30

payments depends upon agreed project benchmarks for jobs accounted for under the percentage of completion method of accounting, and tends to fluctuate between reporting periods.

Net cash used in investing activities for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was \$10.8 million, \$5.6 million and \$57.7 million, respectively. The primary use of funds for the year ended December 31, 2003 was for capital expenditures of \$11.5 million, the majority of which related to the expansion of our Sacroc gas-processing facility, placed in service in December 2003. This cost was partially offset by the proceeds from the sale of a building in the U.K. The primary use of funds for the year ended December 31, 2002 was for capital expenditures of \$5.3 million, largely related to the expansion at Sacroc. The primary use of funds for the year ended December 31, 2001 was for the acquisition of Axsia, which required the use of \$48.3 million, and capital expenditures of \$10.0 million, which included the purchase of a manufacturing facility in Magnolia, Texas, expansion of and improvement to our facilities in New Iberia, Louisiana, and improvements to our Sacroc plant. Funds for the Axsia acquisition were borrowed under a \$50.0 million term loan facility. Capital expenditures for fiscal 2001 were financed with borrowings under our revolving credit facility and cash generated from current operations.

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was (\$1.8) million, (\$6.2) million and \$40.5 million, respectively. The primary use of funds for financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2003 was the repayment of long-term debt and revolving credit debt of \$7.1 million and \$2.1 million, respectively, as well as \$1.6 million of net benefit costs under a postretirement benefit plan and \$4.0 million of bank overdraft reductions. These uses of cash for financing activities were largely offset by gross proceeds of \$15.0 million less issuance costs and fair value allocable to related stock warrants, or a net of \$14.1 million, from the issuance of our Series B Convertible Preferred Stock, less dividends paid on those shares of \$1.2 million. The primary use of funds for the year ended December 31, 2002 was the repayment of long-term debt of \$7.1 million and benefit payments under our postretirement benefit plan of \$1.9 million, partially offset by long-term borrowings of \$1.5 million and a \$1.9 million increase in bank overdrafts. Proceeds from the issuance of our Series B Convertible Preferred Stock were used for working capital needs and to fund expansion of the Sacroc facility. The primary source of funds for financing activities during the year ended December 31, 2001, was borrowings of \$50.0 million under the term loan facility, partially offset by principal repayments of \$5.3 million under the term loan facility, net repayments of \$747,000 under the revolving credit facilities, payments on postretirement benefit liability of \$1.8 million and repayment of short-term notes of \$1.0 million.

We maintain revolving credit and term loan facilities, as well as a working capital facility for export sales. Our prior term loan, in effect during 2003, provided an initial \$50.0 million of borrowings and the revolving credit facilities provide for up to \$30.0 million of borrowings in the United States, up to \$10.0 million of borrowings in Canada and up to \$10.0 million of borrowings in the United Kingdom, subject to borrowing base limitations. The term loan was to mature on March 31, 2006, and each of the revolving facilities was to mature on March 31, 2004. These facilities were entered into in 2001, and we refer to these facilities as the 2001 facilities.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

On March 15, 2004, we replaced our 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities with a term loan and revolving credit arrangement that provides for a term loan of \$45.0 million, a U.S. revolving facility with a borrowing capacity of \$20.0 million, a Canadian revolving facility with a borrowing capacity of \$5.0 million, and a U.K. revolving credit facility with a borrowing capacity of \$10.0 million. All of the borrowing capacities under the revolving credit facilities are subject to borrowing base limitations.

The 2004 term loan and revolving facilities provide for interest at a rate based upon the ratio of funded debt to EBITDA, as defined in the credit facility ("EBITDA"), and ranging from, at our election, (1) a high of LIBOR plus 2.75% to a low of LIBOR plus 2.00% or, (2) a high of a base rate plus 1.75% to a low of a base rate plus 1.00%. NATCO will pay commitment fees related to this facility, based upon the ratio of Funded Debt to EBITDA, on the undrawn portion of the facility.

The 2004 term loan and revolving facilities require quarterly payments of \$1.6 million, beginning in June 2004, and mature on March 15, 2007. We intend to borrow funds under the 2004 term loan and revolving

31

credit facilities to retire debt outstanding under the 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities as of March 15, 2004.

At December 31, 2003, we had borrowings outstanding under the term loan facility of \$30.8 million and borrowings of \$10.9 million outstanding under the revolving credit facilities and had issued \$19.8 million in outstanding letters of credit under these facilities. Amounts borrowed under the term loan portion of the 2001 facility bore interest at a rate of 3.91% per annum. Amounts borrowed under the revolving portion of the 2001 facility bore interest at a rate based upon the ratio of Funded Debt to EBITDA, as defined in the credit facility ("EBITDA"), and ranged from, at our election, (1) a high of LIBOR plus 2.50% to a low of LIBOR plus 1.75% or (2) a high of a base rate plus 1.0% to a low of a base rate plus 0.25%.

Under the 2001 facilities, we were required to pay commitment fees of 0.30% to 0.625% per year, depending upon the ratio of Funded Debt to EBITDA, on the undrawn portion of the facility. As of December 31, 2003, our commitment fees were calculated at a rate of 0.625%.

In July 2002, our lenders approved the amendment of various provisions of the 2001 term loan and revolving credit facility agreement, effective April 1, 2002. This amendment revised certain restrictive debt covenants, modified certain defined terms, allowed for future capital investment in our Sacroc CO(2) processing facility in West Texas, facilitates the issuance of \$7.5 million of subordinated debt, increased the aggregate amount of operating lease expense allowed during a fiscal year and permitted an increase in borrowings under the export sales credit facility, without further consent, up to a maximum of \$20.0 million. These modifications resulted in higher commitment fee percentages and interest rates than in the original agreements, based on the Funded Debt to EBITDA ratio, as defined in the underlying agreement, as amended.

In July 2003, our lenders approved an amendment of the 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities, effective April 1, 2003. The amendment modified several restrictive covenant terms, including the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio and Funded Debt to EBITDA Ratio, each as defined in the agreement.

Under our 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities agreement, certain of our debt covenants became more restrictive during the fourth quarter of 2003. In December 2003, the Company obtained a waiver to certain debt covenants

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

including those related to net worth, funded debt to EBITDA and fixed charge coverage ratio through March 31, 2004, subject to meeting a minimum EBITDA threshold. The Company met this threshold requirement as of December 31, 2003, and was in compliance with all covenant requirements, as amended, as of that date. The weighted average interest rate of our borrowings under the 2001 term loan and revolving credit agreement on December 31, 2003 was 4.16%.

We and our operating subsidiaries guarantee our 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities, which are secured by a first lien or first priority security interest in or pledge of substantially all of the assets of the borrowers, including accounts receivable, inventory, equipment, intangibles, equity interests in U.S. subsidiaries and 66 1/3% of the equity interest in active, non-U.S. subsidiaries. Our assets and those of our active U.S. subsidiaries secure the U.S., Canadian and U.K. facilities, assets of our Canadian subsidiary also secure the Canadian facility and assets of our U.K. subsidiaries also secure the U.K. facility. The U.S. facility is guaranteed by each of our U.S. subsidiaries, while the Canadian and U.K. facilities are guaranteed by us, each of our U.S. subsidiaries and the Canadian subsidiary or the U.K. subsidiaries, as applicable.

The 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities contain restrictive covenants similar to those contained in the 2001 facilities, including, among others, those that limit the amount of funded debt to EBITDA (as defined in the 2004 facilities), impose a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, a minimum asset coverage ratio and a minimum net worth requirement. These facilities also restrict payment of dividends by us, other than those with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares.

The export sales credit facility provides for aggregate borrowings of \$10.0 million, subject to borrowing base limitations, of which \$700,000 was outstanding as of December 31, 2003. In addition, we had issued letters of credit totaling \$69,000 under the export facility as of that date. Fees related to these letters of credit at December 31, 2003, were approximately 1% of the outstanding balance. The export sales credit facility is

32

secured by specific project inventory and receivables and is partially guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The export sales credit facility loans mature in July 2004.

We borrowed \$1.5 million under a long-term promissory note arrangement to finance the purchase of a manufacturing facility in Magnolia, Texas in the fourth quarter of 2001. This note accrues interest at the 90-day LIBOR plus 3.25% per annum, and requires quarterly payments of principal of approximately \$24,000 and interest for five years beginning May 2002. This promissory note is collateralized by our manufacturing facility in Magnolia, Texas.

We had unsecured letters of credit and bonds totaling \$584,000 and performance guarantees totaling \$7.9 million at December 31, 2003.

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The following table summarizes our known contractual obligations as of December 31, 2003.

PAYMENTS DUE BY PERIOD

LESS THAN

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS	TOTAL	1 YEAR	1-3 YEARS	3-5 YEARS
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
			(IN THOUSANDS)	
Long-Term Obligations.....	\$43,620	\$18,677	\$23,942	\$1,001
Capital (Finance) Lease Obligations(1)....	--	--	--	--
Operating Lease Obligations.....	13,824	3,743	3,079	1,914
Purchase Obligations(2).....	8,203	8,203	--	--
Other Long-Term Liabilities(3).....	11,787	1,768	3,536	3,536
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total.....	\$77,434	\$32,391	\$30,557	\$6,451
	=====	=====	=====	=====

-
- (1) We have no capital lease arrangements as of December 31, 2003.
 - (2) Purchase obligations were pursuant to material and equipment purchase orders placed in 2003, with delivery and billing scheduled in 2004. Approximately \$5.8 million of this balance related to one purchase order. No significant purchase commitments extended beyond one year.
 - (3) Other long-term liabilities represent our postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2003. Benefit payments associated with the obligation were estimated based upon actual experience for the year ended December 31, 2003. Changes in actuarial assumptions or medical trend rates in subsequent years could cause our liability under this postretirement benefit plan to change.

We have no special purpose entities or unconsolidated affiliates or partnerships.

On March 25, 2003, we issued 15,000 shares of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Preferred Shares") and warrants to purchase 248,800 shares of our common stock, to Lime Rock Partners II, L.P., a private investment fund, for an aggregate sale price of \$15.0 million. Approximately \$99,000 of the aggregate sale price was allocated to the warrants. Proceeds from the issuance of these securities, net of related estimated issuance costs of approximately \$800,000, were used to reduce our outstanding revolving debt balances and for other general corporate purposes.

Each of the Series B Preferred Shares has a face value of \$1,000 and pays a cumulative dividend of 10% per annum of face value, which is payable semi-annually on June 15 and December 15 of each year, except the initial dividend payment which was paid on July 1, 2003. Each of the Series B Preferred Shares is convertible, at the option of the holder, into (i) a number of shares of common stock equal to the face value of such Series B Preferred Share divided by the conversion price, which was \$7.805 (or an aggregate of 1,921,845 shares) at December 31, 2003, and (ii) a cash payment equal to the amount of dividends on such shares that have accrued since the prior semi-annual dividend payment date. As of December 31, 2003, we had no accrued dividends payable related to the Series B Preferred Shares. During 2003, we paid dividends of \$1.2 million to the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares.

In the event of a change in control, as defined in the certificate of designations for the preferred shares, each holder of the Series B Preferred Shares has the right to convert the Series B Preferred Shares into common stock or to cause us to redeem for cash some or all of the Series B Preferred Shares

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

at an aggregate redemption price equal to the sum of (i) \$1,000 (adjusted for stock splits, stock dividends, etc.) multiplied by the number of shares to be redeemed, plus (ii) an amount (not less than zero) equal to the product of \$500 (adjusted for stock splits, stock dividends, etc.) multiplied by the aggregate amount of dividends paid in cash since the issuance date, plus any gain on the related stock warrants. If the holder of the Series B Preferred Shares converts upon a change in control occurring on or before March 25, 2006, the holder would also be entitled to receive cash in an amount equal to the dividends that would have accrued through March 25, 2006 less the sum of the aggregate amount of dividends paid in cash through the date of conversion, and the aggregate amount of dividends accrued in prior periods but not yet paid.

We have the right to redeem the Series B Preferred Shares for cash on or after March 25, 2008, at a redemption price per share equal to the face value of the Series B Preferred Shares plus the amount of dividends that have been accrued but not paid since the most recent semi-annual dividend payment date.

We adopted SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity," on July 1, 2003. Under SFAS No. 150, the Series B Preferred Shares would be classified as permanent equity. However, due to the cash redemption features upon a change in control as described above, the Series B Preferred Shares do not qualify for permanent equity treatment in accordance with the Emerging Issues Task Force Topic D-98: "Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities," which specifically requires that permanent equity treatment be precluded for any security with redemption features that are not solely within the control of the issuer. Therefore, we have accounted for the Series B Preferred Shares as temporary equity in the accompanying balance sheet, and have not assigned any value to its right to redeem the Series B Preferred Shares on or after March 25, 2008.

If the Series B Preferred Shares are converted under contingent redemption features, any redemption amount greater than carrying value would be recorded as a reduction of income available to common shareholders when the event becomes probable.

If we fail to pay dividends for two consecutive periods or any redemption price due with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares for a period of 60 days following the payment date, we will be in default under the terms of such shares. During a default period, (1) the dividend rate on the Series B Preferred Shares would increase to 10.25%, (2) the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares would have the right to elect or appoint a second director to the Board of Directors and (3) we would be restricted from paying dividends on, or redeeming or acquiring our common or other outstanding stock, with limited exceptions. If we fail to set aside or make payments in cash of any redemption price due with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares, and the holders elect, our right to redeem the shares may be terminated.

The warrants issued to Lime Rock Partners II, L.P. have an exercise price of \$10.00 per share of common stock and expire on March 25, 2006. We can force exercise of the warrants if our common stock trades above \$13.50 per share for 30 consecutive days. The warrants contain a provision whereby the holder could require us to make a net-cash settlement for the warrants in the case of a change in control. The warrants were deemed to be derivative instruments and, therefore, the warrants were recorded at fair value as of the issuance date. Fair value, as agreed with the counter-party to the agreement, was calculated by applying a pricing model that included subjective assumptions for stock volatility, expected term that the warrants would be outstanding, a dividend rate of zero and an overall liquidity factor. The resulting liability, originally recorded at \$99,000, was increased to \$154,000 as of December 31, 2003, as a result of the change in fair value of the warrants. Similarly, changes in fair value in future periods will be recorded in net income during the period of the change.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

At January 31, 2004, available borrowing capacity under the 2001 term loan and revolving credit agreement and the export sales credit agreement were \$19.8 million and \$981,000, respectively.

Although no assurances can be given, we believe that our operating cash flow, supported by our borrowing capacity, will be adequate to fund operations for the next twelve months. Should we decide to pursue

34

acquisition opportunities, the determination of our ability to finance these acquisitions will be a critical element of the analysis of the opportunities.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

We do not own a minority interest in or guarantee obligations for any related party, other than our majority-owned subsidiaries. There are no debt obligations of related parties, for which we have responsibility, excluded from our balance sheet.

We pay Capricorn Management, G.P., an affiliate company of Capricorn Holdings, Inc., for administrative services, which included office space and parking in Connecticut for our Chief Executive Officer, reception, telephone, computer services and other normal office support relating to that space. Mr. Herbert S. Winokur, Jr., one of our directors, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Capricorn Holdings, Inc. and the Managing Director of Capricorn Holdings LLC, the general partner of Capricorn Investors II, L.P., a private investment partnership, and directly or indirectly controls approximately 31% of our outstanding common stock. In addition, our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gregory, is a non-salaried member of Capricorn Holdings LLC. Capricorn Investors II, L.P. controls approximately 19% of our common stock. Fees paid to Capricorn Management totaled \$115,000, \$115,000 and \$85,000, for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. Commencing October 1, 2001, the fee increased to \$28,750 quarterly due primarily to an upward adjustment in Capricorn Management's underlying lease for office space; this increase was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors. The arrangement is terminable by either party on 90 days notice.

Under the terms of an employment agreement in effect prior to 1999, we loaned our Chief Executive Officer \$1.2 million in July 1999 to purchase 136,832 shares of common stock. During February 2000, after we completed the initial public offering of our Class A common stock, also pursuant to the terms of that employment agreement, we paid this executive officer a bonus equal to the principal and interest accrued under this note arrangement and recorded compensation expense of \$1.3 million. The officer used the proceeds of this settlement, net of tax, to repay us approximately \$665,000. In addition, on October 27, 2000, our board of directors agreed to provide a full recourse loan to this executive officer to facilitate the exercise of certain outstanding stock options. The amount of the loan was equal to the cost to exercise the options plus any personal tax burdens that resulted from the exercise. The maturity of these loans was July 31, 2003, and interest accrued at rates ranging from 6% to 7.8% per annum. As of June 30, 2002, these outstanding notes receivable totaled \$3.4 million, including principal and accrued interest. Effective July 1, 2002, the notes were reviewed by our board and amended to extend the maturity dates to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on LIBOR plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the notes balances as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2003, the balance of the notes (principal and accrued interest) due from this officer under these loan arrangements was \$3.6 million. These loans to this executive officer, which were

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

made on a full recourse basis in prior periods to facilitate direct ownership of our common stock, are currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

As previously agreed in 2001, we loaned an employee who is an executive officer and director \$216,000 on April 15, 2002, under a full-recourse note arrangement which accrues interest at 6% per annum and was to mature on July 31, 2003. The funds were used to pay the exercise cost and personal tax burdens associated with stock options exercised during 2001. Effective July 1, 2002, the note was amended to extend the maturity date to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on LIBOR plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the note balance as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2003, the balance of the note (principal and interest) due from this officer under this loan arrangement was approximately \$233,000. This loan to this executive officer, which was made on a full recourse basis in prior periods to facilitate direct ownership of our common stock, is currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

35

INFLATION AND CHANGES IN PRICES

The costs of materials (e.g., steel) for our products rise and fall with their value in the commodity markets. Generally, increases in raw materials and labor costs are passed on to our customers. In late 2003, the cost of steel increased significantly. This cost increase, if sustained, may have an impact on our future operations and increase the cost to produce our goods and services.

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." This standard provides guidance on reporting and accounting for obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived tangible assets and the related retirement costs. This standard was effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2002. On January 1, 2003, we adopted this pronouncement and recorded a loss of \$34,000, net of tax effect, as the cumulative effect of change in accounting principle. In addition, we recorded an asset retirement obligation liability and asset cost of \$96,000, associated with an obligation to remove certain leasehold improvements upon termination of lease arrangements, including concrete pads and equipment. We will depreciate the asset cost over the remaining useful life of the related assets.

In October 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." This statement replaces SFAS No. 121, "Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to be Disposed Of," and standardizes the accounting model to be used for asset dispositions and related implementation issues. This pronouncement became effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. We adopted this pronouncement on January 1, 2002, resulting in an immaterial impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

In April 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 145, "Rescission of FASB Statements No. 4, 44 and 64, Amendment of FASB Statement No. 13 and Technical Corrections." This statement provides guidance for income statement classification of gains and losses on extinguishment of debt and accounting for certain lease modification that have economic effects that are similar to sale-leaseback transactions. SFAS No. 145 became effective and was adopted on January 1, 2003, with no material effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

In June 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Exit or Disposal Activities," which addresses significant issues regarding the recognition, measurement and reporting of costs that are associated with exit and disposal activities, including restructuring activities that were previously accounted for pursuant to the guidance set forth in EITF Issue No. 94-3, "Liability Recognition for Certain Employee Termination Benefits and Other Costs to Exit an Activity." SFAS No. 146 became effective on January 1, 2003. The adoption of SFAS No. 146 had no material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

In November 2002, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness to Others, an interpretation of FASB Statements No. 5, 57 and 107 and a rescission of FASB Interpretation No. 34." This interpretation elaborates on the disclosures to be made by a guarantor in its interim and annual financial statements about its obligations under guarantees issued. The interpretation also clarifies that a guarantor is required to recognize, at the inception of a guarantee, a liability for the fair value of the obligation taken. The initial recognition and measurement provisions of the interpretation are applicable to guarantees issued or modified after December 31, 2002. Application of this interpretation did not have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation--Transition and Disclosure, an amendment to FASB Statement No. 123." This statement amends FASB Statement No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," to provide alternative methods to transition, on a volunteer-basis, to the fair value method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. Additionally, this statement amends the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123 to require prominent disclosures in both annual and interim financial statements. Certain disclosure modifications were required for

36

fiscal years ending after December 15, 2002, if a transition to SFAS No. 123 is elected. We have not yet elected to transition to SFAS No. 123.

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, "Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." This statement provides additional guidance to account for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts as well as hedging activities under SFAS No. 133. This pronouncement becomes effective for new contract arrangements and hedging transactions entered into after June 30, 2003, with exceptions for certain SFAS No. 133 implementation issues begun prior to June 15, 2003. We adopted this pronouncement on July 1, 2003, with no material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity." This statement provides guidance on how to classify and measure certain financial instruments that have characteristics of both liabilities and equity, and generally requires treatment of these instruments as liabilities, including certain obligations that the issuer can or must settle by issuing its own equity securities. This pronouncement, which was effective for all financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise became effective on July 1, 2003, required cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle treatment upon adoption. We adopted this pronouncement on July 1, 2003, with no material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2003, the FASB issued an amendment of SFAS No. 132, "Employers'

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits." This amendment, which was effective at December 31, 2003, requires additional annual disclosures about pension or postretirement plan assets and liabilities, as well as investment policies and strategies for plan assets, basis for expected rate of return on assets and total accumulated benefit obligation. In addition, this amendment requires interim disclosures of the components of net periodic benefit cost in tabular format and contributions paid or expected to be paid during the current fiscal year. Effective December 31, 2004, we will be required to disclose benefits expected to be paid in each of the next five years under each pension or postretirement plan, and an aggregate amount expected to be paid for the succeeding five year period under these arrangements. We adopted this amendment to SFAS No. 132 on December 31, 2003, and the required disclosures are included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. See Note 15, Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our operations are conducted around the world in a number of different countries. Accordingly, our earnings are exposed to changes in foreign currency exchange rates. The majority of our foreign currency transactions relate to operations in Canada and the U.K. In Canada, most contracts are denominated in Canadian dollars, and most of the costs incurred are in Canadian dollars, which mitigates risks associated with currency fluctuations. In the U.K., many of our sales contracts and material purchases are denominated in a currency other than British pounds sterling, primarily U.S. dollars and euros, whereas our engineering and overhead costs are principally denominated in British pounds sterling. We attempt to minimize our exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk by requiring settlement in our functional currencies, when possible. However, we do not enter into forward contracts or other currency-related derivative hedge arrangements, and we do not currently intend to enter into such contracts or arrangements as part of our currency risk management strategy.

The warrants issued to the holders of our Series B Preferred Shares provide for a net-cash settlement in the event of a change in control, as defined in the warrants. Consequently, we use derivative accounting to record the warrant transaction. The liability representing the fair value of this derivative arrangement was recorded at \$99,000 as of March 31, 2003, and was adjusted to \$154,000 as of December 31, 2003, to reflect the projected change in fair value of the warrants during the period, resulting in a \$55,000 revaluation loss for the period from inception to December 31, 2003. Fair value, as agreed with the counter-party to the agreement, was based on a pricing model that included subjective assumptions concerning the volatility of our common stock, the expected term that the warrants would be outstanding, an expected dividend rate of zero

37

and an overall liquidity factor. At each reporting date, the liability will be adjusted to current fair value with any changes in fair value reported in earnings during the period of change. As such, we may be exposed to certain income fluctuations based upon changes in the fair market value of this liability due to changes in the price of our common stock, as well as other factors.

Our financial instruments are subject to changes in interest rates, including our revolving credit and term loan facilities, our working capital facility for export sales and our long-term facility secured by our Magnolia manufacturing plant. At December 31, 2003, we had borrowings of \$30.8 million outstanding under the term loan portion of the 2001 revolving credit and term loan facilities, at an interest rate of 3.91%. Borrowings, which bear interest

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

at floating rates, outstanding under the 2001 revolving credit agreement at December 31, 2003, totaled \$10.9 million. As of December 31, 2003, the weighted average interest rate of our borrowings under the 2001 revolving credit facilities was 4.88%. Borrowings of \$700,000 were outstanding under the working capital facility for export sales at December 31, 2003, and accrue interest at 4.00%. Borrowings under the long-term arrangement secured by our Magnolia manufacturing facility totaled \$1.3 million and accrued interest at 4.40%.

Based on past market movements and possible near-term market movements, we do not believe that potential near-term losses in future earnings, fair values or cash flows from changes in interest rates are likely to be material. Assuming our current level of borrowings, as of December 31, 2003, a 100 basis point increase in interest rates under our variable interest rate facilities would decrease net income and cash flow from operations by \$275,000 and \$436,000, respectively. In the event of an adverse change in interest rates, we could take action to mitigate our exposure. However, due to the uncertainty of actions that could be taken and the possible effects, this calculation assumes no such actions. Furthermore, this calculation does not consider the effects of a possible change in the level of overall economic activity that could exist in such an environment.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

To follow are our consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, as applicable, along with the Independent Auditors' report.

38

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors
NATCO Group Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of NATCO Group Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NATCO Group Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements, effective January 1, 2003, the Company changed its method of accounting for asset retirement obligations. As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

statements, effective January 1, 2002, the Company changed its method of accounting for goodwill and other intangible assets.

KPMG LLP

Houston, Texas
February 23, 2004 except as to
Note 10, which is as of March 15, 2004

39

NATCO GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE DATA)

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 1,751	\$ 1,689
Trade accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,416 and \$1,028 as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.....	70,902	74,677
Inventories.....	34,573	32,400
Deferred income tax assets, net.....	2,846	5,506
Income tax receivable.....	987	299
Prepaid expenses and other current assets.....	3,937	3,500
	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	114,996	118,071
Property, plant and equipment, net.....	37,076	29,791
Goodwill, net.....	80,097	78,977
Deferred income tax assets, net.....	4,290	2,984
Other assets, net.....	1,269	1,772
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$237,728	\$231,595
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Current installments of long-term debt.....	\$ 5,617	\$ 7,097
Accounts payable.....	38,976	36,074
Accrued expenses and other.....	30,257	37,243
Customer advances.....	5,527	1,354
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	80,377	81,768
Long-term debt, excluding current installments.....	38,003	45,257
Long-term deferred tax liabilities.....	874	--
Postretirement and other long-term liabilities.....	11,897	12,718
	-----	-----
Total liabilities.....	131,151	139,743
	-----	-----
Series B redeemable convertible preferred stock (aggregate redemption value of \$15,000), \$.01 par value. 15,000 shares Authorized, issued and outstanding (net of issuance costs).....	14,101	--

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Stockholders' equity:

Preferred stock \$.01 par value. Authorized 5,000,000 shares (of which 500,000 are designated as Series A and 15,000 are designated as Series B); no shares issued and outstanding (except Series B shares above).....	--	--
Series A preferred stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 500,000 Shares; no shares issued and outstanding.....	--	--
Common stock, \$.01 par value. Authorized 50,000,000 shares issued and outstanding 15,854,067 shares and 15,803,797 shares as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.....	159	158
Additional paid-in capital.....	97,351	97,223
Accumulated earnings.....	8,115	8,734
Treasury stock, 795,692 shares at cost as of December 31, 2003 and 2002.....	(7,182)	(7,182)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss.....	(2,127)	(3,395)
Note receivable from officers.....	(3,840)	(3,686)
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity.....	92,476	91,852
	-----	-----
Commitments and contingencies		
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity.....	\$237,728	\$231,595
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

40

NATCO GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002	FOR THE YEAR END DECEMBER 2001
	-----	-----	-----
Revenues.....	\$281,462	\$289,539	\$286,58
Cost of goods sold.....	215,459	219,354	210,51
	-----	-----	-----
Gross profit.....	66,003	70,185	76,07
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	51,476	53,947	51,47
Depreciation and amortization expense.....	5,069	4,958	8,14
Closure and other.....	2,105	548	1,60
Interest expense.....	4,085	4,527	4,94
Interest cost on postretirement benefit liability.....	837	471	88
Interest income.....	(190)	(248)	(66
Other expense, net.....	1,211	400	42
	-----	-----	-----
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and change in accounting principle.....	1,410	5,582	9,25
Income tax provision.....	1,243	1,705	3,89
	-----	-----	-----
Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	167	3,877	5,36
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle			

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

(net of tax benefit of \$18).....	34	--	--
	-----	-----	-----
Net income.....	\$ 133	\$ 3,877	\$ 5,36
Preferred stock dividends.....	1,152	--	--
	-----	-----	-----
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.....	\$ (1,019)	\$ 3,877	\$ 5,36
	=====	=====	=====
Earnings (loss) per share--basic:			
Net income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.3
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle...	--	--	--
	-----	-----	-----
Net income (loss).....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.3
	=====	=====	=====
Earnings (loss) per share--diluted:			
Net income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.3
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle...	--	--	--
	-----	-----	-----
Net income (loss).....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.3
	=====	=====	=====
Basic weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding.....	15,841	15,804	15,72
Diluted weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding.....	15,841	15,920	15,96

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

41

NATCO GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY AND
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE DATA)

	COMMON STOCK SHARES		COMMON STOCK CLASS		ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL	ACCUM EARN (DEF)
	A	B	A	B		
Balances at December 31, 2000.....	14,977,354	699,874	\$150	\$ 7	\$96,601	\$
Conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares.....	373,675	(373,675)	4	(4)	--	
Issue common stock for acquisition....	--	8,520	--	--	85	
Treasury shares reacquired.....	(118,454)	--	(1)	--	--	
Issue note receivable to officer.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Interest on stock subscription note receivable.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Issuances related to benefit plans....	236,503	--	2	--	537	
Comprehensive income						
Net income.....	--	--	--	--	--	5
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Total comprehensive income.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Balances at December 31, 2001.....	15,469,078	334,719	\$155	\$ 3	\$97,223	\$ 4
Conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares.....	334,719	(334,719)	3	(3)	--	
Issue note receivable to officer.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Interest on stock subscription notes receivable.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Comprehensive income						
Net income.....	--	--	--	--	--	3
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Total comprehensive income.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
Balances at December 31, 2002.....	15,803,797	--	\$158	\$ --	\$97,223	\$ 8
Restricted stock subscribed.....	--	--	--	--	17	
Issuance related to benefit plans.....	50,270	--	1	--	111	
Interest on stock subscription notes receivable.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Preferred stock dividends paid.....	--	--	--	--	--	(1
Comprehensive income						
Net income.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Adjustment related to PTH spin-off.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Income tax allocated to cumulative translation adjustment.....	--	--	--	--	--	
Total comprehensive income.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
Balances at December 31, 2003.....	15,854,067	--	\$159	\$ --	\$97,351	\$ 8
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

	NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM OFFICERS	TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
	-----	-----
Balances at December 31, 2000.....	\$ (1,893)	\$86,179
Conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares.....	--	--
Issue common stock for acquisition....	--	85
Treasury shares reacquired.....	--	(867)
Issue note receivable to officer.....	(1,178)	(1,178)
Interest on stock subscription note receivable.....	(197)	(197)
Issuances related to benefit plans....	--	539
Comprehensive income		
Net income.....	--	5,363
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	(994)
Total comprehensive income.....	-----	4,369
Balances at December 31, 2001.....	\$ (3,268)	\$88,930
Conversion of Class B shares to Class A shares.....	--	--
Issue note receivable to officer.....	(216)	(216)
Interest on stock subscription notes receivable.....	(202)	(202)
Comprehensive income		

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Net income.....	--	3,877
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	(537)

Total comprehensive income.....		3,340
	-----	-----
Balances at December 31, 2002.....	\$ (3,686)	\$91,852
Restricted stock subscribed.....	--	17
Issuance related to benefit plans.....	--	112
Interest on stock subscription notes receivable.....	(154)	(154)
Preferred stock dividends paid.....	--	(1,152)
Comprehensive income		
Net income.....	--	133
Adjustment related to PTH spin-off.....	--	400
Foreign currency translation adjustment.....	--	2,327
Income tax allocated to cumulative translation adjustment.....	--	(1,059)

Total comprehensive income.....		1,801
	-----	-----
Balances at December 31, 2003.....	\$ (3,840)	\$92,476
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

42

NATCO GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(IN THOUSANDS)

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income.....	\$ 133	\$ 3,877
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Deferred income tax (benefit) expense.....	1,166	605
Depreciation and amortization expense.....	5,069	4,958
Non-cash interest income.....	(154)	(202)
Non-cash interest expense.....	742	753
Interest cost on postretirement benefit liability....	837	471
Loss (gain) on sale of property, plant and equipment.....	(263)	124
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	34	--
Other, net.....	72	--
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade accounts receivable...	6,543	(4,904)
(Increase) decrease in inventories.....	(1,203)	5,305
(Increase) decrease in prepaid and other current		

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

assets.....	(427)	613
Increase (decrease) in other income taxes.....	(577)	720
Increase in long-term assets.....	(298)	(408)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable.....	5,605	3,297
Decrease in accrued expenses and other.....	(8,666)	(122)
Increase (decrease) in customer advances.....	4,009	(4,594)
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by operating activities.....	12,622	10,493
	-----	-----
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures for property, plant and equipment.....	(11,486)	(5,255)
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment...	667	84
Acquisitions, net of working capital acquired.....	--	(197)
Issuance of related party note receivable.....	--	(216)
Proceeds from claim settlement.....	--	--
	-----	-----
Net cash used in investing activities.....	(10,819)	(5,584)
	-----	-----
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Change in bank overdrafts.....	(4,018)	1,917
Net repayments under long-term revolving credit facilities.....	(2,099)	(668)
Repayment of short-term notes payable.....	--	--
Borrowings of long-term debt.....	--	1,460
Repayment of long-term debt.....	(7,097)	(7,073)
Proceeds from the issuance of preferred stock, net.....	14,101	--
Issuance of common stock, net.....	112	--
Net payments on postretirement benefit liability.....	(1,768)	(1,909)
Dividends paid.....	(1,152)	--
Receipt of postretirement benefit cost reimbursement from predecessor company.....	157	79
Treasury stock reacquired.....	--	--
	-----	-----
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities.....	(1,764)	(6,194)
	-----	-----
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents.....	23	(119)
	-----	-----
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents.....	62	(1,404)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period.....	1,689	3,093
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period.....	\$ 1,751	\$ 1,689
	=====	=====
Cash payments for:		
Interest.....	\$ 2,881	\$ 2,543
Income taxes.....	\$ 739	\$ 2,263

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

NATCO GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) ORGANIZATION

NATCO Group Inc. (formerly known as Cummings Point Industries, Inc.) was

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

formed in June 1988 by Capricorn Investors, L.P., which led a group of investors who provided capital for the Company to acquire several businesses from Combustion Engineering, Inc. ("C-E"). In June 1989, the Company acquired from C-E all of the outstanding common stock of National Tank Company and certain other businesses that were subsequently divested or distributed to shareholders.

On June 30, 1997, NATCO acquired Total Engineering Services Team, Inc. ("TEST"), and on November 18, 1998, NATCO acquired The Cynara Company ("Cynara"). The Company acquired Porta-Test International, Inc. ("Porta-Test") on January 24, 2000.

On January 27, 2000, the Company completed an initial public offering of 7,500,000 shares of its Class A common stock at a price of \$10.00 per share (4,053,807 shares newly issued by the Company and 3,446,193 existing shares sold by selling stockholders). On February 3, 2000, the underwriter exercised its over-allotment option that resulted in the issuance by the Company of 1,125,000 additional shares of Class A common stock.

On February 8, 2000 and April 4, 2000, NATCO acquired Modular Production Equipment, Inc. ("MPE") and Engineering Specialties, Inc. ("ESI"), respectively.

On March 19, 2001, NATCO acquired Axsia Group Limited ("Axsia"), a privately held process and design company based in the United Kingdom.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements and all related disclosures include the results of operations of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001. Furthermore, certain reclassifications have been made to fiscal 2002 and fiscal 2001 amounts in order to present these results on a comparable basis with amounts for fiscal 2003.

References to "NATCO" and "the Company" are used throughout this document and relate collectively to NATCO Group Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Principles of Consolidation. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and all of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Significant inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Concentration of Credit Risk. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to trade receivables are limited due to the large number of customers comprising the Company's customer base and their geographic dispersion. For the year ended December 31, 2003, no customer provided 10% or more of the Company's consolidated revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2002, one customer, ExxonMobil Corporation and affiliates, through its general contractor, Hyundai Heavy Industries, Co., provided 10% of the Company's consolidated revenues. No customer provided 10% or more of consolidated revenues for the year ended December 31, 2001. See Note 19, Industry Segments and Geographic Information.

Cash Equivalents. The Company considers all highly liquid investment instruments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Trade Accounts Receivable. Trade accounts receivable is recorded at the invoiced amount. An allowance for doubtful accounts is provided to estimate probable losses resulting from bad debt. The Company reviews the allowance for doubtful accounts each month, and individually investigates past due balances over 90 days in order to assess collectibility of the receivable. Trade accounts receivable balances are charged to the allowance for doubtful accounts if collectibility is determined to be remote.

Inventories. Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined using the last in, first out ("LIFO") method for NATCO domestic inventories, average cost for TEST inventories and the first in, first out ("FIFO") method for all other inventories.

Property, Plant and Equipment. Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less an allowance for depreciation. Depreciation on plant and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method over the assets' estimated useful lives. Maintenance and repair costs are expensed as incurred; renewals and betterments are capitalized. Upon the sale or retirement of properties, the accounts are relieved of the cost and the related accumulated depreciation, and any resulting profit or loss is included in income. The carrying values of property, plant and equipment by location are reviewed annually and more often if there are indications that these assets may be impaired.

Goodwill. Prior to the adoption on January 1, 2002, of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets", goodwill was being amortized on a straight-line basis over periods of 20 to 40 years. In accordance with SFAS No. 142, the Company ceased amortization of goodwill and began to evaluate goodwill on an impairment basis. As required by SFAS No. 142, the Company identifies separate reportable units for purposes of evaluating goodwill impairment. In determining carrying value, the Company segregates assets and liabilities that, to the extent possible, are clearly identifiable by specific reportable unit. Certain corporate and other assets and liabilities, that are not clearly identifiable by specific reportable unit, are allocated in accordance with the standard. Fair value is determined by discounting projected future cash flows at the Company's cost of capital rate, as calculated. The fair value is then compared to the carrying value of the reportable unit to determine whether or not impairment has occurred at the reportable unit level. In the event an impairment is indicated, an additional test is performed whereby an implied fair value of goodwill is determined through an allocation of the fair value to the reporting unit's assets and liabilities, whether recognized or unrecognized, in a manner similar to a purchase price allocation, in accordance with SFAS No. 141, "Business Combinations." Any residual fair value after this purchase price allocation would be assumed to relate to goodwill. If the carrying value of the goodwill exceeded the residual fair value, the Company would record an impairment charge for that amount. Net goodwill was \$80.1 million at December 31, 2003, and was tested for impairment as required by SFAS No. 142. Based on this testing, the Company's management believes that no impairment of goodwill exists at December 31, 2003. See Note 21, Goodwill Impairment Testing. Amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2001 was \$3.7 million.

Other Assets, Net. Other assets include deferred financing fees, patents, long-term deposits and prepaid pension assets. Deferred financing costs and covenants not to compete are being amortized over the term of the related agreements. Amortization and interest expense was \$847,000, \$840,000 and \$932,000, for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Environmental Remediation Costs. The Company accrues environmental remediation costs based on estimates of known environmental remediation exposure. Such accruals are recorded when the cost of remediation is probable and estimable, even if significant uncertainties exist over the ultimate cost of the remediation. Ongoing environmental compliance costs, including maintenance and monitoring costs, are expensed as incurred.

Revenue Recognition. Revenues from significant contracts (NATCO contracts greater than \$250,000 and longer than four months in duration and certain TEST

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

contracts and orders) are recognized on the percentage of completion method. Earned revenue is based on the percentage that incurred costs to date bear to total estimated costs after giving effect to the most recent estimates of total cost. The cumulative impact of revisions in total cost estimates during the progress of work is reflected in the year in which the changes become known. Earned revenue reflects the original contract price adjusted for agreed claims and change order revenues, if any. Losses expected to be incurred on jobs in progress, after consideration of estimated minimum recoveries from claims and change orders, are charged to income as soon as such losses are known. Customers typically retain an interest in uncompleted projects. Other revenues and related costs are recognized when products are shipped or services are rendered.

Stock-Based Compensation. SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," permits entities to recognize as expense over the vesting period the fair value of all stock-based awards on the date of

45

grant. Alternatively, SFAS No. 123 allows entities to continue to apply the provisions of Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion No. 25 and provide pro forma net income and earnings per share disclosures for employee stock option grants made in 1995 and future years as if the fair-value-based method defined in SFAS No. 123 had been applied. In December 2002, SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation--Transition and Disclosure, an amendment to FASB Statement No. 123," was issued and provides alternative methods to transition to the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation, on a volunteer basis, and requires additional disclosures at both annual and interim periods. The Company has elected to continue to apply the provision of APB Opinion No. 25 and provide the pro forma disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123.

The Company's pro forma net income and earnings per share data for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 as per SFAS No. 123, were as follows:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2001
	-----	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNT)		
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders--as reported.....	\$(1,019)	\$3,877	\$5,363
Deduct: Total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects.....	(130)	(998)	(791)
	-----	-----	-----
Pro forma net income (loss).....	\$(1,149)	\$2,879	\$4,572
	=====	=====	=====
Earnings (loss) per share:			
Basic--as reported.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.34
Basic--pro forma.....	\$ (0.07)	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.29
Diluted--as reported.....	\$ (0.06)	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.34
Diluted--pro forma.....	\$ (0.07)	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.29

Research and Development. Research and development costs are charged to operations in the year incurred. The cost of equipment used in research and development activities, which has alternative uses, is capitalized as equipment and not treated as an expense of the period. Such equipment is depreciated over estimated lives of 5 to 10 years. Research and development expenses totaled \$1.9

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

million, \$2.0 million and \$2.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Warranty Costs. Estimated future warranty obligations related to products are charged to cost of goods sold in the period in which the related revenue is recognized. Additionally, the Company provides some of its customers with letters of credit covering potential warranty claims. At December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Company had \$6.9 million and \$6.0 million, respectively, in outstanding letters of credit related to warranties.

Income Taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the future generation of taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management has considered the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income and tax planning strategies in making this assessment.

Derivative Arrangements. Assets and liabilities associated with and underlying derivative arrangements which do not qualify for hedge value accounting are recorded at fair market value as of the balance sheet date

46

with any changes in fair value charged to income in the current period, in accordance with SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." The Company recorded a charge of \$249,000 to exit certain derivative arrangements that were acquired with the purchase of Axsia in March 2001. At December 31, 2003, the Company had issued 248,800 warrants to purchase shares of NATCO common stock associated with the issuance of its Series B Preferred Stock. These warrants were recorded at fair market value of \$154,000 as of December 31, 2003. Any changes in fair market value of derivative arrangements will be recorded to net income in the period of the change.

Translation of Foreign Currencies. Financial statement amounts related to foreign operations that have functional currencies other than the U.S. dollar are translated into their U.S. dollar equivalents at exchange rates as follows: (1) balance sheet accounts at year-end exchange rates, and (2) statement of operations accounts at the weighted average exchange rate for the period. The gains or losses resulting from such translations are deferred and included in accumulated other comprehensive loss as a separate component of stockholders' equity. Gains or losses from foreign currency transactions are reflected in the consolidated statements of operations.

Use of Estimates. The Company's management has made estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the amounts of revenues and expenses recognized during the period to prepare these financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Earnings per Common Share. Basic earnings per share excludes the dilutive

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

effect of common stock equivalents. The diluted earnings per common and potential common share are computed by dividing net income (loss) available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common and potential common shares outstanding. Net income (loss) available to common stockholders at December 31, 2003, represented net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle less preferred stock dividends accrued and paid. The weighted average number of common and potential common shares outstanding was derived from applying the if-converted method to determine any incremental shares associated with convertible preferred stock, warrants and restricted stock outstanding. The Company recorded a loss available to common stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2003, and therefore, all common stock equivalents related to employee stock options, convertible preferred stock, warrants and restricted stock were deemed anti-dilutive and excluded from the calculation of weighted average shares. For the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, potentially dilutive employee stock options were included in the earnings per share calculations, as applicable. Anti-dilutive stock options were excluded from the calculation of potential common shares for all years presented. The impact of these anti-dilutive shares would have been a reduction of 495,000 shares, 314,000 shares and 145,000 shares for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

47

The following table presents earnings per common share amounts computed using SFAS No. 128:

	INCOME (NUMERATOR)	SHARES (DENOMINATOR)	PER-SHARE AMOUNT

(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)			

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003			
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ 167		
Less: Preferred stock dividends accrued and paid.....	(1,152)		

Basic EPS:			
Loss available to common stockholders before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ (985)	15,841	\$ (0.06)
			=====
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Stock options.....	--	--	
	-----	-----	
Diluted EPS:			
Loss available to common stockholders before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle and assumed conversions.....	\$ (985)	15,841	\$ (0.06)
	=====	=====	=====
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002			
Net income.....	\$ 3,877		
Less: Preferred stock dividends accrued and paid.....	--		

Basic EPS:			
Income available to common stockholders.....	\$ 3,877	15,804	\$ 0.25
			=====

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Effect of dilutive securities:			
Stock options.....	--	116	(0.01)
	-----	-----	-----
Diluted EPS:			
Income available to common stockholders.....	\$ 3,877	15,920	\$ 0.24
	=====	=====	=====
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001			
Net income.....	\$ 5,363		
Less: Preferred stock dividends accrued and paid.....	--		

Basic EPS:			
Income available to common stockholders.....	\$ 5,363	15,722	\$ 0.34
			=====
Effect of dilutive securities:			
Stock options.....	--	244	--
	-----	-----	-----
Diluted EPS:			
Income available to common stockholders.....	\$ 5,363	15,966	\$ 0.34
	=====	=====	=====

(3) CAPITAL STOCK, REDEEMABLE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK AND EQUITY

On November 18, 1998, the Company's charter was amended to divide its common stock into two classes: Class A Common Stock (45,000,000 shares) and Class B Common Stock (5,000,000 shares). The two classes of common stock have the same relative rights and preferences except the holders of the Class B common stock have the right, voting separately as a class, to elect one member of the Company's Board of Directors. Class B shares may be converted by the holder to Class A shares at any time. In February 2001, the Company issued 8,520 Class B shares to the former shareholders of Cynara, in connection with the achievement of certain performance criteria defined in the November 1998 purchase agreement. Goodwill was increased \$85,000 in 2001, as a result of this transaction. Total shares issued to former Cynara stockholders under this earn-out arrangement were 752,501 shares. On January 1, 2002, all outstanding shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock, 334,719 shares, were converted automatically to Class A Common

48

Stock, on a share for share basis, in accordance with the terms under which the Class B Common Stock was originally issued, resulting in a single class that was re-designated "Common Stock."

In October 2000, the Company's board of directors approved a stock repurchase plan under which up to 750,000 shares of the Company's Class A common stock could be acquired. During fiscal 2001, the Company reacquired approximately 118,000 shares of its Class A common stock under this repurchase agreement for \$867,000, an average cost of \$7.32 per share. The cost to reacquire these shares was recorded as treasury stock at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

On March 25, 2003, the Company issued 15,000 shares of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Preferred Shares") and warrants to purchase 248,800 shares of NATCO's common stock, to Lime Rock Partners II, L.P., a private investment fund, for an aggregate sale price of \$15.0 million. Approximately \$99,000 of the aggregate sale price was allocated to the warrants. Proceeds from the issuance of these securities, net of related estimated issuance costs of approximately \$800,000, were used to reduce the Company's outstanding revolving debt balances and for other general corporate purposes.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Each of the Series B Preferred Shares has a face value of \$1,000 and pays a cumulative dividend of 10% per annum of face value, which is payable semi-annually on June 15 and December 15 of each year, except the initial dividend payment which was payable on July 1, 2003. Each of the Series B Preferred Shares is convertible, at the option of the holder, into (i) a number of shares of common stock equal to the face value of such Series B Preferred Share divided by the conversion price, which was \$7.805 (or an aggregate of 1,921,845 shares) at December 31, 2003, and (ii) a cash payment equal to the amount of dividends on such shares that have accrued since the prior semi-annual dividend payment date. During 2003, the Company paid dividends of \$1.2 million to the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares.

In the event of a change in control, as defined in the certificate of designations for the preferred shares, each holder of the Series B Preferred Shares has the right to convert the Series B Preferred Shares into common stock or to cause the Company to redeem for cash some or all of the Series B Preferred Shares at an aggregate redemption price equal to the sum of (i) \$1,000 (adjusted for stock splits, stock dividends, etc.) multiplied by the number of shares to be redeemed, plus (ii) an amount (not less than zero) equal to the product of the aggregate amount of dividends paid in cash since the issuance date, plus any gain on the related stock warrants. If the holder of the Series B Preferred Shares converts upon a change in control occurring on or before March 25, 2006, the holder would also be entitled to receive cash in an amount equal to the dividends that would have accrued through March 25, 2006 less the sum of the aggregate amount of dividends paid in cash through the date of conversion, and the aggregate amount of dividends accrued in prior periods but not yet paid.

The Company has the right to redeem the Series B Preferred Shares for cash on or after March 25, 2008, at a redemption price per share equal to the face value of the Series B Preferred Shares plus the amount of dividends that have been accrued but not paid since the most recent semi-annual dividend payment date.

The Company adopted SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity," on July 1, 2003. Under SFAS No. 150, the Series B Preferred Shares would be classified as permanent equity. However, due to the cash redemption features upon a change in control as described above, the Series B Preferred Shares do not qualify for permanent equity treatment in accordance with the Emerging Issues Task Force Topic D-98: "Classification and Measurement of Redeemable Securities," which specifically requires that permanent equity treatment be precluded for any security with redemption features that are not solely within the control of the issuer. Therefore, the Company has accounted for the Series B Preferred Shares as temporary equity in the accompanying balance sheet, and has not assigned any value to its right to redeem the Series B Preferred Shares on or after March 25, 2008.

If the Series B Preferred Shares are converted under contingent redemption features, any redemption amount greater than carrying value would be recorded as a reduction of income available common shareholders when the event becomes probable.

If the Company fails to pay dividends for two consecutive periods or any redemption price due with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares for a period of 60 days following the payment date, the Company will

49

be in default under the terms of such shares. During a default period, (1) the dividend rate on the Series B Preferred Shares would increase to 10.25%, (2) the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares would have the right to elect or

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

appoint a second director to the Board of Directors and (3) the Company would be restricted from paying dividends on, or redeeming or acquiring its common or other outstanding stock, with limited exceptions. If the Company fails to set aside or make payments in cash of any redemption price due with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares, and the holders elect, the Company's right to redeem the shares may be terminated.

The warrants issued to Lime Rock Partners II, L.P., have an exercise price of \$10.00 per share of common stock and expire on March 25, 2006. The Company can force the exercise of the warrants if NATO's common stock trades above \$13.50 per shares for 30 consecutive days. The warrants contain a provision whereby the holder could require the Company to make a net-cash settlement for the warrants in the case of a change in control. The warrants were deemed to be derivative instruments and, therefore, the warrants were recorded at fair value as of the issuance date. Fair value, as agreed with the counter-party to the agreement, was calculated by applying a pricing model that included subjective assumptions for stock volatility, expected term that the warrants would be outstanding, a dividend rate of zero and an overall liquidity factor. The Company recorded the resulting liability of \$99,000 as of the issuance date. This liability was increased to \$154,000 as of December 31, 2003, as a result of the change in fair value of the warrants. Similarly, changes in fair value in future periods will be recorded in net income during the period of the change.

On December 31, 2003, the Company recorded an adjustment to beginning retained earnings of \$400,000, which represented the elimination of a reserve to indemnify a former affiliate for any tax ramifications that may result from a tax-free spin-off of the former subsidiary in 1997. The reserve associated with the indemnification was recorded in 1999. As of December 31, 2003, the statute of limitations had expired for review by the appropriate taxing authorities, and the reserve was deemed unnecessary. Since the original transaction did not result in a gain or loss, the reversal of this reserve has been recorded as an adjustment to retained earnings, rather than a component of net income for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(4) ACQUISITIONS

On March 19, 2001, the Company acquired all the outstanding share capital of Axsia, for approximately \$42.8 million, net of cash acquired. Axsia specializes in the design and supply of water re-injection systems for oil and gas fields, oily water treatment, oil separation, hydro-cyclone technology, hydrogen production and other process equipment systems. This acquisition was financed with borrowings under NATCO's term loan facility and was accounted for using the purchase method of accounting. Results of operations for Axsia have been included in NATCO's consolidated financial statements since the date of acquisition. The purchase price of \$45.0 million was allocated as follows: \$2.2 million of cash acquired, \$38.4 million of current assets excluding cash, \$2.0 million of long-term assets excluding goodwill and \$46.0 million of current liabilities. The excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net assets acquired was being amortized over a twenty-year period, prior to the adoption of SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," on January 1, 2002. Goodwill and accumulated amortization expense related to the Axsia acquisition were \$47.4 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, at December 31, 2003.

50

Assuming the Axsia acquisition occurred on January 1 of the respective year, the unaudited pro forma results of the Company for the twelve months ended December 31, 2001 would have been as follows:

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

PRO FORMA
RESULTS
TWELVE MONTHS
ENDED
DECEMBER 31,
2001

(UNAUDITED)
(IN THOUSANDS,
EXCEPT PER SHARE
AMOUNTS)

Revenues.....	\$301,529
Income before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ 6,540
Net income.....	\$ 3,428
Net income per share:	
Basic.....	\$ 0.22
Diluted.....	\$ 0.21

These pro forma results assume debt service costs associated with the Axsis acquisition, net of tax effect, calculated at the Company's effective tax rate for the applicable period, and nondeductible goodwill amortization. Although prepared on a basis consistent with NATCO's consolidated financial statements, these pro forma results do not purport to be indicative of the actual results which would have been achieved had the acquisition been consummated on January 1 of the respective year, and are not intended to be a projection of future results.

Effective January 8, 2001, the Company entered into a Compromise Settlement Agreement with the former owner of TEST, which resulted in a cash payment of \$1.5 million to NATCO on May 31, 2001, to settle certain contingencies related to NATCO's acquisition of TEST in 1997. The proceeds of this payment, net of related costs, were used to reduce goodwill associated with the TEST acquisition.

(5) CLOSURE AND OTHER

In September 2003, the Company's management approved a restructuring plan that included the involuntary termination of certain administrative and operating personnel in connection with the closure of a manufacturing facility in Covington, Louisiana, the Company's corporate headquarters, the Company's research and development facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the consolidation of operations in the U.K. As a result of this restructuring plan, the Company recorded expense of \$1.2 million, of which approximately \$756,000 related to post-employment costs for terminated employees, as provided by the Company's severance policy, and accounted for in accordance with SFAS No. 112, "Employers' Accounting for Post-employment Benefits, an amendment of FASB Statements No. 5 and 43," and \$427,000 related to consultant's fees, equipment moving costs and employee relocations. The Company had an accrual of \$95,000 related to this restructuring plan as of December 31, 2003, and does not expect to incur additional costs related to this restructuring in 2004.

In December 2003, the Company's management approved additional restructuring costs including a plan to close an Engineered Systems location in Singapore and recorded closure and other expense of \$692,000, of which \$515,000 related to severance, \$35,000 related to the termination of a lease arrangement and \$142,000 related to the relocation of an employee. The Company had an accrual of \$560,000 related to this restructuring plan as of December 31, 2003, and does not expect to incur additional costs related to this office closure in

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

2004.

51

As of December 31, 2002, the Company had recorded a liability totaling \$304,000, related to certain restructuring costs incurred in connection with the closure of a manufacturing facility in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. As of December 31, 2003, this liability totaled \$88,000. The following table summarizes changes to the restructuring liability by cost type:

	BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2002	AMOUNTS PAID AND ADJUSTMENTS	EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES	BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2003
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)			
Employee severance.....	\$ 21	\$ (24)	\$ 3	
Lease termination and other.....	283	(239)	44	
	----	-----	---	
Total.....	\$304	\$(263)	\$47	
	=====	=====	===	

The portion of the accrual related to lease termination and other during the twelve months ended December 31, 2003, was reduced by approximately \$239,000, of which \$113,000 related to amounts paid, and \$126,000 related to a change in the Company's assessment of liability under the lease arrangement for this facility.

During 2003, the Company recorded closure and other expense associated with this Canadian restructuring plan of \$230,000, related to equipment moving costs and employee relocations, including severance costs of \$129,000 that had not been not identified as restructuring costs as of the plan measurement date.

In June 2001, the Company recorded a charge of \$1.6 million that consisted of \$920,000 pursuant to an approved plan to close and merge an existing NATCO office into the operations of Axsia, as well as other streamlining actions associated with the acquisition. This charge included costs for severance, office consolidation and other expenses. The Company also withdrew a public debt offering in 2001 and recorded a charge of \$680,000 for costs incurred related to the proposed offering.

(6) INVENTORIES

Inventories consisted of the following amounts:

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS)	
Finished goods.....	\$11,778	\$13,088
Work-in-process.....	8,402	6,486
Raw materials and supplies.....	16,168	14,362
	-----	-----
Inventories at FIFO.....	36,348	33,936
Excess of FIFO over LIFO cost.....	(1,775)	(1,536)

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

-----	-----
\$34,573	\$32,400
=====	=====

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, inventories valued using the LIFO method and included above amounted to \$28.6 million and \$26.3 million, respectively. Reductions in LIFO layers resulted in a \$59,000 decrease in net income for the year ended December 31, 2002. There were no reductions in LIFO layers for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2001.

52

(7) COST AND ESTIMATED EARNINGS ON UNCOMPLETED CONTRACTS

Cost and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts were as follows:

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS)	
Cost incurred on uncompleted contracts.....	\$ 86,076	\$ 87,586
Estimated earnings.....	22,585	19,656
	-----	-----
	108,661	107,242
Less billings to date.....	91,288	87,187
	-----	-----
	\$ 17,373	\$ 20,055
	=====	=====
Included in accompanying balance sheets under the following captions:		
Trade accounts receivable.....	\$ 22,375	\$ 20,262
Customer advances.....	(5,002)	(207)
	-----	-----
	\$ 17,373	\$ 20,055
	=====	=====

(8) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET

The components of property, plant and equipment, were as follows:

	ESTIMATED USEFUL LIVES (YEARS)	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 2002
	-----	-----	-----
		(IN THOUSANDS)	
Land and improvements.....	--	\$ 1,796	\$ 2,04
Buildings and improvements.....	20 to 40	15,841	14,01
Machinery and equipment.....	3 to 12	35,270	25,18
Office furniture and equipment.....	3 to 12	9,312	6,95
Assets held for sale.....		714	-
Less accumulated depreciation.....		(25,857)	(18,41
		-----	-----
		\$ 37,076	\$ 29,79

=====

=====

Pursuant to a September 2003 restructuring plan, the Company closed a manufacturing facility in Covington, Louisiana during the fourth quarter of 2003 and transferred all equipment and inventory to other branch or manufacturing locations. As of December 31, 2003, this manufacturing facility had a net book value of \$714,000, and was classified as held for sale. The Company's management expects to sell the facility within one year. The facility was included in the North American Operations business segment at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

Depreciation expense was \$5.0 million, \$4.9 million and \$4.1 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001. The Company leases certain machinery and equipment to its customers under short-term operating lease arrangements, generally for periods of one month to one year. The Company recorded depreciation expense related to these leased assets of \$433,000, \$380,000 and \$354,000, for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. These operating lease arrangements are for short-term periods of one month to one year, and often result in the sale of the equipment within one year. While these assets are under lease, the Company records depreciation expense based upon the assets' estimated useful life. Net book value of leased assets was recorded at \$1.4 million and \$1.7 million at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, and has been included in the accompanying balance sheet under the caption "Other Current Assets," since the Company intends to sell the assets within one year, or place the assets in used inventory upon return from the lessee. Lease and rental income of \$1.5 million, \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million, was

53

included in revenues for the North American Operations business segment for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

(9) ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER

Accrued expense and other consisted of the following:

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS)	
Accrued compensation and benefits.....	\$ 6,099	\$ 7,756
Accrued insurance reserves.....	1,348	1,201
Accrued warranty and product costs.....	2,371	3,021
Accrued project costs.....	11,586	17,095
Taxes.....	1,884	3,139
Other.....	6,969	5,031
	-----	-----
Totals.....	\$30,257	\$37,243
	=====	=====

(10) LONG-TERM DEBT

The consolidated borrowings of the Company were as follows:

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS)	
BANK DEBT		
Term loan with variable interest rate (3.91% and 4.21% at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively) and quarterly payments of principal (\$1,750) and interest, due March 31, 2006.....	\$ 30,750	\$37,750
Revolving credit bank loans with variable interest rate (4.88% and 4.43% at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively) quarterly payment of interest, due March 31, 2004.....	10,881	8,967
Promissory note with variable interest rate (4.40% and 4.65% at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively) and quarterly payments of principal (\$24) and interest, due February 8, 2007.....	1,289	1,387
Revolving credit bank loans (Export Sales Facility) with variable interest rate (4.00% and 4.25% at December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively) and monthly interest payments, due July 23, 2004.....	700	4,250
	-----	-----
Total.....	43,620	52,354
Less current installments.....	(5,617)	(7,097)
	-----	-----
Long-term debt.....	\$ 38,003	\$45,257
	=====	=====

The aggregate future maturities of long-term debt for the next five years ended December 31 are as follows: 2004--\$5.6 million; 2005--\$6.5 million; 2006--\$6.5 million; and 2007--\$25.0 million, with all debt maturing prior to 2008.

On March 16, 2001, the Company entered into a credit facility that consisted of a \$50.0 million term loan, a \$35.0 million U.S. revolving facility, a \$10.0 million Canadian revolving facility and a \$5.0 million U.K. revolving facility. The term loan matures on March 31, 2006, and each of the revolving facilities matures on March 31, 2004. The revolving credit and term loan facilities contain restrictive covenants which, among other things, limit the amount of Funded Debt to EBITDA, imposes a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, a minimum asset coverage ratio and a minimum net worth requirement. In October 2001, the Company amended this revolving credit agreement to reduce the borrowing capacity in the U.S. from \$35.0 million to

54

\$30.0 million, and to increase its borrowing capacity in the U.K. from \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million. No other material modifications were made to the agreement at that time.

Borrowings of \$50.0 million under the term loan facility were used primarily for the acquisition of Axsia. The remaining borrowings, along with additional borrowings under the revolving credit facility, were used to repay \$16.5 million outstanding under a predecessor revolving credit and term loan facility.

In July 2002, the Company's lenders approved the amendment of various provisions of the term loan and revolving credit facility agreement, effective April 1, 2002. This amendment revised certain restrictive debt covenants,

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

modified certain defined terms, allowed for future capital investment in the Company's Sacroc CO(2) processing facility in West Texas, facilitates the issuance of up to \$7.5 million of subordinated indebtedness, increased the aggregate amount of operating lease expense allowed during a fiscal year and permitted an increase in borrowings under the export sales credit facility, without further consent, up to a maximum of \$20.0 million. These modifications resulted in higher commitment fee percentages and interest rates than in the original loan agreement, based on the Funded Debt to EBITDA ratio, as defined in the underlying agreement, as amended.

In July 2003, the Company's lenders approved an amendment of the existing term loan and revolving credit facility, effective April 1, 2003. The amendment modified several restrictive covenant terms, including the Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio and Funded Debt to EBITDA Ratio, each as defined in the agreement. Under the Company's term loan and revolving credit facility agreement, certain debt covenants became more restrictive during the fourth quarter of 2003, and the Company was required to obtain a waiver of the covenants related to net worth, funded debt to EBITDA ratio and fixed charge coverage ratio through March 31, 2004, subject to the Company meeting a minimum EBITDA threshold (which was subsequently achieved), in order to remain in compliance with the governing agreement, as amended.

In December 2003, the Company obtained a waiver to certain debt covenants including those related to net worth, funded debt to EBITDA and fixed charge coverage ratio through March 31, 2004, subject to meeting a minimum EBITDA threshold. The Company met this threshold requirement as of December 31, 2003, and was in compliance with all covenant requirements, as amended, as of that date.

Amounts borrowed under the term loan bear interest at a rate of 3.91% per annum as of December 31, 2003. Amounts borrowed under the revolving portion of the facility bear interest as follows:

- until April 1, 2002, at a rate equal to, at the Company's election, either (1) the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus 2.25% or (2) a base rate plus 0.75%; and
- on and after April 1, 2002, at a rate based upon the ratio of funded debt to EBITDA, as defined in the credit facility ("EBITDA"), and ranging from, at the Company's election, (1) a high of LIBOR plus 3.00% to a low of LIBOR plus 1.75% or, (2) a high of a base rate plus 1.50% to a low of a base rate plus 0.25%.

NATCO paid commitment fees of 0.50% per year until April 1, 2002, and is required to pay commitment fees of 0.30% to 0.625% per year following 2002, depending upon the ratio of Funded Debt to EBITDA, on the undrawn portion of the facility. As of December 31, 2003, the Company's commitment fees were calculated at a rate of 0.625%.

On March 15, 2004, the Company replaced its 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities with a term loan and revolving credit arrangement, called the 2004 term loan and revolving facilities, that provides for a term loan of \$45.0 million, a U.S. revolving facility with a borrowing capacity of \$20.0 million, a Canadian revolving facility with a borrowing capacity of \$5.0 million, and a U.K. revolving credit facility with a borrowing capacity of \$10.0 million. All of the borrowing capacities under the 2004 revolving credit facilities are subject to borrowing base limitations.

The 2004 term loan and revolving facilities provide for interest at a rate based upon the ratio of funded debt to EBITDA, as defined in the credit facility ("EBITDA"), and ranging from, at the Company's election, (1) a high of LIBOR plus 2.75% to a low of LIBOR plus 2.00% or, (2) a high of a base rate plus 1.75%

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

to a

55

low of a base rate plus 1.00%. NATCO will pay commitment fees related to this facility, based upon the ratio of Funded Debt to EBITDA, on the undrawn portion of the facility.

The 2004 term loan and revolving facilities require quarterly payments of \$1.6 million, beginning in June 2004, and mature on March 15, 2007. The Company intends to borrow funds under the 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities to retire debt outstanding under the 2001 term loan and revolving credit facilities as of March 15, 2004 and as a result has classified the current installments and five year repayments on its bank debt at December 31, 2003 based on the repayment terms of the 2004 term loan and revolving facilities.

The 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities are guaranteed by the Company and its operating subsidiaries and are secured by a first lien or first priority security interest in or pledge of substantially all of the assets of the borrowers, including accounts receivable, inventory, equipment, intangibles, equity interests in U.S. subsidiaries and 66 1/3% of the equity interest in active, non-U.S. subsidiaries. Assets of the Company and its active U.S. subsidiaries secure the U.S., Canadian and U.K. facilities, assets of the Company's Canadian subsidiary also secure the Canadian facility and assets of the Company's U.K. subsidiaries also secure the U.K. facility. The U.S. facility is guaranteed by each U.S. subsidiary of the Company, while the Canadian and U.K. facilities are guaranteed by NATCO Group Inc., each of its U.S. subsidiaries and the Canadian subsidiary or the U.K. subsidiaries, as applicable.

The 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities contain restrictive covenants similar to those contained in the 2001 facilities, including, among others, those that limit the amount of funded debt to EBITDA (as defined in the 2004 facilities), impose a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, a minimum asset coverage ratio and a minimum net worth requirement.

The Company maintains a working capital facility for export sales that provides for aggregate borrowings of \$10.0 million, subject to borrowing base limitations, under which borrowings of \$700,000 were outstanding at December 31, 2003. Letters of credit outstanding under the export sales credit facility as of December 31, 2003 totaled \$69,000. Fees related to these letters of credit at December 31, 2003, were approximately 1% of the outstanding balance. The export sales credit facility is secured by specific project inventory and receivables, and is partially guaranteed by the EXIM Bank. Loans under this facility mature in July 2004, and require renewal annually.

NATCO had letters of credit outstanding under the revolving credit facilities totaling \$19.8 million at December 31, 2003. Fees related to these letters of credit at December 31, 2003, ranged from approximately 1% to 3.25% of the outstanding balance. These letters of credit support contract performance and warranties and expire at various dates through April 2007.

The Company had unsecured letters of credit and bonds totaling \$584,000 and guarantees totaling \$7.9 million at December 31, 2003.

On February 6, 2002, the Company borrowed \$1.5 million under a long-term promissory note to finance the purchase of a manufacturing facility in Magnolia, Texas. This note accrues interest at the 90-day LIBOR plus 3.25% per annum, and requires quarterly payments of principal of approximately \$24,000 and interest for five years beginning May 2002, with a final balloon payment due February 2007. This promissory note is collateralized by a manufacturing facility in

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Magnolia, Texas acquired in the fourth quarter of 2001.

With respect to the 2004 term loan and revolving credit facilities, NATCO has agreed that it will not make any distributions of any property or cash to the Company or its stockholders except dividends required under the Series B Preferred Stock provisions. No dividends were declared or paid to common stockholders during the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001. Dividends totaling \$1.2 million were declared and paid to holders of the Company's Series B Preferred Stock during the year ended December 31, 2003.

56

(11) INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense (benefit) before the cumulative effect of change in accounting principle consisted of the following components:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2001

(IN THOUSANDS)			
Current:			
Federal.....	\$ (432)	\$ (942)	\$ (240)
State.....	164	168	190
Foreign.....	345	1,874	4,678
	-----	-----	-----
	77	1,100	4,628
	-----	-----	-----
Deferred:			
Federal.....	889	678	(524)
State.....	39	206	(9)
Foreign.....	238	(279)	(200)
	-----	-----	-----
	1,166	605	(733)
	-----	-----	-----
	\$1,243	\$1,705	\$3,895
	=====	=====	=====

Temporary differences related to the following items that give rise to deferred tax assets and liabilities were as follows:

	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002

(IN THOUSANDS)		
Deferred tax assets:		
Postretirement benefit liability.....	\$4,302	\$4,642
Accrued liabilities.....	2,676	2,748
Net operating loss carry forward.....	1,453	3,011
Accounts receivable.....	364	332
Fixed assets and intangibles.....	176	152
Foreign tax credit carry forward.....	1,661	1,237
R&D tax credit carry forward.....	295	80

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Other.....	190	--
	-----	-----
Deferred tax assets.....	11,117	12,202
Valuation allowance.....	759	258
	-----	-----
Net deferred tax assets.....	10,358	11,944
	-----	-----
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Inventory.....	1,341	889
Fixed assets and intangibles.....	1,696	2,565
Cumulative translation adjustment.....	1,059	--
	-----	-----
Total deferred tax liabilities.....	4,096	3,454
	-----	-----
Net deferred tax assets.....	\$6,262	\$8,490
	=====	=====

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Company recorded a valuation allowance of \$759,000 and \$258,000, respectively, which included a valuation allowance of \$258,000 related to certain deferred tax assets acquired with the purchase of Axsia in March 2001, and an additional valuation allowance in 2003 of \$349,000 related

57

to certain deferred tax assets in Canada and \$152,000 related to other foreign affiliates. The Company had net operating loss carry-forwards for federal income tax purposes of \$3.6 million for federal income tax purposes as of December 31, 2003, which were available to offset future federal income tax through 2023. Net foreign tax credit and research and development tax credit carryforwards begin to expire December 2005 and December 2019, respectively.

Based upon historical taxable income and projected future taxable income over the periods in which the Company's deferred tax assets are deductible, management believes it is more likely than not that the Company will realize the benefits of these deductible differences, net of the existing valuation allowances at December 31, 2003. However, the amount of the deferred tax asset considered realizable could change if future taxable income differs from the Company's projections.

Income tax expense differs from the amount computed by applying the U.S. federal income tax rate of 34% to income from continuing operations before income taxes, as per the following reconciliation:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2001
	-----	-----	-----
	(IN THOUSANDS)		
Income tax expense computed at statutory rate.....	\$ 460	\$1,898	\$3,148
State income tax expense net of federal income tax effect.....	134	247	116
Tax effect of foreign operations.....	66	(163)	(635)
Domestic and foreign losses for which no tax benefit is currently available.....	4	--	215
Tax benefit of foreign losses not previously claimed.....	--	(142)	--

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Permanent differences, primarily meals and entertainment and amortization.....	65	53	1,475
Foreign tax credit refund claims.....	--	--	(307)
Research and development tax credit.....	--	(14)	(100)
Change in valuation allowance.....	501	--	--
Other.....	13	(174)	(17)
	-----	-----	-----
	\$1,243	\$1,705	\$3,895
	=====	=====	=====

Cumulative undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries totaled \$6.0 million as of December 31, 2003. The Company considers earnings from these foreign subsidiaries to be indefinitely reinvested and accordingly, no provision for U.S. foreign or state income taxes has been made for these earnings. Upon distribution of foreign subsidiary earnings in the form of dividends or otherwise, such distributed earnings would be reportable for U.S. income tax purposes (subject to adjustment for foreign tax credits).

Federal income tax returns for fiscal years beginning with 2000 are open for review by the appropriate taxing authorities.

(12) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

On July 1, 1997, the Board of Directors of the Company approved the exchange of certain stock appreciation rights outstanding under a subsidiary's plan for individual options to purchase common stock of the Company. Compensation expense was recognized to the extent that the projected fair market value of the stock on the exchange date exceeded the exercise price of the options. Furthermore, additional stock options were granted under this plan with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of grant. Accordingly, no compensation expense was recorded for these additional grants. The individual stock options granted on July 1, 1997 vested ratably over a period of three or four years. The maximum term of these options was 10 years. At December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, options relating to an aggregate of 477,700 shares, 527,701 shares, and 527,701 shares, respectively, remained outstanding under this plan.

58

In January 1998 and February 1998, the Company adopted the Directors Compensation Plan and the 1998 Employee Stock Incentive Plan. These plans authorize the issuance of options to purchase up to an aggregate of 760,000 shares of the Company's common stock. The options vest over periods of up to four years. The maximum term under these options is ten years. At December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, options relating to an aggregate of 628,217 shares, 731,587 shares and 743,920 shares, respectively, were outstanding under these plans.

In November 2000, the Board of Directors of the Company approved and authorized the issuance of up to 300,000 shares of the Company's common stock under the 2000 Employee Stock Option Plan. On May 24, 2001, the Company's stockholders approved the NATCO Group Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan, which superceded and replaced the 2000 Plan in its entirety, and increased the number of shares as to which options or awards may be granted under the plan to a maximum of 1,000,000 shares. At December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, options relating to an aggregate of 879,422 shares, 807,326 shares and 795,826 shares, respectively, were outstanding under this plan.

Pursuant to the NATCO Group Inc. Directors Compensation Plan, as amended, and the NATCO Group Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan, the Company granted 2,500 restricted shares to each of its five non-employee directors during June 2003.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

These restricted shares vest 100% on June 3, 2006, but are forfeitable if service discontinues prior to this date (other than for death, disability or retirement). The Company will recognize expense of \$85,000 related to these grants ratably over the vesting period. In addition, the Company granted each of these non-employee directors options to purchase 2,500 shares of the Company's common stock at the fair market value on the date of grant. These options vest 100% following one year of service, on the anniversary date of their issuance.

Transactions pursuant to the Company's stock option plans for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, include:

	STOCK OPTIONS SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE
	-----	-----
Balance at December 31, 2000.....	1,508,157	\$ 6.83
Granted.....	815,693	\$ 9.13
Exercised.....	(236,503)	\$ 1.47
Canceled.....	(19,900)	\$10.05

Balance at December 31, 2001.....	2,067,447	\$ 8.31
Granted.....	17,167	\$ 7.48
Exercised.....	--	--
Canceled.....	(18,000)	\$ 9.24

Balance at December 31, 2002.....	2,066,614	\$ 8.30
Granted.....	144,167	\$ 6.40
Exercised.....	(50,001)	\$ 2.22
Canceled.....	(175,441)	\$ 9.47

Balance at December 31, 2003.....	1,985,339	\$ 8.21
	=====	
Price range \$5.03 - \$6.80 (weighted average remaining contractual life of 5.24 years).....	751,910	\$ 5.65
Price range \$7.00 - \$8.81 (weighted average remaining contractual life of 5.62 years).....	591,794	\$ 8.61
Price range \$9.13 - \$10.19 (weighted average remaining contractual life of 6.50 years).....	447,468	\$ 9.98
Price range \$11.69 - \$12.91 (weighted average remaining contractual life of 7.36 years).....	194,167	\$12.87

59

	STOCK OPTIONS SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE
EXERCISABLE OPTIONS	-----	-----
December 31, 2001.....	851,872	\$6.95
December 31, 2002.....	1,238,198	\$7.67
December 31, 2003.....	1,396,494	\$8.07

Pro forma information regarding net income and earnings per share is required by SFAS No. 123, and has been determined by applying the Black-Scholes

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Single Option--Reduced Term valuation method. This valuation model requires management to make highly subjective assumptions about volatility of NATCO's common stock, the expected term of outstanding stock options, the Company's risk-free interest rate and expected dividend payments during the contractual life of the options. Volatility of stock prices was evaluated based upon historical data from the New York Stock Exchange from the date of the initial public offering, January 28, 2000, to December 31, 2003. Volatility was calculated at 49% as of December 31, 2003, but was stepped-down by 10% per year for the next year to reflect expected stabilization. The following table summarizes other assumptions used to determine pro forma compensation expense under SFAS No. 123 as of December 31, 2003:

DATE OF GRANT	NUMBER OF OPTIONS	EXPECTED OPTION LIFE	RISK-FREE RATE
-----	-----	-----	-----
Pre-IPO	598,867	7 to 7.5 years	6.40% - 5.24%
Pre-IPO	322,719	5 years	6.31% - 5.29%
Post-IPO	622,593	7 years	6.65% - 2.82%
Post-IPO	441,160	3.5 years	6.60% - 2.51%

Risk-free rates were determined based upon U.S. Treasury obligations as of the option date and outstanding for a similar term. The Company does not intend to pay dividends on its common stock during the term of the options outstanding as of December 31, 2003.

For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of the options is amortized to expense over the options' vesting period. For the Company's pro forma net earnings and earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, see Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

At December 31, 2003, pursuant to equity compensation plans approved by the Company's security holders, 1,985,339 shares of common stock could be issued upon exercise of employee stock options, at an average price of \$8.21 per share, and 12,500 shares of restricted stock, at an average price of \$6.80. An additional 238,195 shares remain available for issuance under the Company's stock option plans at December 31, 2003.

If Series B Convertible Preferred Shares were converted to common stock at December 31, 2003, an additional 1,921,845 shares of common stock would be issued, along with 248,800 shares related to stock warrants. The issuance of the Series B Convertible Preferred Shares and related stock warrants was not approved by security holders.

PREFERRED STOCK PURCHASE RIGHTS

In May 1998, the Board of Directors of the Company declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of common stock and for each share of common stock thereafter issued prior to the time the rights become exercisable. When the rights become exercisable, each right will entitle the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of one share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$72.50 in cash. Until the rights become exercisable, they will be evidenced by the certificates or ownership of NATCO's common stock, and they will not be transferable apart from the common stock.

The rights will become exercisable following the tenth day after a person or group announces acquisition of 15% or more of the Company's common stock (20% or more in the case of Lime Rock Partners II, L.P.) or announces commencement of

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

a tender offer, the consummation of which would result in ownership by the person or group of 15% or more of the Company's common stock. If a person or group were to acquire 15% or

60

more of the Company's common stock (20% or more in the case of Lime Rock Partners II, L.P.), each right would become a right to buy that number of shares of common stock that would have a market value of two times the exercise price of the right. Rights beneficially owned by the acquiring person or group would, however, become void.

At any time prior to the time the rights become exercisable, the board of directors may redeem the rights at a price of \$0.01 per right. At any time after the acquisition by a person or group of 15% (20% or more in the case of Lime Rock Partners II, L.P.) or more but less than 50% of the common stock, the board may redeem all or part of the rights by issuing common stock in exchange for them at the rate of one share of common stock for each two shares of common stock for which each right is then exercisable. The rights will expire on May 15, 2008 unless previously extended or redeemed.

(13) CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective January 1, 2003, the Company recorded the cumulative effect of change in accounting principle related to the adoption of SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." This standard required the Company to record the fair value of an asset retirement obligation as a liability in the period in which a legal obligation associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets that result from acquisition, construction, development and/or normal use of the assets, was incurred. In addition, the standard requires the Company to record a corresponding asset that will be depreciated over the life of the asset that gave rise to the liability. Subsequent to the initial measurement of the asset retirement obligation, the Company will be required to adjust the related liability at each reporting date to reflect changes in estimated retirement cost and the passage of time. A loss of \$34,000, net of tax, was recorded as of January 1, 2003, as a result of this change in accounting principle. The related asset retirement obligation and asset cost of \$96,000, associated with an obligation to remove certain leasehold improvements upon termination of lease arrangements, including concrete pads and equipment. The asset cost will be depreciated over the remaining useful life of the related assets. There was no significant change in the asset or liability during the year ended December 31, 2003.

(14) PENSION AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

The Company has adopted SFAS 132, "Employer's Accounting for Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits," which revised disclosures about pension and other postretirement benefit plans. Disclosures regarding pension benefits represent the plan for certain union employees of a foreign subsidiary. Disclosures regarding postretirement benefits represent health care and life insurance benefits for employees who were retired when the Company was acquired from C-E.

On May 1, 2001, the Company amended a postretirement benefit plan that provided medical and dental coverage to retirees of a predecessor company. Under the amended plan, retirees bear additional costs of coverage. Significant plan changes include higher deductibles, prescription coverage under a drug card program and the elimination of dental benefits. As of July 1, 2001, the Company obtained a third-party valuation of its liability under this plan arrangement, as amended. Based upon this valuation, the effect of this amendment was a \$6.4 million reduction in the Company's postretirement benefit liability. As of

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

December 31, 2001, a cumulative unrecognized loss of \$3.6 million existed related to this postretirement benefit plan. In accordance with SFAS No. 106, "Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions," the benefit associated with the plan amendment will be amortized to income as a prior service cost adjustment over the remaining life expectancy of the plan participants. Additionally, the cumulative unrecognized loss will be amortized to expense over the remaining life expectancy of the plan participants.

In November 2001, the Company agreed to maintain benefits at pre-amendment levels for a specified class of retirees in exchange for expense reimbursement from the former sponsor of the postretirement benefit plan. The agreement requires reimbursement of \$79,000 per year for each of the four succeeding years. Pursuant to this arrangement, the Company received \$157,000 and \$79,000 as reimbursement of postretirement benefit expenses for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, and recorded a receivable for the remaining benefit at December 31, 2003.

61

In August 2001, the participants of the Canadian pension plan voted to terminate contributions to the plan and receive actuarially determined cash distributions. As of December 31, 2002, the Company had formally terminated the pension plan and benefit payments were distributed, except amounts due to certain retirees, who had not yet replied to notification of pending distributions. In February 2003, the Company paid \$245,000 to purchase an annuity contract from The Canada Life Assurance Company, who assumed liability for future pension payments under the NATCO Canada Boilermaker Union Employees' Pension Plan, effective April 1, 2003. The components of net periodic benefit cost under this pension plan were calculated for the period January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003, and no benefit obligation or fair value of net assets existed under this arrangement as of December 31, 2003.

On December 8, 2003, the President of the United States signed into law the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. The Act's impact has not been reflected in any amounts disclosed in the Company's financial statements or accompany notes. The Company is currently reviewing the effects the Act will have on our plans and expect to complete that review during 2004. In addition, the Company is waiting for guidance from the United States Department of Health and Human Services on how the employer subsidy provision will be administered and from the Financial Accounting Standards Board on how the impact of the Act should be recognized in the Company's financial statements.

62

The following table sets forth the plan's benefit obligation, fair value of plan assets, and funded status at December 31, 2003 and 2002.

	PENSION BENEFITS		POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS	
	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002	DECEMBER 31, 2003	DECEMBER 31, 2002
	(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PERCENTAGES)			
CHANGE IN BENEFIT OBLIGATION				
Benefit obligation at beginning of the period.....	\$ 257	\$ 679	\$ 14,089	\$

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Service cost.....	--	34	--	
Interest cost.....	8	42	909	
Participant and prior sponsor contributions.....	--	--	232	
Actuarial (gain) loss.....	--	(31)	3,484	
Foreign currency exchange rate differences.....	77	(11)	--	
Plan amendment.....	--	--	--	
Purchase of annuity contract.....	(286)	--	--	
Benefit payments.....	(56)	(456)	(2,000)	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Benefit obligation at end of period.....	\$ --	\$ 257	\$ 16,714	\$ --
	=====	=====	=====	=====
CHANGE IN FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of period.....	\$ 167	\$ 624	\$ --	\$ --
Actual return on plan assets.....	3	46	--	
Foreign currency exchange rate differences.....	50	5	--	
Employer contributions.....	136	54	1,768	
Participant and prior sponsor contributions.....	--	--	232	
Experience loss.....	(14)	(106)	--	
Purchase of annuity contract.....	(286)	--	--	
Benefit payments.....	(56)	(456)	(2,000)	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fair value of plan assets at end of period.....	--	167	--	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Funded status.....	--	(90)	(16,714)	(16,714)
Unrecognized loss.....	--	--	9,889	9,889
Unrecognized prior service cost.....	--	--	(4,962)	(4,962)
Unrecognized experience gain/(loss).....	--	(18)	--	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Prepaid (accrued) benefit cost.....	\$ --	\$ (108)	\$ (11,787)	\$ (11,787)
	=====	=====	=====	=====
WEIGHTED AVERAGE ASSUMPTIONS				
Discount rate.....	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%
Expected return on plan assets.....	7.0%	7.0%	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health care trend rates.....	--	--	5.0%-8.5%	5.0%
COMPONENTS OF NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST:				
Service cost.....	\$ --	\$ 34	\$ --	\$ --
Unrecognized prior service cost.....	--	--	(584)	(584)
Interest cost.....	6	42	909	909
Unrecognized loss.....	--	--	512	512
Recognized (gains) losses.....	3	(46)	--	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net periodic benefit cost.....	\$ 9	\$ 30	\$ 837	\$ 837
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Effect on interest cost component.....			1% Increase	1% Increase
Effect on the health care component of the accumulated postretirement			\$ 74	\$ 74

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

benefit obligation

\$ 1,352 \$

63

In December 2003, the Company adopted an amendment to SFAS No. 132, that required various disclosures concerning the Company's postretirement benefit plans and pensions at December 31, 2003 and 2002, including the plan's measurement date, employer's estimated contributions for the next fiscal year, the percentage of fair value of plan assets at the measurement date, data concerning specific assets which contribute to the long-term rate of return used, investment policies and strategies by plan asset category and the basis upon which a long-term rate of return on plan assets was determined.

The Company measured plan assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2003 and 2002. No employer contributions are expected under the Company's pension plan for the year ended December 31, 2004, since the plan was terminated and all assets distributed as of December 31, 2003. The Company expects to provide contributions of approximately \$1.8 million related to a postretirement benefit plan for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Company held no assets related to these pension and postretirement plans as of December 31, 2003, and, therefore, the Company neither calculated a long-term rate of return applicable to plan assets, nor devised investment strategies to manage plan assets.

Defined Contribution Plans. The Company and its subsidiaries each have defined contribution pension plans covering substantially all nonunion hourly and salaried employees who have completed three months of service. Employee contributions of up to 3% of each covered employee's compensation are matched 100% by the Company, with an additional 2% of covered employee's compensation matched at 50%. In addition, the Company may make discretionary contributions as profit sharing contributions. Company contributions to the plan totaled \$1.5 million, \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

(15) OPERATING LEASES

The Company and its subsidiaries lease various facilities and equipment under non-cancelable operating lease agreements. These leases expire on various dates through March 2018, excluding a lease arrangement for a facility at Axsia that requires lease commitments until the facility is sublet to another party. Future minimum lease payments required under operating leases that have remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year at December 31, 2003, were as follows: 2004--\$3.7 million, 2005--\$1.6 million, 2006--\$1.4 million, 2007--\$1.1 and 2008--\$828,000. Total expense for operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was \$5.4 million, \$5.8 million and \$5.3 million, respectively.

For a discussion of lease and rental income, see Note 8, Property, Plant and Equipment, net.

(16) RELATED PARTIES

The Company pays Capricorn Management G.P., an affiliate company of Capricorn Holdings, Inc., for administrative services, which included office space and parking in Connecticut for the Company's Chief Executive Officer, reception, telephone, computer services and other normal office support relating to that space. Mr. Herbert S. Winokur, Jr., one of the Company's directors, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Capricorn Holdings, Inc. and the Managing Director of Capricorn Holdings LLC, the general partner of Capricorn Investors II, L.P., a private investment partnership, and directly or indirectly controls approximately 31% of the Company's outstanding common stock. In

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

addition, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gregory, is a non-salaried member of Capricorn Holdings LLC. Capricorn Investors II, L.P. controls approximately 19% of the Company's common stock. Fees paid to Capricorn Management totaled \$115,000, \$115,000 and \$85,000 for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. Commencing October 1, 2001, the fee increased to \$28,750 per quarter due primarily to upward adjustments in Capricorn Management's underlying lease for office space; this increase was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors. The arrangement is terminable by either party on 90 days notice.

Under the terms of an employment agreement in effect prior to 1999, the Company loaned its Chief Executive Officer \$1.2 million in July 1999 to purchase 136,832 shares of common stock. During February 2000, after the Company completed the initial public offering of its Class A common stock, also pursuant to the terms of that employment agreement, the Company paid this executive officer a bonus equal to the

64

principal and interest accrued under this note arrangement and recorded compensation expense of \$1.3 million. The officer used the proceeds of this settlement, net of tax, to repay the Company approximately \$665,000. In addition, on October 27, 2000, the Company's board of directors agreed to provide a full recourse loan to this executive officer to facilitate the exercise of certain outstanding stock options. The amount of the loan was equal to the cost to exercise the options plus any personal tax burdens that resulted from the exercise. The maturity of these loans was July 31, 2003, and interest accrued at rates ranging from 6% to 7.8% per annum. As of June 30, 2002, these outstanding notes receivable totaled \$3.4 million, including principal and accrued interest. Effective July 1, 2002, the notes were reviewed by the Company's board and amended to extend the maturity dates to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on LIBOR plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the notes balances as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2003, the balance of the notes (principal and accrued interest) due from this officer under these loan arrangements was \$3.6 million. These loans to this executive officer, which were made on a full recourse basis in prior periods to facilitate direct ownership in the Company's common stock, are currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

As previously agreed in 2001, the Company loaned an employee who is an executive officer and director \$216,000 on April 15, 2002, under a full-recourse note arrangement which accrues interest at 6% per annum and matures on July 31, 2003. The funds were used to pay the exercise cost and personal tax burdens associated with stock options exercised during 2001. Effective July 1, 2002, the note was amended to extend the maturity date to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on LIBOR plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the note balance as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2003, the balance of the note (principal and interest) due from this officer under this loan arrangement was approximately \$233,000. This loan to this executive officer, which was made on a full recourse basis from time to time in prior periods to facilitate direct ownership in the Company's common stock, is currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(17) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Porta-Test purchase agreement, executed in January 2000, contains a provision to calculate a payment to certain former stockholders of Porta-Test Systems, Inc. for a three-year period ended January 23, 2003, based upon sales of a limited number of specified products designed by or utilizing technology that existed at the time of the acquisition. Liability under this arrangement

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

was contingent upon attaining certain performance criteria, including gross margins and sales volumes for the specified products. If applicable, payment is required annually. In April 2001, the Company paid \$226,000 under this arrangement related to the twelve-month period ended January 23, 2001. In August 2002, the Company paid \$197,000 under this arrangement related to the twelve-month period ended January 23, 2002, resulting in an increase in goodwill. Because the performance criteria was not met, the Company did not record additional liability under this arrangement for the twelve-month period ended January 23, 2003.

(18) LITIGATION

Magnum Transcontinental Corp. Arbitration and Related Matter. These matters stem from an agreement among NATCO Group, Magnum Transcontinental Corporation, the U.S. procurement arm of Petroserv S.A., and Zephyr Offshore, Inc., a Petroserv subsidiary, to manufacture and install a processing plant on a Petroserv rig, and Petroserv's agency agreement with NATCO for certain projects in Brazil. NATCO claims Magnum owes it \$418,990 under the plant manufacturing agreement for additional work performed in excess of the days agreed in the contract. NATCO submitted the matter to binding American Arbitration Association arbitration on October 29, 2003. An arbitrator has been selected, and arbitration is scheduled in Houston, Texas during August 2004. In the arbitration, Magnum has counter-claimed for \$4,685,000, alleging breach of contract. NATCO has not recorded an accrual related to this matter at December 31, 2003. NATCO disputes the amounts claimed by Magnum, and intends to vigorously pursue its claims while defending against the counterclaim. After NATCO filed its request for arbitration, Petroserv submitted a mediation request under its representation agreement with NATCO, claiming unpaid agency fees

65

on several contracts, including the Magnum contract. No resolution resulted from the mediation, which was held on January 23, 2004. NATCO believes any fees owed to Petroserv under the agency agreement are offset by NATCO's claims against Magnum. NATCO disputes that it owes any fees for the Magnum work or any work obtained in Brazil after the representation agreement terminated in early 2003. It is not presently known what, if any, further action Petroserv will take in this regard.

The Company and its subsidiaries are defendants or otherwise involved in a number of other legal proceedings in the ordinary course of business. While the Company insures against the risk of these proceedings to the extent deemed prudent by management, NATCO can offer no assurance that the type or value of this insurance will meet the liabilities that may arise from any pending or future legal proceedings related to business activities. While the Company cannot predict the outcome of any legal proceedings with certainty, in the opinion of management, ultimate liability with respect to these pending lawsuits is not expected to have a significant or material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

(19) INDUSTRY SEGMENTS AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Company has adopted the provisions of SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures About Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." The Company's business units have separate management teams and infrastructures that offer different products and services. The business units have been aggregated into three reportable segments (described below) since the long-term financial performance of these reportable segments is affected by similar economic conditions.

North American Operations: This segment consists of the U.S. Sales and Service business unit, the Company's Canadian and Venezuelan subsidiaries, Latin

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

American operations and CO₂ gas-processing operations. The U.S. Sales and Service business unit designs, engineers, manufactures, and provides start-up services for production equipment, which is generally less complex than those units provided by Engineered Systems, and provides replacement parts, field and shop servicing of equipment, and used equipment refurbishing. NATCO Canada provides design, engineering, manufacturing and start-up services for production equipment, as well as replacement parts, field and shop servicing of equipment and used equipment refurbishing. NATCO Canada also provides manufacturing services for the Engineered Systems segment. Latin American operations generally provide replacement parts to service customers in Latin America. The CO₂ gas-processing operations include on-going service at two gas-processing plants in the United States. The principal market for the U.S. Sales and Service business unit is the U.S. onshore and offshore market and the international market. Customers include major multi-national, independent and national or state-owned companies. The principal markets for NATCO Canada are the oil and gas producing regions of Canada. Customers include major multi-national and independent companies.

Engineered Systems: This segment consists of three business units: U.S. Engineered Systems, NATCO Japan and Axasia, that provide design, engineering, manufacturing and start-up services for engineered process systems. The principal markets for this segment include all major oil and gas producing regions of the world including North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Far East. Customers include major multi-national, independent and national or state-owned companies.

Automation and Control Systems: TEST is the sole business unit reported in this segment. This unit designs, manufactures, installs and services instrumentation and electrical control systems. The principal markets for this segment include all major oil and gas producing regions of the world including North America, South America, Europe, Kazakhstan, Africa and the Far East. Customers include major multi-national, independent and national or state-owned companies. This segment was formerly named instrumentation and electrical systems.

The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as those described in Note 2. The Company evaluates the performance of its operating segments based on income before net interest expense, income taxes, depreciation and amortization expense, closure and other, other, net and accounting changes.

66

In September 2003, the Company changed the presentation of its reportable segments by reclassifying certain research and development costs and bonus expenses among the business segments from the "Corporate and Other" segment. In addition, Other, net was excluded from the determination of segment profit (loss). These changes were made as a result of a change in management's internal reporting to better state total costs and profits of each segment and have been retroactively reflected in all periods presented.

Consistent with the recent restructuring in late 2003 and to more closely align the Company's segment presentation to the internal reporting presentation used by the Company's management, the Company changed the presentation of its reportable segments in December 2003, by reclassifying certain manufacturing plants and related assets, totaling \$5.6 million, from the Engineered Systems segment to the North American Operations segment. As a result of this reclassification, capital expenditures and depreciation and amortization expense increased for the North American Operations segment by \$77,000 and \$751,000, respectively, with corresponding decreases in the Engineered Systems segment. Similar reclassifications were made for 2002 of \$12.5 million, \$303,000 and \$945,000, related to total assets, capital expenditures and depreciation and

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

amortization expense, respectively, and in 2001 of \$12.8 million, \$2.1 million and \$569,000, respectively. Presentation of these assets and the associated impact on capital expenditures and depreciation and amortization expense was retroactively reflected in all periods presented below.

Summarized financial information concerning the Company's reportable segments is shown in the following table.

	NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS	ENGINEERED SYSTEMS	AUTOMATION & CONTROL SYSTEMS	CORPORATE & ELIMINATION
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)				
DECEMBER 31, 2003				
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$131,302	\$ 97,496	\$52,664	--
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 1,368	\$ 784	\$ 4,015	\$(6,167)
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 10,118	\$ 3,288	\$ 4,797	\$(3,676)
Total assets.....	\$114,608	\$ 93,641	\$18,080	\$11,399
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 10,046	\$ 1,244	\$ 172	\$ 24
Depreciation and amortization.....	\$ 3,348	\$ 1,016	\$ 330	\$ 375
DECEMBER 31, 2002				
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$136,457	\$105,227	\$47,855	--
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 917	\$ 1,814	\$ 4,287	\$(7,018)
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 12,249	\$ 2,963	\$ 4,326	\$(3,300)
Total assets.....	\$102,092	\$ 95,201	\$22,972	\$11,330
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 2,754	\$ 1,872	\$ 436	\$ 193
Depreciation and amortization.....	\$ 3,310	\$ 885	\$ 456	\$ 307
DECEMBER 31, 2001				
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$144,366	\$ 98,273	\$43,943	--
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 781	\$ 748	\$ 3,750	\$(5,279)
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 11,165	\$ 12,962	\$ 4,327	\$(3,855)
Total assets.....	\$111,517	\$ 91,791	\$17,708	\$11,735
Capital expenditures.....	\$ 7,988	\$ 916	\$ 465	\$ 654
Depreciation and amortization.....	\$ 4,159	\$ 3,201	\$ 501	\$ 282

67

The following table reconciles total segment profit to net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle:

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,		
	2003	2002	2001
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)			
Total segment profit.....	\$14,527	\$16,238	\$24,599
Net interest expense.....	4,732	4,750	5,169
Depreciation and amortization.....	5,069	4,958	8,143
Closure and other.....	2,105	548	1,600

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Other, net.....	1,211	400	429
	-----	-----	-----
Net income before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	1,410	5,582	9,258
Income tax provision.....	1,243	1,705	3,895
	-----	-----	-----
Net income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle.....	\$ 167	\$ 3,877	\$ 5,363
	=====	=====	=====

The impact of the change in measurement method used to determine segment profit (loss) for each of the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, was as follows:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003				
	NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS	ENGINEERED SYSTEMS	AUTOMATION & CONTROL SYSTEMS	CORPORATE & OTHER	TOTAL
	(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)				
Original segment profit (loss).....	\$ 9,761	\$ 1,809	\$ 4,797	\$ (5,158)	\$
Other expense, net and closure.....	1,117	191	--	2,010	
R&D and other.....	(760)	1,288	--	(528)	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 10,118	\$ 3,288	\$ 4,797	\$ (3,676)	\$
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002				
	NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS	ENGINEERED SYSTEMS	AUTOMATION & CONTROL SYSTEMS	CORPORATE & OTHER	TOTAL
	(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)				
Original segment profit (loss).....	\$ 12,632	\$ 2,184	\$ 4,627	\$ (4,153)	\$
Other expense, net.....	840	(302)	84	326	
R&D and other.....	(1,223)	1,081	(385)	527	
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 12,249	\$ 2,963	\$ 4,326	\$ (3,300)	\$
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

	NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS	ENGINEERED SYSTEMS	AUTOMATION & CONTROL SYSTEMS	CORPORATE & OTHER	T
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)					
Original segment profit (loss).....	\$ 12,589	\$ 11,210	\$ 4,718	\$ (5,947)	\$
Other expense, net and closure.....	(86)	1,408	75	632	
R&D and other.....	(1,338)	344	(466)	1,460	
Segment profit (loss).....	\$ 11,165	\$ 12,962	\$ 4,327	\$ (3,855)	\$

The Company's geographic data for continuing operations for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 were as follows:

	UNITED STATES	CANADA	UNITED KINGDOM	OTHER	CORPORATE & ELIMINATIONS
(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)					
DECEMBER 31, 2003					
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$189,964	\$30,120	\$45,013	\$16,365	\$
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 4,760	\$ 604	\$ 803	\$ --	\$ (6,1
Revenues.....	\$194,724	\$30,724	\$45,816	\$16,365	\$ (6,1
Operating income (loss).....	\$ 15,022	\$ (79)	\$ 619	\$ 2,641	\$ (3,6
Total assets.....	\$129,643	\$18,629	\$72,877	\$ 5,180	\$11,3
DECEMBER 31, 2002					
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$195,215	\$24,717	\$43,507	\$26,100	\$
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 5,741	\$ 54	\$1,223	\$ --	\$ (7,0
Revenues.....	\$200,956	\$24,771	\$44,730	\$26,100	\$ (7,0
Operating income (loss).....	\$ 12,554	\$ (574)	\$10,186	\$ (2,628)	\$ (3,3
Total assets.....	\$140,456	\$14,031	\$71,529	\$ 5,579	\$
DECEMBER 31, 2001					
Revenues from unaffiliated customers.....	\$190,034	\$28,746	\$50,854	\$16,948	\$
Inter-segment revenues.....	\$ 4,629	\$ --	\$ 650	\$ --	\$ (5,2
Revenues.....	\$194,663	\$28,746	\$51,504	\$16,948	\$ (5,2
Operating income (loss).....	\$ 13,571	\$ 589	\$12,769	\$ 1,525	\$ (3,8
Total assets.....	\$131,007	\$21,071	\$71,407	\$ 9,266	\$

Equipment for large international projects is generally manufactured in the United States. Therefore, revenues and results of operations related to these projects were presented as derived from the United States for purposes of this geographic presentation.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

(20) QUARTERLY DATA

The following tables summarize unaudited quarterly information for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001:

	FOR THE QUARTER ENDED			
	MARCH 31	JUNE 30	SEPTEMBER 30	DECEMBER 31
(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA)				
	2003			
Revenues, net.....	\$68,013	\$70,613	\$65,801	\$77,030
Gross profit.....	\$15,811	\$16,547	\$16,024	\$17,620
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.....	\$ 30	\$ (64)	\$ (188)	\$ (79)
Basic earnings (loss) per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.01)
Fully diluted earnings (loss) per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.01)
	2002			
Revenues, net.....	\$73,578	\$74,396	\$66,563	\$75,000
Gross profit.....	\$18,263	\$17,662	\$14,908	\$19,350
Net income (loss) available to common stockholders.....	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,134	\$ (336)	\$ 1,300
Basic earnings (loss) per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.07	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.04
Fully diluted earnings (loss) per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.07	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.04
	2001			
Revenues, net.....	\$62,910	\$82,559	\$74,522	\$66,590
Gross profit.....	\$15,993	\$20,305	\$20,617	\$19,150
Net income before cumulative effect available to common stockholders.....	\$ 1,376	\$ 520	\$ 1,767	\$ 1,700
Basic earnings per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.11
Fully diluted earnings per share available to common stockholders.....	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.11

(21) GOODWILL IMPAIRMENT TESTING

The FASB approved SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" in June 2001. This pronouncement requires that intangible assets with indefinite lives, including goodwill, cease being amortized and be evaluated for impairment on an annual basis. Intangible assets with a defined term, such as patents, would continue to be amortized over the useful life of the asset.

The Company adopted SFAS No. 142 on January 1, 2002. Intangible assets subject to amortization under the pronouncement as of December 31, 2003 and 2002

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

were summarized in the following table:

TYPE OF INTANGIBLE ASSET	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003		AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002	
	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION
	(UNAUDITED, IN THOUSANDS)			
Deferred financing fees.....	\$3,529	\$2,706	\$3,304	\$1,964
Patents.....	164	36	145	20
Other.....	534	275	303	186
Total.....	\$4,227	\$3,017	\$3,752	\$2,170
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Amortization and interest expense of \$847,000, \$840,000 and \$932,000 were recognized related to these assets for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The estimated aggregate amortization and interest expense for these assets for each of the following five fiscal years is: 2004--\$462,000; 2005--\$414,000; 2006--\$129,000; 2007--\$45,000; and 2008--\$28,000. For segment reporting purposes, these intangible assets and the related amortization expense were recorded under "Corporate and Eliminations."

Goodwill was the Company's only intangible asset that required no periodic amortization as of the date of the adoption of SFAS No. 142. Net goodwill at December 31, 2003 and 2002 was \$80.1 million and \$79.0 million, respectively. The pro forma impact of applying SFAS No. 142 to operating results for the year ended December 31, 2001 would have been a reduction of amortization expense of \$3.7 million resulting in net income of \$9.0 million. The pro forma increase in basic and diluted earnings per share in 2001 would have been \$.23 and \$.23, respectively.

In accordance with SFAS No. 142, the Company tested impairment of goodwill by comparing the fair value of its operating units to the carrying value of those assets, including any related goodwill. As required in the pronouncement, the Company identified separate reporting units for purposes of this evaluation. In determining carrying value, the Company segregated assets and liabilities that, to the extent possible, were clearly identifiable by specific reporting unit. Certain corporate and other assets and liabilities, that were not clearly identifiable by specific reporting unit, were allocated in accordance with the standard. Fair value was determined by discounting projected future cash flows at the Company's weighted average cost of capital rate. The resulting fair value was then compared to the carrying value of the reporting unit to determine whether or not an impairment had occurred at the reporting unit level. No impairment was indicated and, in accordance with the pronouncement, no additional tests were required.

Net goodwill was \$22.4 million, \$54.2 million, \$4.4 million and \$159,000 at December 31, 2003 for the North American Operations segment, Engineered Systems segment, Automation and Control Systems segment and the Corporate and Other segment, respectively, and \$20.2 million, \$54.2 million, \$4.4 million and \$159,000, respectively, at December 31, 2002. The change in the value of goodwill between December 31, 2003 and 2002 was due entirely to the impact of exchange rate changes.

Since no impairment of goodwill was indicated based upon the testing performed, no impairment charge was recorded under SFAS No. 142 as of December

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

31, 2003 and 2002. Goodwill will be tested for impairment on December 31 on an annual basis.

(22) NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In June 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." This standard provides guidance on reporting and accounting for obligations associated with the retirement of long-lived tangible assets and the related retirement costs. This standard was effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2002. On January 1, 2003, we adopted this pronouncement and recorded a loss of \$34,000, net of tax effect, as the cumulative effect of change in accounting principle. In addition, we recorded an asset retirement obligation liability and asset cost of \$96,000, associated with an obligation to remove certain leasehold improvements upon termination of lease arrangements, including

71

concrete pads and equipment. We will depreciate the asset cost over the remaining useful life of the related assets.

In October 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets." This statement replaces SFAS No. 121, "Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to be Disposed Of," and standardizes the accounting model to be used for asset dispositions and related implementation issues. This pronouncement became effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. The Company adopted this pronouncement on January 1, 2002, resulting in no material effect on financial condition or results of operations.

In April 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 145, "Rescission of FASB Statements No. 4, 44 and 64, Amendment of FASB Statement No. 13 and Technical Corrections." This statement amends existing guidance on reporting gains and losses on extinguishment of debt, prohibiting the classification of the gain or loss as extraordinary. SFAS No. 145 also amends SFAS No. 13 to require sale-leaseback accounting for certain lease modifications that have economic effects similar to sale-leaseback arrangements. The provisions of the statement related to the rescission of Statement No. 4 will be applied for the fiscal year beginning after May 14, 2002, with early adoption encouraged. The provisions of the statement related to Statement No. 13 were effective for transactions occurring after May 15, 2002, with early adoption encouraged. SFAS No. 145 has been adopted as of January 1, 2003, with no material effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In June 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Exit or Disposal Activities," which addresses financial accounting and reporting for costs associated with exit and disposal activities, including restructuring activities that are currently accounted for pursuant to the guidance set forth in EITF Issue No. 94-3, "Liability Recognition for Certain Employee Termination Benefits and Other Costs to Exit an Activity." SFAS No. 146 is effective for exit or disposal activities that are initiated after December 31, 2002, with early adoption encouraged. The provisions of this pronouncement were applied to any exit or disposal activities on January 1, 2003, with no material effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In November 2002, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness to Others, an interpretation of FASB Statements No. 5, 57 and 107 and a rescission of FASB Interpretation No. 34." This interpretation elaborates on the disclosures to be made by a guarantor in its interim and annual financial statements about its obligations under guarantees

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

issued. The interpretation also clarifies that a guarantor is required to recognize, at the inception of a guarantee, a liability for the fair value of the obligation taken. The initial recognition and measurement provisions of the Interpretation are applicable to guarantees issued or modified after December 31, 2002. The Company adopted this Interpretation on January 1, 2003 with no material effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation--Transition and Disclosure, an amendment to FASB Statement No. 123." This statement amends FASB Statement No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," to provide alternative methods to transition, on a volunteer-basis, to the fair value method of accounting for stock-based employee compensation. Additionally, this statement amends the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 123 to require prominent disclosures in both annual and interim financial statements. Certain disclosure modifications are required for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2002, if a transition to SFAS No. 123 is elected. The Company has not elected to transition to SFAS No. 123 as of December 31, 2002. See Note 12, Stockholders' Equity.

