

AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORP
Form DEF 14A
May 30, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant X
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant O

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION
111 ARLOZOROV STREET
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL 62098**

YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

To Holders of our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock:

Recently, we mailed to you materials concerning the upcoming special meeting of stockholders of Ampal-American Israel Corporation to be held on June 20, 2006. The special meeting is being called to consider and vote upon two proposed amendments to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation that will allow us to redeem the outstanding shares of our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our 6-1/2% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock.

The redemption of our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our 6-1/2% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock will provide us with the ability to list our Class A Stock on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. A company may not be listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange if it has more than one class of stock. **We believe listing our Class A Stock on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will have several potential benefits for us and our shareholders, including providing us access to the capital markets in Israel and potentially increasing the trading volume of our Class A Stock.**

If both the amendments are approved and we choose to redeem our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock and our 6-1/2% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock, we will be in the position to apply for the listing of our Class A Stock on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. In the event we do list our shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, our Class A Stock will continue to be listed on the NASDAQ National Market under the symbol AMPL.

**IF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS APPROVED YOU WILL
RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE PREMIUM PAID IN CASH**

Currently, you have the option of converting each share that you own of our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock into five shares of our Class A Stock.

If the proposed amendment to redeem the 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock is approved, you will receive the same number of shares of our Class A stock you would have received upon the exercise of your conversion right **plus an additional cash payment of \$2.58 per share upon redemption.**

In addition, if the amendment is approved, we will make a \$0.15 per share special cash voting payment to all holders that vote their shares in favor of the proposed amendment.

IF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS APPROVED YOU WILL RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE PREMIUM PAID IN CASH

**WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF MAINTAINING
OWNERSHIP IN AMPAL-AMERICAN**

We understand the importance of maintaining your ownership in the company and your right to convert your shares at your own option, however, your Board of Directors has given a great deal of consideration to the future of Ampal-American and believes this to be a major step toward future growth of the company and at the same time allows all Preferred holders to maintain their ownership interest in the company, receive a premium on their conversion, and potentially enjoy the increased liquidity that often accompanies common stock.

VOTING IS EASY AND CONVENIENT

If your shares are held in your own name, you may mail back your proxy card in the self-addressed return envelope provided, or you may vote via the phone or internet by following the instructions on your proxy card. If your shares are held in street name, you may contact your broker and provide them with voting instructions, or request a proxy card to allow you to vote. Should you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact our proxy solicitation agent MacKenzie Partners, Inc. toll-free at (800) 322-2885 or collect at (212) 929-5500 or via email at proxy@mackenziepartners.com.

No matter how many or how few shares you own, the upcoming meeting directly affects the future of the company and your investment in it and we hope that you will take a moment now to support your Board's effort to ensure the future growth of Ampal-American Israel Corporation.

Sincerely,

By: /s/ Jack Bigio

JACK BIGIO
President and Chief Executive Officer

PROXY

AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Meeting of Shareholders on June 20, 2006

The undersigned hereby appoints Jack Bigio and Yoram Firon, and each of them, as proxy for the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to vote and otherwise represent all of the shares of 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock of Ampal-American Israel Corporation held of record by the undersigned on April 24, 2006, at the Special Meeting of Shareholders to be held on June 20, 2006, and any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof, with the same effect as if the undersigned were present and voting such shares, on all matters as further described in the accompanying Prospectus and Proxy Statement. By executing this Proxy, the undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given with respect to such shares. The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders and the accompanying Prospectus and Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, filed on March 29, 2006.

THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS MADE. IF THIS PROXY IS EXECUTED BUT NO SPECIFICATION IS MADE, THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1. THE PROXIES, IN THEIR DISCRETION, ARE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE UPON ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OR ANY ADJOURNMENT(S) OR POSTPONEMENT(S) THEREOF.

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side)

SPECIAL MEETING SHAREHOLDERS

AMPAL-AMERICAN ISRAEL CORPORATION

June 20, 2006

Please date, sign and mail your proxy card in the envelope provided as soon as possible.

Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 1. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE X

- | | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
|---|-----|---------|---------|
| 1. To approve an amendment to our Restated Certificate of Incorporation to allow for the redemption of each outstanding share of our 4% Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock in exchange for five shares of our Class A Stock and \$2.58. | O | O | O |

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WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON, YOU ARE URGED TO SIGN AND PROMPTLY MAIL THIS PROXY CARD IN THE RETURN ENVELOPE SO THAT YOUR STOCK MAY BE REPRESENTED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING.

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Shareholder _____ Date: _____

Signature of Shareholder _____ Date: _____

Note: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 1. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN