

North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc.

Form 10-K

April 03, 2006

Table of Contents

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 10-K**

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**FOR ANNUAL AND TRANSITION REPORTS**  
**PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13 OR 15(d) OF THE**  
**SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 333-115587

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**NORTH ATLANTIC HOLDING COMPANY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of

20-0709285  
(I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

3029 WEST MUHAMMAD ALI BOULEVARD, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40212

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (502) 778-4421

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

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

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

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

Note: Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

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 materials or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check One).

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer .

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

As of March 29, 2006, the only class of voting or non-voting common equity issued and outstanding was the Registrant's Voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share. There is no trading market for the Voting Common Stock. As of March 29, 2006, 588,758 shares of the Registrant's Voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, were outstanding.

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**Table of Contents**

North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc.

2005 Form 10-K Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| <b><u>PART I</u></b>  |             |
| Item 1. <u>Business</u>   | 1           |
| Item 1A. <u>Risks Factors</u>   | 16          |
| Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>   | 24          |
| Item 2. <u>Properties</u>   | 25          |
| Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>  | 25          |
| Item 4. <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders</u>  | 30          |
| <b><u>PART II</u></b>   |             |
| Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | 30          |
| Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>  | 30          |
| Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>                        | 32          |
| Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>  | 42          |
| Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>  | 42          |
| Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>                         | 42          |
| Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>   | 42          |
| Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>   | 43          |
| <b><u>PART III</u></b>  |             |
| Item 10. <u>Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant</u>  | 44          |
| Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>  | 47          |
| Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>              | 56          |
| Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>  | 58          |
| Item 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>  | 61          |
| <b><u>PART IV</u></b>   |             |
| Item 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>  | 63          |
| <b><u>SIGNATURES</u></b>  |             |

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**Table of Contents**

**PART I**

**Item 1. Business**

**Overview**

North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (the Company) is a holding company which owns North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (NATC) and its subsidiaries, National Tobacco Company, L.P. (NTC), North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (NAOC), North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. (NACC), National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Stoker, Inc. (collectively, Stoker). Except where the context otherwise requires, references to the Company include the Company and its subsidiaries. NTC is the third largest manufacturer and marketer of loose leaf chewing tobacco in the United States, selling its products under the *Beech-Nut*<sup>®</sup>, *Trophy*<sup>®</sup>, *Havana Blossom*<sup>®</sup>, *Durango*<sup>®</sup>, *Stoker*, *Our Pride*, and other brand names. NAOC is the largest importer and distributor in the United States of premium cigarette papers and related products, which are sold under the *ZIG-ZAG*<sup>®</sup> brand name pursuant to an exclusive long-term distribution agreement with Bolloré, S.A. NAOC also manufactures and distributes Make-Your-Own (MYO) cigarette tobaccos under the *ZIG-ZAG Stoker No. 2*, *Old Hillside*, and other brand names, pursuant to its trademarks. NACC markets and distributes *ZIG-ZAG* Premium Cigarettes.

**Evolution of the Company**

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 3029 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Louisville, Kentucky 40212, and its telephone number is (502) 778-4421.

In 1988, Thomas F. Helms, Jr., Executive Chairman of the Company, and an investor group led by Lehman Brothers formed NTC to acquire the smokeless tobacco division of Lorillard Tobacco Company (Lorillard). Lorillard had manufactured and sold the popular *Beech-Nut* brand of loose leaf chewing tobacco since 1897.

In 1997, NATC was formed to facilitate a corporate reorganization undertaken in connection with the acquisition (the 1997 Acquisition) of NATC Holdings USA, Inc., which owned the exclusive rights to market and distribute *ZIG-ZAG* premium cigarette papers in the United States, Canada and certain other international markets. Upon consummation of the 1997 Acquisition and the related reorganization, NATC became the holding company of NTC, which operates the Company's smokeless tobacco business, and NAOC, which operates the Company's premium cigarette paper and MYO cigarette business.

On November 17, 2003, NATC consummated the acquisition of Stoker. Through the acquisition, NATC acquired the Stoker family of brands and the related business operations, including the equipment used to manufacture and package the Stoker products. The Stoker family consists of loose leaf chewing tobacco products and MYO tobacco and related products, as well as a number of moist snuff and pipe tobacco brands. NATC also acquired the Stoker catalog business which principally sells tobacco products.

Effective as of February 9, 2004, NATC consummated a holding company reorganization, whereby the Company became the parent company of NATC. The holding company reorganization was consummated in part to allow the Company to issue senior discount notes in connection with NATC's refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock, as more fully discussed below.

The holding company reorganization was effected pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement), dated as of February 9, 2004, among NATC, the Company and NATC Merger Sub, Inc., a Delaware corporation and direct wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company (Merger Sub). The Merger Agreement provided for, among other things, the merger of Merger Sub with and into NATC, with NATC being the surviving corporation (the Merger). In accordance with Section 228(a) of the Delaware General Corporation Law, NATC received the required written approval of the Merger by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of NATC's voting common stock.

As a result of the Merger, (i) NATC became a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company; (ii) each issued and outstanding share of NATC Stock, was converted into the right to receive one share of common stock of the Company, par value \$0.01 per share (Company Common Stock); (iii) each issued and outstanding share of common stock of Merger Sub was converted into one issued and outstanding share of common stock of NATC and Merger Sub ceased to exist; and (iv) all of the issued and outstanding shares of Company Common Stock held by NATC were cancelled.

## **Table of Contents**

In connection with the Merger, the Company assumed all of NATC's obligations under NATC's outstanding warrants and stock options which were converted into rights to purchase an identical number of shares of the Company Common Stock. The subsidiaries of the Company were unaffected by the reorganization.

On February 17, 2004, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock, as well as a general corporate reorganization. The refinancing consisted principally of (1) the offering and sale of \$200.0 million principal amount of senior notes by NATC, (2) NATC entering into an amended and restated loan agreement that provided a \$50.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility and (3) the concurrent offering and sale of \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of senior discount notes of the Company. Both the senior notes and the senior discount notes were offered pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Concurrently with the closing of the refinancing, NATC also called for redemption all of its outstanding 11% senior notes due 2004, in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing such notes, at the applicable redemption price of 100.0% of the principal amount thereof, plus interest accrued to the redemption date of April 2, 2004.

On March 18, 2004, NATC redeemed all outstanding shares of its 12% senior exchange payment-in-kind preferred stock, at the applicable redemption price equal to the liquidation preference of the preferred stock (\$22.00 per share), plus an amount in cash equal to all accumulated and unpaid dividends.

## **Recent Events**

On January 19, 2005, the Company engaged the firm of Alvarez & Marsal, LLC (A&M), a global professional services firm specializing in providing turnaround management, restructuring and corporate advisory services, and appointed Mr. Douglas P. Rosefsky, a Managing Director of A&M, as Interim Chief Financial Officer upon the resignation of the Company's former Chief Financial Officer. On April 11, 2005, Mr. Rosefsky was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, replacing Thomas F. Helms, Jr. in such capacities, and Mr. Brian C. Harriss was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company. Mr. Helms continued as Executive Chairman of the Company, focusing on the Company's general business strategies, strategic alliances, joint ventures, acquisitions and licensing arrangements. On June 8, 2005, shortly after Mr. Robert Milliken, Jr. resigned from the positions of President and Chief Operating Officer of NTC and NAOC, Mr. Lawrence S. Wexler, who had previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer of NACC, was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Company overseeing all marketing, sales, customer service and manufacturing functions in the Company and its operating subsidiaries.

On June 16, 2005, NATC refinanced its existing \$35.0 million Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as agent, the Company, NATC and its subsidiaries by entering into a Financing Agreement (the Financing Agreement) among the Company, NATC and its subsidiaries, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto as lenders, and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the Lenders. The Financing Agreement consists of a \$30.0 million term loan facility and a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility, and includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$10.0 million (collectively, the Credit Facility). The Credit Facility will mature on June 30, 2010, and does not provide for any amortization of the term loan prior to maturity. NATC and its subsidiaries will use the revolving credit facility for working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes.

## **Business Strategy**

The Company's business strategy is to grow, both internally and through acquisitions, by responsibly marketing its products to adult consumers and by complying with all applicable laws, regulations and statutes. The Company intends to (i) capitalize on the strong brand identities of its products with a focus on product linkages and extensions; and (ii) improve the sales, marketing and operating efficiencies of its subsidiaries. The Stoker acquisition improved its product offerings to distributors, retailers and consumers. Through the elimination of certain administrative costs, the achievement of certain manufacturing efficiencies and through growth in distribution, the Company expects to increase its sales and cash flows. In addition, the Company has strategies for each of its product groups that are designed to maintain and improve their profitability.

*Expand the Company's leadership position in the premium cigarette papers business.* Building upon its exclusive long-term distribution and license agreement with Bolloré in the United States and Canada, the Company seeks to expand its market-leading **ZIG-ZAG** premium cigarette papers brand. The Company is focused on increasing the distribution of its existing lines of premium cigarette papers products in underserved channels and markets.

## **Table of Contents**

*Enhance the profit contribution of the Company's loose leaf chewing tobacco segment.* Historically, the Company has maintained the profit contribution of its loose leaf chewing tobacco segment by offsetting volume declines with price increases and by controlling costs. With the addition of the Stoker products, which target the value-oriented category of the loose leaf chewing tobacco market, the Company seeks to slow its historical trend of volume declines. In addition, the Company believes it can expand sales of Stoker's value-oriented products by offering them through the Company's current distribution network. The Company also expects to further improve profitability through manufacturing cost efficiencies by effecting certain capital expenditures in its manufacturing facility in Louisville, Kentucky.

*Continue to benefit from the growth in the MYO tobacco and related products market.* MYO tobacco and related products currently enjoy a price advantage over manufactured cigarettes, primarily due to a lower level of federal and state excise taxation on MYO tobacco and the higher level of Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) compliance costs associated with manufactured cigarettes. Other countries, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, indicate a strong correlation between rising manufactured cigarette prices and increasing consumption of MYO tobacco and related products. In 1999, the Company launched the industry's first fully-integrated MYO line of products, comprised of smoking tobaccos, tubes, injectors and starter kits under the **ZIG-ZAG** brand. The Company expanded its portfolio of MYO tobacco and related products by acquiring the Stoker brands. The Company believes its existing portfolio of **ZIG-ZAG** premium MYO tobacco and related products, supplemented by the acquired Stoker portfolio of value-oriented MYO tobacco and related products, will allow it to continue to benefit from the growth trend in this market.

*Assess the market opportunities for the Company's ZIG-ZAG Premium Cigarette.* During September 2003, the Company began a highly focused launch of a premium manufactured cigarette under the **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarette brand. The Company has introduced the product in a number of test markets since this date and is currently assessing its opportunities in the cigarette market.

*Maintain lean, low cost culture.* The Company's most significant cost of goods sold, other than federal excise taxes, are tobacco and packaging. The Company monitors these costs and has relationships with multiple suppliers to maintain competitive pricing. The Company operates an efficient manufacturing operation that currently requires a modest level of capital expenditures. The Company maintains a lean corporate staff and an operating company culture that seeks to minimize the overhead costs associated with its operations.

## **Industry and Markets**

The Company currently competes in three distinct markets within the overall tobacco industry: (1) the smokeless tobacco market, which includes loose leaf chewing tobacco; (2) the MYO products market, which is comprised of premium cigarette papers and MYO tobaccos and related products; and (3) the premium cigarette category of the manufactured cigarette market. The Company believes that the tobacco industry is characterized by non-cyclical demand, relative brand loyalty, meaningful barriers to entry, defined channels of distribution, modest capital expenditure requirements, relatively high profit margins, generally stable wholesale prices and the ability to generate consistent free cash flows.

### *Smokeless Tobacco*

Smokeless tobacco products, including loose leaf chewing tobacco, have a long, established tradition of use in the United States. An estimated 7.8 million Americans are regular users of smokeless tobacco products, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The smokeless tobacco market is composed of the five product categories listed below:

*Moist Snuff:* Moist snuff made from dark, air-cured tobacco that is aged, flavored, finely ground and packaged.

*Loose Leaf Chewing Tobacco:* Loose leaf chewing tobacco is typically made from air-cured leaf tobacco, using both domestic and imported tobaccos, that is aged, flavored and packed in foil pouches.

*Plug Chewing Tobacco:* Plug chewing tobacco is made from air-cured leaf tobacco, which is heavily flavored and pressed into small bricks or blocks.

*Twist Chewing Tobacco:* Twist chewing tobacco is made of dark, air-cured tobacco, which is twisted into strands that are dried and packaged like a dry, pliable rope.

*Dry Snuff:* Dry snuff is a very finely ground, powdered tobacco product, which is sometimes flavored and is packaged in a variety of containers.

## Table of Contents

The Company believes that many consumers of smokeless tobacco regularly use products in more than one of the aforementioned categories. Further, many of its competitors in the smokeless tobacco market offer products in more than a single smokeless tobacco category. In addition to the Company, other major manufacturers and marketers of smokeless tobacco include US Smokeless Tobacco Co., Swedish Match North America, Inc., Conwood Corporation and Swisher International, Inc.

According to information provided by the former Smokeless Tobacco Council, manufacturers' sales for the smokeless tobacco market increased to \$2.371 billion in 2004 from \$1.7 billion in 1995, representing a 9-year compound annual growth rate of 3.8%. The increase in sales is primarily related to an increase in manufacturers' sales of moist snuff, which grew to \$1.96 billion in 2004 from \$1.3 billion in 1995, representing a compound annual growth rate of 4.7%. In contrast to the growth of moist snuff sales, there has been a decline in manufacturers' sales of chewing tobacco products, including loose leaf chewing tobacco.

Loose leaf chewing tobacco, although a mature product category, remains popular in the Southeast, Southwest and rural Northeast and North Central regions of the United States. Consistent with a general trend in the tobacco industry, however, unit volumes of loose leaf chewing tobacco products have been declining and decreased at a compound annual decline rate of 4% from 1995 to 2003. Manufacturers and marketers of loose leaf chewing tobacco products have partially offset the impact of this decline with increases in the prices of loose leaf chewing tobacco products. While there has been an overall decline in volume, the Company estimates that the volume of sales of the large-sized, value-oriented category of loose leaf chewing tobacco products has grown. Large-sized, value-oriented loose leaf chewing tobacco products are packaged in 8 oz. or 16 oz. bag sizes (as compared to the 3 oz. bag size in which other loose leaf chewing tobacco products are usually sold) and are generally sold at a lower price per ounce of product than other loose leaf chewing tobacco products.

The Company estimates it has a current share of approximately 18.0% of the loose leaf chewing tobacco market. The other three principal competitors in the loose leaf chewing tobacco product category, together with the Company, represented nearly all of the loose leaf chewing tobacco category in the United States in 2005. The Company's market share and those of its principal competitors in the loose leaf chewing tobacco products market have remained relatively consistent over the past five years, with Swedish Match North America, Inc. holding an approximate 43% market share; Conwood Corporation, an approximate 33% market share; and Swisher International, Inc., an approximate 6% market share.

Loose leaf chewing tobacco products are typically sold through mass merchandisers, chain and independent convenience stores, tobacco outlets, food stores and chain and independent drug stores. Tobacco outlets are becoming an increasingly important distribution channel for all tobacco products, including loose leaf chewing tobacco. Some retailers purchase loose leaf chewing tobacco direct from manufacturers although most purchase through wholesale distributors.

### *MYO Products*

The MYO products market consists of several different product categories, with each product designed to work with the others to allow the consumer to make their own cigarettes. Among the products are premium cigarette papers, MYO tobacco, which is cigarette smoking tobacco in loose form, packaged typically in canisters, pouches or bags, and products relating to MYO tobacco, which include cigarette tubes (papers with a filter fashioned into an empty cigarette), cigarette rolling machines, used to roll cigarette papers and tobacco into a cigarette, and cigarette injector machines, used to insert the smoking tobacco into the empty cigarette tubes.

**Premium Cigarette Papers.** The production and sale of premium cigarette papers long preceded the invention of machine-made mass manufactured filtered cigarettes and cigarette tubes. Overall market sales of premium cigarette papers have been historically stable and during the past six years have benefited to a slight degree from the increasing growth of MYO tobacco and related products, which has been offset by substitute product offerings.

There are two principal paper categories: premium, interleaved paper and discount flat or non-interleaved paper. Premium cigarette papers are made primarily from rice, flax or combinations of other natural fibers. Characteristics used to distinguish various papers include size, stability and cut, all of which affect the ease of making your own cigarettes, and variations of material and flavor, which impact taste. Premium cigarette papers are sold in interleaved booklets in various sizes and are also segmented by price and quality.

The Company's principal competitors in the premium cigarette paper market are Republic Tobacco L.P., which markets JOB®; Robert Burton Associates, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Imperial Tobacco Group plc, which markets EZ Wider®; and VCT B.V., which markets the Bambu® brand. While market information is not officially compiled, the Company estimates that it, together with these three companies, collectively have a market share in excess of 95% of the premium cigarette papers market. A.C. Nielsen syndicated data for convenience stores indicate that the Company's **Zig-Zag** is the #1 brand and commands a 46% unit share of the premium cigarette paper market.





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## Table of Contents

Premium cigarette papers are typically sold through the following retail distribution channels: convenience stores, chain and independent drug stores, mass merchandisers, food stores and tobacco outlets. Retailers purchase premium cigarette papers primarily from wholesale distributors.

*MYO tobacco and related products.* If viewed as a part of a total cigarette market, which includes both manufactured cigarettes and MYO tobacco and related products, the Company believes that on a cigarette-equivalent basis, aggregate MYO tobacco and related products sales would have represented an estimated U.S. market share of 0.7% in 1998 and 1.65% in 2003, doubling its share of the market. Based on MSA calculations, this would equate to an estimated 3.5 billion cigarette equivalents sold in 1998, increasing to an estimated 6.0 billion cigarette equivalents sold in 2003 in the United States.

The MYO tobacco and related products market has been one of the fastest growing markets in the tobacco industry over the past five years. The Company believes this growth has been driven primarily by the increasing price differential between the cost of a consumer making cigarettes using MYO products and the prices of manufactured cigarettes. Manufactured cigarette prices have risen during this period primarily as a result of increased state excise and sales taxes and the pass through by cigarette manufacturers of the cost of complying with the MSA. U.S. growth in sales of MYO tobacco and related products is consistent with sales trends that have occurred for these products in Canada and Europe. For example, in the United Kingdom, following significant increases in specific excise and ad-valorem sales (VAT) taxes on manufactured cigarettes, sales of MYO products on a cigarette-equivalent basis grew from representing 5% of the cigarette market in 1993 to 13% of the market in 2002.

The other principal U.S. competitors in the MYO tobacco and related products market are Republic Tobacco, L.P., and its TOP Tobacco, L.P. subsidiary, which markets the Top<sup>®</sup> brand; and Lane Limited, a subsidiary of Reynolds America, which markets the Bugler<sup>®</sup> and Kite<sup>®</sup> brands. Many other companies also compete in this market, such as Peter Stokkebye International A/S, which markets the Bali Shag<sup>®</sup> brand through a distribution agreement with Commonwealth Brands, and Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Inc., a Division of Reynolds America, which markets the Natural America Spirit<sup>®</sup> brand.

MYO tobacco and related products are typically sold through mass merchandisers, chain and independent convenience stores, tobacco outlets, food stores and chain and independent drug stores. Some retailers purchase MYO tobacco and related products direct from manufacturers although most purchase through wholesale distributors. MYO tobacco products are subject to escrow deposits as an NPM under the MSA.

### *Manufactured Cigarettes*

The U.S. tobacco industry has faced substantial challenges in recent years, including large price increases to pay for litigation, increased federal and state excise taxes, the advent of the MSA, the tobacco quota buyout for farmers, large-scale media campaigns run by anti-smoking groups, increased restrictions on cigarette marketing and a decrease in the number and types of locations where smoking is permitted. Despite these challenges, U.S. cigarette consumption has only declined modestly in recent years. Further, overall industry dollar sales have grown due to strong price increases and the ability to pass excise taxes and other costs through to consumers.

For a number of years, major U.S. cigarette manufacturers have been faced with lawsuits by private plaintiffs and governmental entities. In response to the growing number of lawsuits, the major cigarette manufacturers settled several claims with the state attorneys general. On November 23, 1998, the major U.S. cigarette manufacturers entered into the MSA with attorneys general representing 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands (the Settling States) to settle the asserted and unasserted health care cost recovery and certain other claims of those states and territories. Separately, the major cigarette manufacturers settled similar claims on an individual basis that were brought by Florida, Texas, Minnesota and Mississippi (the Non-MSA States).

Under the MSA and the settlement agreements with the Non-MSA States, the manufacturers that participated in the settlement are obligated to make annual payments to the states. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the MSA, industry participants agreed to various restrictions and limitations regarding the advertising, promotion and marketing of tobacco products in the United States. For a more detailed description of the business restrictions and annual payments due under the MSA, see State Attorney General Settlement Agreements.

The original major manufacturers that negotiated and initially signed the MSA are called the Original Participating Manufacturers (OPMs). Some smaller manufacturers who subsequently elected to participate in the MSA are called Subsequent Participating Manufacturers (SPMs). OPMs and SPMs are required to make annual MSA payments to the 46 signatory states based on their national sales volumes, regardless of the state in which cigarettes are sold. Manufacturers who

## Table of Contents

elected to comply with the MSA through escrow deposits are referred to as Non-Participating Manufacturers ( NPMs ). NPMs are required to make annual or quarterly escrow deposits to each of the 46 states separately based upon units sold to a particular state and are not required to deposit escrow amounts related to sales in the Non-MSA states. For a more detailed description of signatory payment requirements of OPMs and SPMs and the escrow deposit requirements of NPMs, see State Attorney General Settlement Agreements.

In order to fund their payment obligations under the MSA, major cigarette manufacturers have instituted a series of price increases from 1997 through 2004. The average wholesale list price charged for a carton of premium cigarettes has increased at a 17.5% compound annual growth rate from 1997 to 2004.

There are four primary categories of manufactured cigarettes in the United States, commonly referred to as Tiers, that are generally determined based upon average price per carton and the level of marketing and promotional support provided at retail: Premium (Tier 1); Branded Savings (Tier 2); Generic (Tier 3); and Deep-Discount (Tier 4).

In general, premium brands contain higher-quality raw materials and packaging and are sold at a higher price point than the generally less established brands in the other tiers. Most of the premium brands are sold by four major cigarette manufacturers, which include Philip Morris USA, Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation and Lorillard Tobacco Company. These brands historically had considerable funds spent in their support through marketing and advertising, as well as through discounts, coupons and buy-downs. In September 2003, the Company launched its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarette to compete in the premium segment. The Company believes current brand switching trends among adult consumers highlight the opportunity for additional well-known premium entrants.

The discount categories are defined primarily by price. Tier 2 cigarettes are generally less well-recognized brands, sold nationally by major cigarette manufacturers, marketed at lower retail prices. Tier 3 cigarettes are sold at even lower retail prices, have less distribution, in general, than Tier 2 brands and are generally manufactured by SPMs. Tier 4 cigarettes are sold by smaller companies, many of whom are NPMs, and are sold at the lowest retail prices. Manufacturers of Tier 4 cigarettes are fragmented geographically. In the last 12 months, Reynolds American, an OPM, has increased its private label brand competition in the Tier 4 segment.

The premium category continues to make up the largest share of overall U.S. cigarette sales volumes, with a 73% market share in 2003. Of that amount, over 95% are related to sales of the top three major cigarette manufacturers. The discount category (Tiers 2 - 4) had an approximate 27% market share.

Overall industry volumes have decreased at a compound annual rate of 2.5% from 1995 to 2004. Competition is primarily based on brand recognition, consumer loyalty, distribution, retail display and promotion, quality and price. Meaningful market share shifts among the major manufacturers require significant discounting and other marketing expenses, however, the MSA contains provisions limiting the ability of OPMs and SPMs to market and advertise cigarettes.

In response to increased competition, large manufacturers have increased promotions and discounts in order to maintain, or at least slow their decline in market share, particularly in the premium category. Further, these premium manufacturers have realigned their strategy by focusing marketing expenditures on their core premium brands. Despite the decline in overall cigarette volumes and the shift toward discount brands, the Company believes that the size of the premium cigarette market still offers meaningful opportunities for a new premium cigarette product with a well-recognized brand name due to consumer behavior and attitudes toward brand switching.

## **Products**

Currently, the Company manufactures, markets and distributes loose leaf chewing tobacco for the smokeless tobacco market and MYO smoking tobaccos and related products for the MYO cigarette market, which also includes the marketing and distribution of cigarette papers and related products. The Company is also a marketer and distributor of premium manufactured cigarettes.

### *Loose Leaf Chewing Tobacco*

Loose leaf chewing tobacco is made from aged, air-cured tobacco, which is processed and flavored and then packaged in foil pouches. Loose leaf chewing tobacco products can be broadly characterized as either full-flavored or mild. According to Company estimates, in 2004, full-flavored products accounted for approximately 75% of the loose leaf volume and mild flavored products comprised an estimated 25%. The Company sells its loose leaf chewing tobacco products under the **Beech-Nut**, **Trophy**, **Havana Blossom** and **Durango** brand names. The **Beech-Nut** brands are available in two flavors: Regular and Wintergreen. **Beech-Nut Regular** is a full-flavored product, which the Company believes is ranked third in market share in both the full-flavored loose leaf chewing tobacco category, and in the overall loose leaf chewing tobacco market. **Beech-Nut Wintergreen** was introduced in 1979 and has the largest market share of any premium flavored loose leaf brand. The



## **Table of Contents**

Company introduced its *Trophy* brand into the mild product category in 1992. The Company's *Havana Blossom* brand is a regional brand, sold primarily in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Its *Durango* brand, which was introduced in March 1998, is a nationally distributed value brand.

The Company acquired additional brands (with a total of 18 distinct styles and flavors) of loose leaf chewing tobacco as a result of the Stoker acquisition. These brands include *Tennessee Chew*, *Our Pride* and *Fred's Choice*. The Stoker brands appeal to value-conscious consumers. The Company believes the Stoker brands are the market leaders in the value-oriented category of the loose leaf chewing tobacco market. The Stoker brands are principally sold in 8 oz. and 16 oz. value-oriented packages as opposed to the industry standard of 3 oz. packages.

### *MYO Products*

The Company's MYO products include **ZIG-ZAG** premium cigarette papers, MYO tobacco and related products, such as cigarette tubes, cigarette rolling and injector machines and MYO starter kits.

The Company sells its premium cigarette papers under the **ZIG-ZAG** brand. Although premium cigarette papers are sold in a variety of different widths and styles, the Company's primary styles are its standard width **ZIG-ZAG** White and **ZIG-ZAG** 1/4 sized French Orange premium cigarette papers. Other premium paper products sold under the **ZIG-ZAG** name are Kutcorners, which are designed for easier hand-rolling; 1/2 sized; king-sized; and double-wide.

The Company's MYO tobacco products include its **ZIG-ZAG** Classic American Blend and its recently acquired *Stoker's Number 2* and *Old Hillside* brands of value-oriented MYO tobaccos, both of which appeal to the price-conscious consumer. *Stoker's Number 2* was the first brand of MYO tobacco to be sold in 16 oz. bags, thus contributing to the growth of the value-oriented category.

### *Premium Cigarettes*

During September 2003, the Company introduced a new, premium manufactured cigarette under the **ZIG-ZAG** brand in the cities of Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami and Seattle. The product has been in these and a number of other test markets since this date and the Company is currently assessing its historic and current test market results and its opportunities in the cigarette market.

### *Other Products*

In connection with the Stoker acquisition, the Company acquired the Stoker catalog business, which principally sells tobacco and tobacco related products.

## **Sales and Marketing**

The Company has a nationwide sales and marketing organization of approximately 115 people. In December 2005, the Company reorganized and realigned its sales and marketing functions to create a unified sales and marketing group, remapped its sales territories to improve the selling effort and focus upon priority markets and sales channels, and increased supervision and efficiencies. The Company has focused and will continue to focus its sales efforts for both its loose leaf chewing tobacco and MYO products on both wholesale distributors and retail merchants in the independent and chain convenience store, drug store and mass merchandising channels as well as the food store and tobacco outlet channels.

Since the 1997 Acquisition, the Company has expanded and intends to continue to expand the sales of its loose leaf chewing tobacco and MYO products into geographic markets and retail channels that had previously been underdeveloped. The Company has established relationships with approximately 1,000 wholesale customers and its products are sold in approximately 100,000 retail locations through the United States. The Company intends to capitalize on its existing distribution channels for loose leaf chewing tobacco and MYO products by selling its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes through those channels in selected markets.

At the retail level, the Company's loose leaf chewing tobacco products are promoted through volume and price-discount programs and the use of innovative, high visibility point-of-purchase floor and shelf displays, banners and posters. The Company has neither relied upon nor conducted any advertising in the consumer media for its loose leaf chewing tobacco products.

The majority of **ZIG-ZAG** premium cigarette papers promotional activity is at the wholesale distributor level and consists of distributor promotions, trade shows and trade advertising, although the Company has begun some consumer oriented promotions. The MYO smoking

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tobaccos and related products promotional activity is more focused at the retail level with spending on point-of-sale displays and at the consumer level with price-off promotions, primarily through the use of coupons.

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## Table of Contents

The Company provides to its distributor customers, for redistribution to retailers, point-of-sale materials such as posters, pole signs, display racks and counter top and floor displays. The Company also produces marketing materials for use by distributors and their direct sales force to promote the sale of its products to their retail customers. The Company responsibly focuses its marketing efforts on adult consumers and is committed to full legal compliance in the sale and marketing of its products.

The Company's largest customers, COD Company and the McLane Company, accounted for approximately 12.91% and 8.37%, respectively, of its net sales in 2005. The loss of either of these customers could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position and cash flows of the Company. The Company does not believe that the loss of any other customer would have a material effect on the results of operations, financial position or cash flows of the Company either in the intermediate or long term.

### **Distribution Agreements**

NAOC is party to two long-term distribution and licensing agreements with Bolloré with respect to sales of premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and cigarette injector machines (collectively the Products) in the United States and Canada (collectively, the Distribution Agreements). Under the Distribution Agreements, Bolloré granted NAOC the exclusive right to purchase the Products bearing the **ZIG-ZAG** brand name from Bolloré for resale in the United States and Canada. NAOC has the sole right to determine the price and other terms upon which NAOC may resell any products purchased from Bolloré, including the right to determine the distributors of such products within these countries.

The Distribution Agreements establish the purchase pricing mechanism for premium cigarette papers through December 31, 2009, which allows certain adjustments to reflect increases in the U.S. and Canadian Consumer Price Indices and to account for material currency fluctuations. The Distribution Agreements provide that, in order to assure each of the parties commercially reasonable profits in light of inflationary trends and currency translation factors, prior to December 31, 2004 and each fifth-year anniversary from such date thereafter, the parties would enter into good faith negotiations to agree on an index and currency adjustment formula to replace the index and formula currently in effect. If the parties are unable to agree, the dispute is to be submitted to binding arbitration. The Company and Bolloré have agreed on January 1, 2005 to extend the existing pricing mechanisms for a new five year term.

Pursuant to the Distribution Agreements, export duties, insurance and shipping costs are the responsibility of Bolloré and import duties and excise taxes are the responsibility of NAOC. Bolloré's terms of sale are 45 days from the bill of lading date and its invoices are payable in Euros. The Distribution Agreements reduce catastrophic foreign exchange risk by providing that Bolloré will bear certain exchange rate risks at levels fixed through 2004, which terms have been extended through 2009.

According to the Distribution Agreements, NAOC must purchase the Products from Bolloré, subject to Bolloré fulfilling its obligations under these agreements. Bolloré is required by the agreements to provide NAOC with the quantities and quality of the products that it desires. The Distribution Agreements provide NAOC with certain safeguards to help ensure that NAOC will be able to secure a steady supply of product. Such safeguards include (i) granting NAOC the right to seek third party suppliers with continued use of the **ZIG-ZAG** trademark if Bolloré is unable to perform its obligations or ceases its cigarette paper manufacturing operation, in each case as set forth in the Distribution Agreements, and (ii) maintaining a two month supply of safety stock inventory of the premium papers, tubes and injector machines in the United States at Bolloré's expense.

Under the Distribution Agreements, NAOC has also agreed for a period of five years after the termination of such Distribution Agreements not to engage, directly or indirectly, in the manufacturing, selling, distributing, marketing or otherwise promoting in the United States and Canada, of premium cigarette paper or premium cigarette paper booklets of a competitor without Bolloré's consent, except for certain de minimis acquisitions of debt or equity securities of such a competitor and certain activities with respect to an alternative supplier used by NAOC as permitted under the Distribution Agreements.

Each of the Distribution Agreements was entered into on November 30, 1992. Each of the U.S. Distribution Agreement and the Canada Distribution Agreement was for an initial twenty year term commencing on the date of such agreement and will be renewed automatically for successive twenty year terms unless terminated in accordance with the provisions of such agreement. Each of the Distribution Agreements permits Bolloré to terminate such agreement (i) if certain minimum purchases (which, in the case of the U.S. Distribution Agreement and the Canada Distribution Agreement have been significantly exceeded in recent years) of premium cigarette paper booklets have not been made by the Company for resale in

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## **Table of Contents**

the jurisdiction covered by such agreement within a calendar year; (ii) if the Company assigns such agreement without the consent of Bolloré (other than certain permissible assignments to wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company); (iii) upon a change of control of NAOC or any parent of NAOC without the consent of Bolloré; (iv) upon certain acquisitions of equity securities of NAOC or any parent of NAOC by a competitor of NAOC or certain investments by significant stockholders of the Company in a competitor of NAOC; and (v) certain material breaches, including NAOC's agreement not to promote, directly or indirectly, premium cigarette paper or premium cigarette paper booklets of a competitor. Additionally, the Canada Distribution Agreement is terminable by either NAOC or Bolloré upon the termination of the U.S. Distribution Agreement.

### **Patents, Trademarks and Trade Secrets**

The Company has numerous registered trademarks relating to its loose leaf chewing tobacco and MYO tobacco products, including the trademarks for its *Beech-Nut*, *Trophy*, *Havana Blossom*, *Durango* and *Tennessee Chew* products. The Company is applying for registration of its *Fred's Choice*, *Old Hillside*, *Our Pride* and *Stoker's Number 2* trademarks. The registered trademarks, which are significant to the Company's business, expire periodically and are renewable for additional 20-year terms upon expiration. Flavor and blend formulae trade secrets relating to NTC's and NAOC's tobacco products, which are key assets of their businesses, are maintained under strict secrecy. The **ZIG-ZAG** trade name and trademark for premium cigarette papers and related products are owned by Bolloré and have been exclusively licensed to NAOC in the United States and Canada. NAOC owns the **ZIG-ZAG** trademark with respect to tobacco products. The Company's catalog business is operated under the Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. name.

### **Raw Materials, Product Supply and Inventory Management**

#### *Loose Leaf Chewing Tobacco*

NTC's loose leaf chewing tobacco is produced from air-cured leaf tobacco. Each of the Company's brands has its own unique tobacco blend. NTC utilizes tobaccos grown domestically in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin as well as those imported from countries such as Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, and the Philippines. Management does not believe that it is dependent on any single country source for tobacco. Pursuant to agreements with NTC, Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company of Pennsylvania, a wholly owned subsidiary of Universal Corporation (Lancaster), (i) purchases and processes tobacco on an exclusive basis, (ii) stores tobacco inventory purchased on behalf of NTC and (iii) generally maintains a 12- to 24-month supply of NTC's various tobacco types at their facilities. The Company has given Lancaster notice that it does not intend to renew that agreement which expires in November 2006. The Company is currently in negotiations with Lancaster and other leaf companies concerning entering into a new agreement. NTC generally maintains up to a two-month operating supply of tobacco at its manufacturing facilities in Louisville, Kentucky.

In addition to raw tobacco, NTC's loose leaf chewing tobacco products include food grade flavorings, all of which have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and/or other federal agencies. NTC is not dependent upon any single supplier for those raw materials or for the supply of its packaging materials.

NTC generally maintains up to a two-month supply of finished loose leaf chewing tobacco. This supply is maintained at the Louisville facility and in four regional bonded public warehouses to facilitate distribution.

#### *MYO Products*

Pursuant to NAOC's Distribution Agreements with Bolloré, NAOC must purchase its premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and cigarette injecting machines from Bolloré, subject to Bolloré fulfilling its obligations under these agreements. If Bolloré is unable or unwilling to perform its obligations or ceases its cigarette paper manufacturing operation, in each case as set forth in the Distribution Agreements, NAOC may seek third-party suppliers and continue the use of the **ZIG-ZAG** trademark. To ensure that NAOC has a steady supply of premium cigarette paper products as well as each style of cigarette tubes and injectors, Bolloré is required to maintain, at its expense, a two-month supply of inventory in a public warehouse in the United States. See Distribution Agreements.

To facilitate general distribution, in addition to the inventory maintained by Bolloré, NAOC also maintains a supply of its products at the Louisville facility and in four regional bonded public warehouses.

NAOC obtains their MYO smoking tobaccos primarily from international sources and are not dependent on any one type of tobacco for its blends. NAOC purchases these smoking tobaccos principally through multiple purchasing agents. The MYO related products are purchased in finished form from various suppliers at Bolloré's direction.



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Bolloré has from time to time been unable to produce and supply the Company with sufficient quantities of cigarette tubes and injectors due, in part, to the rapid growth in NAOC's sales of those products. Bolloré has not, however, experienced any problems supplying the Company with sufficient quantities of its premium cigarette paper products.

## **Table of Contents**

### *Premium Cigarettes*

To date, the Company has outsourced the manufacture of its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes. The Company purchases all of the raw materials used in the manufacture of its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes, including the tobacco, papers, filters and packaging, and arranges for the raw materials to be delivered to the contract manufacturer who then assembles the finished product under the Company's supervision. Similar to the Company's arrangement with Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company of Pennsylvania for its loose leaf chewing tobacco products, Blending Services International, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Universal Corporation, has been the exclusive purchaser of the tobacco used in its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes. Kentucky Cut Rag, LLC processes the tobacco, and the Company stores the processed tobacco in its Louisville, Kentucky facility. The Company generally maintains a one-year supply of tobacco at its Louisville facility. The Company obtains the other raw materials for its **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes from various other sources. The Company is not dependent on one single source for any of its other raw materials.

The manufacturing agreement for the Company's **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes provides that the contract manufacturer will manufacture the Company's requirements for the product on an as-needed basis. This contract was terminated on March 8, 2006. The Company completed the purchase of cigarette manufacturing equipment in 2005 and established a small cigarette manufacturing facility in Frankfort, KY, although this operation did not produce any finished product for commercial sale in 2005. The Company is currently assessing its cigarette operation.

### **Manufacturing**

The Company's NTC subsidiary manufactures its loose leaf chewing tobacco products at its manufacturing facility in Louisville, Kentucky. They also contract for the manufacture of their premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes, rolling and injector machines, MYO smoking tobaccos and **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes. In the case of its MYO smoking tobacco products, the subsidiaries complete the processing of and packaging of these products at their manufacturing facility in Louisville. The Company consolidated its manufacturing operations into its Louisville manufacturing facility in 2004, eliminating its manufacturing facility in Dresden Tennessee. The Company believes that its production capabilities, quality control procedures, research and development activities and overall facilities and equipment are adequate for its projected operations.

### *Production and Quality Control*

The Company uses proprietary production processes and techniques, including strict quality controls. During the course of each day, NTC's quality control group periodically tests the quality of the tobacco; flavorings; application of flavorings; premium cigarette papers, tubes and injectors; and packaging materials. The Company utilizes sophisticated quality control and pilot plant production equipment to test and closely monitor the quality of its products. The quality of the Company's products is largely the result of using high grade tobacco leaf, food-grade flavorings and an ongoing analysis of tobacco cut, flavorings and moisture content.

Given the importance of contract manufacturing to the Company, the Company's quality control group ensures that established written procedures and standards are strictly adhered to by each of its contract manufacturers.

### *Research and Development*

The Company has a Research and Development Department that reformulates existing loose leaf and MYO tobacco products in an effort to maintain a high level of product consistency and to facilitate the use of less costly raw materials without sacrificing product quality. The Company believes that for all of its tobacco products, including MYO, it has been and will continue to be able to develop cost effective blends of tobacco and flavorings that will maintain or reduce overall costs without compromising high product quality. The Research and Development Department is also responsible for new product development, which includes the development and testing of **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes.

The Company spent approximately \$664,000, \$521,000 and \$577,000 on its research and development and quality control efforts for the years 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

### *Facilities*

NTC's Louisville facility was formerly owned and used by Lorillard for the manufacture of cigarettes, little cigars and chewing tobacco. This approximately 600,000 square foot facility occupies a 26-acre urban site near downtown Louisville. The facility's structures occupy approximately one-half of the total acreage. The facilities are in good condition and have received regular maintenance and capital improvements.



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## **Table of Contents**

The Company believes its production capabilities, quality control procedures, research and development and overall facilities and equipment are adequate for its projected operations.

### **Competition**

The Company, through NTC and Stoker, is the third largest manufacturer and marketer of loose leaf chewing tobacco in the United States. The other three principal competitors in the loose leaf chewing tobacco segment, which, together with the Company, generate approximately 98% of this segment's sales, are Swedish Match North America, Inc., Conwood Corporation and Swisher International Group Inc. Management believes that moist snuff products are used interchangeably with loose leaf products by many consumers and, as a result, US Smokeless Tobacco Company, the largest manufacturer of moist snuff (and of all smokeless tobacco products when taken as a whole) is also a significant competitor. As indicated above under Industry and Markets, sales of discount moist snuff have grown over the past decade while sales of loose leaf have declined during that same period. In addition, the Company's three principal competitors in the loose leaf chewing tobacco segment also manufacture and market moist snuff.

NAOC is the largest importer and distributor in North America of premium cigarette papers. NAOC's three major competitors for premium cigarette paper sales are Republic Tobacco, L.P., Robert Burton Associates, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Imperial Tobacco Group plc and VCT B.V. Although there is no source for comprehensive industry data, the Company believes that it, together with these three companies, collectively have a market share in excess of 95% of the premium cigarette papers market.

The Company's principal competitors in the MYO segment are Republic Tobacco, L.P., in conjunction with its TOP Tobacco, L.P. subsidiary, and Lane Ltd, a division of Reynolds America, Inc., the third largest cigarette company in the United States. Many other companies also compete in this segment, including Peter Stokkebye International A/S, which has licensed its distribution to Commonwealth Brands, and Santa Fe Natural Tobacco, a Division of Reynolds America Inc. These competitors, unlike the Company, all are granted protected share under the cigarette MSA which allows them to avoid a substantial amount of their payment obligations under that agreement and avoid making additional equity assessment payments in Michigan, Utah and Alaska. The Company does not have protected share and therefore is at an economic disadvantage with respect to those competitors. (See State Attorney General Settlement Agreements.)

The Company's primary competitors in the manufactured cigarette market are the three majors: Philip Morris USA, Inc., the brands of which accounted for approximately 51% of all cigarette sales in the United States in 2005; R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Inc., the brands of which accounted for 30%; and Lorillard Tobacco Company, the brands of which account for approximately 9%, as well as Commonwealth Brands and Vector Group Ltd. (the parent company of Liggett Group Inc.), the brands of which collectively account for approximately 4%.

Many of the Company's competitors are better capitalized than the Company and have greater financial and other resources than those available to the Company. The Company believes that its ability to effectively compete and its strong market positions in its principal product lines are due to its high brand recognition and the perceived quality of each of its products, its manufacturing and operating efficiencies, and its sales, marketing and distribution efforts.

### **Employees**

As of March 13, 2006, the Company employed a total of 289 full-time employees. With the exception of 106 manufacturing employees, none of the Company's employees are represented by unions. The unionized employees are covered by three collective bargaining agreements. Two of these agreements, covering 104 employees, will expire in January 2008. The other agreement, covering two employees, will expire in April 2008.

### **Regulation**

The tobacco industry, in particular, cigarette manufacturers has been under public scrutiny for over forty years. Industry critics include special interest groups, the U.S. Surgeon General and many legislators at the state and federal levels. Although smokeless tobacco companies have recently come under some scrutiny, the principal focus has been directed at the manufactured cigarette market due to its large size relative to the smokeless tobacco market and the MYO segment of the cigarette market.

Producers of tobacco products are subject to regulation in the United States at federal, state and local levels. Together with changing public attitudes towards tobacco consumption, the constant expansion of regulations, including increases in various taxes, requirements that tobacco products be displayed behind-the-counter and public smoking restrictions, has been a major cause of the overall decline in the consumption of tobacco products since the early 1970's. Moreover, the future trend is toward increasing regulation of the tobacco industry.



## **Table of Contents**

In 1996, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) promulgated regulations asserting jurisdiction over tobacco products. These regulations, among other things, included severe restrictions on the manufacture, distribution and sale of tobacco products and required compliance with a wide range of labeling, reporting, record keeping, manufacturing and other requirements, among other things. On March 21, 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the FDA does not have the authority to regulate tobacco products without more explicit direction from Congress and that the FDA regulations were unconstitutional. The Company remains, however, subject to regulation by numerous other federal agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). If Congress were to enact legislation granting the FDA specific authority over tobacco products, the FDA's exercise of jurisdiction could lead to more expansive FDA-imposed restrictions on tobacco operations than those set forth in the current regulations.

In 2004, Congress passed a federal buyout program for tobacco farmers. The costs associated with the quota buy-out will be borne by all importers and domestic manufacturers selling any form of tobacco product sold in the US. The buy-out provides for a \$10 billion payment to farmers over a 10 year period, with payments based on a calculation of assessed market share in each tobacco product segment. Payments under the buyout scheme will be assessed quarterly on manufacturers beginning March 31, 2005 and ending March 31, 2015. The buyout assessment rates per unit for the Company's primary business categories through December 2005 are projected within the following range by the US Department of Agriculture: Loose Leaf, \$0.0249 - \$0.0288 per pound; MYO, \$0.1054 - \$0.1324 per pound; Cigarettes, \$0.0023 - \$0.0028 per cigarette.

In recent years, a variety of bills relating to tobacco issues have been introduced in the U.S. Congress, including bills that would (i) prohibit the advertising and promotion of all tobacco products and/or restrict or eliminate the tax deductibility of such advertising expenses; (ii) increase labeling requirements on tobacco products to include, among other things, additional warnings and lists of additives and toxins; (iii) modify federal preemption of state laws to allow state courts to hold tobacco manufacturers liable under common law or state statutes; (iv) shift regulatory control of tobacco products and advertisements from the Federal Trade Commission to the Food and Drug Administration; (v) increase tobacco excise taxes; (vi) regulate the burning propensity of cigarettes; and (vii) require tobacco companies to pay for health care costs incurred by the federal government in connection with tobacco related diseases. Hearings have been held on certain of these proposals; however, to date, none of such proposals have been enacted by Congress. Future enactment of such proposals or similar bills, depending upon their content, could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or financial condition of the Company.

While there are no current federal or state regulations that materially and adversely affect the sale of premium cigarette papers, there can be no assurance that federal, state or local regulations will not be enacted which will seek to regulate premium cigarette papers. In the event such regulations are enacted, depending upon their parameters, they could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position and cash flows of NAOC and the Company.

The Company's catalog business is also subject to various federal, state and local regulations, which, among other things, prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors. Further regulations could have an adverse impact on the Company's catalog business.

### **State Attorney General Settlement Agreements**

On November 23, 1998, the major U.S. cigarette manufacturers, Philip Morris USA, Inc., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, Lorillard Tobacco Company and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, entered into the MSA with attorneys general representing the Settling States. The MSA settled all the asserted and unasserted health-care cost recovery actions brought by, or on behalf of, the settling jurisdictions.

In the Settling States, the MSA released all signing parties from all claims of the Settling States and their respective political subdivisions and other recipients of state health-care funds, (i) relating to past conduct arising out of the use, sale, distribution, manufacture, development, advertising, marketing or health effects of, the exposure to, or research, statements or warnings about, tobacco products and (ii) relating to future conduct arising out of the use of, or exposure to, tobacco products that have been manufactured in the ordinary course of business.

The MSA also contains provisions restricting signatory companies in their advertising, promotion and marketing of cigarettes in the U.S. Among these are restrictions or prohibitions on the use of cartoon characters, brand name sponsorships, targeting of youth, outdoor advertising, event sponsorship (such as concerts and sporting events), payments for product placement, providing free samples, and branded apparel and merchandise.

### *Required Payments*

The MSA required the four OPMs to make a series of initial payments over five years totaling \$13.2 billion. The last of these five payments was paid on January 10, 2003. The MSA also requires annual industry payments for participating



## **Table of Contents**

manufacturers which were \$8.0 billion in 2004, but will increase to \$8.13 billion in 2008, and to \$9.0 billion in 2017 and thereafter in perpetuity. Ten additional payments of \$861 million are due annually beginning in April 2008. All payments are to be allocated among the OPMs on the basis of relative national market share and most are subject to adjustments, including but not limited to, adjustments for inflation, volume, loss of market share to SPMs and NPMs, operating income, and payments to the four Non-MSA States.

### *National Public Education Fund*

In addition, the MSA calls for the creation of a national foundation that would establish public education and other programs, and conduct or sponsor research, to reduce youth smoking, and to understand and educate the public about diseases associated with tobacco product use. OPMs agreed to fund the foundation with (i) ten annual payments of \$25 million due by March 31 of each year until 2008 and (ii) five additional payments totaling \$1.45 billion due by March 31 of each year that increased from \$250 million in the first year to \$300 million in each of the subsequent four years. The last of these five payments was paid on March 31, 2003. In addition, if for any calendar year beginning with 2003, the OPMs have an aggregate market share of 99%, the OPMs are obligated to pay \$300 million to the Fund by April 15th of the following year. Each of these payments is to be allocated among the OPMs on the basis of relative market share. Other than the \$25 million annual payments and the \$250 million payment made on March 31, 1999, the payments for the foundation are subject to adjustments for changes in sales volume units, inflation and other factors.

### *MSA Fees and Litigation Costs*

The OPMs also agreed to pay the litigation costs, including government attorneys' fees, of the offices of the Attorneys General relating to the settled cases and, subject to certain quarterly and annual payment caps, the costs and fees of outside counsel to the jurisdictions.

### *Inflation Adjustment*

The inflation adjustment applied to annual and strategic contribution payments and to payments for the benefit of the national public education fund established by the foundation. It increases payments on a compound annual basis by the greater of 3% or the actual total percentage change in the consumer price index for the preceding year. The inflation adjustment is measured starting with inflation for 1999.

### *Volume Adjustment*

The volume adjustment applies to initial payments, annual and strategic contribution payments and payments for the benefit of the national public education fund established by the foundation. It increases or decreases payments for OPMs based on the increase or decrease in the total number of cigarettes shipped in or to the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico by the OPMs during the preceding year, as compared to the 1997 base number of cigarettes shipped by the OPMs. When volume has increased, the volume adjustment increases payments by the same percentage as the number of cigarettes exceeds the 1997 base number. When volume has decreased, the volume adjustment decreases payments by a percentage equal to 98% of the percentage reduction in volume. There are also limits to the extent to which OPMs can benefit by volume decreases in years where OPMs achieve certain increases in aggregate operating income.

### *Subsequent Participating Manufacturers*

Under the MSA each SPM is required to make payments in any year that equal, on a per-cigarette basis, the sum of the annual and strategic contribution payments and payments for the benefit of the national public education fund by the OPMs in that year, provided that SPMs who signed the MSA within 90 days of its effective date are required to make such payments only on unit volumes that represent the increase in its market share in such year over the greater of the SPM's 1998 market share or 125% of its 1997 market share.

### *Non-Participating Manufacturers*

Each of the states which are parties to the MSA, except for a few territories, has enacted a statute as provided for in the MSA to address manufacturers that do not participate in the MSA. The statutes require that any cigarette manufacturer or any MYO tobacco manufacturer that is not a signatory to the MSA make payments into an escrow fund to cover possible future liabilities to the relevant Settling State. The payment required by an NPM under the state statutes is calculated on a per cigarette or a cigarette equivalent basis for MYO. Some smaller manufacturers who were not a party to the state litigation against the OPMs have chosen to remain outside the MSA and operate as escrow compliant NPMs.





## **Table of Contents**

The Company was not a party to the state litigation against the OPMs. The Company has chosen to participate as an escrow compliant NPM. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had deposited approximately \$14.2 million into an escrow fund to maintain state-by-state compliance.

Under the escrow statutes, NPMs pay the lesser of the rates stated in the statutes or the amount that the NPM would have paid had it been a hypothetical SPM under the MSA. Recent legislation adopted in some 44 states has eliminated the share provision of the escrow state that allowed an NPM to recover any overpayment it may have made under the NPM allocable share formula. Since the payment calculations (to a state as an SPM or to an escrow account as an NPM) had been different, the payment to escrow could have been smaller on a unit basis than the payment to the MSA would be, depending on the state in which the NPM marketed its cigarettes. As a result of this change in the legislation, an NPM must now escrow an amount almost equivalent to the amount a similarly situated SPM must pay under the MSA payment formula.

The NPM escrow deposits are required to be held for 25 years and remain the property of such NPM. During the holding period, the NPMs have the right to receive the earnings on such deposits. On the 25th anniversary of each annual deposit, the principal amount of escrow remaining for that year will be returned to the NPM.

As a condition of maintaining annual OPM and SPM payments, the state Attorneys General have an obligation to diligently enforce the state obligations provisions of the MSA and the State Statute, and have been taking increased action to ensure compliance by all NPMs. As a result, the Company expects that there may be further consolidation among smaller Tier 4 manufacturers, who lack efficient manufacturing operations, wide distribution, or the resources to meet the higher state escrow obligation required by the allocable share amendment change to the escrow statute.

In 2004, Michigan, Utah and Alaska passed new legislation that places additional payment obligations on NPM products sold in these states. In addition to making escrow payments, NPMs must now make an additional advance payment on cigarette and MYO sales based on anticipated cigarette or MYO sales in the state. These equity assessment payments range from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per carton on manufactured cigarettes, and \$1.22 to \$1.50 per pound of MYO tobacco. Such equity assessments limit the ability of NPMs to compete against OPMs and SPMs that are not required to make these additional payments in these states. The Michigan statute is currently subject to a NPM legal challenge from Carolina Tobacco Company. The Company currently sells MYO products in the above states.

### *Growers Trust*

As part of the MSA, the OPMs agreed to work with U.S. tobacco growers to address the possible adverse economic impact of the MSA on growers. As a result, the OPMs agreed to participate in funding a \$5.2 billion trust fund to be administered by a trustee, in conjunction with a certification entity from each of the tobacco growing communities in 14 states. The trust agreement was dissolved in 2004 as a result of the adoption by Congress of the federal tobacco quota buyout program. The trust agreement had provided for a schedule of aggregate annual payments, subject to various adjustments, that were payable in quarterly installments each year from 1999 through 2010.

### *Payment Obligations in Non-MSA States*

In June 1994, the Mississippi attorney general brought an action, *Moore v. American Tobacco Co.*, against various US tobacco companies. This case was brought on behalf of the state to recover state funds paid for health care and medical and other assistance to state citizens suffering from diseases and conditions allegedly related to tobacco use. The large cigarette manufacturer defendants settled the Mississippi case in 1998, and also, at later dates, similar cases in Texas, Florida and Minnesota. Future payments under the settlement agreements with these Non-MSA States will be allocated among the OPMs on the basis of relative unit volume of domestic cigarette shipments, and will be subject to adjustment for inflation and for changes in the volume of domestic cigarette shipments on terms substantially similar to those in the MSA states. There are no requirements imposed on NPMs in the Non-MSA States as a result of these settlements. The MSA required the OPMs to make a series of initial payments to the Non-MSA States over five years totaling \$6.9 billion, the last of which was paid in 2003. On December 31, 2001, and on each December 31 thereafter, the OPMs were required to pay 17% of \$6.5 billion in 2001 and 2002 and will be required to pay 17% of \$8.0 billion in 2003 and thereafter to the Non-MSA States.

In 2003, the State of Minnesota enacted a new statute requiring non-signatory companies to the Minnesota tobacco settlement to pay an equity assessment on all cigarette products sold in the State. The statute does not extend to MYO products, and is currently subject to a legal challenge by the Council of Independent Tobacco Manufacturers of America. The Company does not currently sell manufactured cigarette products in the state of Minnesota. In 2005, the states of Texas, Florida and Mississippi all considered but rejected similar equity assessments on non-signatory companies. The Company does sell in cigarettes in Florida and Texas.



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## **Table of Contents**

### *Recent Developments*

The MSA has been challenged as unconstitutional in several legal actions. The grounds asserted have varied from case-to-case but have included challenges based on the Commerce Clause, the Interstate Compact Clause, the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses and the Preemption Doctrine. The preemption argument has asserted that the MSA and the associated state escrow legislation constitute an illegal output cartel under Section 1 of the Sherman Act, and are, therefore, preempted by virtue of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Supremacy Clause provides that federal law, in this case the Sherman Act, takes priority over inconsistent state laws, here the escrow statutes.

Until recently, courts have rejected those claims. In two cases arising in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, *A.D. Bedell Wholesale Co. v. Philip Morris Inc.*, 263 F.3d 239 (3d Cir. 2001) and *Mariana v. Fisher*, 338 F.3d 189 (3d Cir. 2003), the Court held that the MSA constituted an output cartel that would ordinarily be illegal per se under the Sherman Act, but that it was protected under the Noerr-Pennington doctrine, and therefore immune from liability. The Noerr-Pennington doctrine generally provides that the act of petitioning the government (e.g., legislative lobbying or litigating) is protected under the First Amendment and immune from liability.

On January 6, 2004, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit issued an opinion in which it concluded, under the allegations in that case, that the MSA and associated escrow legislation could be construed as an output cartel and that it would not be protected under the Noerr-Pennington doctrine. The case was remanded to the district court for further proceedings. *Freedom Holdings Inc. v. Spitzer*, 357 F.3d 205, rehearing denied, 363 F.3d 149 (2d Cir. 2004). The District Court held hearings and issued a ruling, holding on a motion for a preliminary injunction that the MSA was not an illegal cartel, but that certain New York legislation extending the reach of the MSA was illegal under the antitrust laws. Identical statutes have been passed in many of the MSA states. New York State elected not to appeal that ruling. On appeal, the Second Circuit affirmed the District Court's denial of a preliminary injunction but remanded the case for further proceedings.

If the Second Circuit's analysis prevails over the Third Circuit's, and the facts as alleged in the Freedom Holdings are proven, those provisions of the MSA that give rise to the output cartel would be declared illegal. Due to other provisions of the MSA, the major manufacturers would be required to enter into a new settlement with the states. Management believes, although no assurance can be given, the Company and its subsidiaries would benefit since (i) it would have maintained its favorable business development options, (ii) it would likely receive a refund of its escrow funds, and (iii) it would not likely have to escrow funds going forward. However, should the Third Circuit's analysis prevail over the Second Circuit, the Company will not be adversely affected since the Third Circuit's analysis merely maintains the status quo.

Similarly, in *Grand River Enterprises, Six Nations, Ltd. V. Pryor*, 425 F.3d 158 (2d Cir.2005), involving constitutional, antitrust and statutory challenges to the escrow statute and complementary legislation, the trial court dismissed all claims but the antitrust claim and dismissed non-New York defendants for lack of personal jurisdiction. The Second Circuit affirmed in part and reversed in part. The court reversed on personal jurisdiction, finding that personal jurisdiction could be obtained over all of the settling states in New York based on the execution of the MSA in New York. The court affirmed the dismissal of the plaintiffs' Indian Commerce Clause, due process and equal protection claims, but reversed the dismissal of the plaintiffs' dormant commerce clause claim. Thus, the court found that the plaintiffs' complaint had stated valid commerce clause and antitrust claims in challenging the escrow statute and MSA.

Additionally, the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), a private organization that supports free business enterprise principals, has filed suit in Louisiana (*A B Coker et al vs. State of Louisiana*), alleging that the MSA is unconstitutional because it violates the Compact Clause of the US Constitution: *No State shall, without the Consent of Congress enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State (Article I, Section 10)*. CEI argued that the Compact Clause was meant to prevent states from collectively encroaching on federal power or ganging up on other states. CEI claims the MSA has set up a national government/tobacco cartel that harmed consumers and small businesses by increasing cigarette prices and restricting competition. If successful, the CEI case could fundamentally challenge the legal basis upon which the MSA has been able to operate to date.

### **Excise Taxes**

Tobacco products and premium cigarette papers have long been subject to federal, state and local excise taxes, and such taxes have frequently been increased or proposed to be increased, in some cases significantly, to fund various legislative initiatives. Since 1986, smokeless tobacco (including dry and moist snuff and chewing tobacco) has been subject to federal excise tax. Smokeless tobacco is taxed by weight (in pounds or fractional parts thereof) manufactured or imported. Effective January 1, 2002, the federal excise tax on loose leaf chewing tobacco was increased to \$0.195 per pound from \$0.17 per pound. Effective January 1, 2002, the federal excise tax on premium cigarette paper was increased to \$0.0122 from \$0.0106



## **Table of Contents**

per fifty papers, the federal excise tax on cigarette tubes was increased to \$0.0244 from \$0.0213 per fifty tubes, and the federal excise tax on MYO tobacco was increased to \$1.0969 from \$0.9567 per pound. Although these more recent increases in the rate of federal excise taxes are not expected to have an adverse effect on the Company's business, future enactment of increases in federal excise taxes on the Company's products could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations or financial condition of the Company. The Company is unable to predict the likelihood of passage of future increases in federal excise taxes.

Tobacco products and premium cigarette papers are also subject to certain state and local taxes. The imposition of state and local taxes in a jurisdiction could have a detrimental impact on sales in that jurisdiction. Any enactment of new state or local excise taxes or an increase in existing excise taxes on the Company's products is likely to have an adverse effect on sales.

Cigarettes are also subject to substantial and increasing excise taxes. On January 1, 2002, the federal excise tax included in the price of cigarettes increased by \$2.50 to \$19.50 per thousand cigarettes (or \$0.39 per pack of 20 cigarettes). Additional excise taxes, which are levied upon and paid by the distributors, are also in effect in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and many municipalities. Various states have proposed, and certain states have recently passed, increases in their state tobacco excise taxes. The state taxes generally range from \$.07 to \$2.55 per package of 20 cigarettes. Future enactment of increases in federal excise taxes on the Company's **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes could adversely affect demand for them and have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows. In addition, further increases in state and local excise taxes could affect demand for the Company's cigarettes. The Company is unable to predict the likelihood of passage or magnitude of future increases in excise taxes.

## **Environmental Regulations**

The Company believes that it is currently in substantial compliance with all material environmental regulations and pollution control laws.

## **Other**

Additional information in response to Item 1 can be found in Note 23 (Segment Information) to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

## **Item 1A. Risks Factors**

### **Risks Related to Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Manufacturers and sellers of tobacco products are subject to regulation at the federal, state and local levels. Such regulations include, among others, labeling requirements, limitations on advertising, and prohibition of sales to minors. The trend in recent years has been toward increased regulation of the tobacco industry. There can be no assurance as to the ultimate content, timing or effect of any regulation of tobacco products by any federal, state or local legislative or regulatory body, nor can there be any assurance that any such legislation or regulation would not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The tobacco industry has experienced and is experiencing significant product liability litigation. Most tobacco liability lawsuits have been brought against manufacturers and sellers of cigarettes for injuries allegedly caused by smoking or by exposure to smoke. However, several lawsuits have been brought against manufacturers and sellers of smokeless tobacco for injuries to health allegedly caused by use of smokeless tobacco. Typically, such claims assert that use of smokeless tobacco is addictive and causes oral cancer. As discussed in Note 21 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein, the Company was named as a defendant in such a lawsuit. There can be no assurance that we will not sustain losses in connection with such lawsuits and that such losses will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows or that additional lawsuits will not be brought against us.

Forty-six states, certain U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are parties to the Master Settlement Agreement ( MSA ) and the Smokeless Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement ( STMSA ). To our knowledge, the signatories to the MSA include 49 cigarette manufacturers and/or distributors and the only other signatory to the STMSA is US Smokeless Tobacco Company. In our opinion, the fundamental basis for each agreement is the states' consents to withdraw all claims for monetary, equitable and injunctive relief against certain tobacco products manufacturers and others and, in return, the signatories have agreed to certain marketing restrictions and regulations as well as certain payment obligations.

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## **Table of Contents**

Pursuant to the MSA and subsequent states' statutes, a cigarette manufacturer (which is defined to also include make-your-own cigarette tobacco) has the option of either becoming a signatory to the MSA or opening, funding and maintaining an escrow account, with sub-accounts on behalf of each settling state. The STMSA has no similar provisions. The MSA escrow accounts are governed by states' statutes that expressly give the manufacturers the option of opening, funding and maintaining an escrow account in lieu of becoming a signatory to the MSA. The statutes require companies, who are not signatories to the MSA, to deposit, on an annual basis, into qualified banks escrow funds based on the number of cigarettes or cigarette equivalents, i.e., the pounds of MYO tobacco, sold. The purpose of these statutes is expressly stated to be to eliminate the cost disadvantage the settling manufacturers have as a result of entering into the MSA. Such companies are entitled to direct the investment of the escrowed funds and withdraw any appreciation, but cannot withdraw the principal for twenty-five years from the year of each annual deposit, except to withdraw funds deposited pursuant to an individual state's escrow statute to pay a final judgment to that state's plaintiffs in the event of such a final judgment against the Company. Either option—becoming a MSA signatory or establishing an escrow account—is permissible.

The Company has chosen to open and fund an MSA escrow account as its means of compliance. It is management's opinion, due to the possibility of future federal or state regulations, though none have to date been enacted, that entering into one or both of the settlement agreements or establishing and maintaining an escrow account would not necessarily prevent future regulations from having a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position and cash flows of the Company.

Various states have enacted or proposed complementary legislation intended to curb the activity of certain manufacturers and importers of cigarettes that are selling into MSA states without signing the MSA or who have failed to properly establish and fund a qualifying escrow account. To the best of our knowledge, no such statute has been enacted which could inadvertently and negatively impact the Company, which has been and is currently fully compliant with all applicable laws, regulations and statutes, but there can be no assurance that the enactment of any such complementary legislation in the future will not have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position or cash flows of the Company.

Pursuant to the MSA escrow account statutes, in order to be compliant with the MSA escrow requirements, the Company is required to deposit such funds for each calendar year into a qualifying escrow account by April 15 of the following year. As of December 31, 2005, the Company has recorded approximately \$17,599 in Other assets. This amount is comprised of approximately \$14.2 million which represents amounts on deposit plus approximately \$0.1 million interest earned thereon and approximately \$3.2 million pertaining to amounts to be deposited by April 15, 2006 relating to 2005 sales. During 2005, approximately \$4.7 million was deposited into a qualifying escrow account. The Company is entitled to direct the investment of the escrow funds and is allowed to withdraw any appreciation, but cannot withdraw the principal for twenty-five years from the year of each annual deposit, except to withdraw funds deposited pursuant to an individual state's escrow statute to pay a final judgment to that state's plaintiffs in the event of such a judgment against the Company. The investment vehicles available to the Company are limited to low risk government securities.

### **Risks Related to Industry**

*The Company is subject to substantial and increasing regulation which could adversely affect demand for its tobacco products.*

A wide variety of federal, state and local laws limit the advertising, sale and use of tobacco products, in particular cigarettes, and these laws have proliferated in recent years. For example, television and radio advertisements of cigarette products have been prohibited since 1971, and many local laws prohibit smoking in restaurants and other public places. Private businesses have also adopted regulations which prohibit or restrict, or are intended to discourage, smoking. Companies subject to the MSA and other state settlement agreements generally cannot use billboard advertising, cartoon characters, sponsorship of concerts, non-tobacco merchandise bearing its brand names and various other advertising and marketing techniques to sell their cigarettes. In addition, the MSA prohibits the targeting of youth in advertising, promotion or marketing of cigarette products. Additional restrictions may be legislatively imposed or agreed to in the future. Recent proposals have included limiting tobacco advertising to black-and-white, text-only advertisements. These limitations may make it difficult to maintain the value of an existing brand if sales or market share decline for any reason. Moreover, these limitations significantly impair the ability of cigarette manufacturers, including us, to launch new premium brands in those states party to the MSA. For example, three states have enacted legislation that imposes additional fees or taxes on the products of companies which have not entered into state tobacco settlements.

In 1986, federal legislation was enacted regulating smokeless tobacco products (including dry and moist snuff and chewing tobacco) by, among other things, requiring health warning notices on smokeless tobacco packages and advertising

## **Table of Contents**

and prohibiting the advertising of smokeless tobacco products on media subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission. Since 1986, other proposals have been made at both the federal, state and local levels for additional regulation of smokeless tobacco products and it is likely that additional proposals will be made in future years.

Recently proposed federal, state and local regulations on tobacco products have included increased regulation of the manufacturing and marketing of tobacco products by new or existing federal and state agencies, the requirement of additional warning notices, a ban or further restriction on all advertising and promotion, ingredients disclosure requirements, sampling and advertising bans or restrictions, increasing the minimum purchase age and the disallowance of advertising and promotion expenses as deductions under federal tax law. These proposals, if implemented, could adversely affect demand for the Company's products and have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also sought regulatory authority over tobacco products and has indicated that, if Congress enacts legislation granting such authority, it would likely promulgate regulations which may severely restrict the manufacture, distribution and sale of tobacco products and may require compliance with a wide range of labeling, reporting, record keeping, manufacturing and other requirements, among other things. These types of regulations, if implemented, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***Competition from other tobacco companies could adversely affect the Company.***

The tobacco industry is characterized by brand recognition and loyalty, with product quality, price, marketing and packaging constituting the primary methods of competition. Substantial marketing support, merchandising display, competitive pricing and other financial incentives generally are required to introduce a new brand or improve or maintain a brand's market position. Rival firms aggressively seek to limit the distribution of other companies' products, both at the wholesale and retail levels. If rival firms were able to limit the Company's distribution it could adversely affect its plans to increase the distribution of certain of the Company's products and otherwise adversely affect its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

The Company's primary competition for our MYO tobacco and related products comes from a number of other manufacturers of MYO tobacco and related products and, from a pricing standpoint, from U.S. manufacturers of discount cigarettes, as well as from importers of cigarettes manufactured in foreign countries. The Company's primary competition for its **Zig-Zag** Premium Cigarette brand comes from the major cigarette manufacturers. The Company's smokeless tobacco products compete with major smokeless tobacco manufacturers. Many of the Company's competitors have substantially greater financial, manufacturing, marketing and other resources than it does and in many cases have a more established presence in the market than it does. The Company cannot assure you that in the face of this competition the Company's existing products will maintain their market position or grow or that its new products, such as the Company's **Zig-Zag** Premium Cigarettes, will gain market acceptance. A decrease in sales of the Company's existing products or the incurrence of expenses to launch new products which are not ultimately accepted could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***Sales of tobacco products are generally expected to continue to decline, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's revenues and cash flows.***

As a result of restrictions on advertising and promotions, funding by the major cigarette manufacturers of smoking prevention campaigns, increases in regulation and excise taxes, health concerns, a decline in the social acceptability of smoking, increased pressure from anti-tobacco groups, and other factors, the overall U.S. markets for cigarette and smokeless tobacco products have generally been declining in terms of volume of sales, and are expected to continue to decline. The Company has similarly experienced a decline in sales of its loose leaf chewing tobacco products. Further, while some sales volume declines have been offset by higher prices, there can be no assurance that price increases can be sustained. A decline in the Company's sales could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***Increased excise taxes on tobacco products could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows.***

Smokeless tobacco products are subject to federal excise tax, and the federal excise tax on them has increased three times over the last decade. Most recently, on January 1, 2002 the federal excise tax on loose leaf chewing tobacco was increased to \$0.195 per pound from \$0.17 per pound. Also on January 1, 2002, the federal excise tax on premium cigarette paper was increased to \$0.0122 from \$0.0106 per fifty papers, the federal excise tax on cigarette tubes was increased to \$0.0244 from \$0.0213 per fifty tubes and the federal excise tax on MYO tobacco was increased to \$1.0969 from \$0.9567 per pound. Future enactment of increases in federal excise taxes on the Company's smokeless tobacco products and on MYO products could have a material adverse effect on demand for them and on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows. Smokeless tobacco products are also subject to certain state and local excise taxes. The state excise taxes generally





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## **Table of Contents**

range from 2% to 129% of the wholesaler's or the manufacturer's list price of the smokeless tobacco product. Any enactment of new state or local excise taxes or an increase in existing excise taxes on the Company's smokeless tobacco products could have a material adverse effect on demand for them and on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

Cigarettes are also subject to substantial and increasing excise taxes. On January 1, 2002, the federal excise tax included in the price of cigarettes increased by \$2.50 to \$19.50 per thousand cigarettes (or \$0.39 per pack of 20 cigarettes). Additional excise taxes, which are levied upon and paid by the distributors, are also in effect in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and many municipalities. Various states have proposed, and certain states have recently passed, increases in their state tobacco excise taxes. The state taxes generally range from \$.025 to \$2.05 per package of 20 cigarettes. Future enactment of increases in federal or state excise taxes on the Company's **Zig-Zag** Premium Cigarettes could adversely affect demand for them and have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows. The Company is unable to predict the likelihood of passage or magnitude of future increases in excise taxes.

***The Company may not be able to develop, produce or commercialize competitive new products and technologies required by regulatory changes or changes in consumer preferences.***

Consumer health concerns and changes in regulations are likely to require us to introduce new products or make substantial changes to existing products. For example, New York State enacted legislation in 2002 which went into effect in June, 2004, requiring that cigarette manufacturers reduce the ignition propensity of their products. The Company cannot assure you that it will be able to meet the requisite standards without adversely affecting the Company's profitability and without adversely affecting the taste of its product, or otherwise reducing consumer acceptance. Similarly, the Company believes that there will be increasing pressure from public health authorities to develop a conventional cigarette or an alternative cigarette that provides a demonstrable reduced risk of adverse health effects. The Company may not be able to develop a reduced risk product that is acceptable to public health authorities and consumers in a cost-effective manner, or at all. Costs associated with developing new products and technologies, as well as the inability to develop acceptable products in response to competitive conditions or regulatory requirements, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### **Risks Related to the Company's Business**

***Infringement of the Company's intellectual property may affect its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.***

The Company currently relies on trademark and other intellectual property rights to establish and protect its brand names and logos. Third parties have in the past, and may in the future, infringe on these trademarks and other intellectual property rights. In particular, in the past few years the Company has incurred substantial litigation costs prosecuting distributors of infringing and counterfeit **Zig-Zag** premium cigarette papers in the United States. Despite the Company's attempts to ensure that its intellectual property rights are protected, third parties may take actions that could materially and adversely affect the Company's rights or the value of its intellectual property. Any litigation concerning the Company's intellectual property rights, whether successful or unsuccessful, could result in substantial costs to it and diversions of its resources. Expenses related to protecting the Company's intellectual property rights, the loss or compromise of any of these rights or the loss of revenues as a result of infringement could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

***The outcome of material litigation, if determined adversely to the Company, could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.***

On July 8, 2003, following a four day trial, an Illinois jury returned a verdict in favor of Republic Tobacco, L.P. on defamation claims of \$8.4 million in general damages and \$10.2 million in punitive damages, for a total damage award of \$18.6 million. The Company filed post-trial motions for a new trial and, in the alternative, for a reduction of the awards. On August 1, 2003, the Company posted a judgment bond in the amount of \$18.8 million with the U.S. District Court. This was accomplished by obtaining a \$19.0 million senior secured term loan pursuant to a July 31, 2003 amendment to the Company's existing credit facility. On November 20, 2003, the court ruled that the awards were excessive and reduced the awards by approximately 60%, with the award of compensatory damages being reduced to \$3.36 million and the award of punitive damages being reduced to \$4.08 million, for a total of \$7.44 million. On December 18, 2003, Republic accepted these reduced awards. On January 8, 2004, the Company appealed from the final judgment, including the finding of liability in this case as well as the amount of the award. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will prevail on appeal. On January 22, 2004, Republic filed a general notice of cross appeal and argued in its appellate briefs that the judgment should be affirmed and also asserted, in its cross-appeal, that the original judgment should be reinstated despite its acceptance of the District Court's order reducing the judgment amount.



## **Table of Contents**

On September 1, 2004, the Court of Appeals issued its ruling affirming the finding of liability against the Company for defamation, but reducing the amount of the damage award to \$3.0 million. The Court of Appeals also affirmed the dismissal of the Company's antitrust claim against Republic and the dismissal of Republic's motion to re-instate the original jury award of \$18.8 million. As a result of these rulings, in October 2004 the Company received approximately \$4.5 million relating to the cash bond it had posted with the Court in 2003. This amount was included in Other income during the third quarter of 2004.

The Company also applied to the Court of Appeals for an order awarding the Company approximately \$1.0 million for the difference in the expense of the original bond of \$18.8 million and the subsequent reduced bond of \$7.0 million and the lesser expense the Company would have incurred to bond the final \$3.0 million judgment. On November 30, 2004, the Court of Appeals ruled that the application for costs should be directed to the District Court. On December 17, 2004, the Company filed this motion with the District Court.

On August 3, 2005, the District Court issued its ruling and awarded the Company approximately \$1.1 million. This amount is not included in the condensed consolidated financial statements. On August 11, 2005, Republic Tobacco filed a notice of appeal. The Company and Republic are currently involved in court sponsored mediation. No briefing schedule has been established.

On February 21, 2006, Top Tobacco, LP, an affiliate of Republic Tobacco, filed a complaint against North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, alleging that the Company's use of the phrase "Fresh-Top Canister" on the side of its ZIG-ZAG CLASSIC AMERICAN BLEND cigarette tobacco infringes, damages and violates Top Tobacco's TOP trademark for tobacco. Top Tobacco requests injunctive relief and unquantified royalties and damages. The Company intends to vigorously defend the claim and believes that it has strong defenses to the claims. However, no assurances can be given that the Company will prevail, and if the Company were to lose, there could be a material adverse event.

The Company has been named as a defendant in a number of other legal proceedings, including claims brought by individual plaintiffs alleging tobacco-related injuries. It is not possible to predict with certainty the outcome of the litigation pending against us. The Company also may be subject to additional claims in the future. Specifically, the tobacco industry and, in particular, the manufactured cigarette market, is subject to pervasive litigation. If any of the Company's current or future litigation is determined adversely, it could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***The departure of key management personnel could adversely affect the Company's operations.***

The Company's success depends upon the continued contributions of its senior management, including Douglas P. Rosefsky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lawrence S. Wexler, Chief Operating Officer and Brian C. Harriss, Chief Financial Officer. Although the Company has entered into employment agreements with Mr. Wexler and Mr. Harriss, the loss of the services of any or all of them could have a material adverse effect upon its business.

### ***The Company's failure to manage growth could adversely affect its business.***

The Company's strategy includes continued expansion, where possible, of its current loose leaf chewing tobacco and MYO cigarette businesses as well as leveraging and building its existing distribution network to grow its presence in the MYO tobacco and related products market and penetrate the premium segment of the manufactured cigarette market. Failure to manage this growth could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***The Company is subject to risks inherent in new product development initiatives.***

The Company has made and plans to continue to make significant investments in new product development projects. The Company launched a new Zig-Zag Premium Cigarette in September 2003. The launch of the Zig-Zag Premium Cigarette subjects us to increased levels of risk, uncertainties and contingencies, including the challenges inherent in new product development. The Company's testing of the Zig-Zag Premium Cigarette was limited to only certain test markets. Zig-Zag Premium Cigarettes may not be ultimately accepted by adult smokers and may not prove to be a commercially successful product.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***The Company may be unsuccessful in maintaining the consumer brand loyalty of its products.***

Brands are a very significant element in a tobacco company's value. Brand loyalty for tobacco products has historically been high, with a consumer's brand loyalty enduring for a long time. The Company believes that it has a strong brand portfolio of smokeless tobacco products, premium cigarette papers and other MYO tobacco and related products. The Company's continued success depends in part on its ability to protect and improve its brands continuously and on its ability to preserve the consumer's loyalty to these brands. There can be no assurance that branding by the Company's competitors will not be successful in persuading consumers of its products to switch to competitors' products, which could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***The Company may face delays in obtaining tobacco, other raw materials and finished products manufactured for the Company.***

The Company does not grow or purchase from growers any of the raw tobacco products used in manufacturing its loose leaf chewing tobacco. Although the Company has entered into purchasing and processing agreements with Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Lancaster) for this tobacco, the agreement with Lancaster expires on December 31, 2006, there can be no guarantee that the Company will be able to meet product demands in a timely manner or that it will be able to find an alternate tobacco supplier if Lancaster is unable to or does not meet the Company's supply needs and/or a new agreement with Lancaster or an alternative supplier is not established. In the event that the Company is unable to meet product demands, its customers may seek to fulfill their supply needs by purchasing competing brands, which in turn would reduce the Company's market share and could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

Historically, the Company's MYO cigarette operations consisted solely of the marketing and distribution of finished MYO premium cigarette papers, as well as finishing the processing of and packaging, marketing and distributing its rag or cut MYO tobaccos and other tobacco related products. In connection with the Stoker acquisition, the Company acquired the equipment used to manufacture and package the Stoker brands of MYO tobacco. The Company does not manufacture any of its premium cigarette paper products and have entered into an agreement with Bolloré for the long-term supply of finished premium cigarette paper and other related products. Pursuant to the distribution and license agreements with Bolloré, under normal conditions, the Company must purchase these products only from Bolloré. In turn, Bolloré is required by the distribution and license agreements to provide the Company with the quantities of these products that it desires. Bolloré has from time to time been unable to produce and supply the Company with sufficient quantities of cigarette tubes and injectors due, in part, to the rapid growth in its sales of those products. Although the Company has put in place certain safeguards including the maintenance by it of a supply of inventory, and by Bolloré of a two-month supply of immediately available safety stock inventory at a public warehouse in the United States, and the ability under certain circumstances to sell **Zig-Zag** premium cigarette papers which are purchased from sources other than Bolloré, there can be no guarantee that the Company's supplies of these products will be adequate for its projected needs.

There can be no guarantee that the Company will be able to meet product demands in a timely manner or that it will be able to find an alternate supplier if Bolloré is unable to or does not meet the Company's supply needs. In the event that the Company is unable to meet product demands, its customers may seek to fulfill their supply needs by purchasing competing brands, which in turn would reduce the Company's market share and could have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

### ***The Company's principal stockholder can exercise significant influence over it and his interests may conflict with that of its investors.***

The Company is privately held, and Thomas F. Helms Jr., Executive Chairman of the Board, has beneficial ownership of approximately 78.3% of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock (before giving effect to the exercise of certain outstanding warrants). Pursuant to a stockholders' agreement to which Mr. Helms is a party, together with all of the Company's other management stockholders, Mr. Helms has the ability to elect all of the members of its Board of Directors. Accordingly, Mr. Helms' interests may conflict with that of the Company's investors, as stockholders and bondholders may have divergent interests.

### ***The Company employee base includes manufacturing personnel covered by collective bargaining agreements.***

As of March 13, 2006, the Company employed a total of 289 full-time employees including 106 manufacturing employees represented by unions. The unionized employees are covered by three collective bargaining agreements. Two of these agreements, covering 104 employees will expire in January 2008. The other agreement, covering two employees, will expire in April 2008. A material discontinuation in the production of finished goods related to labor relations issues could reduce the Company's sales, market position and cash flow.

**Table of Contents****Risks Related to the Notes**

On February 17, 2004, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock. The refinancing consisted principally of (1) the offering and sale of \$200.0 million principal amount of senior notes (the New Senior Notes) by NATC, (2) NATC entering into an amended and restated loan agreement that provided a \$50.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility to NATC (which agreement was amended on January 19, 2005 to reduce the revolving credit facility to \$35.0 million) and (3) the concurrent sale of \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of senior discount notes of the Company (the Senior Discount Notes). The New Senior Notes are senior unsecured obligations of NATC, mature on March 1, 2012 and are guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by all of the Company's existing and certain of its future subsidiaries. On June 16, 2005, NATC refinanced the \$35.0 million amended and restated loan agreement by entering into a Financing Agreement, which consists of a \$30.0 million term loan facility and a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility and includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$10.0 million (collectively, the Credit Facility). The Credit Facility will mature on June 30, 2010, and does not provide for any amortization of the term loan prior to maturity. Indebtedness under the Financing Agreement is guaranteed by the Company and each of NATC's current and future direct and indirect subsidiaries, and is secured by a first perfected lien on all of the Company's and its direct and indirect subsidiaries' current and future assets and properties. For a more detailed description of the refinancings, the New Senior Notes, the Senior Discount Notes and the Credit Facility, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Requirements.

***The Company has no operations and no material assets. Its subsidiaries have no obligation to make payments on the Senior Discount Notes, may not have sufficient cash flow or assets to make payments on the Senior Discount Notes, and may not be able to distribute to us any cash flow or assets they do have.***

The Company, the only legal entity with any obligation to make payments on the Senior Discount Notes, is a holding company with no operations or material assets of its own other than the capital stock of NATC, which itself is a holding company with no operations or assets of its own other than the capital stock of various operating subsidiaries. Operations are conducted through NATC and its subsidiaries and the Company's ability to make payments on the Senior Discount Notes is dependent on the earnings and the distribution of funds from its subsidiaries through loans, dividends or otherwise. However, none of its subsidiaries are obligated to make funds available to the Company for payment on the Senior Discount Notes. The terms of NATC's Credit Facility and the indenture governing the New Senior Notes significantly restrict NATC from paying dividends and otherwise transferring assets to the Company. There can be no assurance that the agreements governing the current and future indebtedness of the Company's subsidiaries will permit its subsidiaries to provide the Company with sufficient dividends, distributions or loans to fund cash interest payments on the Senior Discount Notes when scheduled to begin on September 1, 2008.