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, "Amendment of Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." This statement provides additional guidance to account for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts as well as hedging activities under SFAS No. 133. This pronouncement becomes effective for new contract arrangements and hedging transactions entered into after June 30, 2003, with exceptions for certain SFAS No. 133 implementation issues begun prior to June 15, 2003. We adopted this pronouncement on July 1, 2003, with no material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

72

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity." This statement provides guidance on how to classify and measure certain financial instruments that have characteristics of both liabilities and equity, and generally requires treatment of these instruments as liabilities, including certain obligations that the issuer can or must settle by issuing its own equity securities. This pronouncement, which was effective for all financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise became effective on July 1, 2003, required cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle treatment upon adoption. We adopted this pronouncement on July 1, 2003, with no material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2003, the FASB issued an amendment of SFAS No. 132, "Employers' Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits." This amendment, which was effective at December 31, 2003, requires additional annual disclosures about pension or postretirement plan assets and liabilities, as well as investment policies and strategies for plan assets, basis for expected rate of return on assets and total accumulated benefit obligation. In addition, this amendment requires interim disclosures of the components of net periodic benefit cost in tabular format and contributions paid or expected to be paid during the current fiscal year. Effective December 31, 2004, we will be required to disclose benefits expected to be paid in each of the next five years under each pension or postretirement plan, and an aggregate amount expected to be paid for the succeeding five year period under these arrangements. We adopted this amendment to SFAS No. 132 on December 31, 2003, and the required disclosures were included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. See Note 14, Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

There are no changes or disagreements with accountants on accounting and financial disclosure matters during the periods for which consolidated financial statements have been presented within this document.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Members of our management team, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, have reviewed our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as of December 31, 2003, in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of these controls. Based upon this review, our management has determined that, as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, our disclosure controls and procedures operate such that important information is collected in a timely manner, provided to management and made known to our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure in our public filings.

Furthermore, no significant changes have been made to our internal controls and procedures during the three months ended December 31, 2003, or prior to filing this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and no corrective actions are anticipated, as we noted no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in our internal control structure.

73

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

NAME ----	AGE ---	POSITION(S) -----	COMMITTEE(S) -----
Nathaniel A. Gregory...	55	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Class III--term expiring in 2004)	Executive (Chairman)
Patrick M. McCarthy....	59	Director and President (Class I--term expiring in 2005)	
Keith K. Allan.....	64	Director (Class II--term expiring in 2006)	Audit (Chairman), Executive
Thomas R. Bates, Jr. (1).....	54	Director	Governance, Nominating & Compensation (GNC)
John U. Clarke.....	51	Director (Class I--term expiring in 2005)	Audit, GNC (Chairman); Executive
George K. Hickox, Jr.....	45	Director (Class II--term expiring in 2006)	Audit
Herbert S. Winokur, Jr.....	60	Director (Class III--term expiring in 2004)	GNC
James Crittall.....	60	President--NATCO Canada	
Robert A. Curcio.....	47	Senior Vice President--Technology and Product Development	
Katherine P. Ellis.....	43	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	
Richard W.	49	Senior Vice President and Chief	

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

FitzGerald.....		Financial Officer
Ryan S. Liles.....	49	Vice President, Controller and Principal Accounting Officer
Peter G. Michaluk.....	49	Senior Vice President--Europe, Africa and Middle East; Managing Director--Axsia
Richard D. Peters.....	44	Senior Vice President and Director--Gas Membrane Systems
C. Frank Smith	52...	Executive Vice President
David R. Volz, Jr.....	50	President--TEST
Joseph H. Wilson.....	51	Senior Vice President--Marketing

(1) Appointed by the holders of the Series B Convertible Preferred Stock on March 25, 2003.

Nathaniel A. Gregory. Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer since April 1993. Prior to joining NATCO, Mr. Gregory held a number of positions in the engineering and construction industry and in investment banking.

Patrick M. McCarthy. Director since February 1998 and President since December 1997. Mr. McCarthy served as Executive Vice President of NATCO, with marketing and operations responsibilities, from November 1996 to December 1997 and as Senior Vice President--Marketing from June 1994 to November 1996. Prior to joining us in June 1994, Mr. McCarthy was Vice President--Worldwide Oil and Gas at ABB Lummus Crest, an engineering and construction company.

Keith K. Allan. Chairman of the Audit Committee and Director since February 1998. Mr. Allan was a director of NATCO (U.K.) Ltd. from October 1996 to January 1998. From February 1993 to August 1996,

74

he was Technical Director in the North Sea for Shell U.K. Exploration and Production. From 1965 to February 1993, he served in a number of positions for Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

Thomas R. Bates, Jr. Director since March 2003. Managing Director of Lime Rock Partners, Houston, Texas, a partnership that invests in growth capital equity for oilfield service companies, since October 2001. Mr. Bates previously served as Senior Vice President, then President, of the Discovery Group of Baker Hughes, Inc. (June 1998 to January 2000), as CEO and President of Weatherford Enterra, Inc. (June 1997 to May 1998) and as President of the Anadrill Division of Schlumberger Ltd. (March 1992 to May 1997). Mr. Bates currently serves as the chairman and a member of the executive committee of Rotary Steerable Tools (BVI), Inc. (a manufacturer of drilling tools), chairman and a member of the compensation committee of vMonitor, Inc. (a provider of web-based technology for remote monitoring of assets in the oil and gas industry) and a director of New Patriot Drilling.

John U. Clarke. Director since February 2000, Chairman of the GNC Committee since December 2002. Mr. Clarke has been President of Concept Capital Group, a financial and strategic advisory firm originally founded by Mr. Clarke in 1995 since May 2001. Immediately prior to reestablishing the firm, Mr. Clarke was a Managing Director of SCF Partners, a private equity investment firm. From 1999 to June 2000, Mr. Clarke was Executive Vice President of Dynegy, Inc. where he was also an Advisory Director and member of the Office of the Chairman. Mr. Clarke joined Dynegy in April 1997 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining Dynegy, Mr. Clarke was a managing director of Simmons

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

& Company International. From 1995 to 1997, he served as president of Concept Capital Group. Mr. Clarke was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial and Administrative Officer with Cabot Oil and Gas from 1993 to 1995. He was with Transco Energy from 1981 to 1993, last serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Clarke is a director and member of the audit committee of Harvest Natural Resources, a publicly traded international oil and gas company, and a director and chairman of the audit committee of The Houston Exploration Company, a publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production company. He also is a director of FuelQuest.com, a market service provider to petroleum marketers.

George K. Hickox, Jr. Director since November 1998. Mr. Hickox has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Wiser Oil Company, a publicly traded, independent oil and gas exploration and production company, since May 2000, and as a general partner of Heller Hickox & Co., a partnership specializing in energy investments, since September 1991. Mr. Hickox also served as a director of Cynara prior to its acquisition by NATCO in November 1998. He presently serves as an officer and director of several privately held companies.

Herbert S. Winokur, Jr. Director since 1989. Mr. Winokur is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Capricorn Holdings, Inc. (a private investment company), and Managing General Partner of Capricorn Investors II, L.P. and Capricorn Investors III, L.P., private investment partnerships concentrating on investments in restructure situations, organized by Mr. Winokur in 1987, 1994 and 1999, respectively. He is also a Managing Member of Capricorn Holdings, LLC and Capricorn Holdings III, LLC (which are General Partners of Capricorn Investors II, L.P. and Capricorn Investors III, L.P., respectively.) Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Winokur was Senior Executive Vice President and director of Penn Central Corporation. Mr. Winokur is also a director of Mrs. Fields' Companies, Inc., CCC Information Services Group, Inc. and Holland Series Fund, Inc.

James F. Crittall. President of NATCO Canada since November 1996. Mr. Crittall served as Vice President of Technical Operations for NATCO Canada from December 1992 to October 1996. Mr. Crittall joined National Tank Company in 1971 and has served in several managerial positions, including Manager of Engineering and Sales and Manager of Engineering for NATCO Canada, Ltd.

Robert A. Curcio. Senior Vice President--Technology and Product Development since May 1998. Mr. Curcio spent 20 years at Exxon Corporation and its affiliates in marketing, engineering and manufacturing management. Mr. Curcio served as Global Markets Director--Heavy Duty Diesel Additives of Exxon Chemical's PARAMINS division from February 1996 to May 1998, Global Markets Manager--Specialty and Niche Additives of PARAMINS from January 1995 to February 1996 and PARAMINS Product Manager--Large Engine Additives from July 1992 to January 1995.

75

Katherine P. Ellis. Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since March 2003. Ms. Ellis held various counsel positions for Nabors Industries from December 1996 to December 2002, serving most recently as General Counsel. From 1987 to 1996 she was associated with the law firm of Baker & Botts LLP in Houston, Texas.

Richard W. FitzGerald. Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the company since May 2003. Mr. FitzGerald was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Universal Compression, Inc., a publicly traded gas compression rental and fabrication company, from 1999 to March 2003. From 1998 to 1999, he served as Vice President--Financial Services of KN Energy. Since 1982, he served in a number of finance and accounting positions at companies in the gas marketing and transportation industry, including various units of

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Occidental Petroleum Corporation and Peoples Energy.

Ryan S. Liles. Vice President and Controller since April 2000. Mr. Liles was Controller of Dailey International Inc., an oilfield services company, from October 1994 to April 2000. He served as an Assistant Controller at USPCI, a hazardous waste disposal company, from November 1989 to October 1994.

Peter G. Michaluk. Senior Vice President--Europe, Africa and Middle East since March 2001. Since 1994, Mr. Michaluk served as Managing Director of Axsia. He joined Axsia in 1978 as a process engineer and held various technical and managerial positions of increasing responsibility prior to assuming his current position.

Richard D. Peters. Senior Vice President and Director--Gas Membrane Systems since September 2002, Senior Vice President--Americas from March 2001 to August 2002, and Senior Vice President--Engineering from July 2000 to March 2001. From November 1997 to July 2000, he served as President of Cynara. Mr. Peters served as Chief Financial Officer of Cynara from June 1996 to October 1997 and as Project Manager and Accounting Coordinator of Cynara from February 1991 to May 1996.

C. Frank Smith. Executive Vice President--NATCO Group Inc. since January 2002. Mr. Smith was President of NATCO's U.S. operations from January 1998 until January 2002, and served as Senior Vice President--Sales and Service from September 1993 to December 1997 and as the Northern Region Director of Sales and Service Centers from April 1992 to September 1993.

David R. Volz, Jr. President of TEST since its acquisition in June 1997. Mr. Volz joined TEST in 1976 as a Technical Specialist and held a number of positions of increasing responsibility prior to serving as President.

Joseph H. Wilson. Senior Vice President--Marketing since April 1999. Prior to joining us, Mr. Wilson served as Strategic Accounts Manager of Baker Hughes Inc., with responsibilities for strategic business development, from January 1999 to April 1999. From January 1997 to January 1999, Mr. Wilson served as Gulf Coast Region Manager of Baker Hughes INTEQ's fluids, directional drilling and MWD business. From January 1994 to January 1997, Mr. Wilson was Director of Sales and Systems Marketing for all of INTEQ. Prior to January 1994, Mr. Wilson held a number of positions in sales, operations and marketing with Baker Hughes INTEQ, Baker Sand Control and BJ Services, each an oilfield service company.

Certain Arrangements. Pursuant to our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, so long as more than 50% of the Series B Preferred Shares remain outstanding, the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares have the right, voting separately as a class with one vote per share, to elect or appoint one director at any annual or special meeting of stockholders or pursuant to written consent. On March 25, 2003, the holders of the Series B Preferred Shares acting by written consent elected Mr. Thomas R. Bates, Jr. to serve as a director of the company pursuant to this right. Mr. Bates will continue to serve as a director at the pleasure of the holders of Series B preferred shares for so long as such right continues. Following certain defaults related to the payment of dividends on or the redemption price for the Series B Preferred Shares, the holders of such stock would be entitled to elect a second director, also voting separately as a class with one vote per share.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance. The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our executive officers and directors, among others, to file certain beneficial ownership reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission. During 2003, Mr. Thomas R. Bates, Jr. submitted one late filing related to his election as a director of the company, which occurred on March 25, 2003 and was reported on

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

May 2, 2003; and Lime Rock Partners II, LP submitted one late filing related to the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares, which occurred on March 25, 2003 and was reported on April 25, 2003.

Identification of Audit Committee; Audit Committee Financial Expert. Keith K. Allan (Chairman), John U. Clarke and George K. Hickox, Jr. serve on the audit committee of our board of directors. This is a separately designated standing audit committee established in accordance with section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Our board of directors has determined that it has at least one audit committee financial expert, as defined pursuant to applicable law and regulation, serving on its audit committee, Mr. Clarke.

Code of Ethics and Governance Matters. NATCO Group Inc. has adopted the Business Ethics Policy, a code of business ethics for directors, officers and employees, and Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Audit Committee and Governance, Nominating and Compensation Committee have adopted Charters governing their activities. All of these documents are available free of charge through our website, www.natcogroup.com, under "Investor Relations/Corporate Governance." Stockholders may request free copies of these documents from our corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas, located at 2950 North Loop West, 7th Floor, Houston, Texas 77092, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Except as specified in the following sentence, the information called for by this item will be contained in our 2004 annual meeting proxy statement or an amendment to this document to be filed within 120 days of December 31, 2003 and is incorporated into this document by reference. Information in our 2004 proxy statement not deemed to be "soliciting material" or "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission under its rules, including the Report of the Compensation Committee on Executive Compensation, the Report of the Audit Committee and the Five Year Stock Performance Graph, is not deemed to be incorporated by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 10, 2004 by (i) each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our common stock, (ii) each director, (iii) each of the Named Executive Officers (as defined in "Executive Compensation" below), and (iv) all directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, each person has sole voting and dispositive power over the shares indicated as owned by such person.

BENEFICIAL OWNER(1) -----	ADDRESS -----	NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED -----
Bricoleur Capital Management, LLC(2).....	12230 El Camino Real Suite 1000 San Diego, California 92130	1,016,557

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Capricorn Investors II, LP(3).....	30 East Elm Street Greenwich, Connecticut 06830	3,096,355
Lime Rock Partners II, LP(4).....	518 Riverside Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	2,170,645
Royce & Associates(2).....	1414 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10019	1,195,900
Heartland Advisors, Inc. and William J. Nasgovitz(2)(5).....	789 North Water Street Milwaukee, WI 53202	1,621,000
Robert A. Curcio.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	82,843

77

BENEFICIAL OWNER(1) -----	ADDRESS -----	NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED -----
Nathaniel A. Gregory(6).....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	4,431,837
Patrick M. McCarthy.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	239,651
Richard W. FitzGerald.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	--
Peter G. Michaluk.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	60,676
C. Frank Smith.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	84,128
Keith K. Allan.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	13,334
Thomas R. Bates, Jr.(7).....	10375 Richmond Ave. Suite 225 Houston, Texas 77042	2,170,645
John U. Clarke.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	18,536
George K. Hickox, Jr.....	2950 N. Loop West Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77092	216,622
Herbert S. Winokur, Jr.(3).....	30 East Elm Street Greenwich, Connecticut 06830	4,958,734
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (17 persons).....		9,447,535

* Indicates beneficial ownership of less than one percent of outstanding common stock

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- (1) Shares are considered "beneficially owned," for purposes of this table, if the person directly or indirectly has sole or shared voting and investment power with respect to such shares, and/or if a person has the right to acquire shares within 60 days of March 10, 2004. Shares that are indicated as beneficially owned in the table above which meet this 60-day criteria include: (1) Mr. Allan, 13,334; (2) Capricorn Investors II, L.P., 9,334; (3) Mr. Clarke, 8,536; (4) Mr. Curcio, 80,843; (5) Mr. Gregory, 305,239; (6) Mr. Hickox, 6,667; (7) Mr. McCarthy, 94,817; (8) Mr. Michaluk, 60,676; (9) Mr. Smith, 74,984; and (10) all Directors and executive officers as a group, 869,489.
- (2) As reported in a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (3) Of the shares indicated as being beneficially owned by Mr. Winokur, 3,096,355 of the shares are owned directly by Capricorn Investors II, LP. Mr. Winokur is the Manager of Capricorn Holdings LLC, which in turn serves as the general partner of Capricorn Investors II. As such Mr. Winokur may be deemed to have dispositive voting power over the shares owned by Capricorn Investors II. Of the remaining 1,862,379 shares, Mr. Winokur has sole voting and sole dispositive power with respect to such shares.
- (4) Lime Rock Partners II, LP holds 15,000 shares of our Series B Convertible Preferred Stock, representing 100% of the issued and outstanding shares of such series, which would be convertible to 1,921,845 shares of our common stock if converted at December 31, 2003. In addition, Lime Rock Partners II, LP holds immediately exercisable warrants to purchase 248,800 shares of our common stock.
- (5) Heartland Advisors, Inc. and William J. Nasgovitz in its capacity as investment adviser to its clients holding shares of NATCO common stock, has shared voting power with respect to 1,422,500 of the 1,621,000 shares it beneficially owns and shares investment power with respect to all of such shares.