Given the restrictions in NATC's debt instruments, the Company currently anticipates that, in order to pay the principal amount at maturity of the Senior Discount Notes or to repurchase the Senior Discount Notes upon a change of control as defined in the indenture governing the Senior Discount Notes, the Company will be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as refinancing some or all of its indebtedness, selling its equity securities or the equity securities or assets of NATC or seeking capital contributions. There can be no assurance that any of the foregoing actions would enable the Company to refinance its indebtedness or pay the principal amount of the Senior Discount Notes or that any of such actions would be permitted by the terms of the indenture governing the Senior Discount Notes or any other of the Company's debt instruments then in effect.

***The noteholders' right to receive payments on the Senior Discount Notes is structurally subordinated to the claims of the creditors of the Company's subsidiaries.***

The Company's subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the Senior Discount Notes or to provide the Company funds for its payment obligations, whether by dividends, distributions, loans or other payments. The Company's right to receive any assets of any of its subsidiaries, upon foreclosure, dissolution, winding-up, liquidation, reorganization or other bankruptcy proceeding, and therefore the right of the holders of the notes to receive a share of those assets, is structurally subordinated to the claims of such subsidiaries' creditors, including holders of the New Senior Notes and the lenders under the Credit Facility. In addition, even if the Company is deemed to be a general creditor of any of its subsidiaries, the Company's rights as a general creditor would be subordinate to the rights of holders of any indebtedness of such subsidiaries that are senior to general creditors and to holders of any secured indebtedness of such subsidiaries to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. Further, holders of the notes would participate ratably with all of the other general creditors of the Company's subsidiaries, based upon the respective amounts owed to each holder or creditor, in the distribution and payment of the remaining assets.

## **Table of Contents**

As of December 31, 2005, the Senior Discount Notes were structurally subordinated to \$230.0 million of indebtedness, including \$200.0 million of the New Senior Notes and \$30.0 million of borrowings under the Credit Facility.

*The Company's substantial debt could adversely affect its results of operations, financial position and cash flows and prevent NATC and the Company from fulfilling their obligations under the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes.*

The Company has a substantial amount of debt outstanding. As of December 31, 2005, NATC had approximately \$230.0 million of debt outstanding and the Company had an additional accreted value of \$33.2 million of debt outstanding.

The Company's leverage could have important consequences to the holders of the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes. For example, it could:

make it more difficult for NATC and the Company to satisfy their obligations with respect to the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes or other debt;

increase its vulnerability to competitive pressures and to general adverse economic or market conditions;

require the Company to dedicate a substantial portion of its cash flow from operations to servicing debt, reducing the availability of its cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;

limit its flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in its business and industry; and

limit its ability to obtain additional sources of financing.

All holders of debt incurred at the Company's subsidiaries would have a claim on the assets or cash flows of such subsidiary that is prior to any claim that the holders of the Senior Discount Notes would have.

*The Company may incur additional debt in the future, which could increase the noteholders' credit risk.*

As of December 31, 2005, NATC had approximately \$55.0 million available for borrowing under its revolving credit facility. Although the Credit Facility and the indentures governing the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes restrict the Company and its restricted subsidiaries from incurring additional debt, these restrictions are subject to important exceptions and qualifications. If the Company or its subsidiaries incur additional debt, the risks that the Company and its subsidiaries now face as a result of its leverage could intensify.

*The Company's operations will be substantially restricted by the terms of its debt, which could adversely affect its operating and financing flexibility.*

NATC's Credit Facility and the indentures governing the New Senior Notes and the Senior Discount Notes include a number of significant restrictive covenants. These covenants restrict, among other things, its ability to:

incur additional debt;

pay dividends on its capital stock or repurchase its capital stock;

make certain investments;

enter into certain types of transactions with affiliates;

limit dividends or other payments by its restricted subsidiaries to the Company;

incur liens; and

sell certain assets or merge with or into other companies.

These restrictions could limit the Company's ability to plan for or react to market conditions or to meet capital requirements.



## **Table of Contents**

NATC's Credit Facility contains financial covenants that require it and its subsidiaries to maintain compliance with specified financial ratios, which are described below in Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations under the Liquidity and Capital Requirements section. NATC's ability to comply with these covenants and requirements may be affected by events beyond its control, and NATC may have to curtail some of its operations and growth plans to maintain compliance.

The Company's and NATC's failure to comply with the covenants contained in the Credit Facility, the indentures governing the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes or other debt instruments, including as a result of events beyond the Company's control, could result in an event of default that could cause debt to be accelerated.

If the Company is not able to comply with the covenants and other requirements contained in the Credit Facility, the indentures governing the New Senior Notes and Senior Discount Notes or other debt instruments, an event of default under the relevant debt instrument could occur. If an event of default does occur, it could trigger a default under the Company's other debt instruments. The Company could be prohibited from accessing additional borrowings and the holders of the defaulted debt could declare amounts outstanding with respect to that debt to be immediately due and payable. The Company cannot be certain that its assets or cash flow would be sufficient to fully repay borrowings under its outstanding debt instruments or that the Company would be able to refinance or restructure the payments on those debt instruments. Even if the Company were able to secure additional financing, it may not be available on favorable terms. If an event of default were to occur under any material debt, all of the Company's other debt could be accelerated. If such debt is accelerated, holders of the notes are likely to recover funds only to the extent, if any, funds remain after all debt and other obligations of the Company's subsidiaries are repaid.

***The New Senior Notes are unsecured and thus subordinated to NATC's secured debt.***

NATC's obligations under the New Senior Notes, and the obligations of the subsidiary guarantors under their respective guarantees, are unsecured. As a result, the New Senior Notes are subordinated to all of NATC and the subsidiary guarantors' secured debt to the extent of the collateral securing that debt. As of December 31, 2005, NATC had approximately \$30.0 million of secured debt outstanding, which represents NATC's and its subsidiaries' obligations under its term loan facility. NATC's obligations under the Credit Facility are secured by substantially all of NATC's and its subsidiaries' assets. In the event that NATC is not able to pay amounts due under the Credit Facility, the lenders could proceed against the collateral securing that debt. In that event, any proceeds received upon a realization of the collateral would be applied first to amounts due under NATC's Credit Facility before any proceeds would be available to make payments on the New Senior Notes. If there is a default, the value of this collateral may not be sufficient to repay both the lenders under its Credit Facility and the holders of the New Senior Notes.

***The Company may not be able to satisfy its obligations to the noteholders upon a change of control.***

In the event of a change of control, the Company will be required to offer to purchase all of the outstanding Senior Discount Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to the date of purchase. In the event of a change of control, there would also be a change of control under the New Senior Notes. In the event of a change of control under the New Senior Notes, NATC will be required to offer to purchase all of the outstanding New Senior Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to the date of purchase, and holders of the New Senior Notes will have a prior claim on all of the Company's subsidiaries' assets, including the assets of NATC. It is possible that the Company and NATC will not have sufficient funds at the time of the change of control to make the required repurchases of the Senior Discount Notes and New Senior Notes or that restrictions in the Credit Facility may not allow such repurchases. The Company's and NATC's failure to purchase the Senior Discount Notes and New Senior Notes would be a default under the indentures governing the Senior Discount Notes and New Senior Notes.

### **Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Table of Contents****Item 2. Properties**

As of December 31, 2005, the Company operated manufacturing, distribution, office and warehouse space in the United States with a total floor area of approximately 702,513 square feet. Of this footage, approximately 600,000 square feet are owned and 102,513 square feet are leased.

To provide a cost-efficient supply of products to its customers, the Company maintains centralized management of manufacturing and nationwide distribution facilities. The Company's two manufacturing and distribution facilities are located in Louisville, Kentucky and Dresden, Tennessee.

The following table describes the principal properties of the Company as of December 31, 2005:

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Principal Use</b>   | <b>Square Feet</b> | <b>Owned or Leased</b> |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| New York, NY    | Corporate administrative office                                  | 11,513             | Leased                 |
| Louisville, KY  | Manufacturing, R&D, warehousing, distribution and administration | 600,000            | Owned                  |
| Dresden, TN     | Catalog distribution facility                                    | 76,000             | Leased                 |
| Frankfort, KY   | Future cigarette manufacturing                                   | 15,000             | Leased                 |

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings*****Litigation with Republic Tobacco***

On July 15, 1998, North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. ( NAOC ) and National Tobacco Company, L.P. ( NTC ), which are subsidiaries of the Company, filed a complaint (the Kentucky Complaint ) against Republic Tobacco, Inc. and its affiliates ( Republic Tobacco ) in Federal District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. Republic Tobacco imports and sells Roll-Your-Own ( RYO ) premium cigarette papers under the brand names JOB and TOP as well as other brand names. The Kentucky Complaint alleges, inter alia, that Republic Tobacco's use of exclusivity agreements, rebates, incentive programs, buy-backs and other activities related to the sale of premium cigarette papers in the southeastern United States violate federal and state antitrust and unfair competition laws and that Republic Tobacco defaced and directed others to deface NAOC's point of purchase vendor displays for premium cigarette papers by covering up the **ZIG-ZAG** brand name and advertising material with advertisements for Republic Tobacco's RYO cigarette paper brands. The Kentucky Complaint alleges that these activities constitute unfair competition under federal and state laws.

On June 30, 1998, Republic Tobacco filed a complaint against NATC, NAOC and NTC in the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois (the Illinois Complaint ) and served it on NATC after the institution of the Kentucky action. In the Illinois Complaint, Republic Tobacco seeks declaratory relief with respect to the Company's claims. In addition, the Illinois Complaint alleges that certain actions taken by NATC to inform its customers of its claims against Republic Tobacco constitute tortious interference with customer relationships, false advertising, violations of Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer Fraud Acts, defamation and unfair competition. In addition, although not included in its original complaint but in its amended complaint, Republic Tobacco alleged that NATC has unlawfully monopolized and attempted to monopolize the market on a national and regional basis for premium cigarette papers. Republic sought unspecified compensatory damages, injunctive relief and attorneys fees and costs.

On October 20, 2000, Republic Tobacco filed a motion to dismiss, stay, or transfer the Kentucky Complaint to the Illinois Court. On December 19, 2000, the Court denied Republic Tobacco's motion, holding that it was premature. The Court noted also that it had communicated with the Court in Illinois and that it had concluded that Republic Tobacco may not be entitled to any preference on forum selection, which would ordinarily be given because it was first to file. The Kentucky complaint is still on file.

Prior to the completion of discovery, the Court dismissed Republic Tobacco's antitrust claims against NATC. After discovery was completed in 2001, both parties moved for summary judgment on the others claims. In April 2002, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois decided the summary judgment motions by dismissing all claims of both tNATC and Republic Tobacco and its affiliates, except for Republic Tobacco's claim of defamation per se against NATC, on which it granted summary judgment on liability in favor of Republic Tobacco, and a Lanham Act false advertising claim, based on the same facts as the defamation claim, for equitable relief. In February 2003, the District Court granted Republic's motion for summary judgment on NATC's counterclaim that Republic tortiously interfered with NATC's business relationships and economic advantage. The only claim that remained to be tried was Republic's Lanham Act claim and damages on the defamation claim on which the Court previously ruled that Republic could only obtain equitable relief if successful.



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## **Table of Contents**

On July 8, 2003, following a four-day trial, an Illinois jury returned a verdict in favor of Republic on the defamation claims of \$8.4 million in general damages and \$10.2 million in punitive damages, for a total damage award of \$18.6 million. NATC recorded an \$18.8 million charge during the second quarter 2003 relating to this transaction. NATC filed post-trial motions for a new trial and, in the alternative, for a reduction of the awards. On August 1, 2003, NATC posted a judgment bond in the amount of \$18.8 million with the U.S. District Court. This was accomplished by obtaining a \$19.0 million senior secured term loan pursuant to a July 31, 2003 amendment to NATC's existing credit facility. On November 20, 2003, the court ruled that the awards were excessive and reduced the awards by approximately 60%, with the award of compensatory damages being reduced to \$3.36 million and the award of punitive damages being reduced to \$4.08 million, for a total of \$7.44 million. On December 18, 2003, Republic accepted these reduced awards. NATC reversed \$11.16 million during the fourth quarter 2003 due to this court ruling.

On January 8, 2004, NATC appealed the final judgment, including the finding of liability in this case as well as the amount of the award. On January 22, 2004, Republic filed a general notice of cross appeal and argued in its appellate briefs that the judgment should be affirmed and also asserted, in its cross-appeal, that the original judgment should be reinstated despite its acceptance of the District Court's order reducing the judgment amount.

On September 1, 2004, the Court of Appeals issued its ruling affirming the finding of liability against NATC for defamation, but reducing the amount of the damage award to \$3.0 million. The Court of Appeals also affirmed the dismissal of the Company's antitrust claim against Republic and the dismissal of Republic's motion to re-instate the original jury award of \$18.8 million. As a result of these rulings, in October 2004 NATC received approximately \$4.5 million relating to the cash bond it had posted with the Court in 2003. This amount was included in Other income during the third quarter of 2004.

NATC also applied to the Court of Appeals for an order awarding NATC approximately \$1.0 million for the difference in the expense of the original bond of \$18.8 million and the subsequent reduced bond of \$7.0 million and the lesser expense NATC would have incurred to bond the final \$3.0 million judgment. On November 30, 2004, the Court of Appeals ruled that the application for costs should be directed to the District Court. On December 17, 2004, NATC filed this motion with the District Court.

On August 3, 2005, the District Court issued its ruling and awarded NATC approximately \$1.1 million. This amount is not recorded in the consolidated financial statements. On August 11, 2005, Republic Tobacco filed a notice of appeal. NATC and Republic are currently involved in mediation discussions. No briefing schedule has been established.

On February 21, 2006, Top Tobacco, LP, an affiliate of Republic Tobacco, filed a complaint against North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, alleging that the Company's use of the phrase "Fresh-Top Canister" on the side of its ZIG-ZAG CLASSIC AMERICAN BLEND cigarette tobacco infringes, damages and violates Top Tobacco's TOP trademark for tobacco. Top Tobacco requests injunctive relief and unquantified royalties and damages. The Company intends to vigorously defend the claim and believes that it has strong defenses to the claims. However, no assurances can be given that the Company will prevail, and if the Company were to lose, there could be a material adverse event.

### ***Litigation Related to Counterfeiting***

**Texas Infringing Products Litigation.** In Bolloré, S.A. v. Import Warehouse, Inc., Civ. No. 3-99-CV-1196-R (N.D. Texas), Bolloré, the Company's Licensor of ZIG-ZAG brand premium cigarette papers, obtained a sealed order allowing it to conduct a seizure of infringing and counterfeit ZIG-ZAG products in the United States. On June 7, 1999, seizures of products occurred in Michigan and Texas. Subsequently, all named defendants have been enjoined from buying and selling such infringing or counterfeit goods. Bolloré and NATC negotiated settlements with all defendants. These defendants included Import Warehouse, Ravi Bhatia, Tarek Makki and Adham Makki. Those settlements included a consent injunction against distribution of infringing or counterfeit goods.

On May 18, 2001, NATC, in conjunction with Bolloré and law enforcement authorities conducted raids on the businesses and homes of certain defendants previously enjoined (including Tarek Makki and Adham Makki) from selling infringing or counterfeit ZIG-ZAG brand products in the Bolloré S.A. v. Import Warehouse litigation. Evidence was uncovered that showed that these defendants and certain other individuals were key participants in importing and distributing counterfeit ZIG-ZAG premium cigarette papers. After a two day hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, on May 30, 2001, the Court held the previously enjoined defendants in contempt of court, and enjoined the additional new defendants, including Ali Makki, from selling infringing or counterfeit ZIG-ZAG premium cigarette papers.

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## **Table of Contents**

NATC entered into a settlement with the defendants, the principal terms of which included a cash payment, an agreed permanent injunction, the withdrawal of the defendants' appeal of the civil contempt order, an agreed judgment of \$11.0 million from the civil contempt order and an agreement to forbear from enforcing that \$11.0 million money judgment until such time in the future that the defendants violate the terms of the permanent injunction. Two of the defendants, Tarek Makki and Adham Makki, also agreed to provide complete information regarding the counterfeiting conspiracy as well as information on other parties engaged in the purchase and distribution of infringing *ZIG-ZAG* premium cigarette papers.

On February 17, 2004, NATC and Bolloré filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, which had issued the original injunctions against the infringing defendants, seeking, with respect to respondents Adham Makki, Tarek Makki and Ali Makki, to have the \$11.0 million judgment released from the forbearance agreement and to have the named respondents held in contempt of court. The motion alleged that the three respondents had trafficked in counterfeit *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette papers after the execution of the settlement, citing evidence that all three had been charged in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan with criminal violations of the United States counterfeiting laws by trafficking in counterfeit *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette papers, which trafficking occurred after the settlement agreement.

On April 13, 2004, the Court entered an order (the Contempt 2 Order), finding Ali Mackie, Tarek Makki, Adham Mackie and their companies Best Price Wholesale (the Makki Defendants) and Harmony Brands LLC in civil contempt, freezing all of their assets, releasing the July 12, 2002 Final Judgment of \$11.0 million from the forbearance agreement as to the Makki Defendants, and again referring the matter to the United States Attorney for Criminal Prosecution. Subsequent to the entry of the Contempt 2 Order, the Company settled with defendant Harmony Brands and its members for the amount of \$750,000 and the entry of a permanent injunction. The Company is seeking to execute on the outstanding \$11.0 million judgment against the remaining Makki Defendants and those efforts are currently underway.

Pursuant to the U.S. Distribution Agreement and a related agreement between Bolloré and NATC, any collections on the judgments issued in the Bolloré v. Import Warehouse case are to be divided evenly between Bolloré and the Company after the payment of all expenses.

On February 7, 2002, Bolloré, NAOC and NATC filed a motion with the District Court in the Texas action seeking to hold Ravi Bhatia and Import Warehouse Inc. in contempt of court for violating the terms of the consent order and injunction entered against those defendants. NATC alleges that Mr. Bhatia and Import Warehouse sold counterfeit goods to at least three different companies over an extended period of time. On June 27, 2003, the Court found Import Warehouse and Mr. Bhatia in contempt of court for violating an existing injunction barring those parties from distributing infringing *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette paper products. The Court requested that NATC and Bolloré (the Company's co-plaintiff in the case) file a submission detailing the damages incurred. NATC and Bolloré filed their submission on July 25, 2003 which reported and requested damages of \$2.4 million.

On July 1, 2004, the Court issued an Order awarding approximately \$2.5 million in damages to NATC for the damages incurred by the Company as a result of the Import Warehouse Defendants' civil contempt. On July 15, 2004, the Court entered a Final Judgment in that amount for which defendants Import Warehouse, Inc. and Ravi Bhatia are jointly and severally liable. After NATC and Bolloré commenced collection proceedings, Import Warehouse paid NATC and Bolloré an amount equal to the entire judgment plus the expenses incurred in collection. Accordingly, approximately \$1.2 million has been recorded in Other income during the third quarter of 2004. The Import Warehouse Defendants filed a notice of appeal on July 24, 2004. No briefing schedule has been established.

On September 23, 2005, in Bolloré S.A. v. Beydoun, CV05-1679 S, NATC and Bolloré filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana against certain individuals and companies alleging that they had engaged in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute counterfeit Zig-Zag cigarette papers in the United States. The complaint sought, among other things, an injunction and damages. The civil case follows the conviction on federal criminal counterfeiting charges of one of the alleged participants in the conspiracy. Discovery has commenced.

### ***Litigation Related to Alleged Personal Injury***

West Virginia Complaints. Trial of the West Virginia complaints against the smokeless tobacco defendants has been postponed indefinitely, as described below. On October 6, 1998, NTC was served with a summons and complaint on behalf of 65 individual plaintiffs in an action in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, entitled Kelly Allen, et al. v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action Nos. 98-C-240). On November 13, 1998, NTC was served with a second

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## Table of Contents

summons and complaint on behalf of 18 plaintiffs in an action in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, entitled Billie J. Akers, et al. v. Philip Morris Incorporated et al. (Civil Action Nos. 98-C-2696 to 98-C-2713). The complaints are identical in most material respects. In the Allen case, the plaintiffs have specified the defendant companies for each of the 65 cases. NTC is named in only one action. One Akers plaintiff alleged use of an NTC product, alleging lung cancer.

On September 14, 2000, NTC was served with a summons and complaint on behalf of 539 separate plaintiffs filed in Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, entitled Linda Adams, et al. v. Philip Morris Inc., et al. (Civil Action Nos. 00-C-373 to 00-C-911). Only one of these plaintiffs alleged use of a product currently manufactured by NTC. The time period during which this plaintiff allegedly used the product has not yet been specified. Thus, it is not yet known whether NTC is a proper defendant in this case.

On September 19, 2000, NTC was served with a second summons and complaint on behalf of 561 separate plaintiffs filed in Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, entitled Ronald Accord, et al. v. Philip Morris Inc., et al. (Civil Action Nos. 00-C-923 to 00-C-1483). A total of five of these plaintiffs alleged use of a product currently manufactured by NTC. One of these plaintiffs does not specify the time period during which the product was allegedly used. Another alleges use that covers, in part, a period when NTC did not manufacture the product. On motion by cigarette company defendants, this claim was dismissed on February 11, 2004, for failure to follow the case management order. Of the remaining three, one alleges consumption of a competitor's chewing tobacco from 1966 to 2000 and NTC's *Beech-Nut* chewing tobacco from 1998 to 2000; another alleges a twenty-four year smoking history ending in 1995 and consumption of *Beech-Nut* chewing tobacco from 1990 to 1995; and the last alleges a thirty-five year smoking history ending in 2000, and consumption of NTC's *Durango Ice* chewing tobacco from 1990 to 2000 (although *Durango Ice* did not come onto the market until 1999).

In November 2001, NTC was served with an additional four separate summons and complaints in actions filed in the Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia. The actions are entitled Donald Nice v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-479), Korene S. Lantz v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-480), Ralph A. Prochaska, et al. v. Philip Morris, Inc., et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-481), and Franklin Scott, et al. v. Philip Morris, Inc., et al., (Civil Action No. 01-C-482). On August 19, 2004, the Korene Lantz lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff against all defendants including NTC. The Donald Nice lawsuit was dismissed on July 18, 2005 against all defendants including NTC for failure of the plaintiff to follow the case management order.

All of the West Virginia smokeless tobacco actions have been consolidated before the West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel for discovery and trial of certain issues. Trial of these matters was planned in two phases. In the initial phase, a trial was to be held to determine whether tobacco products, including all forms of smokeless tobacco, cigarettes, cigars and pipe and roll-your-own tobacco, can cause certain specified diseases or conditions. In the second phase, individual plaintiffs would attempt to prove that they were in fact injured by tobacco products. Fact and expert discovery in these cases has closed, however, in the cigarette cases the Court has allowed additional discovery.

The claims against NTC in the various consolidated West Virginia actions include negligence, strict liability, fraud in differing forms, conspiracy, breach of warranty and violations of the West Virginia consumer protection and antitrust acts. The complaints in the West Virginia cases request unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

The manufacturers of smokeless tobacco products (as well as the manufacturers of cigarettes) moved to sever the claims against the smokeless tobacco manufacturer defendants from the claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. That motion was granted and the trial date on the smokeless tobacco claims has now been postponed indefinitely.

By opinion dated December 2, 2005, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia completed its review of a certified question arising from the trial court's initial trial plan that had been established to resolve claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. The Supreme Court of West Virginia determined that the United States Supreme Court's decision in State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Campbell, 538 U.S. 408 (2003), did not preclude a trial plan in which phase I of the plan would decide certain elements of liability and a punitive damages multiplier and Phase II would decide each plaintiff's entitlement to compensatory damages and punitive damages based upon the multiplier determined in Phase I. The action has been remanded to the circuit court to fashion a new trial plan for the consolidated cases. The trial court has not yet formulated a new trial plan with regard to the claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. The claims against the smokeless tobacco manufacturer defendants remain severed and indefinitely stayed. While the Company intends to defend these cases vigorously should they ever go to trial, and believes it has strong defenses, no assurances can be given the Company would prevail. If the Company were not to prevail, the result could be a material adverse event.

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## **Table of Contents**

In addition to the above described legal proceedings, the Company is subject to other litigation in the ordinary course of its business. The Company does not believe that any of these other proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position or cash flows of the Company.

### ***Other Employment Matters***

The Company may, from time to time, have claims from and make settlements with former officers or employees.

David I. Brunson, the former President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company, resigned from the Company effective January 19, 2005, at which time his employment agreement with the Company (the Brunson Employment Agreement) was effectively terminated. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, the Company is required to make certain severance payments to Mr. Brunson, including \$425,000, which was paid within ten business days after January 19, 2005, and an additional \$425,000, which was paid in bi-weekly installments from January 20, 2005 through January 19, 2006. In addition, Mr. Brunson may become entitled to a bonus payment of up to \$725,000 relating to synergies achieved in the integration of the business of Stoker, Inc., which was acquired by the Company in 2003. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, after the last severance payment is made, Mr. Brunson will have an option to require the Company to repurchase all or a portion of his shares of the Company at their fair market value. The Company will not be obligated to repurchase these shares if, upon or after the payment, it would be in default under any instrument, agreement or law by which it is bound; in this case, the repurchase may be deferred until it can be completed without such default. Similarly, the Company has an option to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares at their fair market value. In the event the Company and Mr. Brunson are unable to agree upon the fair market value of these shares, an independent investment banking firm will be selected to determine such fair market value, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Brunson Employment Agreement. If neither Mr. Brunson nor the Company exercise their respective options by the earliest of the fifth anniversary of the termination of Mr. Brunson's employment or the date on which the Company refinances, or uses proceeds derived from refinancing, certain of its obligations, the Company will be required to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares on such date unless Mr. Brunson waives his right to require the Company to purchase his shares. Any liability is deemed, at this time, not to be material to the Company's Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. No amounts have been accrued related to potential amounts payable to Mr. Brunson associated with the Stoker restructuring bonus or the requirement to repurchase his stock. On January 23, 2006, Mr. Brunson filed a verified complaint against the Company in the Supreme Court of New York, County of Westchester, alleging breach of his employment agreement and related claims arising out of his resignation from employment with the Company. Mr. Brunson claims that he is entitled to \$1.5 million in unpaid severance pay and at least \$1.2 million in unpaid incentive bonus compensation under his employment agreement. Alternatively, Mr. Brunson seeks payment of the alleged unpaid incentive bonus compensation under differing, but related theories of recovery. Mr. Brunson also seeks payment of his attorneys' fees. The Company vigorously disputes Mr. Brunson's allegations and responded to Mr. Brunson's complaint on March 31, 2006.

During the first quarter 2005 and twelve months ended December 31, 2005, the Company recorded approximately \$1.1 million relating to the resignation of Mr. Brunson. Any options or shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Brunson vested in full as of the date of such resignation.

On November 27, 2005, in *Owens v. National Tobacco Company* (Cal Super. Ct. Case No. BC343611), two former employees filed claims alleging racial and gender discrimination against the Company following the Company's dismissal of those employees for poor performance. The Company believes it will prevail. If the Company were not to prevail, the result could be a material adverse event.

A&M is entitled to a fee based on improvement in the Company's financial performance as measured against the Company's 2005 Business Plan, to be paid upon the termination of the engagement. One portion of the fee will be a specified percentage of the sustainable annualized EBITDAR improvement, as defined, and the other portion of the fee will be an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company in their reasonable judgment for significant and sustainable improvement in working capital investment and management, in each case as measured against the Company's 2005 Business Plan. As of December 31, 2005, no related liability or expense has been recorded relating to financial performance improvements.

**Table of Contents****Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

None.

**PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

There is no established public trading market for the Company's Voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share.

No dividends have been declared or paid on the Voting Common Stock. Except as described below, the policy of the Company's Board of Directors is to retain any future earnings to provide funds for the operation and expansion of the Company's business. The Board of Directors reserves the right, however, to review the dividend policy periodically to determine whether the declaration of dividends is appropriate.

In connection with the refinancing of NATC's existing debt and preferred stock on February 17, 2004 (as described under Part I, Item 1, Business-Recent Events above and in Part I, Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations below), the Company offered and sold \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity (March 1, 2014) of senior discount notes. Interest on these notes will become payable semiannually in cash, at the rate of 12 1/4% per annum, commencing March 1, 2008. As the Company is a holding company with no operations or material assets other than the capital stock of NATC, its ability to make payments on such notes is dependent on the distribution of funds (through loans, dividends or otherwise) from NATC. It is currently contemplated that NATC will declare and pay dividends to fund the Company's interest payment obligations under its notes.

The payment of dividends by NATC is subject to restrictions contained in (i) the Financing Agreement and (ii) the indenture governing NATC's senior notes.

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

|  | Year Ended December 31,                          |            |            |            |            |
|--|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  | 2005   | 2004       | 2003       | 2002       | 2001       |
|  | (amounts in thousands, except per share amounts) |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>                         |  |            |            |            |            |
| Net sales <sup>(1), (3)</sup>                                | \$ 116,915                                       | \$ 115,320 | \$ 101,593 | \$ 94,425  | \$ 89,622  |
| Net income (loss) <sup>(2), (3), (4)</sup>                   | 10,117   | (34,922)   | (6,241)    | 5,485      | (1,364)    |
| Net income (loss) applicable to common shares <sup>(2)</sup> | 10,117   | (36,535)   | (13,516)   | 3,904      | (8,109)    |
| Basic earnings per common share:                             |  |            |            |            |            |
| Net income (loss) applicable to common shares                | \$ 17.18   | \$ (63.23) | \$ (25.59) | \$ 7.39    | \$ (15.35) |
| Diluted earnings per common share:                           |  |            |            |            |            |
| Net income (loss) applicable to common shares                | \$ 17.18   | \$ (63.23) | \$ (25.59) | \$ 5.87    | \$ (15.35) |
| <b>Common stock cash dividends per share</b>                 | \$   | \$ 8.20    | \$         | \$         | \$         |
| <b>Balance Sheet Data (at end of period):</b>                |  |            |            |            |            |
| Total assets   | \$ 225,784                                       | \$ 232,398 | \$ 243,644 | \$ 213,594 | \$ 216,663 |
| Total debt, including current maturities                     | 263,195  | 281,122    | 191,986    | 160,500    | 167,500    |
| Mandatorily redeemable preferred stock                       |  |            | 65,080     | 57,805     | 57,443     |

(1)



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During 2002, the Company adopted EITF No. 00-14, Accounting for Certain Sales Incentives and EITF 00-25, Vendor Income Statement Characterization of Consideration Paid to a Reseller of the Vendor's Products. As a result of this adoption, certain expenses have been reclassified from selling, general and administrative to net sales for the year ended 2001. Net sales for 2001 have been reduced by \$4,126 from previously reported amounts. The adoption of EITF 00-14 and EITF 00-25 had no impact on the Company's net income for any of these periods.

**Table of Contents**

- (2) Net income (loss) and net income applicable to common shares for the year ended December 31, 2003, includes expenses of \$7.4 million relating to the Republic judgment and \$3.3 million relating to the terminated Star asset purchase agreement.
- (3) Net income (loss) and net income applicable to common shares for the year ended December 31, 2004, includes income of \$4.5 million relating to the Republic judgment.
- (4) Includes federal excise taxes of \$3,158, \$3,251, \$1,899, \$1,684, and \$1,241 for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

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## Table of Contents

### Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

#### General

The Company is the third largest manufacturer, marketer and distributor of loose leaf chewing tobacco in the United States and the largest marketer and distributor in the United States and Canada of premium cigarette papers. The Company is also a leading manufacturer, marketer and distributor of MYO smoking tobaccos and related products. In addition, in September 2003, the Company began marketing and distributing premium manufactured cigarettes in certain test markets under the **ZIG-ZAG** Premium Cigarettes brand name.

The Company generates revenues from the sale of its products primarily to wholesale distributors who in turn resell them to retail operations. The Company's net sales, which include federal excise taxes, consist of gross sales, net of cash discounts, returns, and selling and marketing allowances.

The Company's principal operating expenses include the cost of raw materials used to manufacture its products; the cost of finished products, which are purchased goods; direct labor; federal excise taxes and tobacco quota buyout payments; manufacturing overhead; and selling, general and administrative expenses, which includes sales and marketing related expenses, legal expenses and compensation expenses, including benefits costs of salaried personnel. In 2002, the Company ceased the amortization of goodwill in accordance with FASB Statement 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets ( Statement 142 ) and consequently, beginning in 2002, amortization of goodwill no longer constitutes one of the Company's principal operating expenses. The Company's other principal expenses include interest expense and amortization of deferred financing costs and other expenses, the last of which has arisen during the last several years and has during 2001 and 2002 primarily represented the legal, investigative and related costs associated with the Texas and California Infringing Products Litigations instituted by the Company against alleged counterfeiters of **ZIG-ZAG** premium cigarette papers and during 2003 and 2004 primarily represented the Republic litigation judgment and subsequent reduction, respectively.

The following factors have affected the Company's results during the period of 2001 to 2005:

The existence of counterfeit cigarette papers bearing the **ZIG-ZAG** trademark. From 1999-2002, management believes the Company lost in excess of \$10 million of net sales and incurred approximately \$7 million in expenses relating to the litigation and investigation of counterfeiting claims and to brand promotions intended to offset damage done to the legitimate distribution channels. While management believes that the inflow and sale of counterfeit products has been substantially reduced as a result of the actions taken by the Company during this period, it is believed that some level of counterfeit product continues to enter the market.

The impact of increased manufactured cigarette prices. Management believes such price increases have resulted in higher MYO cigarette sales. During the period of 2001 to 2005, a number of states increased their excise taxes on cigarettes. Management expects this trend to continue as more states seek additional sources of revenue to combat significant budget deficits.

The continuing downward trend of loose leaf chewing tobacco consumption. This is a result of an aging consumer base coupled with an increasing trend of consumers switching to moist snuff. Management believes that the switch to moist snuff has been caused, in part, by the increased distribution and interest in the discount moist snuff category combined with these moist snuff products being priced at the same levels or lower than loose leaf products. Historically, increased prices for loose leaf products have largely offset this downward trend in consumption. Management expects this pricing trend to continue and, as a result, the Company expects that this segment's contribution to the Company's earnings will remain relatively constant and stable for the foreseeable future.

The impact of currency fluctuations. Currency movements and suppliers' price increases relating to premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and cigarette injector machines are the primary factors affecting cost of sales. Those products are purchased from Bolloré on terms of net 45 days and are payable in Euros. Thus, the Company bears certain foreign exchange risks for its inventory purchases. To minimize this risk, the Company has in the past and may in the future choose to utilize short-term forward currency contracts, through which the Company secures Euros in order to provide payment for its monthly purchases of inventory. In 2005, the Company approved, adopted and instituted a formal Foreign Exchange Currency Policy and more actively contracted for the forward purchase of Euros. The Company had adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 (SFAS No. 133), Accounting for Derivative

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Instruments and Hedging Activities and related pronouncements, in January 2000, in order to report such activity.

**Table of Contents**

The impact of marketing and promotional initiatives. Historically, based upon the timing of the Company's marketing and promotional initiatives, the Company has experienced significant variability in its month-to-month results. Promotional activity significantly increases net sales in the month in which it is initiated, while net sales are adversely impacted in the month after a promotion.

The following factors also affected the Company's results in 2005:

**Management Changes:** On January 19, 2005, the Company engaged the firm of Alvarez & Marsal, LLC (A&M), a global professional services firm, specializing in providing turnaround management, restructuring and corporate advisory services, and appointed Mr. Douglas P. Rosefsky, a Managing Director of A&M, as Interim Chief Financial Officer upon the resignation of the Company's former Chief Financial Officer. On April 11, 2005, Mr. Rosefsky was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and the Company retained Mr. Brian C. Harriss as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. At the time of these appointments, Mr. Thomas Helms, Jr., formerly Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, was appointed Executive Chairman. On June 8, 2005, Mr. Lawrence S. Wexler, former President of NACC, was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Company.

**Restructuring Program:** Coincident with the retention of Mr. Rosefsky, the Company commenced a restructuring program to improve sales, reduce costs, streamline operations, focus on higher return activities and increase operating cash flow.

**Refinancing:** On June 16, 2005, the Company refinanced its existing \$35.0 million Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by entering into a Financing Agreement (the Financing Agreement), as described in the Liquidity and Capital Requirements discussion below.

**Sales and Marketing Realignment:** In December 2005, the Company restructured and realigned its sales and marketing functions and established a unified organization structure. This action included the remapping of sales territories to better align the Company's sales force with the relative market development of its products, customers and consumers.

**Results of Operations**

For financial reporting purposes, the Company has three reporting segments: smokeless tobacco, which principally includes the sale of loose leaf chewing tobacco; MYO, which includes sales of premium cigarette papers and MYO tobacco and related products; and premium manufactured cigarettes. The Company launched its premium manufactured cigarette business late in the third quarter of 2003. To date, this business is in a developmental phase and its results have not been significant. As a result of the Stoker acquisition, the Company also operates a catalog business which sells tobacco and non-tobacco products. The Stoker acquisition was completed on November 17, 2003.

**Summary**

The table and discussion set forth below relates to the consolidated results of operations and financial condition of the Company for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003.

|   | 2005       |        | Year Ended December 31,<br>2004 |        | 2003       |        |
|---|------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
|   |            |        | (amounts in thousands)          |        |            |        |
| Net sales   | \$ 116,915 | 100.0% | \$ 115,320                      | 100.0% | \$ 101,593 | 100.0% |
| Cost of sales                                       | 56,654     | 48.4   | 58,617                          | 50.8   | 48,616     | 47.9   |
| Gross profit  | 60,261     | 51.6   | 56,703                          | 49.2   | 52,977     | 52.1   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses        | 43,915     | 37.6   | 37,031                          | 32.1   | 32,589     | 32.1   |
| Amortization expense                                | 441        | 0.4    | 462                             | 0.4    | 67         |        |
| Operating income                                    | 15,905     | 13.6   | 19,210                          | 16.7   | 20,321     | 20.0   |
| Interest expense, net, and deferred financing costs | 31,853     | 27.2   | 31,283                          | 27.1   | 19,122     | 18.8   |

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|  |           |        |             |         |            |        |
|--|-----------|--------|-------------|---------|------------|--------|
| Other expense (income)   | (26,293)  | (22.5) | (4,361)     | (3.8)   | 11,129     | 10.9   |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations before income tax expense | 10,345    | 8.9    | (7,712)     | (6.6)   | (9,930)    | (9.7)  |
| Income tax expense (benefit)                                       | 228       | 0.2    | 27,210      | 23.6    | (3,689)    | (3.6)  |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 10,117 | 8.7%   | \$ (27,835) | (30.3)% | \$ (6,241) | (6.1)% |

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**Table of Contents**

**Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2005 to Year Ended December 31, 2004**

*Net Sales.* For 2005, net sales were \$116.9 million, an increase of \$1.6 million or 1.4% from the prior year. Net sales of the smokeless tobacco segment decreased from \$46.2 million to \$44.0 million or 4.7% from the prior year as a result of our revised trade promotion plan and an overall decrease in case sales of 8.1% partially offset by an approximate 7% price increase during 2005. Net sales continue to be adversely impacted by competitive pressures, including increased discounting from other loose leaf competitors, growth of the moist snuff value brands and increased discounting activity by moist snuff manufacturers.

Net sales of the MYO segment increased from \$63.5 million to \$67.6 million or 6.5% from the prior year. This was due to an increase of \$1.6 million in net sales of premium cigarette papers and an increase of \$2.4 million in net sales of the MYO smoking tobacco and related products line. In management's opinion, the increase in net sales of the Company's premium cigarette papers resulted from reductions in customer incentives, a price increase and continuing recovery from counterfeiting activity. The increase in MYO smoking tobacco and related products line resulted from increases in prices and taxes of manufactured cigarettes coupled with a price increase.

*Gross Profit.* For 2005, gross profit increased 6.3% to \$60.3 million from \$56.7 million for the prior year and gross margins increased to 51.6% from 49.2%.

Gross profit of the smokeless tobacco segment decreased to \$20.4 million in 2005 from \$20.8 million for the prior year, or 1.8%, while gross margin of this segment increased to 46.4% of net sales in 2005 from 45.0% of net sales for the prior year. This increase is attributed primarily to a price increase instituted during 2005.

Gross profit of the MYO segment increased 12.8% to \$37.0 million from \$32.8 million in 2004 due to an increase in MYO sales volumes and a weakening Euro in comparison to the U.S. Dollar coupled with a price increase and reduced customer incentives instituted during 2005.

*Currency.* Currency movements and suppliers' price increases relating to premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and cigarette injector machines are the primary factors affecting cost of sales. Those products are purchased from Bolloré on terms of net 45 days and are payable in Euros. Thus, NAOC bears certain foreign exchange risks for its inventory purchases. To minimize this risk, NAOC may choose to utilize short-term forward currency contracts, through which NAOC secures Euros in order to provide payment for its monthly purchases of inventory. In January 2000, the Company adopted SFAS No. 133 and in July 2005, the Board of the Company approved the Company's Foreign Exchange Risk Management Policy and Procedures. During 2005, the Company executed various forward contracts for the purchase of \$6.7 million Euros with maturity dates from October 20, 2005 to July 28, 2006. Forward contracts that qualify as hedges are adjusted to their fair value through other comprehensive income as determined by market prices on the measurement date except any ineffectiveness which is currently recognized in income. Gains and losses on these contracts are transferred from other comprehensive income into net income as the related inventories are received. As of December 31, 2005, the Company recognized a loss of approximately \$0.06 million. On December 31, 2005, contracts with a total Euro commitment of \$3.9 million with maturity dates from March 3, 2006 to July 28, 2006 were outstanding.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2005 increased 18.6% to \$43.9 million from the prior year's \$37.0 million. This increase was due primarily to restructuring costs of approximately \$5.9 million, \$0.5 million compensation expense and shipping costs of \$0.5 million.

*Amortization Expense.* Amortization of goodwill was eliminated effective January 1, 2002. Amortization expense totaling \$0.4 million for the year ending December 31, 2005 related to the intangible assets acquired from Stoker.

*Net Interest Expense and Amortization of Deferred Financing Costs.* Interest expense and amortization of deferred financing costs decreased to \$31.8 million in 2005 from \$31.3 million for the prior year. This increase was the result of a full year of amortization expense relating to the Senior Discount Notes.

*Other Expense (Income).* Other income of \$26.3 million in 2005 is related primarily to the gain on the repurchase of the Senior Discount Notes during 2005. Other income of \$4.4 million in 2004 represents principally \$4.5 million associated with the reduction in the judgment rendered against the Company in connection with the litigation with Republic Tobacco, Inc.

*Income Tax Expense (Benefit).* Income tax expense was \$0.2 million for 2005. Income tax expense was \$27.2 million for 2004, reflecting the net loss of the Company and the recording of the valuation reserve relating to the realization of the net deferred taxes of \$26.5 million. The valuation reserve as of December 31, 2005 is \$29.6 million.





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**Table of Contents**

*Net Income (Loss).* Due to the factors described above, the Company recorded net income of \$10.1 million for 2005 compared to a net loss of \$34.9 million for 2004.

**Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2004 to Year Ended December 31, 2003**

*Net Sales.* For 2004, net sales were \$115.3 million, an increase of \$13.7 million or 13.5% from the prior year. Net sales of the smokeless tobacco segment increased from \$36.7 million to \$46.2 million or 25.9% from the prior year reflecting the acquisition of Stoker and an approximate 5% price increase during 2004. Of the \$9.5 million increase, the acquisition of Stoker increased sales by \$9.2 million for the smokeless segment. Overall poundage increased 35.8% from the prior year. Net sales continue to be adversely impacted by competitive pressures, including increased discounting from other loose leaf competitors, growth of the moist snuff value brands and increased discounting activity by moist snuff manufacturers.

Net sales of the MYO segment decreased from \$64.7 million to \$63.5 million or 1.9% from the prior year. This was due to a decrease of \$6.8 million in sales of premium cigarette papers, due to the efforts of the Company's customers to reduce overall trade inventories; an increase of \$4.8 million in sales of the expanded MYO smoking tobacco and related products line, including sales by Stoker which, in management's opinion, resulted from increases in prices and taxes of manufactured cigarettes; and an increase of \$0.8 million in premium cigarette paper sales to Canada. Of the \$4.8 million increase in the MYO smoking tobacco and related products line, \$6.3 million related to the sales of Stoker brands. All of these factors were partially offset by an increase in customer incentives, both to expand the distribution in the MYO area and to enhance recovery from counterfeiting activity. The Company attributes its continuing recovery from counterfeiting activity to the litigation instituted by the Company against alleged counterfeiters as discussed under Part I, Item 3, Legal Proceedings above.

*Gross Profits.* For 2004, gross profit increased 7.0% to \$56.7 million from \$53.0 million for the prior year while gross margins decreased to 49.2% from 52.2%.

Gross profit of the smokeless tobacco segment increased to \$20.8 million in 2004 from \$17.1 million for the prior year, or 21.6%, relating to the Stoker acquisition. Gross margin of this segment decreased to 45.0% of net sales in 2004 from 46.5% of net sales for the prior year. This decrease is attributed primarily to sales of the lower margin Stoker brands.

Gross profit of the MYO segment decreased 8.4% to \$32.8 million from \$35.8 million in 2003 due to higher cost of goods with respect to MYO premium cigarette papers resulting from a stronger Euro in comparison to the U.S. dollar partially offset by the increase in sales relating to the Stoker acquisition. The gross margin decreased from 55.3% of net sales in 2003 to 51.7% due to the impact of the stronger Euro in comparison to the U.S. dollar and to changes in product mix (greater growth in lower margin products).

*Currency.* Currency movements and suppliers' price increases relating to premium cigarette papers, cigarette tubes and cigarette injector machines are the primary factors affecting cost of sales. Those products are purchased from Bolloré on terms of net 45 days and are payable in Euros. Thus, NAOC bears certain foreign exchange risks for its inventory purchases. To minimize this risk, NAOC may choose to utilize short-term forward currency contracts, through which NAOC secures Euros at contract prices in order to provide payment for its monthly purchases of inventory. No forward contracts were utilized in 2004.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.* Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2004 increased 13.5% to \$37.0 million from the prior year's \$32.6 million. This increase was due primarily to Stoker expenses of \$3.3 million; start-up expenses of NACC's premium cigarette business of \$2.2 million; recruitment expenses of \$0.4 million; legal/litigation/lobbying of \$0.4 million; Sales/Marketing expenses of \$0.2 million; professional fees of \$0.1 million; partially offset by a reduction in compensation and related expenses of \$2.2 million.

*Amortization Expense.* Amortization of goodwill was eliminated effective January 1, 2002. Amortization expense totaling \$0.4 million for the year ending December 31, 2004 related to the intangible assets acquired from Stoker.

*Net Interest Expense and Amortization of Deferred Financing Costs.* Interest expense and amortization of deferred financing costs increased to \$31.3 million in 2004 from \$19.1 million for the prior year. This increase was the result of the refinancing of the Company's debt.

*Other Expense (Income).* Other income of \$4.4 million in 2004 represents principally \$4.5 million associated with the reduction in the judgment rendered against the Company in connection with the litigation with Republic Tobacco, Inc as described in Part I, Item 3, Legal Proceedings above. Other expense of \$11.1 million in 2003 primarily represents \$7.4 million associated with the judgment rendered against the Company in connection with the litigation with Republic Tobacco, Inc. and \$3.3 million associated with the termination of the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase Agreement.



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## **Table of Contents**

*Income Tax Expense (Benefit).* Income tax expense was \$27.2 million for 2004, reflecting the net loss of the Company and the recording of the valuation reserve relating to the realization of the net deferred taxes of \$29.7 million. Income tax benefit was \$3.7 million in 2003.

*Net Income (Loss).* Due to the factors described above, the Company incurred a net loss of \$34.9 million for 2004 compared to \$6.2 million for 2003.

### **Liquidity and Capital Requirements**

The Company's principal uses for cash are working capital, debt service, its annual MSA escrow account deposit and capital expenditures. The Company's principal sources of cash are from operating cash flows and from borrowings under its revolving credit facility. As described below, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing Amended and Restated Loan Agreement on June 16, 2005.

Working capital was \$19.5 million at December 31, 2005 compared to \$16.8 million at December 31, 2004. This increase was the result of the decrease in the revolving credit facility of \$14.5 million offset by decreased accounts receivable of \$1.1 million, decreased inventories of \$7.4 million, increased accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$1.6 million, and a lower cash balance of \$1.8 million. As of December 31, 2005, NATC had an undrawn availability of approximately \$55.0 million under the revolving credit portion of its Financing Agreement.

During 2005, the Company had \$4.8 million (including \$1.2 million relating to deposits recorded in Other current assets in 2004) in capital expenditures. The Company believes that its capital expenditure requirements for 2006 will be between \$2.5 million and \$3.0 million. Management believes that it will be able to fund its capital expenditure requirements from operating cash flows and, if needed, borrowings under the Financing Agreement.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, net cash provided by operating activities was \$30.4 million compared with \$4.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. This change was due primarily to reductions in inventory and Other current assets and an increase in net income resulting from the gain on the repurchase of the Senior Discount Notes.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, net cash used in investing activities was \$4.8 million (including \$1.2 million relating to deposits recorded in Other current assets in 2004) compared with \$3.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. This change was due to investing in capital expenditures.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, net cash used in financing activities was \$27.4 million compared with \$1.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. This change was due primarily to the repurchase of the Senior Discount Notes.

On February 17, 2004, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock. The refinancing consisted principally of (1) the offering and sale of \$200.0 million principal amount of the Senior Notes (the "New Senior Notes") by NATC, (2) the entering into of an amended and restated loan agreement that provides a \$50.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility to NATC and (3) the concurrent sale of \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of senior discount notes of the Company.

The New Senior Notes are senior unsecured obligations of NATC, mature on March 1, 2012 and are guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by all of NATC's existing and certain of its future subsidiaries. The New Senior Notes bear interest at the rate of 9¼% per annum from the date of issuance, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for, and interest is payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 of each year. NATC is not required to make mandatory redemptions or sinking fund payments prior to the maturity of the Notes. NATC or the Company may from time to time seek to retire all or a portion of the New Senior Notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other securities in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise.

On and after March 1, 2008, the New Senior Notes are redeemable, at NATC's option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount), if redeemed during the 12-month period commencing March 1 of the years set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date):

**Table of Contents**

|                     | <b>Redemption</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Year</b>         | <b>Price</b>      |
| 2008                | 104.625%          |
| 2009                | 102.313%          |
| 2010 and thereafter | 100.000%          |

In addition, prior to March 1, 2008, NATC may redeem the New Senior Notes, at its option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the New Senior Notes redeemed plus a make-whole premium based on U.S. Treasury rates as of, and accrued and unpaid interest to, the applicable redemption date.

In addition, at any time prior to March 1, 2007, NATC may, at its option, redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the New Senior Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings by the Company or NATC, subject to certain conditions, at a redemption price equal to 109.250% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the date of redemption.

The New Senior Notes limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, the payment of dividends, entering into transactions with affiliates, asset sales, engaging in mergers or acquisitions, creating liens or other encumbrances on assets, and other matters. At December 31, 2005, NATC was in compliance with all provisions of the New Senior Notes.

In connection with the refinancing, NATC also amended and restated the existing credit facility, resulting in a \$50.0 million (reducing to \$40.0 million in August 2005) senior revolving credit facility with Bank One, N.A. as agent (the Agent Bank) and La Salle Bank, National Association. The credit agreement (the 2004 Credit Agreement) governing the senior revolving credit facility includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$25.0 million and terminates three years from the closing date. NATC used the senior revolving credit facility for working capital and general corporate purposes. On January 19, 2005, the 2004 Credit Agreement was amended to reduce the revolving credit facility to \$35.0 million.

Indebtedness under the 2004 Credit Agreement was guaranteed by each of NATC's current and future direct and indirect subsidiaries, and was secured by a first perfected lien on substantially all of NATC's and NATC's direct and indirect subsidiaries' current and future assets and property. The collateral included a pledge by the Company of its equity interest in NATC and a first priority lien on all equity interest and intercompany notes held by NATC and its subsidiaries.

Each advance under the 2004 Credit Agreement bore interest at variable rates based, at NATC's option, on either the prime rate plus 1% or LIBOR plus 3%. The 2004 Credit Agreement provided for voluntary prepayment, subject to certain exceptions, of loans. In addition, without the prior written consent of the Agent Bank, NATC could not allow a Change in Control (as defined in the 2004 Credit Agreement), the sale of any material part of its assets and the assets of its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis or, subject to certain exceptions, the issuance of equity or debt.

Under the 2004 Credit Agreement, NATC was required to pay the lenders an annual commitment fee in variable amounts ranging from 0.50% to 0.65% of the difference between the commitment amount and the average usage of the facility, payable on a quarterly basis. NATC was also required to pay to the lenders letter of credit fees equal to 3.00% per annum multiplied by the maximum amount available from time to time to be drawn under such letter of credit issued under the 2004 Credit Agreement and to the lender issuing a letter of credit a fronting fee of 0.125% per annum multiplied by the aggregate face amount of letters of credit outstanding during a fiscal quarter plus other customary administrative, amendment, payment and negotiation charges in connection with such letters of credit.

The 2004 Credit Agreement required NATC and its subsidiaries to meet certain financial tests, including a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, and a minimum consolidated adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, dividends and amortization (EBITDA). The 2004 Credit Agreement also contained covenants, which among other things, limited the incurrence of additional indebtedness, dividends, transactions with affiliates, asset sales, acquisitions, mergers, prepayments of other indebtedness, liens and encumbrances and other matters customarily restricted in such agreements. In addition, the 2004 Credit Agreement required that certain members of Executive Management remained active in the day-to-day operation and management of NATC and its subsidiaries during the term of the facility.

The 2004 Credit Agreement contained customary events of default, including payment defaults, breach of representations and warranties, covenant defaults, cross-acceleration, cross-defaults to certain other indebtedness, certain events of bankruptcy and insolvency, the occurrence of a Change in Control and judgment defaults.

As of December 31, 2004, NATC would have failed to meet its original required minimum fixed charge coverage ratio for the period then ended due to its operating results in 2004. This would have represented an event of default under the terms of the 2004 Credit Agreement. This covenant, however, was eliminated pursuant to the March 30, 2005 amendment to the 2004 Credit Agreement.



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**Table of Contents**

On March 30, 2005, the 2004 Credit Agreement was amended. This amendment modified the fixed charge coverage ratio covenant, so that it only applied to quarters ending June 30, 2005 and thereafter, and the minimum consolidated adjusted EBITDA covenant, so that it only applied to quarters ending from June 30, 2004 through March 31, 2005. The fixed charge coverage ratio definition was also amended to include any future cash equity contributions to NATC. In addition, the amendment changed the 2004 Credit Agreement maturity date from February 28, 2007 to January 31, 2006.

On June 16, 2005, NATC refinanced the 2004 Credit Agreement by entering into the Financing Agreement with various financial institutions ( Lenders ) and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the Lenders ( Agent ). The Financing Agreement consists of a \$30.0 million term loan facility and a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility, and includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$10.0 million (collectively, the Credit Facility ). As of December 31, 2005, NATC did not have an outstanding balance on the revolving credit facility. The Credit Facility will mature on June 30, 2010, and does not provide for any amortization of the term loan prior to maturity. NATC and its subsidiaries will use the revolving credit facility for working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. Indebtedness under the Financing Agreement is guaranteed by the Company and each of NATC's current and future subsidiaries, and is secured by a first perfected lien on substantially all of the Company's and its direct and indirect subsidiaries' current and future assets and property. The collateral includes a pledge by the Company of its equity interest in NATC and a first priority lien on all equity interests and intercompany notes held by the Company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries.

Loans and advances under the Financing Agreement bear interest at a variable rate based on either the prime rate or LIBOR, at the Company's option, plus a specified margin ranging from 1.00% to 3.75% in case of prime rate indebtedness, and from 3.50% to 6.25% in the case of LIBOR indebtedness, based on the sum of the Company's secured indebtedness in relation to its EBITDAR, as defined in the Financing Agreement. As of December 31, 2005, the interest rate on the Company's term loan was 7.9%.

NATC paid the Lenders a closing fee of \$1.275 million and is required to pay the Agent a quarterly servicing fee in the amount of \$25,000. Under the revolving credit facility, NATC is required to pay the Lenders an annual commitment fee in an amount equal to 0.50% of the difference between \$40.0 million and the average usage of the revolving credit facility, payable on a monthly basis. NATC is also required to pay the Lenders letter of credit fees equal to 4.00% per annum multiplied by the face amount of the letters of credit issued under the Financing Agreement, payable on the date any such letter of credit is issued. In addition, NATC is required to pay the Agent the standard charges customarily charged by the institution issuing letters of credit under the Financing Agreement in connection with the issuance, administration, amendment, payment or cancellation of any such letters of credit.

The Financing Agreement requires NATC and its subsidiaries to meet a maximum leverage ratio and a test of minimum earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, certain cash and non-cash charges, other income and expenses and restructuring charges ( EBITDAR ). The Financing Agreement also contains covenants which, among other things, limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, distribution of dividends, transactions with affiliates, asset sales, acquisitions, mergers, prepayments of other indebtedness, liens and encumbrances, capital expenditures, and other matters customarily restricted in such agreements. In addition, the Financing Agreement requires that the Chief Executive Officer of the Company be reasonably acceptable to the Agent and the Lenders during the term of the Credit Facility. At December 31, 2005, the Company was in compliance with all provisions of the Financing Agreement.

The Financing Agreement contains customary events of default, including payment defaults, breach of representations and warranties, covenant defaults, cross-acceleration, cross-defaults to certain other indebtedness, bankruptcy and insolvency, the occurrence of a Change of Control, as defined in the Financing Agreement, and judgment defaults. Further, it is an event of default under the Financing Agreement if an event or development occurs that results in a Material Adverse Effect (as defined in the Financing Agreement), as determined by the Agent in its reasonable business judgment. If any events of default occur and are not cured within applicable grace periods or waived, the outstanding loans may be accelerated and the Lenders' commitments may be terminated. The occurrence of the bankruptcy and insolvency event of default will result in the automatic termination of commitments and acceleration of outstanding loans under the Financing Agreement.

Concurrently with the offering of the New Senior Notes, the Company issued \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity (\$60.0 million in gross proceeds) of its senior unsecured discount notes due 2014 (the Senior Discount Notes ). Proceeds of approximately \$53.8 million from this issuance were used to make a capital contribution to NATC. The Senior Discount Notes are the Company's senior obligations and are unsecured, ranking equally in right of payment to all of the Company's future unsubordinated obligations and senior in right of payment to any obligations that are by their terms subordinated to the Senior Discount Notes, and will be effectively subordinated to any secured obligations of the Company to

**Table of Contents**

the extent of the assets securing those obligations. The Senior Discount Notes are not guaranteed by NATC or any of its subsidiaries and are structurally subordinated to all of NATC and its subsidiaries' obligations, including the New Senior Notes. The Company or NATC may from time to time seek to retire all or a portion of the Senior Discount Notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other securities in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, or otherwise. For a description of NATC's repurchase of Senior Discount Notes, see Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained herein.

On and after March 1, 2009, the Senior Discount Notes will be redeemable, at the Company's option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount at maturity), if redeemed during the 12-month period commencing March 1 of the years set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date):

|                     | <b>Redemption</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Year</b>         | <b>Price</b>      |
| 2009                | 106.125%          |
| 2010                | 104.083%          |
| 2011                | 102.042%          |
| 2012 and thereafter | 100.000%          |

In addition, prior to March 1, 2009, the Company may redeem the Senior Discount Notes, at its option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to 100% of the accreted value of the Senior Discount Notes redeemed plus a make-whole premium based on U.S. Treasury rates as of, and accrued and unpaid interest to, the applicable redemption date.

Further, at any time prior to March 1, 2007, the Company may, at its option, redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount at maturity of the Senior Discount Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings by the Company, subject to certain conditions, at a redemption price equal to 112.250% of the accreted value thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the date of redemption.

The Senior Discount Notes limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, the payment of dividends, entering into transactions with affiliates, asset sales, engaging in mergers or acquisitions, creating liens and other encumbrances on assets, and other matters.

The Company is dependent on NATC's cash flows to service its debt. The amount of cash interest to be paid during the next five years is as follows: \$0 in each of 2005, 2006, 2007 and March 1, 2008; approximately \$2,628 payable on September 1, 2008 and approximately \$2,628 payable on each of March 1 and September 1 thereafter until maturity.

Pursuant to the U.S. Distribution Agreement (one of the Distribution Agreements, as more fully discussed in Item 1. Business), the Company is committed to purchase a minimum number of booklets of premium cigarette papers annually to avoid the termination of that agreement. This level of purchases has been significantly exceeded since the 1997 Acquisition and management believes that the Company will be able to significantly exceed this requirement for the foreseeable future. The agreement has also established the purchase price for **ZIG-ZAG** premium cigarette papers through 2004, subject to certain adjustments to reflect increases in the U.S. consumer price index and to account for material currency fluctuations. The Distribution Agreements provide that, in order to assure each of the parties commercially reasonable profits in light of inflationary trends and currency translation factors, prior to December 31, 2004 and each fifth-year anniversary of such date, the parties will enter into good faith negotiations to agree on an index and currency adjustment formula to replace the index and formula currently in effect. If the parties are unable to agree, the dispute is to be submitted to binding arbitration.

As discussed in Item 1 Business State Attorney General Settlement Agreements, in order to be in compliance with the MSA and subsequent states' statutes, the Company is required to fund an escrow account with each of the settling states based on the number of cigarettes or cigarette equivalents (i.e., the pounds of MYO smoking tobacco) sold in such state. Funding of the escrow deposit by the Company in 2005 was \$3.6 million in respect of sales of MYO smoking products in 2004 and \$1.1 million in respect of sales of MYO smoking products in 2005. The Company estimates the total deposits will be \$3.2 million in 2006 relating to 2005 sales.

**Table of Contents**

The following table summarizes the Company's contractual obligations at December 31, 2005 after giving effect to the refinancing of the Company's existing debt and preferred stock (in thousands):

| <b>Contractual Obligations</b>  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Less than 1 year</b> | <b>1-3 years</b> | <b>4-5 years</b> | <b>After 5 years</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Senior Discount Notes           | \$ 42,900    | \$                      | \$               | \$               | \$ 42,900            |
| Senior notes                    | 200,000      |                         |                  |                  | 200,000              |
| Interest on senior notes        | 138,750      | 18,500                  | 55,500           | 37,000           | 27,750               |
| Financing Agreement             | 30,000       |                         |                  | 30,000           |                      |
| Interest on Financing Agreement | 11,048       | 2,475                   | 7,425            | 1,148            |                      |
| Purchase obligations            | 14,458       | 14,458                  |                  |                  |                      |
| Operating leases                | 4,510        | 1,174                   | 1,850            | 657              | 829                  |
| Non-competition agreement       | 264          | 264                     |                  |                  |                      |
|                                 | \$ 441,930   | \$ 36,871               | \$ 64,775        | \$ 68,805        | \$ 271,479           |

The Company believes that its operating cash flows, together with borrowings under the Financing Agreement, subject to its ability to be in compliance with the covenants thereunder or to obtain waivers or amendments of such covenants or its ability to refinance the Financing Agreement, should be adequate to satisfy its reasonably foreseeable operating capital requirements.

**Inflation**

The Company believes that any effect of inflation at current levels will be minimal. Historically, the Company has been able to increase prices at a rate equal to or greater than that of inflation and believes that it will continue to be able to do so for the foreseeable future. In addition, the Company has been able to maintain a relatively stable variable cost structure for its products due, in part, to its successful procurement and reformulation activities with regard to its tobacco products and, in part, to its existing contractual agreement for the purchase of its premium cigarette papers.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

The Company believes the accounting policies below represent its critical accounting policies due to the estimation process involved in each. See Note 4, in the Consolidated Financial Statements, for a detailed discussion of the Company's accounting policies.

*Revenue Recognition* The Company recognizes revenues and the related costs upon the transfer of title and risk of loss to the customer.

*Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* The Company has adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets (SFAS No. 142).

Under SFAS No. 142, goodwill is no longer to be amortized but reviewed for impairment annually or more frequently if certain indicators arise, using a two-step approach that first compares the book value to the fair value, no impairment exists if the fair value exceeds book value. If an impairment exists then step 2 measures the amount of the impairment. The goodwill balances attributable to each of the Company's reporting units are tested for impairment by comparing the fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying value as of December 31 each year. Fair value was determined by using the valuation technique of calculating the present value of estimated expected future cash flows (using a discount rate commensurate with the risks involved) with consideration given to multiples of operating results. The Company has reported that no impairment of goodwill has been incurred as of December 31, 2005.

*Foreign Exchange* In January 2000, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 (SFAS No. 133), Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities and related pronouncements. In July 2005, the Board of the Company approved the Company's Foreign Exchange Risk Management Policy and Procedures. The policy is to manage the risks associated with foreign exchange rate movements actively, professionally and prudently. The primary objective of the Company's Foreign Exchange Risk Management Policy and Procedure is to protect the value of the Company's cash flows that are exposed to exchange rate movement, i.e. transactional foreign exchange exposures. The Company will always match the currency of the underlying transaction with the currency of the hedge. The policy allows the Company to hedge up to 80% of its anticipated purchases of inventory under the Bolloré Agreement, such purchases being denominated in Euros, over a forward period that will not exceed 12 rolling and consecutive months. The Company may, from time to time, hedge non-inventory purchases, e.g. production equipment, at a rate not to exceed 90% of the purchase price and in a currency determined by the



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invoice currency. The Company formally documents all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objectives and strategies for undertaking various hedge transactions. In this documentation, the Company specifically identifies the asset, liability, firm commitment or forecasted transaction that has been designated as a hedged item and states how the hedging instrument is expected to hedge the risks related to that item. The Company formally measures effectiveness of its hedging relationships both at the hedge inception

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## **Table of Contents**

and on an ongoing basis. The Company discontinues hedge accounting prospectively when it determines that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the fair value or each cash flows of a hedged item; when the derivative expires or is sold, terminated or exercised; when it is probable that the forecasted transaction will not occur; when a hedged firm commitment no longer meets the definition of a firm commitment; or when management determines that designation of the derivative as a hedge instrument is no longer appropriate. The policy is administered by the Foreign Exchange Risk Management Committee which includes: 1) the Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Vice President Finance. Additionally, the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board, while not a voting member of the Committee, will have full observer rights. The purpose of the Committee is to monitor and manage all significant foreign currency exposures Company-wide and to provide regular reports on those exposures and all related hedging actions and positions.

*Taxes* The Company has provided a valuation allowance to reduce its net deferred income tax assets since it is management's judgment that it is not more likely than not to be able to realize these benefits before they expire. Accordingly, an adjustment to the net deferred income tax assets has been charged to earnings for the year ending December 31, 2005.

*Contingencies* Note 21 of the Consolidated Financial Statements contained herein discusses various litigation matters that impact the Company. No loss or gain contingencies have been recorded for these matters because Management believes that it is not probable that a loss has been incurred or an asset realized. Future events may result in different conclusions, which could have a material impact, either positively or negatively, on the results of operations or financial condition of the Company.

*Inventory/LIFO Adjustment* Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined on the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method. Leaf tobacco is presented in current assets in accordance with standard industry practice, notwithstanding the fact that such tobaccos are carried longer than one year for the purpose of curing.

*Pension and Postretirement Benefits Obligations* Pension and postretirement benefits obligations accounting is intended to reflect the recognition of future benefit costs over covered employees' approximate service periods based on the terms of the plans and the investment and funding decisions made by the Company. The Company is required to make assumptions regarding such variables as the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets and the discount rate applied to determine service costs and interest cost to arrive at pension income or expense for the year. As of December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004, the Company used expected long-term rates of return on pension plan assets of 8.0% and 8.5%, respectively. The postretirement plan has no assets. The Company analyzed the rates of returns on assets used and determined that this rate is reasonable based upon the plans' historical performance relative to the overall markets and mix of assets. The Company will continue to assess the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets assumptions for each plan based on relevant market conditions and will make adjustments to the assumptions as appropriate. As of December 31, 2005, the Company used 5.5% for the pension and postretirement plans, respectively. As of December 31, 2004, the Company used discount rates of 5.5% and 5.75% for the pension and postretirement plans, respectively. The decrease in the discount rate used in the current year correlates with a decline in interest rates on noncallable, high quality bonds over the past year. The Company bases its discount rate used for postretirement benefits on Moody's Aa bond index plus an adjustment upward to the next quarter percentage point. See Note 16 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the full list of assumptions for the pension and postretirement plans.

*Investment in Debt Securities* NATC's investment in the Senior Discount Notes is categorized as available for sale and, as a result, is stated at fair value. The fair value is based on quoted market prices. Unrealized holding gains and losses are included as a component of stockholders' equity and comprehensive income until realized from a sale or impairment.

## **Forward-looking Statements**

The Company cautions the reader that certain statements contained in the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section as well as elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and other important factors, including the risks discussed below and in Item 1A. Risk Factors. The Company's actual future results, performance or achievement of results may differ materially from any such results, performance or achievement implied by these statements. Among the factors that could affect the Company's actual results and could cause results to differ from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements contained herein is the Company's ability to comply with certain Financing Agreement financial covenants, its ability to implement its business strategy successfully, which may be dependent on business, financial, and other factors beyond the Company's control, including, among others, federal, state and/or local regulations and taxes,

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## **Table of Contents**

competitive pressures, prevailing changes in consumer preferences, consumer acceptance of new product introductions and other marketing initiatives, market acceptance of the Company's current distribution programs, access to sufficient quantities of raw material or inventory to meet any sudden increase in demand, disruption to historical wholesale ordering patterns, product liability litigation and any disruption in access to capital necessary to achieve the Company's business strategy.

The Company cautions the reader not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. In addition, the Company does not have any intention or obligation to update the forward-looking statements in this document. The Company claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

### **Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

*Interest Rate Sensitivity.* The Company has exposure to interest rate volatility primarily relating to interest rate changes applicable to revolving loans under its Financing Agreement. The Company's credit facility bears interest at rates which vary with changes in LIBOR or the prime rate. As of December 31, 2005, \$30.0 million of the Company's debt bore interest at variable rates. The Company believes that the effect, if any, of reasonably possible near-term changes in interest rates on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows would not be significant. A 1% change in the interest rate would change pre-tax income by approximately \$0.3 million per year.

*Foreign Currency Sensitivity.* NAOC purchases inventory from Bolloré on terms of net 45 days which are payable in Euros. Accordingly, exposure exists to potentially adverse movement in foreign currency rates (Euros). In addition, Bolloré provides a contractual hedge against catastrophic currency fluctuation in its agreement with NAOC. NAOC does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative trading purposes, nor does NAOC hedge its foreign currency exposure in a manner that offsets the effects of changes in foreign exchange rates.

NAOC regularly reviews its foreign currency risk and its hedging programs and may as part of that review determine at any time to change its hedging policy. During 2005, the Company approved, adopted and instituted a formal Foreign Exchange Currency Policy and more actively contracted for the forward purchase of Euros. On December 31, 2005, the Company had outstanding purchase commitments of Euro 4.9 million. A 10% gain or loss in the value of the U.S. dollar versus the Euro would result in a gain or loss of \$0.4 million. On December 31, 2005, the Company had firm foreign currency contracts to purchase a total amount of Euros 3.9 million. A 10% gain or loss in the value of the U.S. dollar would result in a loss or gain of \$0.4 million.

### **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

The Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, and the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, with respect thereto, referred to in the Index to Financial Statements of the Company contained in Item 15(a), appear on pages F-1 through F-30 of this Form 10-K and are incorporated herein by reference thereto. Information required by schedules called for under Regulation S-X is either not applicable or is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes thereto.

### **Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

### **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

#### **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's principal executive and principal financial officers, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)), as of December 31, 2005, and has concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of December 31, 2005 because of the material weakness in the Company's internal control over financial reporting discussed below under Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

A material weakness is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that results in a more than remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected. The Company has determined that, as of

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December 31, 2005, it has a deficiency in internal controls over the valuation of deferred

**Table of Contents**

income tax assets. Specifically, the Company did not have adequate controls over the accounting for and the review and approval of income tax related financial statement accounts requiring a significant degree of technical knowledge related to deferred tax assets and liabilities. As a result of the ineffective review, an error in the deferred tax valuation allowance was not detected prior to the issuance of the 2004 consolidated financial statements. This control deficiency resulted in the restatement of the Company's 2004 annual and first quarter 2005 consolidated financial statements. In addition this control deficiency could result in a misstatement to deferred tax valuation allowance that could result in a material misstatement to the annual or interim financial statements that would not be prevented or detected. Accordingly, management determined that this control deficiency constitutes a material weakness.

**Management's Remediation Plan**

During the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2005, the Company took remedial steps to eliminate this material weakness, including engaging the services of an independent public accounting firm, other than the Company's auditors, with appropriate levels of income tax accounting knowledge and expertise to assist in the review of complex tax matters. For the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company's income tax provision and valuation of deferred income tax assets and liabilities was reviewed by the above mentioned firm. As of December 31, 2005, these remediation efforts, and the Company's evaluation of its internal controls over the valuation of deferred income tax assets, are continuing.

**Changes in Internal Control**

There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15-d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that occurred during the Company's fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2005, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 9B. Other Information**

None.

**Table of Contents****PART III****Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant****Board of Directors and Executive Officers**

The following table sets forth the name, position with the Company and age of each member of the Board of Directors and each executive officer of the Company as of the date of this filing. See Election of Directors below.

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position</b>                                     |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| Thomas F. Helms, Jr.   | 65         | Executive Chairman of the Board                     |
| Jack Africk*           | 77         | Director  |
| Marc S. Cooper*        | 44         | Director  |
| Geoffrey J. F. Gorman* | 49         | Director  |
| Douglas P. Rosefsky    | 37         | Chief Executive Officer                             |
| Brian C. Harriss       | 57         | Chief Financial Officer                             |
| Lawrence S. Wexler     | 53         | Chief Operating Officer                             |
| James W. Dobbins       | 46         | Senior Vice President General Counsel and Secretary |
| James M. Murray        | 45         | Senior Vice President Market Planning & Strategy    |

\* Audit committee members.

*Thomas F. Helms, Jr.* Thomas F. Helms, Jr. has been Chairman of the Board since June 1997 and was Chief Executive Officer from June 1997 to April 2005 and President from January to April 2005. On February 21, 2006, the Company entered into an Employment Agreement dated as of February 14, 2006 (the New Employment Agreement) with Mr. Helms, providing for his employment with the Company as Executive Chairman of the Board (and for him to serve as an officer or director of any subsidiary or affiliates of the Company, without any additional compensation), effective May 17, 2006. He is also the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors and a Director, and formerly served as Chief Executive Officer and President, of the Company; a Director, and formally served as the President, of NTC; a Director, and Formerly served as the President, of NACC; formerly served as the President of National Tobacco Finance Corporation; the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors and a Director, and formerly served as President and Chief Executive Officer, of NAOC; the Executive Chairman and a Director, and formerly served as President, of each of Stoker, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and RBJ Sales, Inc. In 1988, Mr. Helms formed National Tobacco Company, L.P., which acquired certain loose leaf chewing tobacco assets of Lorillard, Inc. Mr. Helms also served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Culbro Corporation's smokeless tobacco division from 1983 until shortly prior to its sale to American Maize-Products Company in March 1986. From 1979 to 1982, Mr. Helms was General Manager of the Etherea Cosmetics and Designer Fragrances Division of Revlon, Inc. From 1964 to 1979, Mr. Helms was employed in marketing and sales positions in various divisions of Revlon, Inc.

*Jack Africk.* Jack Africk has been a Director of the Company since October 1997 and has been serving as a consultant to it since January 1999. From January through December 1998 he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. From 1996 to June 1997, he was Chief Executive Officer of NATC Holdings USA, Inc. Prior to that time, from 1993 to 1996, Mr. Africk was a consultant and Director of NATC Holdings USA, Inc. Mr. Africk is a former Vice Chairman of UST Inc. (UST). From 1979 until 1993, Mr. Africk held various positions with UST, including Vice Chairman and Executive Vice President, as well as positions with subsidiary organizations including President of an international division, and President and Chief Executive Officer of United States Tobacco Company. Mr. Africk also currently serves as a Director of Tanger Factory Outlets, a NYSE real estate investment trust that owns and operates factory outlet centers.

*Marc S. Cooper.* Marc S. Cooper has served as a Director of the Company since May 2001. Since May 1999, he has served as a Managing Director of Peter J. Solomon Company in its Mergers and Acquisitions Department. From March 1992 until May 1999, Mr. Cooper served as Vice Chairman of Barington Capital Group, an investment bank of which he was a founding member.

*Geoffrey J. F. Gorman.* Geoffrey Gorman has served as a Director of the Company since April 2002. He is the Managing Partner of Private Equity Partners, LLC. Since 1985, he has organized and led leveraged acquisitions and private equity investments. Mr. Gorman has served as a Chairman of the Board of Directors of Protein Genetics, Inc., Southern Dental Corporation, Waterbury Companies, Inc. and Compass Plastics & Technologies, Inc. Mr. Gorman has also served as a member of the board of directors of Swanson Manufacturers, Inc., Golden State Vintners, Inc., The Company Store, Inc., Avanti Petroleum, Inc. and Koala Springs International Corporation. Mr. Gorman currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Advisors of Santa Maria Foods Corporation and as a member of the board of directors of Winnfield Funeral Homes and Life

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Insurance Company. Prior to 1996, Mr. Gorman was a partner at Ardshiel, Inc., an investment bank.

**Table of Contents**

*Douglas P. Rosefsky.* Douglas P. Rosefsky became the President and Chief Executive Officer on April 11, 2005. From January 19, 2005 until April 11, 2005, Mr. Rosefsky held the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Company. He is also a Managing Director of Alvarez & Marsal, LLC. Mr. Rosefsky became a Director of Alvarez & Marsal in November 2000, and a Managing Director in September 2003. Mr. Rosefsky has worked in a variety of management and advisory services roles in several industries, most recently, from November 2003 until August 2004, as an advisor and Chief Executive Officer of DLT Solutions, Inc., a leading technology solutions provider to the government with \$300 million in annual revenues. From January 2003 to August 2003, Mr. Rosefsky acted as Chief Restructuring Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Kleinert's Buster Brown, a leading designer, manufacturer and retailer of children's apparel. From April 2001 until January 2003, Mr. Rosefsky served as Senior Vice President Finance and Co-Head of International of Warnaco Inc., a global retail and apparel company based in New York. From January 2001 until August 2001, Mr. Rosefsky served as Financial Advisor, Communications Corporation of America, and between January 2000 and December 2000, as Vice President Finance of Charter Behavioral Health Corporation. Mr. Rosefsky formerly held positions at JP Morgan Chase (Chase Securities, Inc.), Hoffman-La Roche, and Andersen Consulting.

*Brian C. Harriss.* Brian C. Harriss became the Chief Financial Officer on April 11, 2005. Mr. Harriss was an independent financial consultant from March 2004 to March 2005. He was employed with Hanover Direct, Inc., a catalogue and e-commerce company, from June 1999 to February 2004. Mr. Harriss acted as Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration from December 2003 until February 2004, Executive Vice President, Human Resources and Legal from November 2002 until December 2003, Executive Advisor to the Chairman from February 2002 until November 2002, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from February 2001 until February 2002 and Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer from June 1999 until February 2001, with Hanover Direct, Inc. Prior to joining Hanover Direct, Inc., Mr. Harriss served in various senior finance, planning and business development positions at a number of market-leading consumer products and direct marketing companies, including PepsiCo., Inc., Cadbury Schweppes P.L.C. and The Readers Digest, Inc.

*Lawrence S. Wexler.* Lawrence S. Wexler was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Company on June 8, 2005. Prior to this appointment Mr. Wexler had been the President and Chief Operating Officer of North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, since December 2003. Prior to joining NACC, from 1998 to 2003 he was a consultant to a number of emerging marketing, communication and financial companies, advising them on financial, marketing, and strategic matters, at times in an operating role. From 1977 to 1998, he was employed by Philip Morris, USA in various positions in the Sales, Marketing and Finance Departments. As Group Director, Discount Brands his group introduced the Basic and Alpine brands. He served as Senior Vice President of Marketing from 1992-93 and Senior Vice President Finance, Planning and Information Services from 1993 to 1998, when he left that company.

*James W. Dobbins.* James W. Dobbins has been Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the Company since June 1999. He has also held the position of Secretary since April 2002. Mr. Dobbins is also the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company, the Secretary of North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of each of North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., Stoker, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and RBJ Sales, Inc., each a subsidiary of the Company. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Dobbins was in private practice in North Carolina and held various positions in the legal department of Liggett Group Inc., a major cigarette manufacturer, including, at the time he left that company, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Mr. Dobbins had been an outside litigation attorney with Webster & Sheffield, a New York law firm, representing a variety of clients including Liggett Group Inc. Prior to joining Webster & Sheffield, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable J. Daniel Mahoney, United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

*James M. Murray.* James M. Murray has been the Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing for National Tobacco Company, L.P. ( NTC ), a subsidiary of the Company, since November 2001. Prior to that time, he was the Vice President Marketing for NTC. Before joining NTC, from 1995 to 1999, Mr. Murray was employed by Brachs Confections in a variety of senior sales and marketing positions, including Director of Trade Marketing and Vice President of Marketing Fresh Candy Shoppe. From 1985 until 1994, Mr. Murray held numerous sales and marketing positions with increasing responsibility with The American Tobacco Company, including Product Manager, Strategic Sales Operations Director, Business Unit Director and Vice President Premium Brands where he was responsible for the profitable development of the Carlton, Pall Mall and Lucky Strike brands. Prior to joining American Tobacco, Mr. Murray was employed by A.C. Nielsen Marketing Research.

No family relationships exist between any director and executive officer of the Company.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Election of Directors**

Pursuant to the terms of an Amended and Restated Exchange and Stockholders Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2004, among NATC, the Company and certain of the stockholders of the Company (the Stockholders Agreement), Mr. Helms has the right to vote a number of shares of common stock in respect of the election of directors sufficient to elect all of the directors of the Company. Each director is to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders (or written consent in lieu thereof) and until his successor is elected and duly qualified. The Company, in turn, votes all of the Common Stock of the Company and, accordingly, has the right to elect all of its directors.

### **Audit Committee Financial Expert**

The Board of Directors has determined that Geoffrey J.F. Gorman qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as such term is defined in rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission implementing requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Board of Directors has further determined that Mr. Gorman is independent as such term is defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder.

### **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

The Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics has been approved by its Board of Directors and will apply to all of its executive officers and directors, including its principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer. The Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics covers all areas of professional conduct including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest, disclosure obligations, insider trading, confidential information, as well as compliance with all laws, rules and regulations applicable to its business.

The Company undertakes to provide without charge to any person, upon request, a copy of its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Requests should be directed in writing to North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., Attention: General Counsel, 3029 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Louisville, Kentucky 40212.

**Table of Contents****Item 11. Executive Compensation**

The following table summarizes the compensation paid by the Company as well as certain other compensation paid or accrued, to the executives listed below for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 (each person appearing in the table is referred to as a Named Executive Officer ):

**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

| Name and Principal Position   | Year      | Annual Compensation |            |            | Long-Term Compensation |                   |              |           |             |
|---|-----------|---------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
|   |           | Salary (\$)         | Bonus (\$) | Other (\$) | Awards                 |                   | Payouts      |           |             |
|   |           |                     |            |            | Restricted             | Securities        | LTIP Payouts | All Other |             |
|   |           |                     |            |            | Awards(s)              | Options/ SARs (#) |              |           | Compen-     |
| Compen-   | Awards(s) | Options/ SARs (#)   | Payouts    | Compen-    |                        |                   |              |           |             |
| Douglas P. Rosefsky<br>President and Chief Executive Officer          | 2005      |                     |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | (1)         |
| Thomas F. Helms, Jr.<br>Executive Chairman of the Board               | 2005      | 725,000             |            | 50,000     |                        |                   |              |           | 334,514 (2) |
|   | 2004      | 725,000             | 750,000    | 50,000     |                        |                   |              |           | 130,726 (3) |
|   | 2003      | 725,000             |            | 50,000     |                        |                   |              |           | 91,808 (4)  |
| Lawrence Wexler<br>Chief Operating Officer                            | 2005      | 385,000             | 50,000     |            |                        |                   |              |           | 40,887 (5)  |
|   | 2004      | 350,000             |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | 33,358 (6)  |
|   | 2003      |                     | 50,000     |            |                        |                   |              |           |             |
| Brian C. Harriss<br>Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2005      | 315,000             |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | 6,719 (7)   |
|   | 2004      |                     |            |            |                        |                   |              |           |             |
|   | 2003      |                     |            |            |                        |                   |              |           |             |
| James W. Dobbins<br>Senior Vice President and General Counsel         | 2005      | 235,000             | 40,000     |            |                        |                   |              |           | 17,996 (8)  |
|   | 2004      | 227,500             | 23,000     |            |                        |                   |              |           | 23,584 (9)  |
|   | 2003      | 220,000             |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | 12,817 (10) |
| James M. Murray<br>Senior Vice President, Market Planning & Strategy  | 2005      | 226,100             |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | 9,827 (11)  |
|   | 2004      | 215,300             | 43,000     |            |                        |                   |              |           | 21,281 (12) |
|   | 2003      | 215,000             |            |            |                        |                   |              |           | 16,731 (13) |

(1) See Recent Events for a discussion of the Company's engagement of Mr. Rosefsky's firm Alvarez & Marsal.

(2) Includes insurance premiums of \$66,025 paid by the Company with respect to term life and disability insurance, contributions by the Company of \$12,600 to a defined contribution plan, tax reimbursements of \$217,000, an allowance for use of a Company provided vehicle of \$16,510, unused vacation reimbursement of \$8,365, \$7,483 for club memberships, \$2,450 for commuting expenses and \$4,080 for personal use of a company leased car and driver for security purposes.

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**Table of Contents**

- (3) Includes insurance premiums of \$66,025 paid by the Company with respect to term life and disability insurance, contributions by the Company of \$16,000 to a defined contribution plan, an allowance for use of a Company provided vehicle of \$27,839, unused vacation reimbursement of \$8,365, \$6,110 for club memberships, \$2,300 for commuting expenses and \$4,087 for personal use of a company leased car and driver for security purposes.
- (4) Includes insurance premiums of \$41,917 paid by the Company with respect to term life and disability insurance, contributions by the Company of \$14,000 to a defined contribution plan, \$2,789 for unused vacation, \$8,174 for club memberships, an allowance for use of a Company provided vehicle of \$18,108 and \$4,080 for personal use of a company leased car and driver for security purposes.
- (5) Includes contributions by the Company of \$9,046 to a defined contribution plan, an allowance for use of a Company provided vehicle of \$10,856, unused vacation reimbursement of \$16,153 and \$4,832 for miscellaneous payments.
- (6) Includes insurance premiums of \$3,000 paid by the Company with respect to term life insurance, contributions by the Company of \$15,423 to a defined contribution plan, an allowance for use of a Company provided vehicle of \$9,729, and \$5,206 for miscellaneous payments.
- (7) Includes \$6,719 for a car allowance.
- (8) Includes contributions by the Company of \$4,074 to a defined contribution plan, \$3,502 for tax related payments, \$3,423 for unused vacation, \$3,882 for a club membership and \$3,085 for miscellaneous payments.
- (9) Includes contributions by the Company of \$7,967 to a defined contribution plan, \$5,250 for unused vacation, \$9,819 for a club membership and \$548 for miscellaneous payments.
- (10) Includes contributions by the Company of \$7,914 to a defined contribution plan, \$3,808 for unused vacation and \$1,095 for miscellaneous payments.
- (11) Includes contributions by the Company of \$5,479 to a defined contribution plan and \$4,348 for unused vacation.
- (12) Includes contributions by the Company of \$13,000 to a defined contribution plan and \$8,281 for unused vacation.
- (13) Includes contributions by the Company of \$12,000 to a defined contribution plan and \$4,731 for unused vacation.

OPTION/SAR GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

There were no stock options relating to the Company's common stock granted to the Named Executive Officers for the year ended December 31, 2005.

AGGREGATED OPTION/SAR EXERCISES DURING LAST FISCAL YEAR

AND FISCAL YEAR-END OPTION/SAR VALUES

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the exercise of options to purchase the Company's common stock during 2005, and the unexercised options held and the value thereof at December 31, 2005, for each of the Named Executive Officers. On February 8, 2006, pursuant to the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (see "2006 Equity Incentive Plan"), the Board of Directors of the Company approved grants of restricted stock to Messrs. Wexler, Harriss, Dobbins and Murray. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to such individuals will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the awards had not yet been granted.

**Table of Contents**

| Name                    | Shares       |               | Number of Securities           |               | Value of Unexercised |               |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
|                         | Acquired on  | Value         | Underlying Unexercised Options |               | In-the-Money Option  |               |
|                         | Exercise (#) | Realized (\$) | at Fiscal Year End             |               | At Fiscal Year End   |               |
|                         |              |               | Exercisable                    | Unexercisable | Exercisable          | Unexercisable |
| Douglas P. Rosefsky     |              |               |                                |               |                      |               |
| Thomas F. Helms, Jr.    |              |               |                                |               |                      |               |
| David I. Brunson        |              |               |                                | 41,024        |                      |               |
| Lawrence S. Wexler      |              |               |                                | 5,000         | 5,000                |               |
| Robert A. Milliken, Jr. |              |               |                                |               |                      |               |
| Brian C. Harriss        |              |               |                                |               |                      |               |
| James W. Dobbins        |              |               |                                | 3,556         | 444                  |               |
| James M. Murray         |              |               |                                | 3,556         | 444                  |               |

**LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN**

The Company has no current Long Term Incentive Plan in place.

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

Senior Executive and Director Compensation is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. Mr. Helms, Executive Chairman and an employee of the Company, recluses himself from decisions pertaining to his compensation and that of Mr. Kent Helms and Mr. Thomas Helms III, his sons and employees of the Company. On certain compensation matters and programs, the Board is advised by independent outside counsel. For information concerning related-party transactions involving Mr. Helms or the members of the Board of Directors, see Item 13, Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.

**Compensation of Directors**

Generally, directors who do not receive compensation as officers or employees of the Company or any of its affiliates will be paid an annual retainer fee of \$25,000, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, for their services on the Board and its committees. Geoffrey Gorman will receive an additional \$25,000 for serving as Chairman of the Audit Committee. For services provided to the Company in 2005 beyond those typically provided by corporate directors, the outside directors will be compensated \$1,500 per day.

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS****Thomas F. Helms Jr.**

Thomas F. Helms, Jr., current Executive Chairman of the Board and former Chief Executive Officer of the Company, was party to an employment agreement with the Company, dated May 17, 1996 (the Helms Employment Agreement). Pursuant to the Helms Employment Agreement, which has been terminated as discussed below, Mr. Helms was to receive an annual base salary of \$300,000, which was to be reviewed annually, plus a bonus in accordance with the Company's 1999 Executive Plan. In 2005, Mr. Helms' salary was \$725,000. The Helms Employment Agreement provided for a three-year term, renewable annually, and was terminable at will except with respect to severance. In addition, Mr. Helms received various other benefits, including life insurance and health, hospitalization, use of a company car, disability and pension benefits and other perquisites. The Helms Employment Agreement included a non-compete provision for a minimum of twelve months following the termination of Mr. Helms' employment as well as for any period during which severance is paid to Mr. Helms. Mr. Helms was entitled to twelve months' severance and a continuation of benefits following a termination of his employment by the Company without cause, provided in such event that the bonus received was to be only for the year in which the termination occurred and prorated.

On February 14, 2006, NTC, a subsidiary of the Company, delivered a notice to Mr. Helms terminating the Helms Employment Agreement effective upon the conclusion of the renewal term ending May 16, 2006. On February 21, 2006, the Company, entered into an Employment Agreement dated as of February 14, 2006 (the New Helms Employment Agreement) with Mr. Helms providing for his employment with the Company as Executive Chairman of the Board (and for him to serve as an officer or director of any subsidiary or affiliate of the Company, without any additional compensation), effective May 17, 2006. Pursuant to the New Helms Employment Agreement, Mr. Helms is to receive an annual base salary of \$482,000, to be reviewed annually. The New Helms Employment Agreement provides for a one-year term (beginning May 17, 2006), renewable automatically on an annual basis unless notice of non-renewal is given by either party at least 90 days prior to the end of the renewal term. Mr. Helms will be entitled to all rights and benefits for which he shall be eligible under any incentive program, retirement,

retirement savings, profit sharing, pension or welfare benefit plan, life, disability, health,

**Table of Contents**

dental, hospitalization and other forms of insurance and all other so called fringe benefits or perquisites, in each case at the level as is generally provided to other senior executives of the Company. In addition, he shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the Company for the cost of one automobile lease, the cost of one parking garage space for the leased automobile and the cost of one club membership, and the interest payments on certain loan obligations of Mr. Helms, otherwise payable by Mr. Helms in March 2006 and March 2007, may be deferred until maturity of such obligations in March 2008. Mr. Helms is entitled to twelve months severance and a continuation of benefits following a termination of his employment by the Company without Cause or by Mr. Helms for Good Reason (as such terms are defined in the New Helms Employment Agreement). The New Employment Agreement includes a non-compete provision for any period during which severance is paid to Mr. Helms.

**David I. Brunson**

David I. Brunson, the former President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company, entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with the Company on April 30, 1998 which was subsequently amended on November 21, 2002 (as so amended, the Brunson Employment Agreement). Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, Mr. Brunson received an annual base salary of \$600,000, which was reviewed annually, plus a bonus in accordance with the Company's 1999 Executive Plan. The Brunson Employment Agreement provided for a rolling two-year term such that in the event Mr. Brunson resigned for good reason or was terminated without cause, he was entitled to receive a severance payment in the amount of \$425,000 per year, and a pro rated bonus (based on the highest earned bonus under the Executive Bonus Plan paid to Mr. Brunson during the preceding two years) for the remainder of the term of employment. The Brunson Employment Agreement was effectively terminated with his resignation on January 19, 2005. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, the Company was required to make certain severance payments to Mr. Brunson, including \$425,000, which was paid within ten business days after January 19, 2005, and an additional \$425,000 which was paid in bi-weekly installments from January 20, 2005 through January 19, 2006. In addition, Mr. Brunson may become entitled to a bonus payment of up to \$725,000 relating to synergies achieved in the integration of the business of Stoker, Inc. which was acquired by the Company in 2003. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, after the last severance payment is made, Mr. Brunson will have an option to require the Company to repurchase all or a portion of his shares of the Company at their fair market value. The Company will not be obligated to repurchase these shares if, upon or after the payment, it would be in default under any instrument, agreement or law by which it is bound; in this case, the repurchase may be deferred until it can be completed without such default. Similarly, the Company has an option to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares at their fair market value. In the event the Company and Mr. Brunson are unable to agree upon the fair market value of these shares, an independent investment banking firm will be selected to determine such fair market value, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Brunson Employment Agreement. If neither Mr. Brunson nor the Company exercise their respective options by the earliest of the fifth anniversary of the termination of Mr. Brunson's employment or the date on which the Company refinances, or uses proceeds derived from refinancing, certain of its obligations, the Company will be required to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares on such date unless Mr. Brunson waives his right to require the Company to purchase his shares. During the first quarter of 2005, the Company recorded approximately \$1.1 million relating to the resignation of Mr. Brunson. Any options or shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Brunson vest in full as of the date of such termination.

Mr. Brunson received signing and stay bonuses, each in the amount of \$300,000, upon the execution of the Brunson Employment Agreement and on February 28, 1999, respectively. In addition, for a period of twelve months following his resignation, Mr. Brunson received various other benefits, including life insurance and medical, disability, pension benefits, club memberships, a company car, and reimbursements of certain expenses. The Brunson Employment Agreement included a non-compete provision for a minimum of twelve months following the termination of Mr. Brunson's employment and for any subsequent period during which severance was paid to Mr. Brunson.

Pursuant to a non-qualified stock option agreement, Mr. Brunson was granted options to purchase 30,928 shares of Common Stock of the Company. One-third of these options vested as of the closing of the 1997 Acquisition and one-third of these options vested on each of April 23, 1998 and April 23, 1999. In connection with the exercise of such options and subject to certain limitations, including a requirement that Mr. Brunson shall not leave, resign or be terminated for cause, the Company has agreed to pay Mr. Brunson an amount equal to the sum of (i) the difference between ordinary income and long-term capital gain tax liability for reportable income resulting from any exercise of the options, plus (ii) a gross-up to compensate for the additional ordinary income tax liability resulting from the payment of such amount.

In addition, the Board of Directors of the Company has approved an incentive compensation arrangement for Mr. Brunson relating to the integration of Stoker. Under this arrangement, Mr. Brunson is eligible to receive up to \$725,000 in the event that in excess of \$4.0 million of synergies are achieved following the integration of Stoker, as determined by the Board of Directors.

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**Table of Contents**

**Lawrence S. Wexler**

Lawrence S. Wexler, the President and Chief Operating Officer of NACC, has an employment agreement, dated December 1, 2003 (the "Wexler Agreement") with NACC, pursuant to which he receives a base annual salary of \$350,000, plus a bonus in accordance with the Company's Management Bonus Plan. The agreement also provides for severance benefits of one year's salary, and certain bonuses. In addition, the agreement provides for certain other benefits during his employment, such as options to purchase 10,000 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$62.00 per share, use of a company car, reimbursement for some club membership dues, and reimbursement for life and disability insurance. On June 8, 2005, the Company appointed Mr. Wexler Chief Operating Officer pursuant to an employment agreement (the "Wexler COO Agreement") dated June 8, 2005, which supersedes and replaces the Wexler Agreement, pursuant to which Mr. Wexler will: (1) earn an annual base salary of \$385,000 and be eligible for a maximum potential management bonus of 50% of annual base salary; (2) forfeit all stock option rights granted but not vested prior to June 8, 2005, and to replace the options forfeited, Mr. Wexler will be issued stock options or restricted stock under terms no less favorable than his existing stock option grant; (3) receive 4 weeks paid vacation; (4) receive a car allowance of \$500 per month following termination of the lease for the vehicle currently leased by the Company for Mr. Wexler's use; and (5) be eligible to join the Company's group benefit plans. Mr. Wexler's employment may be severed at any time, subject to certain terms and conditions contained in the Employment Agreement. Upon a termination without cause (as defined in the Wexler COO Agreement), Mr. Wexler will be paid an amount equal to his then current annual compensation which will include his base salary for a period of 12 months. Additionally, Mr. Wexler will receive an amount equal to the average annual management bonus paid to him for the prior two calendar years (with a deemed bonus of \$100,000 for 2004, and also for 2005 if Mr. Wexler is terminated without cause in 2005 or prior to the bonus determination date in 2006 without having received an actual management bonus for 2005), and Mr. Wexler will be paid any accrued or unpaid management bonus to the date of termination for the year in which the termination occurs. Further, for a period of up to 12 months after termination, Mr. Wexler may elect continuation coverage under the Company's group health plan at his same level of contribution. The Wexler COO Agreement contains certain other customary terms and conditions, including certain restrictive covenants proscribing competition with the Company for a period of time after employment therewith. On February 8, 2006, pursuant to the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (see "2006 Equity Incentive Plan"), the Board approved a grant of 24,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Wexler. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to Mr. Wexler will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the award had not yet been granted.

**Robert A. Milliken, Jr.**

Robert A. Milliken, Jr., former President and Chief Operating Officer of NTC, resigned on June 30, 2005. He was party to an employment agreement with NATC dated March 28, 2002 (the "Milliken Employment Agreement") pursuant to which Mr. Milliken received a base annual salary of \$350,000, plus a bonus in accordance with the Company's Management Bonus Plan (as defined). The Milliken Employment Agreement provided for a rolling twelve month term, such that in the event of termination of Mr. Milliken's employment by the Company without cause, Mr. Milliken was entitled to receive his then current annual salary, plus an amount equal to his bonus in the prior year. The Milliken Employment Agreement also provided for club membership dues and disability insurance, use of a company car, as well as a stock option to purchase 10,000 shares of the common stock of the Company at an exercise price of \$62.00 per share.

**Brian C. Harriss**

Brian C. Harriss, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of the Company, has an employment agreement with NATC, dated March 10, 2005 (the "Harriss Agreement"), pursuant to which Mr. Harriss will: (1) earn an annual base salary of \$315,000 and be eligible for a management bonus with a target set at 50% of annual base salary; (2) receive a grant to purchase 10,000 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of not more than \$62 per share and upon substantially similar terms and conditions to the Company's 2002 Share Incentive Plan, vesting in four equal installments on the first four anniversaries of commencement of employment; (3) receive 4 weeks paid vacation; (4) receive a car allowance of \$500 per month; and (5) be eligible to join the Companies' group benefit plans. Subject to being employed for at least six months, upon a termination without cause (as defined in the Harriss Agreement), Mr. Harriss will be paid an amount equal to his then current annual base salary over 12 months. Additionally, Mr. Harriss will also receive any earned management bonus which he was awarded for the prior year's employment. Mr. Harriss will retain any vested stock options, but will forfeit all unvested stock options, and for a period of up to 12 months, the Company will continue to pay certain group health benefits for Mr. Harriss. As a condition to receiving severance, Mr. Harriss is required to demonstrate reasonable efforts to

**Table of Contents**

search for other employment, and if he obtains other employment, the severance will be reduced by his new salary. The Harriss Agreement contains certain other customary terms and conditions, including certain restrictive covenants proscribing competition with the Company for a period of time after employment. On February 8, 2006, pursuant to the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (see 2006 Equity Incentive Plan ), the Board approved a grant of 20,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Harriss. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to Mr. Harriss will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the award had not yet been granted.

**James W. Dobbins**

James W. Dobbins, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company, has an employment agreement with NATC, dated November 21, 2002 (the Dobbins Agreement ), pursuant to which Mr. Dobbins is paid \$227,500, subject to annual review by the Board of Directors, is included in the Management Bonus Plan, and is granted additional benefits such as life insurance, stock options and reimbursement for a club membership as well as stock options to purchase 2,000 shares of the common stock of the Company at an exercise price of \$9.99 per share and 2,000 shares at an exercise price of \$62.00 per share. The Dobbins Agreement provides for a rolling twelve month term, such that in the event of termination of Mr. Dobbins employment by the Company without cause, Mr. Dobbins is entitled to receive his then current annual salary plus an amount equal to his bonus in the prior year. On February 8, 2006, pursuant to the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (see 2006 Equity Incentive Plan ), the Board approved a grant of 8,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Dobbins. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to Mr. Dobbins will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the award had not yet been granted.

**James M. Murray**

James M. Murray, Senior Vice President Market Planning & Strategy, has an employment agreement, dated December 1, 2003 (the Murray Agreement ), with NTC pursuant to which he receives a base annual salary of \$215,300, plus a bonus in accordance with the Company s Management Bonus Plan. The agreement also provides for a rolling twelve month term, such that in the event of termination of Mr. Murray by the Company without cause, Mr. Murray is entitled to receive his then current annual salary. The Murray Agreement also provides for certain benefits in the event that Mr. Murray is relocated to the Louisville, Kentucky facility, such as, use of a company vehicle and a club membership, as well as stock options to purchase 2,000 shares of the Company s common stock at an exercise price of \$9.99 per share and 2,000 shares at an exercise price of \$62.00 per share. On February 8, 2006, pursuant to the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (see 2006 Equity Incentive Plan ), the Board approved a grant of 3,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Dobbins. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to Mr. Dobbins will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the award had not yet been granted.

**Retirement Plan**

Effective December 31, 2003, the Company froze its defined benefit retirement plan for its salaried employees.

The table below illustrates the approximate amounts of annual normal retirement benefits, subject to the above action.

| Average Compensation | Annual Benefits at Retirement with       |           |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | Years of Credited Service <sup>(1)</sup> |           |           |           |           |           |
|                      | 10                                       | 15        | 20        | 25        | 30        | 35        |
| \$125,000            | \$ 15,000                                | \$ 22,500 | \$ 30,000 | \$ 37,500 | \$ 45,000 | \$ 52,500 |
| 150,000              | 18,000                                   | 27,000    | 36,000    | 45,000    | 54,000    | 63,000    |
| 175,000              | 21,000                                   | 31,500    | 42,000    | 52,500    | 63,000    | 73,500    |
| 200,000              | 24,000                                   | 36,000    | 48,000    | 60,000    | 72,000    | 84,000    |
| 225,000              | 27,000                                   | 40,500    | 54,000    | 67,500    | 81,000    | 94,500    |
| 250,000              | 30,000                                   | 45,000    | 60,000    | 75,000    | 90,000    | 105,000   |
| 300,000              | 36,000                                   | 54,000    | 72,000    | 90,000    | 108,000   | 126,000   |
| 400,000              | 48,000                                   | 72,000    | 96,000    | 120,000   | 144,000   | 168,000   |
| 450,000              | 54,000                                   | 81,000    | 108,000   | 135,000   | 162,000   | 189,000   |
| 500,000              | 60,000                                   | 90,000    | 120,000   | 150,000   | 180,000   | 210,000   |



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- (1) Actual amounts paid under the Retirement Plan may be less than the amounts set forth on the table due to IRC limitations.

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## **Table of Contents**

The Company has a noncontributory, defined benefit retirement plan (the Retirement Plan ), which covers all full-time employees, including officers, upon completing one year of service.

A participant in the Retirement Plan becomes fully vested prior to normal retirement at age 65 upon the completion of five years of service. Benefits are also provided under the Retirement Plan in the event of early retirement at or after age 55 and the completion of at least ten years of service (or special early retirement after completion of 30 years of service) and in the event of retirement for disability after completion of five years of service. The amount of the contribution, payment, or accrual with respect to a specified person is not and cannot readily be separately or individually calculated by the actuaries for the Retirement Plan. Benefits under the Retirement Plan are based upon application of a formula to the specified average compensation and years of credited service at normal retirement age. Compensation covered by the Retirement Plan consists of the average annual salary during any five consecutive calendar years in the last ten years of an employee's service, which affords the highest salary, or, if employed for less than five years, the average annual salary for the years employed. The benefits are not subject to any deduction for social security payments. Estimated credited years of service under the Retirement Plan for the Named Executive Officers are as follows: Thomas F. Helms, Jr., 18 years; Lawrence S. Wexler, 2 years; Brian C. Harriss, 0 years; James W. Dobbins, 6 years; and James M. Murray, 5 years.

### **Bonus Plans**

In March 1999, the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors adopted the 1999 Executive Incentive Plan (the 1999 Executive Plan ), the 1999 Management Bonus Plan (the Management Plan ) and the 1999 Discretionary Bonus Plan (the Discretionary Plan ). The 1999 Executive Plan provides executive members of the Company with the opportunity to receive bonus pay based on the Company's annual performance, as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, as adjusted for certain non-cash add-backs, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board of Directors can make discretionary bonus payments to one or more participants in the 1999 Executive Plan. The Management Plan provides certain members of senior management of the Operating Companies with the opportunity to receive bonus pay based on the Company's annual performance as well as the individual performance of participants, subject to approval of Executive Management. If the Company's annual performance is not achieved, Executive Management, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, can make discretionary bonus payments. Under the Discretionary Plan, Executive Management, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, may provide discretionary bonus payments to employees who are not participants in any other bonus plan established by the Company based on individual levels of performance. In addition, the Board of Directors may, from time to time, pay discretionary bonuses outside of the above mentioned plans.

### **1997 Share Incentive Plan**

The Board of Directors of the Company has adopted, and the Company's stockholders have approved, the North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 1997 Share Incentive Plan (the 1997 Incentive Plan ), which, as a result of the 2004 reorganization, now relates to the shares of Company Common Stock.

The 1997 Incentive Plan is intended to provide incentives, which will attract and retain highly competent persons as key employees of the Company and its subsidiaries by providing them opportunities to acquire shares of stock or to receive monetary payments based on the value of such shares pursuant to the Benefits (as defined).

#### *Shares Available*

The 1997 Incentive Plan makes available for Benefits an aggregate amount of 61,856 shares of Company Common Stock (all of which have been granted), subject to certain adjustments. Any shares of Common Stock subject to a stock option or stock appreciation right which for any reason is cancelled or terminated without having been exercised, and subject to limited exceptions, any shares subject to stock awards, performance awards or stock units which are forfeited, any shares subject to performance awards settled in cash or any shares delivered to the Company as part of full payment for the exercise of a stock option or stock appreciation right shall again be available for Benefits under the 1997 Incentive Plan.

#### *Administration*

The 1997 Incentive Plan provides for administration by a committee (the Administration Committee ) appointed by the Board of Directors from among its members. Currently, the sole member of the Administration Committee is Thomas F. Helms, Jr. The Administration Committee is authorized, subject to the provisions of the 1997 Incentive Plan, to establish such rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the proper administration of the 1997 Incentive Plan and to make such determinations and interpretations and to take such action in connection with the 1997 Incentive Plan and any Benefits



## **Table of Contents**

granted as it deems necessary or advisable. Thus, among the Administration Committee's powers are the authority to select officers and other key employees of the Company and its subsidiaries to receive Benefits, and determine the form, amount and other terms and conditions of Benefits. The Administration Committee also has the power to modify or waive restrictions on Benefits, to amend Benefits and to grant extensions and accelerations of Benefits.

### *Eligibility for Participation*

Key employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries are eligible to participate in the 1997 Incentive Plan. The selection of participants from eligible key employees is within the discretion of the Administration Committee. All employees are currently eligible to participate in the Incentive Plan. The 1997 Incentive Plan provides for the grant of any or all of the following types of benefits: (1) stock options, including incentive stock options and non-qualified stock options; (2) stock appreciation rights; (3) stock awards, including restricted stock; (4) performance awards; and (5) stock units (collectively, the Benefits). Benefits may be granted singly, in combination, or in tandem as determined by the Administration Committee. Stock awards, performance awards and stock units may, as determined by the Administration Committee in its discretion, constitute Performance-Based Awards, as described below.

### *Stock Options*

Under the 1997 Incentive Plan, the Administration Committee may grant awards in the form of options to purchase shares of Company Common Stock. Options may be either incentive stock options, qualifying for special tax treatment, or non-qualified stock options. The exercise price may be paid in cash or, in the discretion of the Administration Committee, by the delivery of shares of Common Stock of the Company then owned by the participant, by the withholding of shares of Common Stock for which a stock option is exercisable, or by a combination of these methods. In the discretion of the Administration Committee, payment may also be made by delivering a properly executed exercise notice to the Company together with a copy of irrevocable instructions to a broker to deliver promptly to the Company the amount of sale or loan proceeds to pay the exercise price. The Administration Committee may prescribe any other method of paying the exercise price that it determines to be consistent with applicable law and the purpose of the 1997 Incentive Plan. In determining which methods a participant may utilize to pay the exercise price, the Administration Committee may consider such factors as it determines are appropriate.

### *Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs)*

The 1997 Incentive Plan authorizes the Administration Committee to grant a SAR either in tandem with a stock option or independent of a stock option. An SAR is a right to receive a payment, in cash, Common Stock or a combination thereof, equal to the excess of (x) the fair market value, or other specified valuation (which shall not be greater than the fair market value), of a specified number of shares of Common Stock on the date the right is exercised over (y) the fair market value, or other specified valuation (which shall not be less than fair market value), of such shares of Common Stock on the date the right is granted, all as determined by the Administration Committee. Each SAR shall be subject to such terms and conditions, as the Administration Committee shall impose from time to time.

### *Stock Awards*

The 1997 Incentive Plan authorizes the Administration Committee to grant awards in the form of restricted or unrestricted shares of Common Stock ( Stock Awards ), which includes mandatory stock bonus incentive compensation and which may constitute Performance-Based Awards. Such awards will be subject to such terms, conditions, restrictions, and/or limitations, if any, as the Administration Committee deems appropriate including, but not by way of limitation, restrictions on transferability, continued employment and performance goals established by the Administration Committee over a designated period of time.

### *Performance Awards*

The 1997 Incentive Plan allows for the grant of performance awards, which may take the form of shares of Common Stock or stock units, or any combination thereof and which may constitute Performance-Based Awards. Such awards will be contingent upon the attainment over a period to be determined by the Administration Committee of certain performance goals. The length of the performance period, the performance goals to be achieved and the measure of whether and to what degree such goals have been achieved will be determined by the Administration Committee. Payment of earned performance awards will be made in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed or authorized by the Administration Committee. The participant may elect to defer, or the Administration Committee may require the deferral of, the receipt of performance awards upon such terms, as the Administration Committee deems appropriate.



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## **Table of Contents**

### *Stock Units*

The Administration Committee may, in its discretion, grant Stock Units to participants, which may constitute Performance-Based Awards. A Stock Unit means a notational account representing one share of Common Stock. The Administration Committee determines the criteria for the vesting of Stock Units and whether a participant granted a Stock Unit should be entitled to Dividend Equivalent rights (as defined in the 1997 Incentive Plan). Upon vesting of a Stock Unit, unless the Administration Committee has determined to defer payment with respect to such unit or a participant has elected to defer payment, shares of Common Stock representing the Stock Units will be distributed to the participant unless the Administration Committee, with the consent of the participant, provides for the payment of the Stock Units in cash, or partly in cash and partly in shares of Common Stock, equal to the value of the shares of Common Stock which would otherwise be distributed to the participant.

### *Other Terms of Benefits*

The 1997 Incentive Plan provides that Benefits shall not be transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. The Administration Committee shall determine the treatment to be afforded to a participant in the event of termination of employment for any reason including death, disability, or retirement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, other than with respect to incentive stock options, the Administration Committee may permit the transferability of an award by a participant to members of the participant's immediate family or trusts for the benefit of such person or family partnerships. Upon the grant of any Benefit under the 1997 Incentive Plan, the Administration Committee may, by way of an agreement with the participant, establish such other terms, conditions, restrictions and/or limitations covering the grant of the Benefit as are not inconsistent with the 1997 Incentive Plan. No Benefit shall be granted under the 1997 Incentive Plan after June 25, 2007. The Board of Directors reserves the right to amend, suspend or terminate the 1997 Incentive Plan at any time, subject to the rights of participants with respect to any outstanding Benefits.

The 1997 Incentive Plan contains provisions for equitable adjustment of Benefits in the event of a merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, split up, spin-off, combination of shares, exchange of shares, dividend in kind or other like change in capital structure or distribution (other than normal cash dividends) to stockholders of the Company.

### **2002 Share Incentive Plan**

In November 2002, the Board of Directors of the Company adopted the North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 2002 Share Incentive Plan (the 2002 Plan), which, as a result of the 2004 reorganization, now relates to the shares of the Company Common Stock. The 2002 Plan has terms that are substantially identical to the terms of the 1997 Share Incentive Plan. The Company has reserved 50,000 shares of Common Stock for benefits under the 2002 Plan. A nearly identical plan that had been approved by the Board of Directors in 2001 (the North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 2001 Share Incentive Plan) and under which no awards had been granted, was terminated by the Board of Directors in connection with the adoption of the 2002 Share Incentive Plan.

### **2006 Equity Incentive Plan**

On February 8, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Company, adopted the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the Plan) and approved a form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement (the Form Award Agreement) pursuant to which awards under the Plan may be granted to employees. The Plan provides for the granting of nonqualified stock options and restricted stock awards. Pursuant to the Plan, 175,503 shares of common stock of the Company are reserved for issuance as awards to employees, consultants and directors as compensation for past or future services or the attainment of certain performance goals.

The Plan will be administered by the Board of Directors of the Company or by a committee appointed by the Board. Subject to the express limitations of the Plan, the Board will have the authority to construe and interpret the provisions of the Plan, determine the persons to whom, and the times at which, awards may be granted, the number of shares, units or other rights subject to each award, the exercise, base or purchase price of an award (if any), the time or times at which an award will become vested, exercisable to payable, the performance goals and other conditions of an award, the duration of the award and all other terms of the award. The Board may provide that awards under the Plan shall become vested in installments over a period of time or may specify that the attainment of certain performance measures will determine the degree of vesting, or a combination of both, as set forth in the applicable award agreements. The Plan is scheduled to terminate on February 17, 2016, the day before the tenth anniversary of its adoption by the Board. However, the Board may, in its discretion, terminate the Plan, or amend or suspend the Plan, at any time and for any reason.

**Table of Contents**

Pursuant to the Plan and the Form Award Agreement, on February 8, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Company approved grants of restricted stock to certain of the Company's executive officers as follows: 20,000 shares were granted to Mr. Harriss, 24,000 shares were granted to Mr. Wexler, 8,000 shares were granted to Mr. Dobbins and 3,000 shares were granted to Mr. Murray. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to these individuals will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the awards had not yet been granted.

On March 15, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Company approved a form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement pursuant to which awards under the Plan may be granted to non-employee directors (the Director Form Award Agreement). Pursuant to the Plan and the Director Form Award Agreement, the Board of Directors of the Company approved grants of 2,500 shares of restricted stock to each of the Company's non-employee directors, Jack Africk, Marc S. Cooper and Geoffrey J. F. Gorman. As a condition of the award, any and all stock options (vested or otherwise) previously granted to these individuals will be immediately cancelled as of the date of the award. As of March 31, 2006, the awards had not yet been granted.

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

The table below sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock of the Company as of March 15, 2006, by (i) each person or entity who beneficially owns five percent or more of the common stock, (ii) each of the Company's directors and Named Executive Officers and (iii) all of the Company's directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, each beneficial owner's address is c/o North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., 3029 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Louisville, Kentucky 40212. See Executive Compensation Employment Agreements 2006 Equity Incentive Plan with respect to certain restricted stock award grants.

| Beneficial Owner   | Number of Shares | Percent Owned <sup>(a)</sup>   |                               |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                  | Before Exercise<br>of Warrants | After Exercise<br>of Warrants |
| Thomas F. Helms, Jr. <sup>(b)</sup>  |                  |                                |                               |
| Helms Management Corp.   | 461,285          | 78.3%                          | 74.1%                         |
| David I. Brunson <sup>(c)</sup>  | 49,810           | 7.8                            | 7.4                           |
| Herbert Morris <sup>(d)</sup>  |                  |                                |                               |
| Flowing Velvet Products, Inc.<br>3 Points of View<br>Warwick, New York 10990 | 35,479           | 6.0                            | 5.7                           |
| Jack Africk <sup>(e)</sup>   | 19,810           | 3.3                            | 3.1                           |
| Lawrence S. Wexler <sup>(f)</sup>  | 5,000            | *                              | *                             |
| James W. Dobbins <sup>(g)</sup>  | 3,556            | *                              | *                             |
| James M. Murray <sup>(h)</sup>   | 3,556            | *                              | *                             |
| Marc S. Cooper <sup>(i)</sup>  |                  |                                |                               |
| Peter J. Solomon Company Limited   | 3,000            | *                              | *                             |
| Geoffrey J.F. Gorman   |                  | *                              | *                             |
| Brian C. Harriss   |                  |                                |                               |
| Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (8 persons)                      | 488,359          | 79.3%                          | 75.6%                         |

\* Less than 1%.

(a) The percentages assume, in the column entitled "Before Exercise of Warrants," that none of the outstanding warrants (i) to purchase an aggregate of 16,091 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$.01 per share issued in connection with NATC's recapitalization in 1997, (ii) to purchase an aggregate of 3,000 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$40.00 per share, issued in 2003 to Peter J. Solomon Company Limited, and (iii) to purchase an aggregate of 14,721 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$62.00 per share, issued to Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, are exercised. The percentages assume, in the column entitled "After Exercise of Warrants," that all of such warrants are exercised.

**Table of Contents**

- (b) Helms Management Corp., all of the voting capital stock of which is owned by Mr. Helms, who serves as its Executive Chairman of the Board, and all of the non-voting capital stock of which is owned by a trust established by Mr. Helms for the benefit of his children, owns 251,033 shares of the Company's common stock, which represents approximately 36.6% of the outstanding shares, including currently exercisable options and assuming that none of the outstanding warrants are exercised, or 34.5% of the outstanding shares, including currently exercisable options and assuming that all such warrants are exercised. Because of Mr. Helms' ability to vote an additional 137,033 shares of the Company's common stock held by members of the Company's management in respect of the election of its directors pursuant to the Stockholders' Agreement, he may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of such additional shares. See Stockholders' Agreement. In connection with the transfer of 37,740 shares of the Company's common stock held by certain stockholders, the transferees of such shares granted Mr. Helms the right to vote such shares with respect to any and all matters submitted to a vote of the Company's stockholders and, consequently, Mr. Helms may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of such shares. In addition, Mr. Helms may be deemed the beneficial owner of 35,479 shares that are subject to a voting agreement between Helms Management Corp. and Flowing Velvet Products, Inc., and an additional 5,000 shares held by an outside investor that are subject to the voting agreement. See Voting Agreements.
- (c) Includes (i) 2,250 shares of the Company's common stock owned by Mr. Brunson, (ii) 41,024 shares subject to currently exercisable stock options held by Mr. Brunson. In addition, Mr. Brunson has the right to acquire 6,536 shares currently owned by Helms Management Corp.
- (d) Reflects shares held by the corporation listed below the name of such natural person. Such natural person owns all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of the corporation listed below the name of such natural person.
- (e) Includes 4,848 shares of the Company's common stock held by the Africk Family Foundation, Inc., of which Mr. Africk is the trustee and which may result in his being deemed a beneficial owner of such shares. In addition, 14,962 shares are subject to currently exercisable stock options.
- (f) Mr. Wexler holds 5,000 options currently exercisable.
- (g) Mr. Dobbins holds 3,556 options currently exercisable.
- (h) Mr. Murray holds 3,556 options currently exercisable.
- (i) The total includes a warrant issued to the corporation listed below the name of such natural person currently exercisable for 3,000 shares of the Company's common stock. Such person is a Managing Director of the corporation.



**Table of Contents****Equity Compensation Plan Information**

| Plan Category   | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities   |
|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |   | remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders <sup>(1)</sup> | 140,168   | \$ 43.33  | 6,000  |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders            |   |   |  |
| <b>Total</b>  | 140,168   | \$ 43.33  | 6,000  |

(1) Relates to the 1997 Share Incentive Plan and 2002 Share Incentive Plan, which are described in Item II above.

**Stockholders Agreement**

The Company, NATC and certain stockholders of the Company are parties to the Stockholders Agreement, setting forth among other things, the manner in which directors of the Company are to be selected. See Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant Election of Directors. Pursuant to the Stockholders Agreement, Mr. Helms has the right to vote a number of shares of common stock in respect of the election of directors sufficient to elect all the Company's directors. The Stockholders Agreement also sets forth certain restrictions on the transfer of shares of the Company's common stock by existing stockholders and on the acquisition by existing stockholders of investments in competitors of Bolloré. In addition, the Stockholders Agreement provides the existing stockholders with certain tag-along rights to participate ratably in sales of the Company's common stock to third parties and requires existing stockholders to participate ratably in certain sales of the Company's common stock to third parties. Subject to the terms of all applicable debt agreements of the Company and its subsidiaries, the Stockholders Agreement provides that the Company may maintain insurance on the lives of the members of its management officers and, in the event of the death of any such person, for the mandatory repurchase by the Company of all of such person's common stock at the fair market value thereof (which will be determined by an independent investment banking firm if the parties cannot otherwise agree upon such value) to the extent of available insurance proceeds, and the optional repurchase of additional shares of such person's common stock at such fair market value to the extent of available cash. Subject to the terms of all applicable debt agreements of the Company and its subsidiaries, the Company also has the right to repurchase the shares of its common stock held by members of management if their employment terminates, in the event of certain bankruptcy proceedings relating to such persons or upon an involuntary transfer of their shares by court order or otherwise in each case at the fair market value of such shares. The Company became a party to the Stockholders Agreement concurrently with the closing of the offering of the notes.

In addition, in connection with the transfer of 20,057 shares of Common Stock pursuant to the Stockholders Agreement, the transferees of such shares granted Mr. Helms the right to vote such shares with respect to any and all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders of the Company.

**Voting Agreements**

Helms Management Corp. and Flowing Velvet Products, Inc. ( Flowing Velvet ) are parties to a voting agreement, setting forth among other things the agreement by Flowing Velvet to vote in all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders in such manner as Flowing Velvet may be directed by Thomas F. Helms, Jr., the President of Helms Management Corp. In addition, in connection with the transfer of 32,115 shares of common stock pursuant to the Stockholders Agreement, the transferees of such shares granted Mr. Helms the right to vote such shares with respect to any and all matters submitted to a vote of the Company's stockholders.

**Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions**

On March 24, 1998, David I. Brunson, former President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company, purchased 2,250 shares of Common Stock from the Company at a price of \$40 per share. As part of the purchase price, Mr. Brunson issued a note to NATC in the aggregate principal amount of \$60,000. On March 31, 2002, Mr. Brunson issued a new note to NATC in the amount of \$60,000 replacing the previous note. The note bears interest at 5.0% per annum and has a final maturity on March 31, 2008.

**Table of Contents**

On April 26, 1988 and on December 15, 1988, Mr. Thomas F. Helms, Jr., former Chief Executive Officer of the Company, borrowed \$75,000 and \$45,000, respectively, in connection with the purchase of a portion of his partnership interest in NTC and executed two separate notes, payable to NATC. On April 14, 1998, Helms Management Corp., a corporation in which Mr. Helms owns all of the voting capital stock and a trust established by Mr. Helms for the benefit of his children which owns all of the non-voting capital stock, issued a promissory note to NATC in the aggregate principal amount of \$886,686, representing the principal on the notes discussed above, plus an additional loan by NATC in the amount of \$766,686 to cover certain income tax liabilities of Helms Management Corp. resulting from NATC's conversion from a limited liability company to a C corporation in connection with the Acquisition. Upon execution of the \$886,686 note, the prior notes issued by Mr. Helms were cancelled. On March 31, 2002, Helms Management Corp. issued a promissory note to NATC in the amount of \$958,499 and the prior note was cancelled. The current note bears interest at the rate of 5.0% per annum and has a final maturity on March 31, 2008. On January 4, 1999, Mr. Helms issued a promissory note to NATC, in the principal amount of \$150,000, for an additional loan by NATC to cover certain tax liabilities of Helms Management Corp. resulting from the above-mentioned LLC conversion. On April 20, 2001 and on November 12, 2001, additional loans, each in the amount of \$150,000, were made to Mr. Helms on the same terms as the existing loans. On March 31, 2002, Mr. Helms issued a promissory note to NATC in the principal amount of \$475,071 representing the principal amounts on the notes discussed above, plus accrued interest of \$25,071 and the prior notes were cancelled. The current note bears interest at the rate of 5.0% per annum and has a final maturity on March 31, 2008. In connection with the entering into of the New Employment Agreement between the Company and Mr. Helms, the Company agreed that the interest payments due on March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2007, with regard to the two separate Secured Promissory Notes issued by Mr. Helms to the Company on March 31, 2002 in the original principal amounts of \$958,449 and \$475,071, respectively, may be deferred and paid by Mr. Helms upon the maturity of such Secured Promissory Notes on March 31, 2008.

Kent Helms and Thomas F. Helms, III, sons of Thomas F. Helms, Jr., are employed by the Company. During 2005, Kent Helms, Marketing Manager, received aggregate compensation of \$93,577 and Thomas F. Helms, III, Regional Sales Manager, received aggregate compensation of \$99,843 for services in such capacities. Pursuant to a policy adopted by the Board of Directors, their compensation is subject to the approval of, and was approved by, the directors who are not members of management.

Jack Africk, the former President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, terminated his employment agreement with the Company effective December 31, 1998, but continues to serve as a member of the Company's Board of Directors. In connection with Mr. Africk's resignation from employment, he and the Company entered into a consulting agreement (the Africk Consulting Agreement) pursuant to which, Mr. Africk provides consulting services to the Company on an as needed basis at the rate of \$75,000 per annum. The Africk Consulting Agreement automatically renews annually and has been renewed through 2006. For 2002, Mr. Africk received \$75,000 pursuant to the terms of the Africk Consulting Agreement and an additional \$50,000 for consulting services that exceeded the extent of services contemplated by the Africk Consulting Agreement. For 2004, Mr. Africk's compensation under his agreement was \$100,000 and he received an additional \$52,000 for consulting services relating to the sales and distribution of the Company's products. For 2005 and 2006, Mr. Africk's consulting fee is \$75,000 per annum.

On November 8, 2002, the Company also entered into an agreement with Marketing Solutions USA, a company controlled by Mr. Africk, under which Marketing Solutions USA represents the Company with a specific customer, and receives a percentage commission. The agreement commenced January 1, 2003 and terminated on December 31, 2003. In 2004 and 2005, a similar agreement was entered into for which Mr. Africk received payment of \$51,935 and \$2,290, respectively. The Company has entered into a similar contract with Mr. Africk for 2006.

Mr. Africk also owns 50% of the executive search firm Bruce Edwards and Associates. From time to time, the Company contracts with that firm for retained executive searches. The Company paid Bruce Edwards and Associates approximately \$105,000 in 2005 for its services.

Marc S. Cooper is a Managing Director of Peter J. Solomon Company Limited (PJSC), an investment banking and financial advisory firm. In June 2001, the Company engaged PJSC to render general financial and strategic advisory services through May 1, 2004. As compensation therefor, the Company issued to PJSC, as a one time retainer fee, warrants to purchase 3,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$40.00 per share, and agreed to reimburse PJSC for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its provision of services.

On November 1, 2002, the Company engaged Peter J. Solomon Company to provide support in the form of financial analysis and modeling, and strategic advice with respect to the proposed purchase of assets of the Star Scientific, Inc. The term of the contract expired on March 31, 2003, and the Company paid Peter J. Solomon Company a total of \$250,000.

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**Table of Contents**

On September 18, 2003, the Company engaged Peter J. Solomon Company to provide support in the form of financial analysis and modeling, and strategic advice with respect to the refinancing transactions described herein. The term of the contract expired, and the Company paid Peter J. Solomon Securities Company Limited \$500,000 in 2003 and an additional \$1,000,000 upon the successful completion of the refinancing transactions in February 2004.

On January 20, 2005, the Company and NATC (collectively, the Companies ) engaged the management consulting firm of Alvarez & Marsal ( A&M ) to assist in the development of an assessment of the Companies operations and to identify the potential for performance improvement and cost reduction opportunities. In connection with such engagement, the Companies and A&M entered into an Engagement Letter Agreement, dated January 19, 2005 (the Letter Agreement ). Pursuant to the Letter Agreement, A&M agreed to make available to the Companies financial services of Douglas P. Rosefsky, its managing director, which services, upon the Companies request, will include serving as Chief Financial Officer of the Companies, as well as the services of an additional A&M professional as an assistant to Mr. Rosefsky, and, upon the Companies request, as Director-Finance of the Companies (the Additional Professional ).

Under the terms of the Letter Agreement, the Companies agreed to pay \$100,000 per month to A&M for the services of Mr. Rosefsky, and \$50,000 per month for the services of the Additional Professional. The Companies agreed to also compensate A&M for certain reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The Letter Agreement was amended on April 11, 2005 as described below.

In addition, on January 19, 2005, the Companies and A&M entered into the Indemnification Agreement (the Indemnification Agreement ), pursuant to which the Companies agreed to indemnify A&M and its agents against losses in connection with A&M s performance under the Letter Agreement.

On April 11, 2005, the Companies entered into an agreement (the Amended Letter Agreement ) with A&M which amends and restates the letter agreement with A&M dated January 19, 2005. The Amended Letter Agreement provides for A&M, among other things, to assist with the development and implementation of cost reduction and performance improvement opportunities, and to make available to the Companies the services of (i) Douglas P. Rosefsky, a managing director of A&M, which services will include serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Companies, (ii) an additional A&M professional as an assistant to Mr. Rosefsky and as Director-Finance of the Companies, and (iii) such other personnel as the parties agree to assist in the engagement.

Under the terms of the Amended Letter Agreement, the Companies will pay \$100,000 per month to A&M for the services of Mr. Rosefsky, \$50,000 per month for the services of the Additional Professional and amounts at specified hourly rates for other personnel (all of the foregoing discounted by 20% from and after the date of the Amended Letter Agreement). The Companies will also compensate A&M for certain reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The total fees paid to A&M for their services in 2005 were \$2,334,680, which included an incentive fee of \$316,667, as discussed below. Expense reimbursement paid to A&M in 2005 totaled \$245,986. Further, the Companies agreed to pay a cash incentive fee to A&M upon the closing of the refinancing of the Company s existing revolving credit facility, equal to 0.5% of the total commitment amount of the refinancing (reduced by \$50,000 per month for the period between the date of the Amended Letter Agreement and the closing of the refinancing, prorated for the actual number of days in the period). This incentive fee totaled \$316,667 and was paid to A&M in July 2005. A&M is also entitled to a fee based on improvement in the Companies financial performance as measured against the Companies 2005 Business Plan, to be paid upon the termination of the engagement (the Incentive Fee ). One portion of the Incentive Fee will be a specified percentage of the sustainable annualized EBITDA Improvement (as defined in the Amended Letter Agreement), and the other portion of the Incentive Fee will be in an amount to be determined by the boards of directors of the Companies in their reasonable judgment for significant and sustainable improvement in working capital investment and management, in each case as measured against the Companies 2005 Business Plan.

The Amended Letter Agreement may be terminated by either party without cause upon thirty day s written notice to the other party. Upon termination by the Companies without Cause or by A&M for Good Reason (each as defined in the Amended Letter Agreement), A&M will be entitled to receive the Incentive Fee if the applicable events occur within six months of termination. The Companies may immediately terminate A&M s services at any time for Cause upon written notice, and the Companies will be relieved of all of their payment obligations under the Amended Letter Agreement, except for the payment of fees and expenses through the effective date of termination and their indemnification obligations set forth in the Amended Letter Agreement.

The Companies have agreed in the Amended Letter Agreement to indemnify Mr. Rosefsky and the Additional Professional to the same extent as the most favorable indemnification it extends to any of its officers or directors.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The following summarizes the fees paid to the Company's principal accountant, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services to the Company and NATC in 2005 and the Company in 2004:

1) **Audit Fees**

The following fees were paid for professional services rendered by the principal accountant relating to the audit of annual financial statements and required quarterly and annual filings:

| 2005      | 2004       |
|-----------|------------|
| \$382,800 | \$ 309,722 |

2) **Audit-Related Fees**

The following fees were paid for professional services rendered by the principal accountant relating to assurance and related services of the post-retirement benefit plan (2003) and due diligence performed on a potential acquisition (2003):

| 2005 | 2004      |
|------|-----------|
| \$   | \$ 48,600 |

3) **Tax Fees**

The following fees were paid for professional services rendered by the principal accountant relating to tax preparation, planning and compliance services:

| 2005      | 2004       |
|-----------|------------|
| \$172,000 | \$ 150,982 |

4) **All Other Fees**

The following fees were paid for professional services rendered by the principal accountant relating to logistics consulting for a distribution systems modeling project (2004 and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance matters (2005):

| 2005 | 2004       |
|------|------------|
| \$   | \$ 164,850 |

**Table of Contents**

5) **Audit Committee Disclosures**

The Audit Committee has established policies and procedures related to the pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services and are contained within the Audit Committee Policies & Procedures for Principal Accountant Fees & Services.

The Policies & Procedures require the Audit Committee members, or one delegated independent director, to approve all audit and non-audit services performed by the principal accountants in advance of the activity by no less than thirty days prior to the start of the engagement.

Pre-approval requirements can be waived under the *de minimis* exception according to the following standards:

- 1) All non-audit services do not aggregate more than five percent (5%) of total revenues paid by the Company to its outside principal accountants in the fiscal year when services are provided,
- 2) Were not recognized as non-audit services at the time of the engagement, and
- 3) Are promptly brought to the attention of the Audit Committee or designated member of such, and approved prior to the completion of the audit.

The Policies & Procedures also require that the principal accountants prepare and submit an Annual Audit Plan outlining the audit strategy, scope and a schedule of fees for each audit service performed.

All audit and non-audit services were approved by the Audit Committee, in accordance with the Policies & Procedures described above, for fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

**Table of Contents**

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a)(1) Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements of North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and subsidiaries are filed as part of this Form 10-K and are incorporated by reference in Item 8:

|   | <b>PAGE</b> |
|---|-------------|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>  | F-1         |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2005 and 2004</u>   | F-2         |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003.</u>                       | F-3         |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, 2003</u>           | F-4         |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003</u>                        | F-5         |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Deficit for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003.</u> | F-6         |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>   | F-7         |

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules:

The required information is given in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.

(a)(3) Exhibits

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 2.1                       | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of February 9, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., and NATC Merger Sub, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 11, 2004).  |
| 3.1(a)                    | Restated Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., filed February 19, 1998 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(a) the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 3.1(b)                    | Certificate of Correction to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated as of June 28, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(b) the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 3.1(c)                    | Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated July 30, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2002).  |
| 3.2(a)                    | Amended and Restated Bylaws of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2(a) to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 1998).   |
| 4.1                       | Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, granted in favor of Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated September 30, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 4.2                       | Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, granted in favor of Peter J. Solomon Company Limited by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated as of June 4, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 4.3                       | Class B Term Note dated November 17, 2003, issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. in favor of Upper Columbia Capital Company, LLC ( Upper Columbia ) in the principal amount of Twenty Three Million Dollars (\$23,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                   |
| 4.4                       | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of 1888 Fund, Ltd. in the principal amount of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 4.5                       | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of MAGMA CDO, Ltd. in the principal amount of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 4.6                       | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of Bingham CDO, L.P. in the principal amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                     |
| 4.7                       | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of Stellar Funding, Ltd. in the principal amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                |



**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 4.8                   | Indenture, dated as of February 17, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., the Guarantors listed on the signature pages thereto and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association, a national banking association, as Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 4.9                   | Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., the Guarantors listed on the signature pages thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and RBC Capital Markets Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.11 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).   |
| 9.1                   | Amended and Restated Exchange and Stockholders' Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2004, by and among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and those stockholders listed therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 9.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 10.1                  | Third Amended and Restated Purchasing and Processing Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company of Pennsylvania (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.2                  | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [United States] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997). |
| 10.3                  | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [Asia] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).          |
| 10.4                  | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [Canada] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).        |
| 10.5                  | Restated Amendment, dated as of June 25, 1997, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).  |
| 10.6                  | Warrant Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and United States Trust Company of New York, as warrant agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.7                  | 1997 Share Incentive Plan of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10.8                      | Employment Agreement, dated May 17, 1996, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.9                      | Employment Agreement, dated April 23, 1997, between Thomas F. Helms, Jr. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(b) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.10                     | Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(c) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.11                     | Amendment No. 1, dated and effective September 2, 1997, to the Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(d) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997). |
| 10.12                     | Amendment No. 2, dated as of December 31, 1997, to the Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(e) to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.13                     | Consulting Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Jack Africk (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.14                     | National Tobacco Company Management Bonus Program (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.15                     | Amended and Restated Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement dated as of January 12, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Jack Africk (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.16                     | Assignment and Assumption, dated as of January 1, 1998, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.17                     | Amendment, dated October 22, 1997, to Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreements, between Bolloré and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 10.18                     | Sales Representative Agreement, effective as of January 1, 1998, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 10.19                     | Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated as of April 30, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 1998).   |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.20                     | Option Grant Letter, dated April 30, 1998, from Helms Management Corp. to David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 1998).   |
| 10.21                     | Subscription Agreement, dated as of March 24, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 1998).  |
| 10.22                     | North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 1999 Executive Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999).  |
| 10.23                     | North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 1999 Management Bonus Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999).   |
| 10.24                     | Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among Bank One, NA, LaSalle Bank National Association, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., the subsidiaries of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. named therein and the lenders party thereto (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).   |
| 10.25                     | Amended and Restated Security Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003). |
| 10.26                     | Amended and Restated Guaranty Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).                                       |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.27                     | Amended and Restated Pledge Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003). |
| 10.28                     | 2005 A Amendment to the Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, made and entered into as of February 17, 2004, by and among Bank One, NA as the Agent Bank, Bank One and LaSalle Bank, National Association, the Company, certain of its subsidiaries and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 21, 2005).   |
| 10.29                     | Offer of Employment, dated March 28, 2002, between the Company and Robert A. Milliken, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2002).   |
| 10.30                     | Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by David I. Brunson in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.31                     | Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Chris Kounnas in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).  |
| 10.32                     | Secured Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Helms Management Corp. in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.33                     | Secured Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Thomas F. Helms, Jr. in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.34                     | Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2002, between Thomas F. Helms, Jr., Helms Management Corp. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.35                     | Amendment, dated November 25, 2002, to the Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated as of April 30, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.36                     | Employment Agreement dated as of November 21, 2002, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and James W. Dobbins (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.37                     | Transfer Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2002, by and among Arnold Sheiffer, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 10.38                     | Transfer Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2002, by and among Arnold Sheiffer, Robert Maurice Grunder Memorial Fund, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.39                     | 2002 Share Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.40                     | Letter Agreement, dated November 8, 2002, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Marketing Solutions USA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 10.41                     | 2003A Amendment to Loan Documents, dated as of July 31, 2003, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Bank One, NA, successor to Bank One, Kentucky N.A., as agent bank and the various lending institutions named therein, Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for the Class B Lenders named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2003).  |
| 10.42                     | 2003B Amendment to Loan Documents dated as of November 17, 2003, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., the Banks defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent for the Banks ( Agent Bank ), the Class B Lenders as defined therein and Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for Class B Lenders ( Class B Loan Agent ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                   |
| 10.43                     | Amended and Restated Subordination Agreement dated as of November 17, 2003, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., the Banks defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent for the Banks ( Agent Bank ), the Class B Lenders as defined therein and Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for Class B Lenders ( Class B Loan Agent ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 10.44                     | Second Amendment to Mortgage, Security Agreement, Assignment of Leases, Rents and Profits, Financing Statement and Fixture Filing, dated as of November 17, 2003, among Bank One, NA (as Agent Bank and Mortgagee for the benefit of the Banks as defined in the 2003B Amendment to Loan Agreement) and National Tobacco Company, L.P. (the Mortgagor ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).  |
| 10.45                     | Assignment of Security Interest in the United States Trademarks, dated November 17, 2003, issued by Stoker, Inc. in favor of Bank One, NA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).  |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.46                 | Assignment of Security Interest in the United States Trademarks, dated November 17, 2003, issued by Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. in favor of Bank One, NA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).   |
| 10.47                 | 2003C Amendment to Loan Documents dated as of December 23, 2003, by and among the Banks as defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent bank on behalf of the Banks, the Class B Lenders as defined therein, Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent on behalf of the Class B Lenders, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and the Subsidiaries as defined therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 24, 2003).  |
| 10.48                 | Assignment and Assumption Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2004, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.53 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 10.49                 | Letter Agreement, dated as of January 19, 2005, between Alvarez & Marsal, LLC, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.52 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.50                 | Letter Agreement, dated as of October 12, 2004, between Jack Africk and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (extending and amending Consulting Agreement) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.54 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.51                 | 2005B Amendment to the Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated March 30, 2005, by and among JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. ( Morgan ), as successor to Bank One, NA, as Agent Bank, Morgan and LaSalle Bank, National Association, the Company, certain of its subsidiaries and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.55 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.52                 | Amended Letter Agreement, dated April 11, 2005, between Alvarez & Marsal, LLC, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 14, 2005).  |
| 10.53                 | Employment Agreement, dated March 10, 2005, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Brian Harriss (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.54                 | Financing Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., as guarantor, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc., as borrowers, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto as lenders and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the lenders (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005). |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10.55                     | Security Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc. in favor of Fortress Credit Corp., as agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005).   |
| 10.56                     | Pledge Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc. in favor of Fortress Credit Corp., as agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005).   |
| 10.57                     | Resignation and Release Agreement, effective July 7, 2005, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and Robert A. Milliken, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 7, 2005).  |
| 10.58                     | Employment Agreement, dated June 8, 2005, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (the Company) and Lawrence S. Wexler (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2005).  |
| 10.59                     | First Amendment to Financing Agreement, dated as of November 8, 2005, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., as Borrowers, North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., as Guarantor, the financial institutions party thereto as Lenders, and Fortress Credit Corp., as Agent for the Lenders (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 15, 2005). |
| 10.60                     | North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, effective as of February 8, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 20, 2006).  |
| 10.61                     | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for employees under the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 14, 2006).  |
| 10.62                     | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for non-employee directors under the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 20, 2006).  |
| 10.63                     | Employment Agreement, dated as of February 14, 2006, between North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 21, 2006).  |
| 21                        | Subsidiaries of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 21 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).   |
| 31.1*                     | Certification by the Chief Executive Officer  |
| 31.2*                     | Certification by the Chief Financial Officer  |

\* Filed herewith.

Portions of this agreement have been omitted pursuant to Rule 406 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and have been filed confidentially with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Management contracts or compensatory plan or arrangement.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 31, 2006

NORTH ATLANTIC HOLDING COMPANY, INC.

By: */s/ Douglas P. Rosefsky*  
**Douglas P. Rosefsky**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <b>Signature</b>   | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b>    |
|--|--|----------------|
| <i>/s/ Douglas P. Rosefsky</i><br><b>Douglas P. Rosefsky</b>   | President and Chief Executive Officer<br>(Principal Executive Officer)             | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ Brian C. Harriss</i><br><b>Brian C. Harriss</b>         | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial<br>Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ Camilla Fentress</i><br><b>Camilla Fentress</b>         | Vice President Finance (Principal<br>Accounting Officer)                           | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ THOMAS F. HELMS, JR.</i><br><b>Thomas F. Helms, Jr.</b> | Executive Chairman of the Board  | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ JACK AFRICK</i><br><b>Jack Africk</b>                   | Director   | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ MARC S. COOPER</i><br><b>Marc S. Cooper</b>             | Director   | March 31, 2006 |
| <i>/s/ GEOFFREY J.F. GORMAN</i><br><b>Geoffrey J.F. Gorman</b> | Director   | March 31, 2006 |



**Table of Contents**

**CONTENTS**

|   | <b>Pages</b> |
|---|--------------|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>  | F-1          |
| Financial Statements:   |              |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2005 and 2004</u>   | F-2          |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u>                       | F-3          |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u>                          | F-4          |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u>                       | F-5          |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Deficit for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003</u> | F-6          |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>   | F-7          |

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors

North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), cash flows, and changes in stockholders' deficit present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2005 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). 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, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Louisville, Kentucky  
March 31, 2006

F - 1

**Table of Contents****North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

December 31, 2005 and 2004

(dollars in thousands except share data)

|  | 2005              | 2004              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                   |                   |
| Current assets:  |                   |                   |
| Cash   | \$ 525            | \$ 2,347          |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$459 and \$284 in 2005 and 2004, respectively   | 6,718             | 7,839             |
| Inventories  | 30,572            | 37,959            |
| Other current assets   | 5,166             | 5,861             |
| <b>Total current assets</b>  | <b>42,981</b>     | <b>54,006</b>     |
| Property, plant and equipment, net   | 14,382            | 10,771            |
| Deferred financing costs, net  | 10,810            | 13,105            |
| Goodwill   | 128,697           | 128,697           |
| Other intangible assets, net   | 9,852             | 10,293            |
| Other assets   | 19,062            | 15,526            |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>\$ 225,784</b> | <b>\$ 232,398</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIT</b>  |                   |                   |
| Current liabilities:   |                   |                   |
| Accounts payable   | \$ 6,272          | \$ 7,005          |
| Accrued expenses   | 7,130             | 4,642             |
| Accrued interest expense   | 6,167             | 6,274             |
| Deferred income taxes  | 3,928             | 4,801             |
| Revolving credit facility  |                   | 14,500            |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>   | <b>23,497</b>     | <b>37,222</b>     |
| Notes payable and long-term debt   | 263,195           | 266,622           |
| Deferred income taxes  | 6,106             | 5,005             |
| Postretirement benefits  | 6,762             | 6,061             |
| Pension benefits and other long-term liabilities   | 3,166             | 4,013             |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>   | <b>302,726</b>    | <b>318,923</b>    |
| Commitments and contingencies  |                   |                   |
| Stockholders' deficit:   |                   |                   |
| Common stock, voting, \$.01 par value; 2005; authorized, 1,000,000; issued and outstanding shares, 588,758; \$.01 par value; 2004; authorized, 1,000,000; issued and outstanding shares, 588,758 | 6                 | 6                 |
| Common stock, nonvoting, \$.01 par value; authorized shares, 1,000,000; issued and outstanding shares, -0-   |                   |                   |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 5,236             | 5,291             |
| Loans to stockholders for stock purchases  | (99)              | (99)              |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (1,830)           | (1,351)           |
| Accumulated deficit  | (80,255)          | (90,372)          |
| <b>Total stockholders' deficit</b>   | <b>(76,942)</b>   | <b>(86,525)</b>   |

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|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit | \$ 225,784 | \$ 232,398 |
|---|------------|------------|

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.*

F - 2

**Table of Contents****North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Operations***for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003**(dollars in thousands except share data)*

|   | <b>2005</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Net sales   | \$ 116,915  | \$ 115,320  | \$ 101,593  |
| Cost of sales   | 56,654      | 58,617      | 48,616      |
| Gross profit  | 60,261      | 56,703      | 52,977      |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses  | 43,915      | 37,031      | 32,589      |
| Amortization expense  | 441         | 462         | 67          |
| Operating income  | 15,905      | 19,210      | 20,321      |
| Interest expense and financing costs  | 31,853      | 31,283      | 19,122      |
| Gain on Repurchase of Senior Discount Notes   | (28,403)    |             |             |
| Other expense (income)  | 2,110       | (4,361)     | 11,129      |
| Income (loss) before income taxes   | 10,345      | (7,712)     | (9,930)     |
| Income tax expense (benefit)  | 228         | 27,210      | (3,689)     |
| Net income (loss) before preferred stock dividends and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles | 10,117      | (34,922)    | (6,241)     |
| Preferred stock dividends   |             | (1,613)     | (7,275)     |
| Net income (loss) applicable to common shares   | \$ 10,117   | \$ (36,535) | \$ (13,516) |
|   | <b>2005</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> |
| Basic and diluted earnings per common share:  |             |             |             |
| Net income (loss) before preferred stock dividends and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principles | \$ 17.18    | \$ (60.44)  | \$ (11.82)  |
| Preferred stock dividends   |             | (2.79)      | (13.77)     |
| Net income (loss) applicable to common shares   | \$ 17.18    | \$ (63.23)  | \$ (25.59)  |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding:   |             |             |             |
| Basic   | 588,758     | 577,795     | 528,241     |
| Diluted   | 588,758     | 577,795     | 528,241     |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.*

**Table of Contents**

**North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

*for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003*

*(dollars in thousands except share data)*

**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

(in thousands)

|   | <b>2005</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Net income (loss)                                     | \$ 10,117   | \$ (34,922) | \$ (6,241)  |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax benefit:       |             |             |             |
| Unrealized losses on derivative financial instruments | (77)        |             |             |
| Minimum pension liability, net of tax                 | (402)       | (122)       | (104)       |
| Comprehensive income (loss)                           | \$ 9,638    | \$ (35,044) | \$ (6,345)  |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows***for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003**(dollars in thousands)*

|   | 2005           | 2004           | 2003            |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>  |                |                |                 |
| Net income (loss)   | \$ 10,117      | \$ (34,922)    | \$ (6,241)      |
| <b>Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:</b> |                |                |                 |
| Gain on repurchase of Senior Discount Notes   | (28,403)       |                |                 |
| Depreciation expense  | 1,174          | 816            | 589             |
| Amortization expense  | 441            | 462            | 67              |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs  | 4,143          | 1,949          | 1,386           |
| Amortization of interest on senior discount notes   | 7,664          | 6,612          |                 |
| Deferred income taxes   | 228            | 26,560         | (3,689)         |
| Stock compensation expense  | (55)           | 832            | 417             |
| Stock issued for non-cash services  |                | 681            |                 |
| <b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>   |                |                |                 |
| Accounts receivable   | 1,121          | 2,545          | (1,827)         |
| Inventories   | 7,310          | 4,298          | 1,964           |
| Income tax receivable   |                | 910            | (23)            |
| Other current assets  | 695            | (2,267)        | 752             |
| Other assets  | (3,536)        | (4,766)        | (1,309)         |
| Accounts payable  | (733)          | 1,730          | 1,848           |
| Accrued pension liabilities   | 170            | (1,933)        | 366             |
| Accrued postretirement liabilities  | 701            | (3,272)        | (1,509)         |
| Accrued expenses and other  | 963            | 3,998          | 2,351           |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>  | <b>2,000</b>   | <b>4,233</b>   | <b>(4,858)</b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>  |                |                |                 |
| Capital expenditures  | (4,785)        | (3,277)        | (1,561)         |
| Purchase of Stoker, Inc. (net of cash acquired \$1,672 see Note 7)  |                | (38)           | (21,650)        |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>  | <b>(4,785)</b> | <b>(3,315)</b> | <b>(23,211)</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>  |                |                |                 |
| Proceeds from term loan   | 30,000         |                |                 |
| Proceeds (payments) from (to) revolving credit facility, net  | (14,500)       | 8,200          | 800             |
| Proceeds from issuance of new senior notes  |                | 200,000        |                 |
| Proceeds from issuance of senior discount notes   |                | 60,010         |                 |
| Payment of old senior notes   |                | (155,000)      |                 |
| Payments on notes payable   |                | (30,686)       |                 |
| Extinguishment of Senior Discount Notes   | (12,690)       |                |                 |
| Deferred financing costs incurred   | (1,847)        | (9,891)        | (3,907)         |
| Redemption of preferred stock   |                | (65,080)       |                 |
| Preferred stock cash dividends  |                | (1,613)        |                 |
| Common stock dividends  |                | (4,884)        |                 |
| Principal from long-term borrowings   |                |                | 42,000          |
| Principal payments on long-term borrowings  |                |                | (11,314)        |
| Net loans to stockholders for stock purchases   |                | 69             | (11)            |

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|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 963       | 1,125     | 27,568    |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash                     | (1,822)   | 2,043     | (501)     |
| Cash, beginning of period                           | 2,347     | 304       | 805       |
| Cash, end of period                                 | \$ 525    | \$ 2,347  | \$ 304    |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:  |           |           |           |
| Cash paid during the period for interest            | \$ 19,895 | \$ 16,245 | \$ 17,911 |
| Cash paid during the period for income taxes        | \$ 371    | \$ 1,297  | \$        |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.*



**Table of Contents****North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Changes in Stockholders' Deficit***for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003**(dollars in thousands)*

|   | Common<br>Stock,<br>Voting | Additional<br>Paid-In<br>Capital | Loans to<br>Stockholders<br>for Stock<br>Purchases | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Loss | Accumulated<br>Deficit | Total       |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning balance, January 1, 2003                              | \$ 5                       | \$ 9,246                         | \$ (157)   | \$ (1,125)                                    | \$ (41,322)            | \$ (33,353) |
| Stock compensation expense                                      |                            | 417                              |  |   |                        | 417         |
| Net loans to stockholders for stock purchases                   |                            |                                  | (11)   |   |                        | (11)        |
| Amount related to minimum pension liability, net of tax of \$64 |                            |                                  |  | (104)   |                        | (104)       |
| Preferred stock dividend  |                            |                                  |  |   | (7,275)                | (7,275)     |
| Net income  |                            |                                  |  |   | (6,241)                | (6,241)     |
| Ending balance, December 31, 2003                               | 5                          | 9,663                            | (168)  | (1,229)                                       | (54,838)               | (46,567)    |
| Elimination of equity in NATC                                   |                            | (5,885)                          |  |   | 5,885                  |             |
| Stock compensation expense                                      |                            | 832                              |  |   |                        | 832         |
| Issuance of common stock  | 1                          | 681                              |  |   |                        | 682         |
| Net loans to stockholders for stock purchases                   |                            |                                  | 69   |   |                        | 69          |
| Amount related to minimum pension liability net of tax of \$74  |                            |                                  |  | (122)   |                        | (122)       |
| Common stock dividend   |                            |                                  |  |   | (4,884)                | (4,884)     |
| Preferred stock dividend  |                            |                                  |  |   | (1,613)                | (1,613)     |
| Net loss  |                            |                                  |  |   | (34,922)               | (34,922)    |
| Ending balance, December 31, 2004                               | 6                          | 5,291                            | (99)   | (1,351)                                       | (90,372)               | (86,525)    |
| Amount related to minimum pension liability                     |                            |                                  |  | (402)   |                        | (402)       |
| Unrealized losses on derivative financial instruments           |                            |                                  |  | (77)  |                        | (77)        |
| Stock compensation expense                                      |                            | (55)                             |  |   |                        | (55)        |
| Net income  |                            |                                  |  |   | 10,117                 | 10,117      |
| Ending balance, December 31, 2005                               | \$ 6                       | \$ 5,236                         | \$ (99)  | \$ (1,830)                                    | \$ (80,255)            | \$ (76,942) |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.*

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**Table of Contents**

**North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

*for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003*

*(dollars in thousands except share data)*

**1. Organization:**

North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (the Company) is a holding company which owns North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. ( NATC ) and its subsidiaries. Except where the context otherwise requires, references to the Company include the Company and its subsidiaries. The Company manufactures and distributes tobacco and related products through its smokeless tobacco, make-your-own, and premium manufactured cigarettes operating segments. The smokeless tobacco segment manufactures and distributes smokeless tobacco products under the *Beech-Nut, Durango, Trophy, Havana Blossom, Stoker, Our Pride* and other brand names. The make-your-own segment imports and distributes premium cigarette papers and related products, and manufactures smoking tobaccos under the *Zig-Zag, Stoker No. 2, Old Hillside* and other brand names. The premium cigarette segment contract manufactures and distributes premium manufactured cigarettes through wholesale distributors in selected areas of the United States.

National Tobacco Company, L.P. ( NTC ), a limited partnership, was formed and acquired the smokeless tobacco division of Lorillard, Inc. in 1988. On April 14, 1992, the general partner and majority owner and certain limited partners sold their partnership interest to a new general partner. Accordingly, the April 1992 transaction was accounted for as the formation of a new entity, National Tobacco Company, L.P. (the Partnership ). Certain members of management of the Partnership formed NTC Holding, LLC (the Holding Company ), a limited liability company with a finite life expiring December 31, 2100, and caused the Holding Company to form National Tobacco Finance Corporation (the Finance Corporation ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Holding Company.

On May 17, 1996, the Partnership was recapitalized and the Holding Company acquired a 99% limited partnership interest in the Partnership and the Finance Corporation became the sole general partner and owner of the remaining 1% interest of the Partnership. Accordingly, this transaction was accounted for as the formation of a new entity under the purchase method of accounting.

On May 19, 1997, certain members of management and holders of membership interests in the Holding Company formed NATC. On June 25, 1997, NATC acquired the membership interests in the Holding Company and the Holding Company transferred all of its assets to NATC, including its limited partnership interest in the Partnership, all of the capital stock of the Finance Corporation, and its rights to acquire NATC Holdings USA, Inc. which owned exclusive rights to market and distribute Zig-Zag premium cigarette papers in the United States and Canada and also owned outright the trademarks for tobacco products bearing the Zig-Zag name. NATC then formed North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. ( NAOC ), a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation. NAOC then exercised its rights to acquire all of the outstanding capital stock of NATC Holdings, USA, Inc. NATC Holdings, USA, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary were then merged into NAOC.

On April 10, 2003, North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. ( NACC ) was formed to contract manufacture and distribute premium manufactured cigarettes.

On November 17, 2003, NATC purchased all of the common stock of Stoker, Inc. ( Stoker ). See Note 7, Acquisition of Business . Stoker is the parent of the wholly-owned subsidiaries, Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and RBJ Sales, Inc.

**2. Recapitalization and Reorganization**

On February 9, 2004, NATC consummated a holding company reorganization whereby the Company became the parent company of NATC. The holding company reorganization was effected pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement ), dated February 9, 2004, among NATC, the Company and NATC Merger Sub, Inc., a Delaware corporation and a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of the Parent ( Merger Sub ).

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Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, (i) Merger Sub was merged with and into NATC (the Merger ), with NATC as the surviving corporation; (ii) NATC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company; (iii) each of the 539,235 issued and outstanding shares of voting common stock of NATC, par value \$0.01 per share, was converted into the right to receive one share of common stock of the Company, par value \$0.01 per share ( Company Common Stock ); (iv) each issued and outstanding share of common stock of Merger Sub was converted into one issued and outstanding share of common stock of NATC, and (v) all of the issued and outstanding shares of Company Common Stock held by NATC were cancelled.

F - 7

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## **Table of Contents**

Immediately after the Merger, (i) 539,235 shares of Company Common Stock were issued and outstanding; and (ii) ten (10) shares of the NATC Common Stock were issued and outstanding.

Subsequently, the Company issued 49,523 shares of Company Common Stock upon the exercise of certain warrants pursuant to a Warrant Agreement (the Warrant Agreement), dated June 25, 1997, between the Company (as assignee to NATC's rights and obligations under the Warrant Agreement) and The Bank of New York, as warrant agent (as successor to the United States Trust Company of New York). As of December 31, 2004, (i) 588,758 shares of Company Common Stock were issued and outstanding; and (ii) ten (10) shares of NATC Common Stock were issued and outstanding.

On February 9, 2004, NATC consummated its general corporate reorganization in which NATC became a wholly-owned subsidiary to the Company. On February 17, 2004, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock and the Company issued senior discount notes in conjunction with the refinancing. The refinancing consisted principally of (1) the offering and sale of \$200.0 million principal amount of 9 1/4% senior notes due 2012 by NATC (the New Senior Notes), (2) entering into an amended and restated loan agreement that provides a \$50.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility to NATC (the Senior Revolving Credit Facility) and (3) the concurrent offering and sale of \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of 12 1/4% senior discount notes due 2014 of the Company (the Senior Discount Notes). Both the senior notes and the senior discount notes were offered pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S and subsequently registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Concurrently with the closing of the refinancing, NATC also called for the redemption all of its outstanding 11% senior notes due 2004 (the Old Senior Notes), in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing such notes, at the applicable redemption price of 100.0% of the principal amount thereof, plus interest accrued to the redemption date of April 2, 2004. At December 31, 2003, NATC had outstanding \$155.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 11% senior notes due 2004.

The proceeds from the offering of the New Senior Notes, along with borrowings under the Senior Revolving Credit Facility (see Note 14) and the proceeds from the concurrent offering of the Senior Discount Notes were used to (1) repay \$36.6 million in outstanding borrowings under the existing senior credit facility (the Old Senior Credit Facility), including borrowings used to finance the cash purchase price for the acquisition of Stoker, Inc. (see Note 7), (2) redeem the Old Senior Notes, (3) redeem NATC's existing 12% senior exchange payment-in-kind preferred stock on March 18, 2004, (4) pay a \$5.0 million pro rata distribution to stockholders of the Company and make a distribution to certain holders of warrants of the Company, (5) make \$2.1 million in incentive payments to certain key employees and outside directors, and (6) pay fees and expenses of \$12.8 million incurred in connection with the offerings.

### **3. Liquidity:**

On June 16, 2005, the Company refinanced its existing \$35.0 million Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as agent, Parent, the Company and its subsidiaries by entering into a Financing Agreement (the Financing Agreement) among the Parent, the Company and its subsidiaries, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto as lenders, and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the Lenders. The Financing Agreement consists of a \$30.0 million term loan facility and a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility, and includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$10.0 million (collectively, the Credit Facility). The Credit Facility will mature on June 30, 2010, and does not provide for any amortization of the term loan prior to maturity. The Company and its subsidiaries will use the revolving credit facility for working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. At December 31, 2005, the Company has a \$30 million term loan outstanding under the Financing Agreement and approximately \$55 million of undrawn availability under the revolving credit facility of the Financing Agreement. The new Financing Agreement significantly enhanced the short-term liquidity of the Company.

As further described in the footnote Notes Payable and Long-Term Debt, the Financing Agreement requires the Company to meet certain financial covenants and includes various events of default, including an event or development that occurs which results in a Material Adverse Effect as determined by the agent in its reasonable business judgment. If a covenant violation or event of default occurs and is not cured in a reasonable period of time, acceleration of the outstanding loans under the Financing Agreement will result. Although there can be no assurance, the Company currently anticipates that it will meet the required financial covenants, and that, between results from operations and access to financing under the Financing Agreement, it will have sufficient liquidity to continue normal operations through at least December 31, 2006.

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**Table of Contents**

**4. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:**

**Basis of Presentation:** The financial statements of the Company include the results of operations, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity of the Company, its NATC subsidiary and all other subsidiaries for all periods.

**Consolidation:** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated.

**Revenue Recognition:** The Company recognizes revenues and the related costs upon transfer of title and risk of loss to the customer. The Company classifies customer rebates as sales deductions in accordance with the requirements of Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 01-09.

**Financial Instruments:** The Company enters into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge a portion of its exposure to changes in foreign currency exchange rates on inventory purchase commitments. The Company accounts for its forward contracts under the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 (SFAS 133), Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities and related pronouncements. The Company may hedge up to eighty percent of its anticipated purchases of inventory under the Bolloré, S.A. master contract, denominated in Euros, over a forward period not to exceed twelve months. The Company may also, from time to time, hedge up to ninety percent of its non-inventory purchases in the denominated invoice currency. Forward contracts that qualify as hedges are adjusted to their fair value through other comprehensive income as determined by market prices on the measurement date except any ineffectiveness which is currently recognized in income. Gains and losses on these inventory contracts are transferred from other comprehensive income into net income as the related inventories are received. Changes in fair value of any contracts that do not qualify for hedge accounting or are not designated as hedges are recognized in income currently.

**Shipping Costs:** The Company records shipping costs incurred as a component of selling, general and administrative expenses. Shipping costs incurred were \$3,941, \$3,419, and \$2,790 in 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

**Research and Development Costs:** Research and development costs are expensed as incurred. These expenses, classified as selling and administrative expenses, were \$664, \$521 and \$577 in 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents:** The Company considers any highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less from the date of purchase to be cash equivalents.

**Inventories:** Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined using the last-in, first-out ( LIFO ) method for approximately 96% of the inventories. Leaf tobacco is presented in current assets in accordance with standard industry practice, notwithstanding the fact that such tobaccos are carried longer than one year for the purpose of curing.

**Fixed Assets:** Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets (4 to 7 years for machinery, equipment and furniture, and 25 years for buildings). Expenditures for repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred. The costs of major renewals and improvements are capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Upon disposition of fixed assets, the costs and related accumulated depreciation amounts are relieved and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in operations during the period of disposition.

**Goodwill and other intangible assets:** The Company follows the provisions of the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets ( SFAS No. 142 ).

Under SFAS No. 142, goodwill is no longer to be amortized but reviewed for impairment annually or more frequently if certain indicators arise, using a two-step approach that first compares the book value to the fair value, no impairment exists if the fair value exceeds book value. If an impairment exists then step 2 measures the amount of the impairment. The goodwill balances attributable to each of the Company's reporting units are tested for impairment by comparing the fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying value as of December 31 each year. Fair value was determined by using the valuation technique of calculating the present value of estimated expected future cash flows (using a discount rate commensurate with the risks involved) with consideration given to multiples of operating results. The Company has reported that no impairment of goodwill has been incurred as of December 31, 2005.

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## Table of Contents

**Deferred Financing Costs:** Deferred financing costs are amortized over the terms of the related debt obligations using the effective interest method. Unamortized amounts are expensed upon repayment of the related borrowings.

**Income Taxes:** The Company records the effects of income taxes under the liability method in which deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized based on the difference between the financial and tax basis of assets and liabilities using the enacted tax rates in effect for the years in which the differences are expected to reverse. The Company assesses its ability to realize future benefits of net deferred tax assets to determine if they meet the more likely than not criteria in SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes. If the Company determines that future benefits that do not meet the more likely than not criteria a valuation is recorded.

**Advertising and Promotion:** Advertising and promotion costs, including point of sale materials, are expensed as incurred and amounted to \$2,990, \$3,147, and \$2,658 for the years ending December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

**Stock-Based Compensation:** The Company measures stock compensation costs related to the stock options described in Note 19 on the fair value based method which is the preferred method under the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. The fair value based method requires compensation cost for stock options to be recognized based on the fair value of stock options granted.

**Computation of Earnings Per Common Share:** Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing the net income (loss) applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing the net income (loss) applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares (warrants and stock options), where dilutive, outstanding during the period.

**Risks and Uncertainties:** Manufacturers and sellers of tobacco products are subject to regulation at the federal, state and local levels. Such regulations include, among others, labeling requirements, limitations on advertising, and prohibition of sales to minors. The trend in recent years has been toward increased regulation of the tobacco industry. There can be no assurance as to the ultimate content, timing or effect of any regulation of tobacco products by any federal, state or local legislative or regulatory body, nor can there be any assurance that any such legislation or regulation would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The tobacco industry has experienced and is experiencing significant product liability litigation. Most tobacco liability lawsuits have been brought against manufacturers and sellers of cigarettes for injuries allegedly caused by smoking or by exposure to smoke. However, several lawsuits have been brought against manufacturers and sellers of smokeless tobacco for injuries to health allegedly caused by use of smokeless tobacco. Typically, such claims assert that use of smokeless tobacco is addictive and causes oral cancer. As discussed in Note 21, the Company was named as a defendant in such a lawsuit. There can be no assurance that the Company will not sustain losses in connection with such lawsuits and that such losses will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows or that additional lawsuits will not be brought against the Company.

Forty-six states, certain U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are parties to the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and the Smokeless Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (STMSA). To the Company's knowledge, the signatories to the MSA include 49 cigarette manufacturers and/or distributors and the only other signatory to the STMSA is US Smokeless Tobacco Company. In the Company's opinion, the fundamental basis for each agreement is the states' consents to withdraw all claims for monetary, equitable and injunctive relief against certain tobacco products manufacturers and others and, in return, the signatories have agreed to certain marketing restrictions and regulations as well as certain payment obligations.

Pursuant to the MSA and subsequent states' statutes, a cigarette manufacturer (which is defined to also include make-your-own cigarette tobacco) has the option of either becoming a signatory to the MSA or opening, funding and maintaining an escrow account, with sub-accounts on behalf of each settling state. The STMSA has no similar provisions. The MSA escrow accounts are governed by states' statutes that expressly give the manufacturers the option of opening, funding and maintaining an escrow account in lieu of becoming a signatory to the MSA. The statutes require companies, who are not signatories to the MSA, to deposit, on an annual basis, into qualified banks escrow funds based on the number of cigarettes or cigarette equivalents, i.e., the pounds of MYO tobacco, sold. The purpose of these statutes is expressly stated to be to eliminate the cost disadvantage the settling manufacturers have as a result of

**Table of Contents**

entering into the MSA. Such companies are entitled to direct the investment of the escrowed funds and withdraw any appreciation, but cannot withdraw the principal for twenty-five years from the year of each annual deposit, except to withdraw funds deposited pursuant to an individual state's escrow statute to pay a final judgment to that state's plaintiffs in the event of such a final judgment against the Company. Either option becoming a MSA signatory or establishing an escrow account is permissible.

The Company has chosen to open and fund an MSA escrow account as its means of compliance. It is management's opinion, due to the possibility of future federal or state regulations, though none have to date been enacted, that entering into one or both of the settlement agreements or establishing and maintaining an escrow account would not necessarily prevent future regulations from having a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position and cash flows of the Company.

Various states have enacted or proposed complementary legislation intended to curb the activity of certain manufacturers and importers of cigarettes that are selling into MSA states without signing the MSA or who have failed to properly establish and fund a qualifying escrow account. To the best of the Company's knowledge, no such statute has been enacted which could inadvertently and negatively impact the Company, which has been and is currently fully compliant with all applicable laws, regulations and statutes, but there can be no assurance that the enactment of any such complementary legislation in the future will not have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position or cash flows of the Company.

Pursuant to the MSA escrow account statutes, in order to be compliant with the MSA escrow requirements, the Company is required to deposit such funds for each calendar year into a qualifying escrow account by April 15 of the following year. As of December 31, 2005, the Company has recorded approximately \$17,599 in Other assets. This amount is comprised of approximately \$14,226 which represents amounts on deposit plus approximately \$148 interest earned thereon and approximately \$3,225 pertaining to amounts to be deposited by April 15, 2006 relating to 2005 sales. During 2005, approximately \$4,697 was deposited into a qualifying escrow account. The Company is entitled to direct the investment of the escrow funds and is allowed to withdraw any appreciation, but cannot withdraw the principal for twenty-five years from the year of each annual deposit, except to withdraw funds deposited pursuant to an individual state's escrow statute to pay a final judgment to that state's plaintiffs in the event of such a judgment against the Company.

**Use of Estimates:** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Company's significant estimates include those affecting the valuation and useful lives of property, plant and equipment and goodwill and other intangible assets, assumptions used in determining pension and postretirement benefit obligations, accrued and deferred income taxes and litigation contingencies.

**Concentration of Credit Risk:** At December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Company had bank deposits, including MSA escrows, in excess of federally insured limits of approximately \$18.0 million and \$11.9 million, respectively.

The Company sells its products to distributors and retail establishments throughout the United States. A single customer accounted for 12.9%, 16.5% and 19.9% of the Company's revenues in 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The Company performs periodic credit evaluations of its customers and generally does not require collateral on trade receivables. As of December 31, 2005, Cod Company, Inc., the Company's largest customer, accounted for 14.4% of the outstanding accounts receivable balances. Historically, the Company has not experienced significant credit losses.

**Accounts Receivable:** Accounts receivables are recognized at their net realizable value. All accounts receivable are trade related and are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. The Company maintains allowances for doubtful accounts receivable for estimated uncollectible invoices resulting from the customer's inability to pay (bankruptcy, out of business, etc., i.e. bad debts which result in write-offs). The activity of allowance for doubtful accounts during 2005, 2004 and 2003 is as follows (in thousands):

|   | 2005   | 2004   | 2003   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Balance at beginning of period              | \$ 284 | \$ 367 | \$ 448 |
| Provision (reduction) for doubtful accounts | 175    | (67)   | 121    |
| Charge offs, net                            |        | (16)   | (202)  |
| Balance at end of period                    | \$ 459 | \$ 284 | \$ 367 |





**Table of Contents**

**Other Expense (Income):** Other expense of \$2.1 million in 2005 consists primarily of legal, investigative and related expenses with respect to the infringement activities involving Zig-Zag premium cigarette papers and other legal matters. Other income of \$4.4 million in 2004 represents principally \$4.5 million associated with the reduction in the judgment rendered against the Company in connection with the litigation with Republic Tobacco, Inc. as described in Note 21, Contingency under Kentucky and Illinois Complaints. Other expense of \$11.1 million in 2003 represents \$7.4 million associated with the judgment rendered against the Company in connection with the litigation with Republic Tobacco, Inc. and \$3.3 million associated with the termination of the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase Agreement, as described in Note 24, Terminated Asset Purchase Agreement .

**Retirement Obligation of Long-Lived Assets:** The Company adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 47, Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 143 , ( FIN 47 ), effective December 31, 2005. FIN 47 expands the term conditional asset retirement obligation as used in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations ( SFAS No. 143 ), to refer to a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and/or method of settlement are conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of the entity. The obligation to perform the asset retirement activity is unconditional even though uncertainty exists about the timing and/or method of settlement. An entity is required to recognize a liability for the fair value of a conditional asset retirement obligation if the fair value of the liability can be reasonably estimated. The fair value of a liability for the conditional asset retirement obligation should be recognized when incurred; generally, upon acquisition, construction or development and through the normal operation of the asset.

As a result of the implementation of FIN 47, the Company recorded additional Asset Retirement Obligations ( ARO ) net assets and liabilities during the fourth quarter of 2005 in the amount of \$0.1 and \$33.9, respectively. The Company also recorded a cumulative effect adjustment in the amount of \$33.8 to reflect the accreted ARO at the transition date.

Had FIN 47 been in effect at the beginning of the 2004 reporting period, the Company would have established asset retirement obligations as described in the following table (in thousands):

|                                    | 2005    | 2004    |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Provision at beginning of the year | \$ 30.3 | \$ 27.1 |
| Accretion expense                  | 3.6     | 3.2     |
| Accumulated depreciation           | \$ 33.9 | \$ 30.3 |

**5. Extinguishment of Senior Discount Notes:**

During the fourth quarter 2005, NATC purchased Senior Discount Notes of the Company with an accreted book value of approximately \$41.0 million (face value at maturity of approximately \$54.1 million) for approximately \$12.7 million in cash. This transaction resulted in a gain of \$28.4 million to the Company. The Company or NATC may, from time to time, continue to acquire and/or retire all or a portion of the Senior Discount Notes and/or New Senior Notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other securities in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise.

**6. Foreign Exchange Contracts:**

In July 2005, the Board of the Company approved the Company's Foreign Exchange Risk Management Policy and Procedures. The policy is to manage the risks associated with foreign exchange rate movements actively, professionally and prudently. The primary objective of the Company's Foreign Exchange Risk Management Policy and Procedure is to protect the value of the Company's cash flows that are exposed to exchange rate movement, i.e. transactional foreign exchange exposures. The Company will always match the currency of the underlying transaction with the currency of the hedge. The policy allows the Company to hedge up to 80% of its anticipated purchases of inventory under the Bolloré Agreement, such purchases being denominated in Euros, over a forward period that will

**Table of Contents**

not exceed 12 rolling and consecutive months. The Company may, from time to time, hedge non-inventory purchases, e.g. production equipment, at a rate not to exceed 90% of the purchase price and in a currency determined by the invoice currency. The policy is administered by the Foreign Exchange Risk Management Committee which includes: 1) the Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the Vice President Finance. Additionally, the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board, while not a voting member of the Committee, will have full observer rights. The purpose of the Committee is to monitor and manage all significant foreign currency exposures Company-wide and to provide regular reports on those exposures and all related hedging actions and positions. During 2005, the Company executed various forward contracts for the purchase of \$6.7 million Euros with maturity dates from October 20, 2005 to July 28, 2006. On December 31, 2005, contracts with a total Euro commitment of \$3.9 million with maturity dates from March 3, 2006 to July 28, 2006 were outstanding.

**7. Acquisition of Business:**

On November 17, 2003, the Company acquired the common stock of Stoker. Stoker, headquartered in Dresden, Tennessee, manufactures and markets smokeless tobacco and make-your-own ( MYO ) tobacco and related products under various brand names. This acquisition was expected to significantly increase net sales and cash flows. The Company also believed that gross margins would improve as a result of the increased net sales coupled with the elimination of certain costs related to Stoker's historical operations and the consolidation of facilities and functions.

The purchase price of \$22.5 million in cash was financed with borrowings under the credit facility in existence at that time. The acquisition has been accounted for under the purchase method, and the results of Stoker have been included in the Company's consolidated results from the date of acquisition.

The aggregate purchase price consists of (in thousands):

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash                                  | \$ 22,500        |
| Transaction costs                     | 822              |
| <b>Total aggregate purchase price</b> | <b>\$ 23,322</b> |

The following summarizes the final purchase price of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the date of acquisition (in thousands):

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Cash                                     | \$ 1,672         |
| Accounts receivable                      | 906              |
| Inventories                              | 3,403            |
| Property, plant and equipment            | 2,180            |
| Other intangible assets                  | 9,922            |
| Other assets and restricted escrow funds | 6,514            |
| Accounts payable                         | (559)            |
| Pension plan liability                   | (750)            |
| Accrued expenses                         | (2,012)          |
| Income taxes payable                     | (1,845)          |
| Deferred income taxes                    | (1,249)          |
|  | 18,182           |
| <b>Goodwill</b>                          | <b>5,140</b>     |
| <b>Aggregate purchase price</b>          | <b>\$ 23,322</b> |

In connection with the other intangible assets relating to the Stoker acquisition, see Note 11.

The unaudited pro forma combined historical results, as if Stoker had been acquired at the beginning of fiscal 2003 are estimated to be:

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|                     | <b>2003</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Net sales           | \$ 126,162  |
| Net income (loss)   | \$ (4,186)  |
| Earnings per share- |             |
| Basic               | \$ (7.92)   |
| Assuming dilution   | \$ (7.92)   |

F - 13

**Table of Contents**

The pro forma results are not necessarily indicative of what actually would have occurred if the acquisition had been completed as of the beginning of each fiscal period presented, nor are they necessarily indicative of future consolidated results.

As part of an employment agreement between the Company and the former President of Stoker, the Company agreed to pay \$300 per annum for a period of three years relating to employee non-competition.

On November 17, 2003, Stoker terminated its employee defined benefit plan. As part of the stock purchase agreement, the shareholders of Stoker agreed to fund \$750 in a restricted escrow account to fund future payments to current and retired Stoker employees. This was paid during 2005 and the escrow account was closed.

**8. Fair Value of Financial Instruments:**

The following disclosure of the estimated fair value of financial instruments is made in accordance with the requirements of SFAS No. 107, Disclosure About Fair Value of Financial Instruments, as amended by SFAS No. 126. The estimated fair value amounts have been determined by the Company using the methods and assumptions described below. However, considerable judgment is required to interpret market data to develop estimates of fair value. Accordingly, the estimates presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts the Company could realize in a current market exchange. The use of different market assumptions and/or estimation methodologies may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents:** Cash and cash equivalents are by definition short-term and the carrying amount is a reasonable estimate of fair value.

**Accounts Receivable:** The fair value of accounts receivable approximates their carrying value.

**Long-Term Debt:** The fair value of the Company's long-term debt is estimated based on the quoted market prices for the same or similar issues or on the current rates offered to the Company for debt of the same remaining maturities. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, the fair market value of the Company's New Senior Notes and term loan debt was \$150.0 million and \$169.0 million, respectively.

**Foreign Exchange:** The fair value of the foreign exchange forward contracts as of December 31, 2005, was based upon the quoted market price that resulted in a liability of \$125.6.

**Notes Repurchased:** The fair value of the Senior Discount Notes as of December 31, 2005, was 24% of face value at maturity based on quoted market price. These notes are carried at fair value.

**9. Inventories:**

The components of inventories at December 31 are as follows (in thousands):

|                                   | 2005      | 2004      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Raw materials and work in process | \$ 3,242  | \$ 4,246  |
| Leaf tobacco                      | 5,948     | 7,878     |
| Finished goods loose leaf tobacco | 2,275     | 3,069     |
| Finished goods MYO products       | 6,522     | 8,539     |
| Other                             | 1,594     | 2,163     |
|                                   | 19,581    | 25,895    |
| LIFO reserve                      | 10,991    | 12,064    |
|                                   | \$ 30,572 | \$ 37,959 |

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During 2005 and 2004, inventory quantities were reduced. This reduction resulted in a liquidation of LIFO inventory quantities carried at higher costs prevailing in prior years as compared with the cost of 2005 and 2004 purchases, the effect of which increased cost of goods sold and decreased net income by approximately \$1.3 million and \$1.7 million, respectively.

The LIFO inventory value is in excess of its current estimated replacement cost by the amount of the LIFO reserve.

The Company recorded an inventory valuation allowance of \$312 as of December 31, 2005. The Company did not have an inventory valuation allowance as of December 31, 2004.

**Table of Contents****10. Property, Plant and Equipment:**

Property, plant and equipment at December 31 consists of (in thousands):

|                            | 2005      | 2004      |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Land                       | \$ 654    | \$ 654    |
| Buildings and improvements | 5,073     | 4,282     |
| Machinery and equipment    | 14,820    | 12,194    |
| Furniture and fixtures     | 5,163     | 3,920     |
|                            | 25,710    | 21,050    |
| Accumulated depreciation   | (11,328)  | (10,279)  |
|                            | \$ 14,382 | \$ 10,771 |

**11. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets:**

The following table summarizes goodwill by segment (in thousands):

|                                 | Premium   |           |            | Total      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
|                                 | Smokeless | MYO       | Cigarettes |            |
| Balance as of January 1, 2004   | \$ 30,674 | \$ 97,985 | \$         | \$ 128,659 |
| Goodwill addition               | 1         | 37        |            | 38         |
| Balance as of December 31, 2004 | \$ 30,675 | \$ 98,022 | \$         | \$ 128,697 |
| Goodwill addition               |           |           |            |            |
| Balance as of December 31, 2005 | \$ 30,675 | \$ 98,022 | \$         | \$ 128,697 |

The following table summarizes information about the Company's allocation of other intangible assets. Other intangibles, all of which relate to the purchase of Stoker, consist of (in thousands):

|   | As of December 31, 2005 |              | As of December 31, 2004 |              |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
|   | Gross                   |              | Gross                   |              |
|   | Carrying                | Accumulated  | Carrying                | Accumulated  |
|   | Amount                  | Amortization | Amount                  | Amortization |
| Unamortized indefinite life intangible assets |                         |              |                         |              |
| Trade names                                   | \$ 8,500                | \$           | \$ 8,500                | \$           |
| Formulas                                      | 51                      |              | 51                      |              |
| Total   | \$ 8,551                | \$           | \$ 8,551                | \$           |

Amortized intangible assets:

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|  |          |        |          |        |
|--|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Customer list (useful life of 10 years)        | \$ 1,400 | \$ 299 | \$ 1,400 | \$ 157 |
| Non-compete agreement (useful life of 3 years) | 900      | 700    | 900      | 401    |
| Total  | \$ 2,300 | \$ 999 | \$ 2,300 | \$ 558 |

Amortization expense for other intangibles was approximately \$441, \$462 and \$67 for the years ending December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Estimated future amortization expense is \$403 for the year ending December 31, 2006, \$140 for the years ending December 31, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

### **12. Other Assets:**

Other assets at December 31, 2005 and 2004 includes loans and accrued interest to the principal shareholder of \$1,487 and \$1,487, respectively, amounts related to the MSA escrow account of \$17,574 and \$13,171, respectively, and other miscellaneous deposits of \$1 and \$868, respectively.

**Table of Contents****13. Deferred Financing Costs:**

Deferred financing costs at December 31 consist of (in thousands):

|  | 2005      | 2004      |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Deferred financing costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$3,459 and \$1,556 at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively | \$ 10,810 | \$ 13,105 |

During 2005, the Company recorded a write-off of deferred financing cost of approximately \$0.4 million relating to the senior revolving credit facility and \$1.9 million relating to the extinguishment of Senior Discount Notes. During 2004, the Company recorded a write-off of deferred financing cost of approximately \$1.6 million relating to the extinguishment of the Senior Notes.

**14. Notes Payable and Long-Term Debt:**

Notes payable and long-term debt at December 31 consists of (in thousands):

|                       | 2005       | 2004       |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Senior Discount Notes | \$ 33,195  | \$ 66,622  |
| New Senior Notes      | 200,000    | 200,000    |
| Term loan             | 30,000     |            |
|                       | \$ 263,195 | \$ 266,622 |

On June 25, 1997, NATC issued \$155.0 million aggregate principal amount of 11% Senior Notes due 2004 (the "Notes") which were called for redemption on April 2, 2004 in connection with the refinancing. The Notes were unsecured senior obligations of NATC which were scheduled to mature on June 15, 2004. The Notes bore interest at 11% per annum, payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15, to holders of record at the close of business on the June 1 or December 1 immediately preceding the interest payment date.

On February 17, 2004, NATC consummated the refinancing of its existing debt and preferred stock. The refinancing consisted principally of (1) the offering and sale of \$200.0 million principal amount of senior notes (the "New Senior Notes") by NATC, (2) the entering into of an amended and restated loan agreement that provides a \$50.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility to NATC and (3) the concurrent sale of \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity of senior discount notes of the Company.

The New Senior Notes are senior unsecured obligations of NATC, which has no independent assets or operations, mature on March 1, 2012 and are guaranteed jointly, severally, fully and unconditionally on a senior unsecured basis by all of NATC's existing and certain of its future subsidiaries. The New Senior Notes bear interest at the rate of 9 1/4% per annum from the date of issuance, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or provided for, and is payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 of each year. NATC is not required to make mandatory redemptions or sinking fund payments prior to the maturity of the Notes. NATC or the Company may, from time to time seek to retire all or a portion of the New Senior Notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other securities in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise.

On and after March 1, 2008, the New Senior Notes are redeemable, at NATC's option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount), if redeemed during the 12-month period commencing March 1 of the years set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date):

|                     | Redemption   |
|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>Year</b>         | <b>Price</b> |
| 2008                | 104.625%     |
| 2009                | 102.313%     |
| 2010 and thereafter | 100.000%     |



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In addition, prior to March 1, 2008, NATC may redeem the New Senior Notes, at its option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the New Senior Notes redeemed plus a make-whole premium based on U.S. Treasury rates as of, and accrued and unpaid interest to, the applicable redemption date.

In addition, at any time prior to March 1, 2007, NATC may, at its option, redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the New Senior Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings by NATC or the Company, at its option, subject to certain conditions, at a redemption price equal to 109.250% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the date of redemption.

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**Table of Contents**

The New Senior Notes limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, the payment of dividends, entering into transactions with affiliates, asset sales, engaging in mergers or acquisitions, creating liens or other encumbrances on assets, and other matters. At December 31, 2005, NATC was in compliance with all provisions of the New Senior Notes.

In connection with the refinancing, NATC also amended and restated the existing credit facility, resulting in a \$50.0 million (reducing to \$40.0 million in August 2005) senior revolving credit facility with Bank One, N.A. as agent (the Agent Bank) and La Salle Bank, National Association. The credit agreement (the 2004 Credit Agreement) governing the new senior revolving credit facility includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$25.0 million and terminates three years from the closing date. NATC used the new senior revolving credit facility for working capital and general corporate purposes. On January 19, 2005, the 2004 Credit Agreement was amended to reduce the revolving credit facility to \$35.0 million.

Indebtedness under the 2004 Credit Agreement is guaranteed by each of NATC's current and future direct and indirect subsidiaries, and was secured by a first perfected lien on substantially all of NATC's and NATC's direct and indirect subsidiaries' current and future assets and property. The collateral included a pledge by the the Company of its equity interest in NATC and a first priority lien on all equity interest and intercompany notes held by NATC and its subsidiaries.

Each advance under the 2004 Credit Agreement bore interest at variable rates based, at NATC's option, on either the prime rate plus 1% or LIBOR plus 3%. At December 31, 2004, the interest rate on borrowings under the 2004 Credit Agreement was 5.18%. The 2004 Credit Agreement provided for voluntary prepayment, subject to certain exceptions, of loans. In addition, without the prior written consent of the Agent Bank, the Company could not allow a Change in Control (as defined in the 2004 Credit Agreement), the sale of any material part of its assets and the assets of its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis or, subject to certain exceptions, the issuance of equity or debt.

Under the 2004 Credit Agreement, NATC was required to pay the lenders a closing fee equal to 1.25% of the aggregate commitments, payable on the closing date, and an annual commitment fee in variable amounts ranging from 0.50% to 0.65% of the difference between the commitment amount and the average usage of the facility, payable on a quarterly basis. NATC was also required to pay to the lenders, letter of credit fees equal to 3.00% per annum multiplied by the maximum amount available from time to time to be drawn under such letter of credit issued under the 2004 Credit Agreement and to the lender issuing a letter of credit a fronting fee of 0.125% per annum multiplied by the aggregate face amount of letters of credit outstanding during a fiscal quarter plus other customary administrative, amendment, payment and negotiation charges in connection with such letters of credit.

The 2004 Credit Agreement required NATC and its subsidiaries to meet certain financial tests, including a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio, and a minimum consolidated adjusted EBITDA. The 2004 Credit Agreement also contained covenants, which among other things, limited the incurrence of additional indebtedness, dividends, transactions with affiliates, asset sales, acquisitions, mergers, prepayments of other indebtedness, liens and encumbrances and other matters customarily restricted in such agreements. In addition, the 2004 Credit Agreement required that certain members of Executive Management remained active in the day-to-day operation and management of NATC and its subsidiaries during the term of the facility.

The 2004 Credit Agreement contained customary events of default, including payment defaults, breach of representations and warranties, covenant defaults, cross-acceleration, cross-defaults to certain other indebtedness, certain events of bankruptcy and insolvency, the occurrence of a Change in Control and judgment defaults.

As of December 31, 2004, NATC would have failed to meet its original required minimum fixed charge coverage ratio for the period then ended due to its operating results in 2004. This would have represented an event of default under the terms of the 2004 Credit Agreement. This covenant, however, was eliminated pursuant to the March 30, 2005 amendment to the 2004 Credit Agreement.

On March 30, 2005, the 2004 Credit Agreement was amended. This amendment modified the fixed charge coverage ratio covenant, such that it only applied to quarters ending June 30, 2005 and thereafter, and the minimum consolidated adjusted EBITDA covenant, such that it only applied to quarters ending from June 30, 2004 through March 31, 2005. The fixed charge coverage ratio definition was also amended to include any future cash equity contributions to the Company. In addition, the Amendment changed the 2004 Credit Agreement maturity date from February 28, 2007 to January 31, 2006.

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**Table of Contents**

On June 16, 2005, NATC refinanced the 2004 Credit Agreement by entering into the Financing Agreement with various financial institutions ( Lenders ) and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the Lenders ( Agent ). The Financing Agreement consists of a \$30.0 million term loan facility and a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility, and includes a letter of credit sublimit of \$10.0 million (collectively, the Credit Facility ). As of December 31, 2005, NATC did not have an outstanding balance on the revolving credit facility. The Credit Facility will mature on June 30, 2010, and does not provide for any amortization of the term loan prior to maturity. NATC will use the revolving credit facility for working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. Indebtedness under the Financing Agreement is guaranteed by the Company and each of NATC's current and future subsidiaries, and is secured by a first perfected lien on substantially all of the Company's and its direct and indirect subsidiaries' current and future assets and property. The collateral includes a pledge by the Company of its equity interest in the Company and a first priority lien on all equity interests and intercompany notes held by the Company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries.

Loans and advances under the Financing Agreement bear interest at a variable rate based on either the prime rate or LIBOR, at the Company's option, plus a specified margin ranging from 1.00% to 3.75% in case of prime rate indebtedness, and from 3.50% to 6.25% in the case of LIBOR indebtedness, based on the sum of NATC's secured indebtedness in relation to its EBITDAR, as defined in the Financing Agreement. As of December 31, 2005, the interest rate on the Company's term loan was 7.9%.

NATC paid the Lenders a closing fee of \$1.275 million and is required to pay the Agent a quarterly servicing fee in the amount of \$25,000. Under the revolving credit facility, NATC is required to pay the Lenders an annual commitment fee in an amount equal to 0.50% of the difference between \$40.0 million and the average usage of the revolving credit facility, payable on a monthly basis. NATC is also required to pay the Lenders letter of credit fees equal to 4.00% per annum multiplied by the face amount of the letters of credit issued under the Financing Agreement, payable on the date any such letter of credit is issued. In addition, NATC is required to pay the Agent the standard charges customarily charged by the institution issuing letters of credit under the Financing Agreement in connection with the issuance, administration, amendment, payment or cancellation of any such letters of credit.

The Financing Agreement requires NATC to meet a maximum leverage ratio and a test of minimum earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, certain cash and non-cash charges, other income and expenses and restructuring charges ( EBITDAR ). The Financing Agreement also contains covenants which, among other things, limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, distribution of dividends, transactions with affiliates, asset sales, acquisitions, mergers, prepayments of other indebtedness, liens and encumbrances, capital expenditures, and other matters customarily restricted in such agreements. In addition, the Financing Agreement requires that the Chief Executive Officer of NATC be reasonably acceptable to the Agent and the Lenders during the term of the Credit Facility. At December 31, 2005, the Company was in compliance with all provisions of the Financing Agreement.

The Financing Agreement contains customary events of default, including payment defaults, breach of representations and warranties, covenant defaults, cross-acceleration, cross-defaults to certain other indebtedness, bankruptcy and insolvency, the occurrence of a Change of Control, as defined in the Financing Agreement, and judgment defaults. Further, it is an event of default under the Financing Agreement if an event or development occurs that results in a Material Adverse Effect (as defined in the Financing Agreement), as determined by the Agent in its reasonable business judgment. If any events of default occur and are not cured within applicable grace periods or waived, the outstanding loans may be accelerated and the Lenders' commitments may be terminated. The occurrence of the bankruptcy and insolvency event of default will result in the automatic termination of commitments and acceleration of outstanding loans under the Financing Agreement.

Concurrently with the offering of the New Senior Notes, the Company issued \$97.0 million aggregate principal amount at maturity (\$60.0 million in gross proceeds) of its senior unsecured discount notes due 2014 (the Senior Discount Notes ). Proceeds of approximately \$53.8 million from this issuance were used to make a capital contribution to NTAC. The accreted value of these notes is \$33.2 million at December 31, 2005. The Senior Discount Notes are the Company's senior obligations and are unsecured, ranking equally in right of payment to all of the Company's future unsubordinated obligations and senior in right of payment to any obligations that are by their terms subordinated to the Senior Discount Notes, and will be effectively subordinated to any secured obligations of the Company to the extent of the assets securing those obligations. The Senior Discount Notes are not guaranteed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries and are structurally subordinated to all of NATC and its subsidiaries' obligations, including the New Senior Notes. NATC or the Company from time to time may seek to retire all or a portion of the Senior Discount Notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other securities in open market purchases, privately negotiated transaction, or otherwise, see Note 5 Extinguishment of Senior Discount Notes.

**Table of Contents**

On and after March 1, 2009, the Senior Discount Notes will be redeemable, at the Company's option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at the following redemption prices (expressed in percentages of principal amount at maturity), if redeemed during the 12-month period commencing March 1 of the years set forth below, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date (subject to the right of holders of record on the relevant record date to receive interest due on the relevant interest payment date):

| Year                | Redemption Price |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 2009                | 106.125%         |
| 2010                | 104.083%         |
| 2011                | 102.042%         |
| 2012 and thereafter | 100.000%         |

In addition, prior to March 1, 2009, the Company may redeem the Senior Discount Notes, at its option, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to 100% of the accreted value of the Senior Discount Notes redeemed plus a "make-whole" premium based on U.S. Treasury rates as of, and accrued and unpaid interest to, the applicable redemption date.

Further, at any time prior to March 1, 2007, the Company may, at its option, redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount at maturity of the Senior Discount Notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more equity offerings by the Company or NATC, subject to certain conditions, at a redemption price equal to 112.250% of the accreted value thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to the date of redemption.

The Senior Discount Notes limit the incurrence of additional indebtedness, the payment of dividends, entering into transactions with affiliates, asset sales, engaging in mergers or acquisitions, creating liens and other encumbrances on assets, and other matters.

The Company is dependent on NATC's cash flows to service its debt. The amount of cash interest to be paid during the next five years is as follows: \$0 in each of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and March 1, 2008; approximately \$2,628 payable on September 1, 2008 and approximately \$2,628 payable on each of March 1 and September 1 thereafter until maturity.

NATC's Credit Facility will require a \$30.0 million payment on the term loan on June 30, 2010.

**15. Income Taxes:**

The income tax provision (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003 consists of the following components (in thousands):

|                  | 2005   | 2004      | 2003       |
|------------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Deferred Federal | \$ 198 | \$ 25,380 | \$ (3,301) |
| State and local  | 30     | 1,830     | (388)      |
|                  | \$ 228 | \$ 27,210 | \$ (3,689) |

Deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 2005 and 2004 consist of (in thousands):

|                               | 2005   |             | 2004   |             |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                               | Assets | Liabilities | Assets | Liabilities |
| Inventory                     | \$     | \$ 3,928    | \$     | \$ 4,801    |
| Property, plant and equipment |        | 622         |        | 979         |

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|  |          |           |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Goodwill and other intangible assets     | 7,769    | 6,106     | 7,617    | 5,005     |
| Accrued pension and postretirement costs | 3,772    |           | 3,364    |           |
| Minimum pension liability                | 766      |           | 614      |           |
| NOL carryforward                         | 15,038   |           | 13,419   |           |
| Other                                    | 2,858    |           | 2,506    |           |
| Sub-total                                | 30,203   | 10,656    | 27,520   | 10,785    |
| Valuation allowance                      | (29,581) |           | (26,541) |           |
| Deferred income taxes                    | \$ 622   | \$ 10,656 | \$ 979   | \$ 10,785 |

At December 31, 2005 the Company had NOL carryforwards for income tax purposes of approximately \$39.6 million which expire in the years beginning in 2012.

**Table of Contents**

The Company has determined, due to its operating losses, that at December 31, 2005 and 2004, its ability to realize future benefits of net deferred tax assets does not meet the more likely than not criteria in SFAS No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes; therefore, a valuation allowance of \$29.6 million and \$26.5 million, respectively, has been recorded.

Reconciliation of the federal statutory rate and the effective income tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, and 2003 is as follows:

|                           | 2005   | 2004     | 2003  |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Federal statutory rate    | 35.0%  | 35.0%    | 35.0% |
| State taxes               | 3.5    | 1.9      | 3.5   |
| Permanent differences     | (1.1)  | (17.0)   | (0.8) |
| Valuation                 | (35.2) | (372.7)  |       |
| Other                     |        |          | (0.6) |
| Effective income tax rate | 2.2%   | (352.8)% | 37.1% |

**16. Pension and Postretirement Benefit Plans:**

The Company has two defined benefit pension plans covering substantially all of its employees. Benefits for the hourly employees plan are based on a stated benefit per year of service, reduced by amounts earned in a previous plan. Benefits for salaried employees are based on years of service and the employees final compensation.

The Company sponsors two defined benefit postretirement plans that cover both salaried and hourly employees. One plan provides medical and dental benefits, and the other provides life insurance benefits. The post-retirement health care plan is contributory, with retiree contributions adjusted annually; the life insurance plan is noncontributory.

Effective December 31, 2003, the Company froze the defined benefit retirement plan for its salaried employees. Effective June 30, 2004 and July 31, 2004, the Company also froze the defined benefit retirement plan for the respective hourly employees of its three collective bargaining units.

Effective September 30, 2004, the Company terminated its postretirement benefit plan for its salaried employees. Accordingly, the Company recognized a reduction in the postretirement benefit plan liability of \$3,811.

The following tables provide a reconciliation of the changes in the plans benefit obligations and fair value of assets for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 and a statement of the funded status as of December 31 (in thousands):

|                                       | Pension Benefits |           | Postretirement Benefits |           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
|                                       | 2005             | 2004      | 2005                    | 2004      |
| Reconciliation of benefit obligation: |                  |           |                         |           |
| Benefit obligation at January 1       | \$ 14,528        | \$ 15,298 | \$ 8,628                | \$ 14,298 |
| Service cost                          | 45               | 161       | 436                     | 238       |
| Interest cost                         | 790              | 783       | 475                     | 460       |
| Actuarial loss                        | 248              | 368       | 236                     | 1,742     |
| Curtailment of salaried benefits      |                  | (1,386)   |                         | (7,843)   |
| Benefits paid                         | (781)            | (696)     | (345)                   | (435)     |
| Benefit obligation at December 31     | \$ 14,830        | \$ 14,528 | \$ 9,430                | \$ 8,628  |

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|   |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets:</b> |            |            |            |            |
| Fair value of plan assets at January 1              | \$ 11,705  | \$ 9,433   | \$         |            |
| Actual return on plan assets                        | 706        | 1,268      |            |            |
| Employer contributions                              | 274        | 1,700      | 345        | 267        |
| Benefit paid  | (781)      | (696)      | (345)      | (267)      |
| <br>  |            |            |            |            |
| Fair value of plan assets at December 31            | \$ 11,904  | \$ 11,705  | \$         | \$         |
| <b>Funded status:</b>                               |            |            |            |            |
| Funded status at December 31                        | \$ (2,926) | \$ (2,823) | \$ (9,430) | \$ (8,628) |
| Unrecognized prior service cost                     |            |            |            |            |
| Unrecognized net actuarial loss                     | 1,810      | 1,476      | 2,668      | 2,567      |
| <br>  |            |            |            |            |
| Net amount recognized                               | \$ (1,116) | \$ (1,347) | \$ (6,762) | \$ (6,061) |

F - 20

**Table of Contents**

The asset allocation for the Company's defined benefit plans as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the target allocation for 2006, by asset category, follows:

| Asset category:   | Percentage of |                    |                  |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                   | Target        | Plan Assets at     |                  |
|                   |               | Allocation<br>2006 | December<br>2005 |
| Equity securities | 70%           | 71.8%              | 71.3%            |
| Debt Securities   | 30%           | 28.2%              | 28.7%            |
| Cash              | 0.0%          | 0.0%               | 0.0%             |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>      | <b>100.0%</b>    |

Equity securities included no shares of the Company's common stock at December 31, 2005 or 2004.

The Company's investment philosophy is to earn a reasonable return without subjecting plan assets to undue risk. The Company uses one management firm to manage plan assets, which are invested in high quality equity and debt securities. The Company's investment objective is to provide long-term growth of capital as well as current income.

The following table provides the amounts recognized in the balance sheets as of December 31 (in thousands):

|  | Postretirement    |                   |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | Pension Benefits  |                   | Benefits          |                   |
|  | 2005              | 2004              | 2005              | 2004              |
| Accrued benefit cost                   | \$ (1,116)        | \$ (1,347)        | \$ (6,762)        | \$ (6,061)        |
| Minimum pension liability              | (2,367)           | (1,965)           |                   |                   |
| Deferred tax asset                     | 767               | 614               |                   |                   |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 1,600             | 1,351             |                   |                   |
| <b>Net amount recognized</b>           | <b>\$ (1,116)</b> | <b>\$ (1,347)</b> | <b>\$ (6,762)</b> | <b>\$ (6,061)</b> |

The following table provides the components of net periodic pension and postretirement benefit costs for the plans for the years ended December 31 (in thousands):

|                                   | Pension Benefits |               |               | Postretirement Benefits |                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                                   | 2005             | 2004          | 2003          | 2005                    | 2004              | 2003            |
| Service cost                      | \$ 45            | \$ 161        | \$ 552        | \$ 436                  | \$ 238            | \$ 728          |
| Interest cost                     | 790              | 782           | 803           | 475                     | 460               | 808             |
| Expected return on plan assets    | (913)            | (850)         | (582)         |                         |                   |                 |
| Amortization of gains and losses  | 121              | 121           | 85            | 135                     | 133               | 408             |
| Curtailement of salaried benefits |                  |               |               |                         | (3,811)           |                 |
| <b>Net periodic benefit cost</b>  | <b>\$ 43</b>     | <b>\$ 214</b> | <b>\$ 858</b> | <b>\$ 1,046</b>         | <b>\$ (3,080)</b> | <b>\$ 1,944</b> |



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The Company is required to make assumptions regarding such variables as the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets and the discount rate applied to determine service cost and interest cost. The rate of return on assets used is determined based upon analysis of the plans' historical performance relative to the overall markets and mix of assets. The assumptions listed below represents Management's review of relevant market conditions and have been adjusted, as appropriate. The weighted average assumptions used in the measurement of the Company's benefit obligation are as follows:

|                                | <b>Postretirement</b>   |             |             |                 |             |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                | <b>Pension Benefits</b> |             |             | <b>Benefits</b> |             |             |
|                                | <b>2005</b>             | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2005</b>     | <b>2004</b> | <b>2003</b> |
| Discount rate                  | 5.50%                   | 5.50%       | 5.50%       | 5.50%           | 5.75%       | 6.25%       |
| Expected return on plan assets | 8.00%                   | 8.50%       | 8.50%       |                 |             |             |
| Rate of compensation increase  | N/A                     | N/A         | 4.00%       |                 |             |             |

For measurement purposes of the postretirement benefits, the assumed health care cost trend rate for participants under age 65 as of December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 was 10.0%, 11.0% and 12.0%, respectively, and for participants age 65 and over the rate was 10.0%, 11.0% and 12.0%, respectively. The health care cost trend rate was assumed to decline gradually to 5.5% for pre-age 65 and for post-age 65 costs over 6 years.

**Table of Contents**

Assumed health care cost trend rates could have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the postretirement benefit plans. A 1% increase in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects (in thousands):

|   | 2005     | 2004     | 2003     |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Effect on total of service and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement cost | \$ 182   | \$ 123   | \$ 269   |
| Effect on the health care component of the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation    | \$ 1,235 | \$ 1,100 | \$ 2,280 |

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

|           | Other          |                |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
|           | Pension        | Postretirement |
|           | Benefits U.S.  | Benefits (U.S. |
|           | Plans          | Plans)         |
|           | (In Thousands) | (In Thousands) |
| 2006      | \$ 816         | \$ 265         |
| 2007      | 831            | 294            |
| 2008      | 854            | 344            |
| 2009      | 889            | 387            |
| 2010      | 921            | 450            |
| 2011-2015 | \$ 5,032       | \$ 2,976       |

The Company's policy for the postretirement benefits plan is to make contributions equal to the benefits paid during the year. The Company expects to make \$0.3 million of contributions to the plan in the year ending December 31, 2006.

The Company also sponsors a voluntary 401(k) retirement savings plan. Eligible employees may elect to contribute up to 15% of their annual earnings subject to certain limitations. The Company match for the hourly employees is 100.0% of each eligible participant's contribution up to 6% of compensation for the plan year. The Company's matching for hourly employees is subject to a 3-year vesting schedule. In May 2005, the Company terminated the Company match for the salaried employees which had, to that point, been 100% of each eligible participant's contributions up to 6% of compensation for the plan year. In December 2005, the Company made a Supplemental match to the salaried employees as follows: The lowest dollar amount determined under the following three calculations: 1) if the participant's effective 401(k) contribution percentage as of October 16, 2005 is equal to or greater than 6% of the participant's annual salary rate for the 2005 Plan Year; 6% of the participant's annual salary rate for 2005 minus any match already contributed by the Company to the participant's account during the 2005 Plan Year; 2) if the participant's effective 401(k) contribution percentage as of October 16, 2005 is less than 6% of the participant's annual salary rate for the 2005 Plan Year; the participant's effective 401(k) contribution percentage as of October 16, 2005 times the participant's annual salary rate for 2005 minus any match already contributed by the Company to the participant's account during the 2005 Plan Year; 3) \$1,000. Company matching contributions to this plan were approximately \$0.3 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.5 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

**17. Lease Commitments:**

The Company leases certain office space and vehicles for varying periods.

The following is a schedule of future minimum lease payments for operating leases that had initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2005 (in thousands):

Operating

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|                                     | <b>Leases</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2006                                | \$ 1,174        |
| 2007                                | 1,034           |
| 2008                                | 499             |
| 2009                                | 317             |
| 2010                                | 325             |
| 2011 and beyond                     | 1,161           |
| <b>Total minimum lease payments</b> | <b>\$ 4,510</b> |

Lease expense for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 was \$1,238, \$1,081 and \$840, respectively.

**Table of Contents****18. Mandatorily Redeemable Preferred Stock**

On July 1, 2002 NATC commenced a consent solicitation (the "Consent Solicitation") from registered holders of its 12% Senior Exchange Payment-in-Kind Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Preferred Stock"), for certain amendments to the certificate of incorporation of NATC which would amend the terms of the Preferred Stock. The proposed amendments required the consent of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of NATC and the consent of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Preferred Stock. A consent by the holders of a majority of NATC's outstanding common stock was executed on June 28, 2002. On July 29, 2002, the Consent Solicitation was successfully completed, with NATC receiving consents from the holders of more than 99% of the outstanding shares of Preferred Stock.

The amendments to the Preferred Stock, among other things: (i) accelerated the mandatory redemption date of the Preferred Stock from June 15, 2007 to June 15, 2005, which will require NATC to redeem the Preferred Stock at an earlier date, (ii) reduced the liquidation preference from \$25.00 to \$22.00 per share, which will lower NATC's cost of redeeming the Preferred Stock and will lower the amount of dividends payable thereon (which dividends are equal to 12% of the liquidation preference per annum), (iii) eliminated any redemption premium, which will lower NATC's potential cost of redeeming the Preferred Stock prior to June 15, 2005, (iv) reduced the repurchase price that NATC must offer the holders of Preferred Stock upon a change of control from 101% to 100% of the liquidation preference, which will lower NATC's potential cost of any such repurchase obligation, (v) permitted future dividends to be paid through the issuance of additional shares of preferred stock, which will provide NATC with greater flexibility in financing its operations, and (vi) included a definition for the term "Permitted Investments", which definition was inadvertently omitted from the Certificate of Designation pursuant to which the Preferred Stock was created.

As consideration for these amendments, NATC paid each registered holder of Preferred Stock that consented thereto \$0.40 per share in cash. A total of approximately \$985 in consent fees were paid. NATC paid an additional amount of approximately \$236 in legal and other fees related to the Consent Solicitation. As a result of the Consent Solicitation NATC recognized a gain of \$5.4 million.

For the preferred stock dividend payments on September 15, 2002, December 15, 2002, March 15, 2003, June 15, 2003, September 15, 2003 and December 15, 2003, NATC chose to make this payment in kind. For the preferred stock dividend payment due on March 15, 2004 NATC chose to make this payment in cash.

Persons affiliated with the initial purchases of the Preferred Stock were also issued warrants, with an original fair value of \$0.7 million, to purchase 19,050 shares of common stock of NATC for \$0.01 per share, exercisable immediately. The original fair value of these warrants has been recorded in equity, with a corresponding amount capitalized and included in deferred financing costs.

On March 18, 2004, in connection with the refinancing of its existing debt, NATC redeemed all outstanding shares of the preferred stock, at the applicable redemption price equal to the liquidation preference of the preferred stock (\$22.00 per share), plus an amount in cash equal to all accumulated and unpaid dividends for a total of \$65,080.

**19. Share Incentive Plans:**

Pursuant to the reorganization on February 9, 2004, as described in Note 2, each of the 539,235 issued and outstanding shares of voting common stock of NATC were converted into the right to receive one share of common stock of the Company. In connection therewith, the liability of \$2,149 relating to the share incentive plans was transferred to the Company.

The Company has two share incentive plans covering certain key employees which provide for the granting of options to purchase common stock of the Company and other stock related benefits. As of December 31, 2005, no benefits other than the stock options described below had been granted. The total number of shares available for granting under the plans is 111,856. Stock option activity is summarized below:

|                                | Incentive<br>Shares | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price | Weighted<br>Average<br>Grant Date<br>Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Outstanding, December 31, 2003 | \$ 93,271           | \$ 42.38                                 | \$ 26.37  |
| Granted                        | 14,085              | 62.00                                    | 20.95   |
| Exercised                      |                     |  |   |

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|                                |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Forfeited                      | (1,000) | (62.00) | (22.75) |
| Outstanding, December 31, 2004 | 106,356 | 32.33   | 32.75   |
| Granted                        |         |         |         |
| Exercised                      |         |         |         |
| Forfeited                      | (8,741) | (62.00) | (20.25) |
| Outstanding, December 31, 2005 | 97,615  | 29.67   | 33.87   |

F - 23

**Table of Contents**

At December 31, 2005, the outstanding stock options exercise price for 61,856 options is \$9.99 per share (reduced from \$18.19 per share in August 2004), all of which are exercisable. The outstanding stock options exercise price for 35,759 options is \$62.00 (reduced from \$90.00 per share in August 2004), 25,237 of which are exercisable with the remaining 10,522 becoming exercisable from 2006 through 2014. All stock options expire 10 years from the grant date. The weighted average of the remaining lives of the outstanding stock options is approximately 6.3 years for the options with the \$9.99 exercise price and 6.0 years for the options with the \$62.00 exercise price. The Company estimates that all of the stock options granted will be exercised and that the expected life of all stock options is five years from the date of grant. The weighted average fair value of the options was determined as the difference between the fair value of the common stock on the grant date and the present value of the exercise price over the expected life of five years at a risk free interest rate of 6%, with no assumed dividend yield.

Of the stock options described above, 47,986 include a provision under which the Company will reimburse the employee for the difference between their ordinary income tax liability and the liability computed using the capital gains rate in effect upon exercise of the options. The effect of this provision is accounted for as a variable portion of the option plan.

The Company has recorded compensation expense related to the options based on the provisions of SFAS No. 123 under which the fixed portion of such expense is determined as the fair value of the options on the date of grant and amortized over the vesting period. The variable portion of the compensation expense is measured on each reporting date with the expense amount adjusted for changes in the fair value of the Company's stock on that date. As the result of the reduction in exercise prices referred to above, the Company recognized additional compensation expense of \$670 during 2004. A reduction of compensation expense of approximately \$55 at December 31, 2005 due to forfeitures and compensation expense of approximately \$832 and \$417 (\$164 and \$258, net of deferred income tax benefit) has been recognized in the Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

On February 8, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Company, adopted the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the Plan) and approved a form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement (the Form Award Agreement) pursuant to which awards under the Plan may be granted. The Plan provides for the granting of nonqualified stock options and restricted stock awards. Pursuant to the Plan, 175,503 shares of common stock of the Company are reserved for issuance as awards to employees, consultants and directors as compensation for past or future services or the attainment of certain performance goals. The expense relating to the issuance of common stock as compensation will be recorded by the Company.

The Plan will be administered by the Board of Directors of the Company or by a committee appointed by the Board. Subject to the express limitations of the Plan, the Board will have the authority to construe and interpret the provisions of the Plan, determine the persons to whom, and the times at which, awards may be granted, the number of shares, units or other rights subject to each award, the exercise, base or purchase price of an award (if any), the time or times at which an award will become vested, exercisable to payable, the performance goals and other conditions of an award, the duration of the award and all other terms of the award. The Board may provide that awards under the Plan shall become vested in installments over a period of time or may specify that the attainment of certain performance measures will determine the degree of vesting, or a combination of both, as set forth in the applicable award agreements. The Plan is scheduled to terminate on February 17, 2016, the day before the tenth anniversary of its adoption by the Board. However, the Board may, in its discretion, terminate the Plan, or amend or suspend the Plan, at any time and for any reason.

**20. Income (Loss) Per Common Share Reconciliation (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts):**

|   | For the Year Ended December 31, 2005 |                         |                     |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|   | Income<br>(Numerator)                | Shares<br>(Denominator) | Per Share<br>Amount |
| Net income                                  | \$ 10,117                            |                         |                     |
| Basic and Diluted:                          |                                      |                         |                     |
| Net income available to common stockholders | \$ 10,117                            | 588,758                 | \$ 17.18            |
|   |                                      |                         |                     |
|   | For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 |                         |                     |
|   | Income<br>(Numerator)                | Shares<br>(Denominator) | Per Share<br>Amount |
| Net loss                                    | \$ (34,922)                          |                         |                     |

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Less: Preferred stock dividends 1,613

Basic and Diluted:

Net loss available to common stockholders \$ (36,535) 577,795 \$ (63.23)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

|                                 | Income<br>(Numerator) | Shares<br>(Denominator) | Per Share<br>Amount |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Net loss                        | \$ (6,241)            |                         |                     |
| Less: Preferred stock dividends | 7,275                 |                         |                     |

Basic and Diluted:

Net loss available to common stockholders \$ (13,516) 528,241 \$ (25.59)

The calculations above are based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the year. Outstanding options have an anti-dilutive effect on earnings per share for each year presented.

**21. Fourth Quarter Adjustment:**

The 2005 fourth quarter adjustments did not have a material impact on income. The fourth quarters of 2004 and 2003 included adjustments of \$1.9 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, relating to LIFO and pension/postretirement expenses which decreased net income for both periods.

**Table of Contents****22. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited):**

All amounts are in thousands except net income (loss) per share.

|                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>2005</b>                         |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Net sales                           | \$ 27,347       | \$ 30,521       | \$ 28,847       | \$ 30,200       |
| Gross profit                        | 14,193          | 15,413          | 14,643          | 16,012          |
| Net income (loss)                   | (6,659)         | (5,601)         | (3,978)         | 26,355          |
| Basic net income (loss) per share   | (11.29)         | (9.51)          | (6.75)          | 44.76           |
| Diluted net income (loss) per share | (11.29)         | (9.51)          | (6.75)          | 36.90           |
| <b>2004</b>                         |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Net sales                           | \$ 22,105       | \$ 37,207       | \$ 30,741       | \$ 25,267       |
| Gross profit                        | 9,853           | 20,140          | 16,966          | 9,744           |
| Net income (loss)                   | (7,945)         | 812             | 5,932           | (35,334)        |
| Basic net income (loss) per share   | (14.70)         | 1.38            | 10.03           | (59.75)         |
| Diluted net income (loss) per share | (14.70)         | 1.11            | 8.25            | (59.75)         |

**23. Contingencies:****Litigation with Republic Tobacco**

On July 15, 1998, North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. ( NAOC ) and National Tobacco Company, L.P. ( NTC ), which are subsidiaries of the Company, filed a complaint (the Kentucky Complaint ) against Republic Tobacco, Inc. and its affiliates ( Republic Tobacco ) in Federal District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. Republic Tobacco imports and sells Roll-Your-Own ( RYO ) premium cigarette papers under the brand names JOB and TOP as well as other brand names. The Kentucky Complaint alleges, inter alia, that Republic Tobacco's use of exclusivity agreements, rebates, incentive programs, buy-backs and other activities related to the sale of premium cigarette papers in the southeastern United States violate federal and state antitrust and unfair competition laws and that Republic Tobacco defaced and directed others to deface NAOC's point of purchase vendor displays for premium cigarette papers by covering up the **ZIG-ZAG** brand name and advertising material with advertisements for Republic Tobacco's RYO cigarette paper brands. The Kentucky Complaint alleges that these activities constitute unfair competition under federal and state laws.

On June 30, 1998, Republic Tobacco filed a complaint against NATC, NAOC and NTC in the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois (the Illinois Complaint ) and served it on NATC after the institution of the Kentucky action. In the Illinois Complaint, Republic Tobacco seeks declaratory relief with respect to the Company's claims. In addition, the Illinois Complaint alleges that certain actions taken by NATC to inform its customers of its claims against Republic Tobacco constitute tortious interference with customer relationships, false advertising, violations of Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer Fraud Acts, defamation and unfair competition. In addition, although not included in its original complaint but in its amended complaint, Republic Tobacco alleged that NATC has unlawfully monopolized and attempted to monopolize the market on a national and regional basis for premium cigarette papers. Republic sought unspecified compensatory damages, injunctive relief and attorneys fees and costs.

On October 20, 2000, Republic Tobacco filed a motion to dismiss, stay, or transfer the Kentucky Complaint to the Illinois Court. On December 19, 2000, the Court denied Republic Tobacco's motion, holding that it was premature. The Court noted also that it had communicated with the Court in Illinois and that it had concluded that Republic Tobacco may not be entitled to any preference on forum selection, which would ordinarily be given because it was first to file. The Kentucky complaint is still on file.

Prior to the completion of discovery, the Court dismissed Republic Tobacco's antitrust claims against NATC. After discovery was completed in 2001, both parties moved for summary judgment on the others claims. In April 2002, the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois decided the summary judgment motions by dismissing all claims of both NATC and Republic Tobacco and its affiliates, except for Republic Tobacco's claim of defamation per se against the Company, on which it granted summary judgment on liability in favor of Republic Tobacco, and a Lanham Act false advertising claim, based on the same facts as the defamation claim, for equitable relief. In February 2003, the District Court granted Republic's motion for summary judgment on NATC's counterclaim that Republic tortiously interfered with NATC's business relationships and economic advantage. The only claim that remained to be tried was Republic's Lanham Act claim and damages on the defamation claim on which the Court previously ruled that Republic could only obtain equitable relief if successful.





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## **Table of Contents**

On July 8, 2003, following a four-day trial, an Illinois jury returned a verdict in favor of Republic on the defamation claims of \$8.4 million in general damages and \$10.2 million in punitive damages, for a total damage award of \$18.6 million. NATC recorded an \$18.8 million charge during the second quarter 2003 relating to this transaction. NATC filed post-trial motions for a new trial and, in the alternative, for a reduction of the awards. On August 1, 2003, NATC posted a judgment bond in the amount of \$18.8 million with the U.S. District Court. This was accomplished by obtaining a \$19.0 million senior secured term loan pursuant to a July 31, 2003 amendment to NATC's existing credit facility. On November 20, 2003, the court ruled that the awards were excessive and reduced the awards by approximately 60%, with the award of compensatory damages being reduced to \$3.36 million and the award of punitive damages being reduced to \$4.08 million, for a total of \$7.44 million. On December 18, 2003, Republic accepted these reduced awards. NATC reversed \$11.16 million during the fourth quarter 2003 due to this court ruling.

On January 8, 2004, NATC appealed the final judgment, including the finding of liability in this case as well as the amount of the award. On January 22, 2004, Republic filed a general notice of cross appeal and argued in its appellate briefs that the judgment should be affirmed and also asserted, in its cross-appeal, that the original judgment should be reinstated despite its acceptance of the District Court's order reducing the judgment amount.

On September 1, 2004, the Court of Appeals issued its ruling affirming the finding of liability against NATC for defamation, but reducing the amount of the damage award to \$3.0 million. The Court of Appeals also affirmed the dismissal of the Company's antitrust claim against Republic and the dismissal of Republic's motion to re-instate the original jury award of \$18.8 million. As a result of these rulings, in October 2004 NATC received approximately \$4.5 million relating to the cash bond it had posted with the Court in 2003. This amount was included in Other income during the third quarter of 2004.

NATC also applied to the Court of Appeals for an order awarding NATC approximately \$1.0 million for the difference in the expense of the original bond of \$18.8 million and the subsequent reduced bond of \$7.0 million and the lesser expense NATC would have incurred to bond the final \$3.0 million judgment. On November 30, 2004, the Court of Appeals ruled that the application for costs should be directed to the District Court. On December 17, 2004, NATC filed this motion with the District Court.

On August 3, 2005, the District Court issued its ruling and awarded NATC approximately \$1.1 million. This amount is not included in the condensed consolidated financial statements. On August 11, 2005, Republic Tobacco filed a notice of appeal. No briefing schedule has been established. NATC and Republic are currently involved in mediation discussions.

On February 21, 2006, Top Tobacco, LP, an affiliate of Republic Tobacco, filed a complaint against North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, alleging that the Company's use of the phrase "Fresh-Top Canister" on the side of its ZIG-ZAG CLASSIC AMERICAN BLEND cigarette tobacco infringes, damages and violates Top Tobacco's TOP trademark for tobacco. Top Tobacco requests injunctive relief, and unquantified royalties and damages. The Company intends to vigorously defend the claim and believes that it has strong defenses to the claims. However, no assurances can be given that the Company will prevail, and if the Company were to lose, there could be a material adverse event.

### **Litigation Related to Counterfeiting**

**Texas Infringing Products Litigation.** In Bolloré, S.A. v. Import Warehouse, Inc., Civ. No. 3-99-CV-1196-R (N.D. Texas), Bolloré, the Company's Licensor of ZIG-ZAG brand premium cigarette papers, obtained a sealed order allowing it to conduct a seizure of infringing and counterfeit ZIG-ZAG products in the United States. On June 7, 1999, seizures of products occurred in Michigan and Texas. Subsequently, all named defendants have been enjoined from buying and selling such infringing or counterfeit goods. Bolloré and NATC negotiated settlements with all defendants. These defendants included Import Warehouse, Ravi Bhatia, Tarek Makki and Adham Makki. Those settlements included a consent injunction against distribution of infringing or counterfeit goods.

On May 18, 2001, NATC, in conjunction with Bolloré and law enforcement authorities conducted raids on the businesses and homes of certain defendants previously enjoined (including Tarek Makki and Adham Makki) from selling infringing or counterfeit ZIG-ZAG brand products in the Bolloré S.A. v. Import Warehouse litigation. Evidence was uncovered that showed that these defendants and certain other individuals were key participants in importing and distributing counterfeit ZIG-ZAG premium cigarette papers. After a two day hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, on May 30, 2001, the Court held the previously enjoined defendants in contempt of court, and enjoined the additional new defendants, including Ali Makki, from selling infringing or counterfeit ZIG-ZAG premium cigarette papers.

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**Table of Contents**

NATC entered into a settlement with the defendants, the principal terms of which included a cash payment, an agreed permanent injunction, the withdrawal of the defendants' appeal of the civil contempt order, an agreed judgment of \$11.0 million from the civil contempt order and an agreement to forbear from enforcing that \$11.0 million money judgment until such time in the future that the defendants violate the terms of the permanent injunction. Two of the defendants, Tarek Makki and Adham Makki, also agreed to provide complete information regarding the counterfeiting conspiracy as well as information on other parties engaged in the purchase and distribution of infringing *ZIG-ZAG* premium cigarette papers.

On February 17, 2004, NATC and Bolloré filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, which had issued the original injunctions against the infringing defendants, seeking, with respect to respondents Adham Makki, Tarek Makki and Ali Makki, to have the \$11.0 million judgment released from the forbearance agreement and to have the named respondents held in contempt of court. The motion alleged that the three respondents had trafficked in counterfeit *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette papers after the execution of the settlement, citing evidence that all three had been charged in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan with criminal violations of the United States counterfeiting laws by trafficking in counterfeit *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette papers, which trafficking occurred after the settlement agreement.

On April 13, 2004, the Court entered an order (the Contempt 2 Order), finding Ali Mackie, Tarek Makki, Adham Mackie and their companies Best Price Wholesale (the Makki Defendants) and Harmony Brands LLC in civil contempt, freezing all of their assets, releasing the July 12, 2002 Final Judgment of \$11.0 million from the forbearance agreement as to the Makki Defendants, and again referring the matter to the United States Attorney for Criminal Prosecution. Subsequent to the entry of the Contempt 2 Order, the Company settled with defendant Harmony Brands and its members for the amount of \$750,000 and the entry of a permanent injunction. The Company is seeking to execute on the outstanding \$11.0 million judgment against the remaining Makki Defendants and those efforts are currently underway.

Pursuant to the U.S. Distribution Agreement and a related agreement between Bolloré and NATC, any collections on the judgments issued in the Bolloré v. Import Warehouse case are to be divided evenly between Bolloré and the Company after the payment of all expenses.

On February 7, 2002, Bolloré, NAOC and NATC filed a motion with the District Court in the Texas action seeking to hold Ravi Bhatia and Import Warehouse Inc. in contempt of court for violating the terms of the consent order and injunction entered against those defendants. NATC alleges that Mr. Bhatia and Import Warehouse sold counterfeit goods to at least three different companies over an extended period of time. On June 27, 2003, the Court found Import Warehouse and Mr. Bhatia in contempt of court for violating an existing injunction barring those parties from distributing infringing *ZIG-ZAG* cigarette paper products. The Court requested that NATC and Bolloré (the Company's co-plaintiff in the case) file a submission detailing the damages incurred. NATC and Bolloré filed their submission on July 25, 2003 which reported and requested damages of \$2.4 million.

On July 1, 2004, the Court issued an Order awarding approximately \$2.5 million in damages to NATC for the damages incurred by the Company as a result of the Import Warehouse Defendants' civil contempt. On July 15, 2004, the Court entered a Final Judgment in that amount for which defendants Import Warehouse, Inc. and Ravi Bhatia are jointly and severally liable. After NATC and Bolloré commenced collection proceedings, Import Warehouse paid NATC and Bolloré an amount equal to the entire judgment plus the expenses incurred in collection. Accordingly, approximately \$1.2 million has been recorded in Other income during the third quarter of 2004. The Import Warehouse Defendants filed a notice of appeal on July 24, 2004. No briefing schedule has been established.

On September 23, 2005, in Bolloré S.A. v. Beydoun, CV05-1679 S, NATC and Bolloré filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana against certain individuals and companies alleging that they had engaged in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute counterfeit Zig-Zag cigarette papers in the United States. The complaint sought, among other things, an injunction and damages. The civil case follows the conviction on federal criminal counterfeiting charges of one of the alleged participants in the conspiracy. Discovery has commenced.

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## Table of Contents

### **Litigation Related to Alleged Personal Injury**

**West Virginia Complaints.** Trial of the West Virginia complaints against the smokeless tobacco defendants has been postponed indefinitely, as described below. On October 6, 1998 NTC was served with a summons and complaint on behalf of 65 individual plaintiffs in an action in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, entitled Kelly Allen, et al. v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action Nos. 98-C-2401). On November 13, 1998, NTC was served with a second summons and complaint on behalf of 18 plaintiffs in an action in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, entitled Billie J. Akers, et al. v. Philip Morris Incorporated et al. (Civil Action Nos. 98-C-2696 to 98-C-2713). The complaints are identical in most material respects. In the Allen case, the plaintiffs have specified the defendant companies for each of the 65 cases. NTC is named in only one action. One Akers plaintiff alleged use of an NTC product, alleging lung cancer.

On September 14, 2000, NTC was served with a summons and complaint on behalf of 539 separate plaintiffs filed in Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, entitled Linda Adams, et al. v. Philip Morris Inc., et al. (Civil Action Nos. 00-C-373 to 00-C-911). Only one of these plaintiffs alleged use of a product currently manufactured by NTC. The time period during which this plaintiff allegedly used the product has not yet been specified. Thus, it is not yet known whether NTC is a proper defendant in this case.

On September 19, 2000, NTC was served with a second summons and complaint on behalf of 561 separate plaintiffs filed in Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, entitled Ronald Accord, et al. v. Philip Morris Inc., et al. (Civil Action Nos. 00-C-923 to 00-C-1483). A total of five of these plaintiffs alleged use of a product currently manufactured by NTC. One of these plaintiffs does not specify the time period during which the product was allegedly used. Another alleges use that covers, in part, a period when NTC did not manufacture the product. On motion by cigarette company defendants, this claim was dismissed on February 11, 2004, for failure to follow the case management order. Of the remaining three, one alleges consumption of a competitor's chewing tobacco from 1966 to 2000 and NTC's *Beech-Nut* chewing tobacco from 1998 to 2000; another alleges a twenty-four year smoking history ending in 1995 and consumption of *Beech-Nut* chewing tobacco from 1990 to 1995; and the last alleges a thirty-five year smoking history ending in 2000, and consumption of NTC's *Durango Ice* chewing tobacco from 1990 to 2000 (although *Durango Ice* did not come onto the market until 1999).

In November 2001, NTC was served with an additional four separate summons and complaints in actions filed in the Circuit Court of Ohio County, West Virginia. The actions are entitled Donald Nice v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-479), Korene S. Lantz v. Philip Morris Incorporated, et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-480), Ralph A. Prochaska, et al. v. Philip Morris, Inc., et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-481), and Franklin Scott, et al. v. Philip Morris, Inc., et al. (Civil Action No. 01-C-482). On August 19, 2004, the Korene Lantz lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff against all defendants including NTC. The Donald Nice lawsuit was dismissed on July 18, 2005 against all defendants including NTC for failure of the plaintiff to follow the case management order.

All of the West Virginia smokeless tobacco actions have been consolidated before the West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel for discovery and trial of certain issues. Trial of these matters was planned in two phases. In the initial phase, a trial was to be held to determine whether tobacco products, including all forms of smokeless tobacco, cigarettes, cigars and pipe and roll-your-own tobacco, can cause certain specified diseases or conditions. In the second phase, individual plaintiffs would attempt to prove that they were in fact injured by tobacco products. Fact and expert discovery in these cases has closed, however, in the cigarette cases the Court has allowed additional discovery.

The claims against NTC in the various consolidated West Virginia actions include negligence, strict liability, fraud in differing forms, conspiracy, breach of warranty and violations of the West Virginia consumer protection and antitrust acts. The complaints in the West Virginia cases request unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

The manufacturers of smokeless tobacco products (as well as the manufacturers of cigarettes) moved to sever the claims against the smokeless tobacco manufacturer defendants from the claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. That motion was granted and the trial date on the smokeless tobacco claims has now been postponed indefinitely.

By opinion dated December 2, 2005, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia completed its review of a certified question arising from the trial court's initial trial plan that had been established to resolve claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. The Supreme Court of West Virginia determined that the United States Supreme Court's decision in *State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Campbell*, 538 U.S. 408 (2003), did not preclude a trial plan in which phase I of the plan would decide certain elements of liability and a punitive damages multiplier and Phase II would decide each plaintiff's entitlement to compensatory damages and punitive damages based

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## **Table of Contents**

upon the multiplier determined in Phase I. The action has been remanded to the circuit court to fashion a new trial plan for the consolidated cases. The trial court has not yet formulated a new trial plan with regard to the claims against the cigarette manufacturer defendants. The claims against the smokeless tobacco manufacturer defendants remain severed and indefinitely stayed. While the Company intends to defend these cases vigorously should they ever go to trial, and believes it has strong defenses, no assurance can be given the Company would prevail. If the Company were not to prevail, the result could be a material adverse event.

In addition to the above described legal proceedings, the Company is subject to other litigation in the ordinary course of its business. The Company does not believe that any of these other proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the results of operations, financial position or cash flows of the Company.

### **Other Employment Matters**

The Company may, from time to time, have claims from and make settlements with former officers or employees.

David I. Brunson, the former President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company, resigned from the Company effective January 19, 2005, at which time his employment agreement with the Company (the Brunson Employment Agreement) was effectively terminated. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, the Company is required to make certain severance payments to Mr. Brunson, including \$425,000, which was paid within ten business days after January 19, 2005, and an additional \$425,000, which was paid in bi-weekly installments from January 20, 2005 through January 19, 2006. In addition, Mr. Brunson may become entitled to a bonus payment of up to \$725,000 relating to synergies achieved in the integration of the business of Stoker, Inc., which was acquired by the Company in 2003. Pursuant to the Brunson Employment Agreement, after the last severance payment is made, Mr. Brunson will have an option to require the Company to repurchase all or a portion of his shares of the Company at their fair market value. The Company will not be obligated to repurchase these shares if, upon or after the payment, it would be in default under any instrument, agreement or law by which it is bound; in this case, the repurchase may be deferred until it can be completed without such default. Similarly, the Company has an option to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares at their fair market value. In the event the Company and Mr. Brunson are unable to agree upon the fair market value of these shares, an independent investment banking firm will be selected to determine such fair market value, in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Brunson Employment Agreement. If neither Mr. Brunson nor the Company exercise their respective options by the earliest of the fifth anniversary of the termination of Mr. Brunson's employment or the date on which the Company refinances, or uses proceeds derived from refinancing, certain of its obligations, the Company will be required to repurchase Mr. Brunson's shares on such date unless Mr. Brunson waives his right to require the Company to purchase his shares. Any liability is deemed, at this time, not to be material to the Company's Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. No amounts have been accrued related to potential amounts payable to Mr. Brunson associated with the Stoker restructuring bonus or the requirement to repurchase his stock. On January 23, 2006, Mr. Brunson filed a verified complaint against the Company in the Supreme Court of New York, County of Westchester, alleging breach of his employment agreement and related claims arising out of his resignation from employment with the Company. Mr. Brunson claims that he is entitled to \$1.5 million in unpaid severance pay and at least \$1.2 million in unpaid incentive bonus compensation under his employment agreement. Alternatively, Mr. Brunson seeks payment of the alleged unpaid incentive bonus compensation under differing, but related theories of recovery. Mr. Brunson also seeks payment of his attorneys' fees. The Company vigorously disputes Mr. Brunson's allegations and responded to Mr. Brunson's complaint on March 31, 2006.

During the first quarter 2005 and twelve months ended December 31, 2005, the Company recorded approximately \$1.1 million relating to the resignation of Mr. Brunson. Any options or shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Brunson vested in full as of the date of such resignation.

On November 27, 2005, in *Owens v. National Tobacco Company* (Cal Super. Ct. Case No. BC343611), two former employees filed claims alleging racial and gender discrimination against the Company following the Company's dismissal of those employees for poor performance. The Company believes it will prevail. If the Company were not to prevail, the result could be a material adverse event.

A&M is entitled to a fee based on improvement in the Company's financial performance as measured against the Company's 2005 Business Plan, to be paid upon the termination of the engagement. One portion of the fee will be a specified percentage of the sustainable annualized EBITDAR improvement, as defined, and the other portion of the fee will be an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company in their reasonable judgment for significant and sustainable improvement in working capital investment and management, in each case as measured against the Company's 2005 Business Plan. As of December 31, 2005, no related liability or expense has been recorded relating to financial performance improvements.

**Table of Contents****24. Parent-Only Financial Information:**

The Company is a holding company with no independent operations and no independent assets other than its investments in its subsidiaries, income tax receivables, deferred income tax assets related to the differences between the book and tax basis of its investment in the Partnership, and deferred financing costs related to its debt.

All of the Company's subsidiaries are wholly-owned and guarantee the New Senior Notes of NATC on a full, unconditional, and joint and several basis and any other subsidiaries of the Company other than the guarantors are minor. Within the New Senior Notes there are no significant restrictions on the ability of the Company to obtain funds from its subsidiaries by dividend or loan. Separate financial statements of the subsidiaries are not required and have not been included in these financial statements.

**25. Segment Information:**

In accordance with SFAS No. 131, Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related information, the Company has three reportable segments. The smokeless tobacco segment manufactures smokeless tobacco products which are distributed primarily through wholesale and food distributors in the United States. The make-your-own segment imports and distributes premium cigarette papers, tobaccos and related products primarily through wholesale distributors in the United States. The premium cigarette segment distributes contract manufactured cigarettes through wholesale distributors in the United States.

The accounting policies of these segments are the same as those of the Company. Segment data includes a charge allocating corporate costs to the Smokeless Tobacco and Make-Your-Own segments based on their respective Net sales. Prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. Other includes the assets of the Company not assigned to segments and Elimination includes the elimination of intercompany accounts between segments. The Company evaluates the performance of its segments and allocates resources to them based on Operating income.

The table below presents financial information about reported segments for 2005, 2004 and 2003 (in thousands):

|                  | Smokeless |               | Premium<br>Manufactured |          | Eliminations | Total      |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------|------------|
|                  | Tobacco   | Make-Your-Own | Cigarettes              | Other    |              |            |
|                  |           |               |                         |          |              |            |
| <b>2005</b>      |           |               |                         |          |              |            |
| Net sales        | \$ 44,018 | \$ 67,599     | \$ 400                  | \$ 4,898 | \$           | \$ 116,915 |
| Operating income | 3,473     | 16,296        | (4,392)                 | 528      |              | 15,905     |
| Assets           | 71,116    | 295,086       | 4,184                   | 13,172   | (157,774)    | 225,784    |
| <b>2004</b>      |           |               |                         |          |              |            |
| Net sales        | \$ 46,214 | \$ 63,577     | \$ 270                  | \$ 5,259 | \$           | \$ 115,320 |
| Operating income | 8,022     | 15,204        | (4,830)                 | 814      |              | 19,210     |
| Assets           | 62,172    | 275,713       | 2,788                   | 25,242   | (133,517)    | 232,398    |
| <b>2003</b>      |           |               |                         |          |              |            |
| Net sales        | \$ 36,697 | \$ 64,677     | \$ 64                   | \$ 155   | \$           | \$ 101,593 |
| Operating income | 4,601     | 18,533        | (2,843)                 | 30       |              | 20,321     |
| Assets           | 72,570    | 277,612       | 2,218                   |          | (108,756)    | 243,644    |

**26. Terminated Asset Purchase Agreement:**

On February 18, 2003, NATC entered into an asset purchase agreement (the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase Agreement) with Star Scientific, Inc. (Star Scientific), and Star Tobacco, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Star Scientific (Star Tobacco and, together with Star Scientific, Star). Pursuant to the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase



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## **Table of Contents**

Agreement, NATC was to purchase substantially all of the assets of Star relating to the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of four discount cigarette brands in the United States (the Star Cigarette Assets ). The purchase price for the Star Cigarette Assets was to have been \$80.0 million in cash, subject to certain closing adjustments and the assumption of certain liabilities related to the Star Cigarette Assets.

On July 15, 2003, NATC and Star reached a mutual agreement to terminate the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase Agreement. Pursuant to the termination agreement, Star Scientific retained a \$2.0 million earnest money deposit that had been placed into escrow by NATC and the parties executed releases of any liabilities arising out of the Star Cigarette Asset Purchase Agreement. NATC incurred \$3.3 million of direct costs during 2003, including the \$2.0 million earnest money deposit referred to above, in connection with this transaction. These costs are included in Other Expenses in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

### **27. New Accounting Standards:**

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 123R (Revised 2004), Accounting for Stock Based Compensation ( SFAS No. 123R ). SFAS No. 123R establishes standards for the accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services. It also addresses transactions in which an entity incurs liabilities in exchange for goods or services that are based on the fair value of the entity's equity instruments or that may be settled by the issuance of those equity instruments. SFAS No. 123R eliminates the alternative to use APB 25's intrinsic value method of accounting that was provided in SFAS No. 123 as originally issued. SFAS No. 123R requires entities to recognize the cost of employee services received in exchange for awards of equity instruments based on the grant-date fair value of those awards (with limited exceptions). That cost will be recognized over the period during which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award or the vesting period. No compensation cost is recognized for equity instruments for which employees do not render the requisite service. A public entity will initially measure the cost of liability based service awards based on their current fair value; the fair value of those awards will be remeasured subsequently at each reporting date through the settlement date. Changes in fair value during the requisite service period will be recognized as compensation cost over that period. The provisions of SFAS No. 123R shall become effective for the Company in the first quarter of 2006 and will apply to all awards granted after June 30, 2005 and to awards modified, repurchased, or cancelled after that date. The Company is currently evaluating SFAS No. 123R but believes it will not have a material effect on financial results of operations.

In November 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 151, Inventory Costs - an amendment of ARB No. 43, Chapter 4, to clarify the accounting for abnormal amounts of idle facility expense, freight, handling costs, and wasted material (spoilage). SFAS No. 151 requires that items be recognized as current-period charges regardless of whether they meet the criterion of so abnormal that was previously stated in ARB No. 43, Chapter 4. In addition, SFAS No. 151 requires that allocation of fixed production overheads to the costs of conversion be based on the normal capacity of the production facilities. The provisions of this statement shall be effective for inventory costs incurred during fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005. The Company does not expect SFAS No. 151 to have a material impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS No. 153, Exchanges of Nonmonetary Assets - an amendment of APB Opinion No. 29, to eliminate the exception for nonmonetary exchanges of similar productive assets and replaces it with a general exception for exchanges of nonmonetary assets that do not have commercial substance. A nonmonetary exchange has commercial substance if the future cash flows of the entity are expected to change significantly as a result of the exchange. The guidance is effective for nonmonetary asset exchanges occurring in fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2005. The Company does not expect SFAS No. 153 to have a material impact on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2004, the FASB issued two FASB Staff Positions ( FSP ) regarding the accounting implications of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (the Act ). The Act provides a deduction for income from qualified domestic production activities, which will be phased in from 2005 through 2010. In return, the Act also provides for a two-year phase-out of the existing extra-territorial income exclusion ( ETI ) for foreign sales. Under the guidance in FSP No. FAS 109-1, Application of FASB Statement 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, to the Tax Deduction on Qualified Production Activities Provided by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, the deduction will be treated as a special deduction as described in FASB Statement No. 109. As such, the special deduction has no effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities existing at the enactment date and is not expected to have an impact on the Company's effective tax rate until fiscal year 2005.

In December 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the Act ), which introduces a Medicare prescription drug benefit, as well as a federal subsidy to sponsors of retiree health care benefit plans that provide a benefit that is at least actuarially equivalent to the Medicare benefit, was enacted. In May 2004, the





**Table of Contents**

FASB issued Financial Staff Position No. 106-2, Accounting and Disclosure Requirements Related to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 ( FSP 106-2 ) to discuss certain accounting and disclosure issues raised by the Act. In January 2005, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the final regulations implementing the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. FSP 106-2 provides guidance to employers that have determined that prescription drug benefits available under their retiree health care benefit plans are at least actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D. The Company's postretirement healthcare plans provide for prescription drug benefits for certain participants, however, the Company's benefit is not actuarially equivalent to the Medicare benefit and was not eligible for the subsidy.

In May 2005, the FASB issued SFAS No. 154, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - A Replacement of APB Opinion No. 20 and FASB Statement No. 3. SFAS No. 154 requires retrospective application to prior periods' financial statements for changes in accounting principle, unless it is impracticable to determine either the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the change. SFAS No. 154 also requires that retrospective application of a change in accounting principle be limited to the direct effects of the change. Indirect effects of a change in accounting principle, such as a change in non-discretionary profit-sharing payments resulting from an accounting change, should be recognized in the period of the accounting change. SFAS No. 154 is effective for accounting changes and corrections of errors made in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2005. The Company will comply with the provisions of this statement for any accounting changes or error corrections that occur after December 31, 2005.

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2.1                   | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of February 9, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., and NATC Merger Sub, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 11, 2004).  |
| 3.1(a)                | Restated Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., filed February 19, 1998 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(a) the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 3.1(b)                | Certificate of Correction to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated as of June 28, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1(b) the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 3.1(c)                | Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated July 30, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2002).  |
| 3.2(a)                | Amended and Restated Bylaws of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2(a) to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 1998).   |
| 4.1                   | Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, granted in favor of Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated September 30, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 4.2                   | Warrant to Purchase Common Stock, granted in favor of Peter J. Solomon Company Limited by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., dated as of June 4, 2001 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 4.3                   | Class B Term Note dated November 17, 2003, issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. in favor of Upper Columbia Capital Company, LLC ( Upper Columbia ) in the principal amount of Twenty Three Million Dollars (\$23,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                   |
| 4.4                   | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of 1888 Fund, Ltd. in the principal amount of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 4.5                   | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of MAGMA CDO, Ltd. in the principal amount of Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$5,500,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 4.6                   | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of Bingham CDO, L.P. in the principal amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                     |
| 4.7                   | Class B Term Note dated July 31, 2003 (amended and restated as of November 17, 2003), issued by North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., in favor of Stellar Funding, Ltd. in the principal amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                |

Exhibit - 1

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 4.8                       | Indenture, dated as of February 17, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., the Guarantors listed on the signature pages thereto and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association, a national banking association, as Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 4.9                       | Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., the Guarantors listed on the signature pages thereto, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and RBC Capital Markets Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.11 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).   |
| 9.1                       | Amended and Restated Exchange and Stockholders' Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2004, by and among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and those stockholders listed therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 9.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 10.1                      | Third Amended and Restated Purchasing and Processing Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and Lancaster Leaf Tobacco Company of Pennsylvania (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.2                      | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [United States] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997). |
| 10.3                      | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [Asia] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).          |
| 10.4                      | Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreement, dated as of November 30, 1992, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation and predecessor to North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. [Canada] (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).        |
| 10.5                      | Restated Amendment, dated as of June 25, 1997, between Bolloré Technologies, S.A. and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 1997).  |
| 10.6                      | Warrant Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and United States Trust Company of New York, as warrant agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.7                      | 1997 Share Incentive Plan of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |

Exhibit - 2

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.8                  | Employment Agreement, dated May 17, 1996, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.9                  | Employment Agreement, dated April 23, 1997, between Thomas F. Helms, Jr. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(b) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.10                 | Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(c) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).  |
| 10.11                 | Amendment No. 1, dated and effective September 2, 1997, to the Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(d) to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997). |
| 10.12                 | Amendment No. 2, dated as of December 31, 1997, to the Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18(e) to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.13                 | Consulting Agreement, dated as of June 25, 1997, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Jack Africk (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.14                 | National Tobacco Company Management Bonus Program (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement (Reg. No. 333-31931) on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 3, 1997).   |
| 10.15                 | Amended and Restated Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement dated as of January 12, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Jack Africk (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.16                 | Assignment and Assumption, dated as of January 1, 1998, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).   |
| 10.17                 | Amendment, dated October 22, 1997, to Amended and Restated Distribution and License Agreements, between Bolloré and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 10.18                 | Sales Representative Agreement, effective as of January 1, 1998, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997).  |
| 10.19                 | Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated as of April 30, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 1998).   |

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.20                     | Option Grant Letter, dated April 30, 1998, from Helms Management Corp. to David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 1998).   |
| 10.21                     | Subscription Agreement, dated as of March 24, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 1998).  |
| 10.22                     | North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 1999 Executive Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999).  |
| 10.23                     | North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. 1999 Management Bonus Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999).   |
| 10.24                     | Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, by and among Bank One, NA, LaSalle Bank National Association, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., the subsidiaries of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. named therein and the lenders party thereto (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).   |
| 10.25                     | Amended and Restated Security Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003). |
| 10.26                     | Amended and Restated Guaranty Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).                                       |

Exhibit - 4

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.27                 | Amended and Restated Pledge Agreement, dated as of February 17, 2004, among and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc. and Bank One, N.A., as agent on behalf of itself and other banks (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003). |
| 10.28                 | 2005 A Amendment to the Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, made and entered into as of February 17, 2004, by and among Bank One, NA as the Agent Bank, Bank One and LaSalle Bank, National Association, the Company, certain of its subsidiaries and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 21, 2005).   |
| 10.29                 | Offer of Employment, dated March 28, 2002, between the Company and Robert A. Milliken, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2002).   |
| 10.30                 | Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by David I. Brunson in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.31                 | Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Chris Kounnas in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).  |
| 10.32                 | Secured Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Helms Management Corp. in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.33                 | Secured Promissory Note, dated March 31, 2002, issued by Thomas F. Helms, Jr. in favor of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.34                 | Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2002, between Thomas F. Helms, Jr., Helms Management Corp. and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2002).   |
| 10.35                 | Amendment, dated November 25, 2002, to the Amended and Restated Employment Agreement dated as of April 30, 1998, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and David I. Brunson (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |

Exhibit - 5

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10.36                 | Employment Agreement dated as of November 21, 2002, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and James W. Dobbins (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.37                 | Transfer Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2002, by and among Arnold Sheiffer, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 10.38                 | Transfer Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2002, by and among Arnold Sheiffer, Robert Maurice Grunder Memorial Fund, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.39                 | 2002 Share Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).  |
| 10.40                 | Letter Agreement, dated November 8, 2002, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Marketing Solutions USA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002).   |
| 10.41                 | 2003A Amendment to Loan Documents, dated as of July 31, 2003, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Bank One, NA, successor to Bank One, Kentucky N.A., as agent bank and the various lending institutions named therein, Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for the Class B Lenders named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2003).  |
| 10.42                 | 2003B Amendment to Loan Documents dated as of November 17, 2003, among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., the Banks defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent for the Banks ( Agent Bank ), the Class B Lenders as defined therein and Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for Class B Lenders ( Class B Loan Agent ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).                   |
| 10.43                 | Amended and Restated Subordination Agreement dated as of November 17, 2003, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., the Banks defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent for the Banks ( Agent Bank ), the Class B Lenders as defined therein and Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent for Class B Lenders ( Class B Loan Agent ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003). |
| 10.44                 | Second Amendment to Mortgage, Security Agreement, Assignment of Leases, Rents and Profits, Financing Statement and Fixture Filing, dated as of November 17, 2003, among Bank One, NA (as Agent Bank and Mortgagee for the benefit of the Banks as defined in the 2003B Amendment to Loan Agreement) and National Tobacco Company, L.P. (the Mortgagor ) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).  |
| 10.45                 | Assignment of Security Interest in the United States Trademarks, dated November 17, 2003, issued by Stoker, Inc. in favor of Bank One, NA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).  |

Exhibit - 6



**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.46                 | Assignment of Security Interest in the United States Trademarks, dated November 17, 2003, issued by Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. in favor of Bank One, NA (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 24, 2003).   |
| 10.47                 | 2003C Amendment to Loan Documents dated as of December 23, 2003, by and among the Banks as defined therein, Bank One, NA, as agent bank on behalf of the Banks, the Class B Lenders as defined therein, Guggenheim Investment Management, LLC, as agent on behalf of the Class B Lenders, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and the Subsidiaries as defined therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 24, 2003).  |
| 10.48                 | Assignment and Assumption Agreement, dated as of February 9, 2004, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.53 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003).  |
| 10.49                 | Letter Agreement, dated as of January 19, 2005, between Alvarez & Marsal, LLC, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.52 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.50                 | Letter Agreement, dated as of October 12, 2004, between Jack Africk and North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (extending and amending Consulting Agreement) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.54 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.51                 | 2005B Amendment to the Amended and Restated Loan Agreement dated March 30, 2005, by and among JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. ( Morgan ), as successor to Bank One, NA, as Agent Bank, Morgan and LaSalle Bank, National Association, the Company, certain of its subsidiaries and North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.55 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.52                 | Amended Letter Agreement, dated April 11, 2005, between Alvarez & Marsal, LLC, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 14, 2005).  |
| 10.53                 | Employment Agreement, dated March 10, 2005, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. and Brian Harriss (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2005).  |
| 10.54                 | Financing Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., as guarantor, North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc., as borrowers, the financial institutions from time to time party thereto as lenders and Fortress Credit Corp., as agent for the lenders (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005). |

Exhibit - 7

**Table of Contents**

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.55                 | Security Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc. in favor of Fortress Credit Corp., as agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005).   |
| 10.56                 | Pledge Agreement, dated as of June 16, 2005, among North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, RBJ Sales, Inc., Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc. and Stoker, Inc. in favor of Fortress Credit Corp., as agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 22, 2005).   |
| 10.57                 | Resignation and Release Agreement, effective July 7, 2005, between National Tobacco Company, L.P. and Robert A. Milliken, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 7, 2005).  |
| 10.58                 | Employment Agreement, dated June 8, 2005, between North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (the Company) and Lawrence S. Wexler (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2005).  |
| 10.59                 | First Amendment to Financing Agreement, dated as of November 8, 2005, by and among North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc., North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc., National Tobacco Company, L.P., National Tobacco Finance Corporation, North Atlantic Cigarette Company, Inc., Stoker, Inc., RBJ Sales, Inc. and Fred Stoker & Sons, Inc., as Borrowers, North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc., as Guarantor, the financial institutions party thereto as Lenders, and Fortress Credit Corp., as Agent for the Lenders (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 15, 2005). |
| 10.60                 | North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, effective as of February 8, 2006 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 20, 2006).  |
| 10.61                 | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for employees under the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 14, 2006).  |
| 10.62                 | Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for non-employee directors under the North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 20, 2006).  |
| 10.63                 | Employment Agreement, dated as of February 14, 2006, between North Atlantic Holding Company, Inc. and Thomas F. Helms, Jr. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 21, 2006).  |
| 21                    | Subsidiaries of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 21 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2005).   |
| 31.1*                 | Certification by the Chief Executive Officer  |
| 31.2*                 | Certification by the Chief Financial Officer  |

\* Filed herewith.  
 Portions of this agreement have been omitted pursuant to Rule 406 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and have been filed confidentially with the Securities and Exchange Commission.  
 Management contracts or compensatory plan or arrangement.