78

- (6) Of the shares indicated as being beneficially owned by Mr. Gregory, 3,096,355 of such shares are owned directly by Capricorn Investors II, L.P. Mr. Gregory is a member of Capricorn Holdings LLC, which serves as general partner in Capricorn Investors II. Mr. Gregory disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares exceeding his pecuniary interest.
- (7) All of the shares indicated as being beneficially owned by Mr. Bates are owned directly by Lime Rock Partners II, LP. Mr. Bates has an economic interest in such shares though the general partner of Lime Rock Partners II, LP, and is a member of a six-member investment committee that advises the persons who have voting and investment power with respect to the shares owned by Lime Rock. Mr. Bates disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares owned by Lime Rock Investors II, LP.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

Under the terms of an employment agreement in effect prior to 1999, we loaned our Chief Executive Officer \$1.2 million in July 1999 to purchase 136,832 shares of common stock. During February 2000, after we completed the initial public offering of our Class A common stock, also pursuant to the terms of that employment agreement, we paid this executive officer a bonus equal to the

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

principal and interest accrued under this note arrangement and recorded compensation expense of \$1.3 million. The officer used the proceeds of this settlement, net of tax, to repay the company approximately \$665,000. In addition, on October 27, 2000, our Board of Directors agreed to provide a full recourse loan to this executive officer to facilitate the exercise of certain outstanding stock options. The amount of the loan was equal to the cost to exercise the options plus any personal tax burdens that resulted from the exercise. The maturity of these loans was July 31, 2003, and interest accrued at rates ranging from 6% to 7.8% per annum. As of June 30, 2002, the outstanding principal and interest on these notes receivable totaled \$3.4 million. Effective July 1, 2002, the notes were reviewed by our board and amended to extend the maturity dates to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the notes balances as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2002, the outstanding principal and interest due from this officer under these notes was \$3.6 million. These loans, which were made on a full recourse basis in prior periods to facilitate direct ownership in our common stock, are currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

As previously agreed in 2001, we loaned our President \$216,000 on April 15, 2002, under a full-recourse note arrangement which accrues interest at 6% per annum and matured on July 31, 2003. The funds were used to pay the exercise cost and personal tax burdens associated with the stock options exercised during 2001. Effective July 1, 2002, the note was amended to extend the maturity date to July 31, 2004, and to require interest to be calculated at an annual rate based on LIBOR plus 300 basis points, adjusted quarterly, applied to the note balance as of June 30, 2002, including previously accrued interest. As of December 31, 2002, the outstanding principal and interest on the note was approximately \$233,000. This loan, which was made on a full recourse basis to facilitate direct ownership in our common stock, is currently subject to and in compliance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

We pay Capricorn Management G.P., an affiliate company of Capricorn Holdings, Inc., for administrative services, which include office space and parking in Connecticut for our Chief Executive Officer, reception, telephone, computer services and other normal office support relating to that space. Mr. Herbert S. Winokur, Jr., one of our directors, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Capricorn Holdings, Inc., and the Managing Partner of Capricorn Holdings LLC, which is the general partner of Capricorn Investors II, L.P., a private investment partnership, and directly or indirectly controls approximately 31% of our outstanding common stock. In addition, our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gregory, is a non-salaried member of Capricorn Holdings LLC. Capricorn Investors II, LP controls approximately 19% of our common stock. Fees paid to Capricorn Management for these administrative services totaled \$115,000, \$115,000 and \$85,000 for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. Commencing October 1, 2001, the fee

79

increased to \$28,750 quarterly due primarily to an upward adjustment in Capricorn Management's underlying lease for the office; this increase was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors. The arrangement is terminable by either party on 90 days notice.

We recorded revenues of \$91,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003, related to equipment sold to the Wiser Oil Company. One of our Directors, Mr. George K. Hickox, Jr., is the Chief Executive Officer of Wiser Oil Company. These sales constituted less than one percent of NATCO's consolidated gross revenues. NATCO purchased no equipment from Wiser Oil Company during 2003.

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

We recorded revenues of \$859,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003, related to equipment sold to The Houston Exploration Company. One of our Directors, Mr. John U. Clarke, is a director of The Houston Exploration Company, a publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production company.

EMPLOYMENT, TERMINATION AND CHANGE IN CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr. Gregory serves as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer under an employment agreement entered into in December 2002, which replaced his prior employment agreement. The current agreement is for a term of three years unless sooner terminated by Mr. Gregory or by us in accordance with its terms. The agreement automatically extends for additional one-year periods unless we notify Mr. Gregory 90 days prior to the termination date of the agreement that we do not wish to renew the agreement. Under his agreement, Mr. Gregory is entitled to receive an annual salary (currently \$436,000), an annual bonus with a target award of 75% of Mr. Gregory's base salary based on our financial performance and certain other criteria as are determined annually by our Board of Directors, and such additional bonus payments as the Board may determine in its sole discretion. He is also entitled to participate in our fringe benefit and insurance plans and to reimbursement of certain costs and expenses.

If, prior to a change in control, we terminate Mr. Gregory's employment for any reason other than cause, or Mr. Gregory terminates his employment for good reason (as defined in the agreement), Mr. Gregory will be entitled to severance pay in accordance with any severance plan or policy that we may then have in effect and any bonus compensation earned under the bonus plan that has previously been deferred under the bonus plan. If, during the 36-month period following a change in control, Mr. Gregory terminates his employment agreement for good reason or we terminate Mr. Gregory, other than for cause, Mr. Gregory will be entitled to salary and accrued vacation through the date of termination, annual bonus earned through the date of termination, three times his base salary and target bonus at the time of notice of termination or of a change in control, whichever is greater; continuation of health, dental and life insurance benefit for a period of three years following the date of termination; and all deferred bonus compensation under the bonus plan. In addition, Mr. Gregory's stock options shall immediately vest on the date of a change in control and the period for exercising certain of these options may be extended.

Mr. McCarthy serves as our President under an employment agreement entered into in December 2002. The terms of Mr. McCarthy's employment agreement are substantially similar to those of Mr. Gregory under his employment agreement, except that, under Mr. McCarthy's agreement, he is entitled to receive an annual salary (currently \$300,000), an annual bonus with a target award of 60% of Mr. McCarthy's base salary, based on our financial performance and certain other criteria which are determined annually by our Board of Directors, and such additional bonus payments as the Board may determine in its sole discretion. If, during the 36-month period following a change in control, Mr. McCarthy terminates his employment agreement for a good reason (as defined in the agreement) or we terminate Mr. McCarthy other than for cause, Mr. McCarthy will be entitled to the same payment, benefits and treatment of his stock options as described above for Mr. Gregory, except that the payment for his base salary shall be two times his base salary at the time of notice of termination or change in control, whichever is greater. Mr. McCarthy also will be entitled to receive a payment equal to one year of his base salary in exchange for an agreement not to compete with the Company.

In December 2002, we entered into Senior Management Change in Control Agreements with our executive officers, including the other three named executive officers, two of whom have since resigned from the company. Substantially similar agreements were entered into with Mr. FitzGerald and Ms. Ellis in August

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

2003. These agreements are for an initial term of three years, but renew for successive one-year periods unless terminated earlier as provided in the agreement. If, during the 24-month period following a change in control, the executive's employment is terminated by us other than for cause, or by the executive for good reason (as defined in the respective agreements), we are obligated to pay the executive's salary and accrued vacation through the date of termination, annual bonus earned through the date of termination, an amount equal to the product of two times the executive's base salary at the time of termination or of notice of a change in control, whichever is greater, continuation of health, dental and life insurance benefits for a period of two years following the date of termination. These payments are in lieu of any other severance to which the executive may be entitled under other severance arrangements of the company, and are in addition to any stock options of the executive. These stock options shall vest immediately upon the occurrence of a change in control, and certain of these options may have extended exercise periods.

For purposes of the above-referenced employment and change in control agreements, the extent that any benefit, payment or distribution by the company under the agreement would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the U.S. internal revenue code, then such amount will be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of the excise tax.

Compensation policies in the event of a change-in-control are reviewed regularly to ensure that the policies reflect terms and conditions consistent with those adopted by comparable companies and that are in our best interests. The Board of Directors or the GNC Committee may change such policies as the facts and circumstances dictate.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Audit Fees. We paid audit fees to our independent public accountants, KPMG LLP, totaling \$543,547 and \$433,945 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual financial statements.

Audit-Related Fees. We paid audit-related fees to KPMG LLP, totaling \$47,521 and \$23,000 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, related primarily to the audit of financial statements of an employee benefit plan.

Tax Fees. We paid tax fees to KPMG LLP, totaling \$72,587 and \$30,523 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002. The fees paid related primarily to tax compliance and consultation related to tax issues in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

All Other Fees. We paid other fees to KPMG LLP, totaling \$2,750 and \$2,750 for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively, related to the preparation of an information return associated with our employee benefit plan.

POLICY ON AUDIT COMMITTEE PRE-APPROVAL OF AUDIT AND NON-AUDIT SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent public accountants and auditors. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval is generally provided for up to one year, is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget. The Audit Committee has delegated to its chairman authority to pre-approve engagements of our independent auditor or other

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

accountants to perform audit or non-audit services in amounts of up to \$100,000 per engagement, subject to his subsequently reporting to the committee as to any engagement he approves. The independent public accountants and auditors and management are required to periodically report to the full Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent public accountants and auditors in accordance with this pre-approval, and the fees for the services performed to date. None of the services provided by the independent public accountants and auditors under the categories Audit-Related, Tax and All Other Fees described above were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the waiver of pre-approval provisions set forth in Rule 2-01(c) of Regulation S-X.

81

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Index to Financial Statements, Financial Statement Schedules and Exhibits

	PAGE

(1) Financial Statements	
Independent Auditors' Report.....	39
Consolidated Balance Sheets.....	40
Consolidated Statements of Operations.....	41
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity and Comprehensive Income.....	42
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.....	43
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.....	44
(2) Financial Statement Schedules	
No schedules have been included herein because the information required to be submitted has been included in our Consolidated Financial Statements or notes thereto, or the required information is inapplicable.	
(3) Index of Exhibits	
(a) See index of Exhibits for a list of those exhibits filed herewith, which index also includes and identifies management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K by Item 601 (10) (iii) of Regulation S-K.	
(b) Reports on Form 8-K. We filed a report on Form 8-K on November 3, 2003, to announce our operating results for the third quarter of 2003. We filed a report on Form 8-K on February 24, 2004 to announce our operating results for the fourth quarter of 2003. No other reports were filed on Form 8-K during the fourth quarter of 2003.	
(c) Index of Exhibits	

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
2.3	-- Securities Purchase Agreement by and among Lime Rock Partners II, L.P. and NATCO Group Inc., dated March 13, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 14, 2003).
3.1	-- Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended by Certificate of Amendment dated November 18, 1998 and Certificate of Amendment dated November 29, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
3.2	-- Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
3.3	-- Certificate of Designations of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock of NATCO Group Inc. dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
3.4	-- Composite Amended and Restated By-laws of the Company, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2003).

82

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
4.1	-- Specimen Common Stock certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
4.2	-- Registration Rights Agreement by and between Lime Rock Partners II, L.P. and NATCO Group Inc. dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
4.3	-- Rights Agreement dated as of May 15, 1998 by and among the Company and Chase Mellon Shareholder Services, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
4.4	-- First Amendment to Rights Agreement between NATCO Group Inc. and Mellon Investor Services L.L.C. (as successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C.), as Right Agent dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
10.1**	-- Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
10.2**	-- Form of Nonemployee Director's Option Agreement

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.3** -- 1998 Employee Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.4** -- Form of Nonstatutory Stock Option Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.6 -- Service and Reimbursement Agreement dated as of July 1, 1997 between the Company and Capricorn Management, G.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.7** -- Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Company and its officers and directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.8 -- Stockholder's Agreement dated as of July 31, 1997 between the Company, Capricorn Investors, L.P., Capricorn Investors II, L.P. And the former stockholders of The Cynara Company (incorporated By reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.9** -- Severance Pay Summary Plan Description (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
- 10.10 -- International Revolving Loan Agreement dated as of June 30, 1997 between National Tank Company and Texas Commerce Bank, National Association, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).

83

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
-----	-----
10.11	-- Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2000).
10.12	-- First Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd.,

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- Axsia Group Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.13 -- Second Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.14 -- Third Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of July 31, 2003, but effective April 1, 2003, among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, JPMorgan Chase Bank (successor in interest to The Chase Manhattan Bank), acting as agent for the U.S. Lenders, Royal Bank of Canada, acting as agent for the Canadian Lenders, and J.P. Morgan Europe Limited, acting as agent for the U.K. Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2003).
- 10.15** -- Second Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel A. Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).

84

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
10.16**	-- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
10.17**	-- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
10.18**	-- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

		Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
10.19**	--	Amended Single Installment Note Between Patrick M. McCarthy and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
10.20**	--	Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Nathaniel A. Gregory and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.21**	--	Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Patrick M. McCarthy and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.22**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Robert A. Curcio and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.23**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Byron J. Eiermann and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.24**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Richard D. Peters and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.25**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Charles Frank Smith and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.26**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between David R. Volz, Jr. and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.27**	--	Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Joseph H. Wilson and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).

85

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
10.28**	-- Amendment of Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended Jun

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- 30, 2003).
- 10.29** -- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement date October 7, 2003, between Katherine P. Ellis and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
- 10.30** -- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated October 7, 2003, between Richard W. FitzGerald and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
- 10.31 -- Second Extension Agreement and Extension Agreement for the Second Amended and Restated Service and Reimbursement Agreement between Capricorn Management, G.P. and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
- 10.32* -- Loan Agreement (\$20,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$45,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 15, 2004 among NATCO Group, Inc., as U.S. Borrower, NATCO Canada, Ltd., as Canadian Borrower, Axsia Group Limited, as U.K. Borrower, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as U.S. Agent and Co-Lead Arranger, HSBC Bank Canada, as Syndications Agent and as Co-Lead Arranger and the other Lenders now or hereafter parties thereto.
- 21.1* -- List of Subsidiaries.
- 23.1* -- Consent of Independent Auditors.
- 31.1* -- Certification of Chief Executive Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 15 U.S.C. sec.7241, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2* -- Certification of Chief Financial Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 15 U.S.C. sec.7241, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1* -- Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. sec.1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Included with this Annual Report.

** Management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements.

86

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on the 15th day of March 2004.

NATCO GROUP INC.
(Registrant)

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

By: /s/ NATHANIEL A. GREGORY

Nathaniel A. Gregory
Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated, on March 15th, 2004.

SIGNATURE

TITLE

/s/ NATHANIEL A. GREGORY

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive
Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

Nathaniel A. Gregory

/s/ PATRICK M. MCCARTHY

Director and President

Patrick M. McCarthy

/s/ RICHARD W. FITZGERALD

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial
Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

Richard W. FitzGerald

/s/ RYAN S. LILES

Vice President and Controller (Principal
Accounting Officer)

Ryan S. Liles

/s/ KEITH K. ALLAN

Director

Keith K. Allan

/s/ THOMAS BATES, JR.

Director

Thomas Bates, Jr.

/s/ JOHN U. CLARKE

Director

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

John U. Clarke

/s/ GEORGE K. HICKOX, JR. Director

George K. Hickox, Jr.

/s/ HERBERT S. WINOKUR, JR. Director

Herbert S. Winokur, Jr.

87

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
-----	-----
2.3	-- Securities Purchase Agreement by and among Lime Rock Partners II, L.P. and NATCO Group Inc., dated March 13, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 14, 2003).
3.1	-- Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended by Certificate of Amendment dated November 18, 1998 and Certificate of Amendment dated November 29, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
3.2	-- Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
3.3	-- Certificate of Designations of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock of NATCO Group Inc. dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
3.4	-- Composite Amended and Restated By-laws of the Company, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2003).
4.1	-- Specimen Common Stock certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
4.2	-- Registration Rights Agreement by and between Lime Rock Partners II, L.P. and NATCO Group Inc. dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
4.3	-- Rights Agreement dated as of May 15, 1998 by and among the Company and Chase Mellon Shareholder Services, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
4.4	-- First Amendment to Rights Agreement between NATCO Group Inc. and Mellon Investor Services L.L.C. (as successor to

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C.), as Rights Agent dated March 25, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 27, 2003).
- 10.1** -- Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.2** -- Form of Nonemployee Director's Option Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.3** -- 1998 Employee Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.4** -- Form of Nonstatutory Stock Option Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.6 -- Service and Reimbursement Agreement dated as of July 1, 1997 between the Company and Capricorn Management, G.P. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.7** -- Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Company and its officers and directors (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.8 -- Stockholder's Agreement dated as of July 31, 1997 between the Company, Capricorn Investors, L.P., Capricorn Investors II, L.P. And the former stockholders of The Cynara Company (incorporated By reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.9** -- Severance Pay Summary Plan Description (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).
 - 10.10 -- International Revolving Loan Agreement dated as of June 30, 1997 between National Tank Company and Texas Commerce Bank, National Association, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the Company's Registration Statement No. 333-48851 on Form S-1).

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
10.11	-- Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2000).
10.12	-- First Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

- Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.13 -- Second Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 16, 2001 among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, The Chase Manhattan Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Bank One, N.A. (Main Office Chicago, Illinois), Wells Fargo Bank Texas, National Association, JP Morgan, a Division of Chase Securities, Inc., and the other lenders now or hereafter Parties hereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.14 -- Third Amendment to Loan Agreement (\$35,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$50,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of July 31, 2003, but effective April 1, 2003, among NATCO Group Inc., NATCO Canada, Ltd., Axsia Group Limited, JPMorgan Chase Bank (successor in interest to The Chase Manhattan Bank), acting as agent for the U.S. Lenders, Royal Bank of Canada, acting as agent for the Canadian Lenders, and J.P. Morgan Europe Limited, acting as agent for the U.K. Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2003).
- 10.15** -- Second Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel A. Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.19 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.16** -- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.17** -- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.18** -- Amended Single Installment Note Between Nathaniel Gregory and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.19** -- Amended Single Installment Note Between Patrick M. McCarthy and NATCO Group Inc., effective July 1, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2002).
- 10.20** -- Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Nathaniel A. Gregory and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002)

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

EXHIBIT NO. -----	DESCRIPTION -----
10.21**	-- Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Patrick M. McCarthy and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.22**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Robert A. Curcio and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.23**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Byron J. Eiermann and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.24**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Richard D. Peters and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.25**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Charles Frank Smith and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.26**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between David R. Volz, Jr. and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.27**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2002, between Joseph H. Wilson and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002).
10.28**	-- Amendment of Directors Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2003).
10.29**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement date October 7, 2003, between Katherine P. Ellis and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
10.30**	-- Senior Management Change in Control Agreement dated October 7, 2003, between Richard W. FitzGerald and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
10.31	-- Second Extension Agreement and Extension Agreement for the Second Amended and Restated Service and Reimbursement Agreement between Capricorn Management, G.P. and NATCO Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2003).
10.32*	-- Loan Agreement (\$20,000,000 U.S. Revolving Loan Facility, \$5,000,000 Canadian Revolving Loan Facility, \$10,000,000 U.K. Revolving Loan Facility and \$45,000,000 Term Loan Facility) dated as of March 15, 2004 among NATCO Group, Inc., as U.S. Borrower, NATCO Canada, Ltd., as Canadian

Edgar Filing: NATCO GROUP INC - Form 10-K

Borrower, Axsia Group Limited, as U.K. Borrower, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as U.S. Agent and Co-Lead Arranger, HSBC Bank Canada, as Syndications Agent and as Co-Lead Arranger and the other Lenders now or hereafter parties thereto.

- 21.1* -- List of Subsidiaries.
- 23.1* -- Consent of Independent Auditors.
- 31.1* -- Certification of Chief Executive Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 15 U.S.C. sec.7241, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2* -- Certification of Chief Financial Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 15 U.S.C. sec.7241, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1* -- Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of NATCO Group Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. sec.1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Included with this Annual Report.

** Management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements.