

METALS USA HOLDINGS CORP.

Form S-3

March 14, 2012

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 14, 2012

Registration No. 333

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

METALS USA HOLDINGS CORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)
2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 905

20-3779274
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

(954) 202-4000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of principal executive offices)

William A. Smith II

Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 905

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

(954) 202-4000

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

Copy to:

Alan L. Dye, Esq.

John B. Beckman, Esq.

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Columbia Square

555 Thirteenth Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20004

(202) 637-5600

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

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Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum	Proposed maximum	Amount of registration fee
		aggregate offering price per share	aggregate offering price	
Primary Offering:				
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	(1)	(3)	(3)	
Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	(1)	(3)	(3)	
Stock Purchase Contracts	(1)	(3)	(3)	
Warrants	(1)	(3)	(3)	
Debt Securities	(1)	(3)	(3)	
Total			\$200,000,000 ⁽⁴⁾	\$22,920
Secondary Offering:				
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	23,728,650 shares ⁽²⁾	\$12.72 ⁽⁵⁾	\$301,828,428 ⁽⁶⁾	\$34,589.54
Total				\$57,509.54

- (1) With respect to the primary offering, we are registering such indeterminate number of principal amount and number of each identified class of our securities as we may offer and sell from time to time, which will have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000.
- (2) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), the shares of common stock being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares as may be issuable as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (3) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance of the securities registered hereunder.
- (4) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act at a rate equal to \$114.60 per \$1,000,000 of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.
- (5) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act based on a per share price of \$12.72, the average of the high and low reported sale prices of the registrant's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on March 9, 2012.
- (6) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) promulgated under the Securities Act at a rate equal to \$114.60 per \$1,000,000 of the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.

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

Table of Contents

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

Subject to Completion

Preliminary Prospectus dated March 14, 2012

PROSPECTUS

Metals USA Holdings Corp.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Stock Purchase Contracts

Warrants

Debt Securities

We may offer and sell from time to time common stock, preferred stock, stock purchase contracts, warrants and debt securities (including debt securities that may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock). Our common stock, preferred stock, stock purchase contracts, warrants and debt securities may be offered separately or together, in multiple series, in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be set forth in one or more prospectus supplements to this prospectus.

In addition, up to 23,728,650 shares of our common stock may be offered and sold, from time to time, by selling stockholders described in this prospectus under the heading **Selling Stockholders** in the future in amounts, at prices, and on other terms to be determined at the time of the offering and by any means described in this prospectus under **Plan of Distribution**. We will bear all costs, fees and expenses in connection with the selling of stockholders' securities. The selling stockholders will pay all commissions and discounts, if any, attributable to the sale or disposition of their shares of our securities. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of our common stock by the selling stockholders.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or the selling stockholders may offer. Each time we or a selling stockholder sells securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully and any document we incorporate by reference into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest in our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Metals USA Holdings Corp. s common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MUSA.

Investing in our securities involves risk. You should carefully review the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See Information Incorporated by Reference.

This prospectus is dated _____, 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	5
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	6
<u>INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE</u>	7
<u>INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA</u>	9
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	10
<u>CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	11
<u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u>	12
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS</u>	19
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	22
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	25
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	28
<u>EXPERTS</u>	29

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) using a shelf registration or continuous offering process. Under this shelf process, we and/or one or more selling stockholders may from time to time sell Metals USA Holdings Corp. securities in one or more offerings.

Each time we or one or more selling stockholders sell securities under this prospectus we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. That prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities. The prospectus supplement also may add, update, or change the information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the headings Where You Can Find More Information and Information Incorporated by Reference.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, including information incorporated by reference as described above, or any prospectus supplement that we have specifically referred you to. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with additional or different information. If anyone provides you with additional, different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state or other jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus or the prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document regardless of its time of delivery or the time of any sales of our securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows may have changed since the date of the applicable document.

When we refer to the Company, we, our, and us in this prospectus, we mean Metals USA Holdings Corp. (Metals USA Holdings) and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Flag Intermediate Holding Corp. (Flag Intermediate) and Metals USA, Inc. (Metals USA), together with the wholly-owned subsidiaries of Metals USA. When we refer to Apollo, we mean Apollo Management V, L.P. and its affiliates, unless the context indicates otherwise. When we refer to Apollo Funds, we mean investment funds managed by Apollo.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

We believe that we are a leading provider of value-added processed carbon steel, stainless steel, aluminum and specialty metals, as well as manufactured metal components. For the year ended December 31, 2011, approximately 95% of our revenue was derived from our metals service center and processing activities, which are segmented into two groups: Flat Rolled and Non-Ferrous Group and Plates and Shapes Group. The remaining portion of our revenue was derived from our Building Products Group, which principally manufactures and sells aluminum products related to the residential remodeling industry. We purchase metal from primary producers that generally focus on large volume sales of unprocessed metals in standard configurations and sizes. In most cases, we perform the customized, value-added processing services required to meet the specifications provided by end-users. Our Plates and Shapes Group and Flat Rolled and Non-Ferrous Group customers are in multiple industries, including the aerospace, automotive industry manufacturing, defense, heavy equipment, marine transportation, commercial construction, office furniture manufacturing, and energy and oilfield services industries, among several others, throughout the United States. Our Building Products Group customers are primarily distributors and contractors engaged in the residential remodeling industry.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 905, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308, and our telephone number is (954) 202-4000. Our website is located at www.metalsusa.com. We make our periodic reports and other information filed with or furnished to the SEC available, free of charge, through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after those reports and other information are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. Information on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains statements reflecting assumptions, expectations, projections, intentions or beliefs about future events that are intended as forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that we expect, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements. These statements represent our reasonable judgment on the future based on various factors and using numerous assumptions and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause our actual results and financial position to differ materially from those contemplated by the statements. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, forecast, may, should, plan, project and other words of similar meaning. In particular, these include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the following:

projected operating or financial results, including anticipated cash flows from operations and asset sale proceeds;

expectations regarding capital expenditures, interest expense and other payments;

our beliefs and assumptions relating to our liquidity position, including our ability to adapt to changing market conditions; and

our ability to compete effectively for market share with industry participants.

Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations, which we refer to as cautionary statements, are discussed under Risk Factors and elsewhere in this prospectus, our reports filed from time to time with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as the same may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by our filings under the Exchange Act, or any prospectus supplement. All forward-looking information in this prospectus and documents incorporated by reference herein and subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us, or to persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements. Some of the factors that we believe could affect our results include:

supply, demand, prices and other market conditions for steel and other commodities;

the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices;

the effects of competition in our business lines;

the condition of the steel and metal markets generally, which will be affected by interest rates, foreign currency fluctuations and general economic conditions;

the ability of our counterparties to satisfy their financial commitments;

tariffs and other government regulations relating to our products and services;

adverse developments in our relationship with both our key employees and unionized employees;

operational factors affecting the ongoing commercial operations of our facilities, including catastrophic weather-related damage, regulatory approvals, permit issues, unscheduled blackouts, outages or repairs, unanticipated changes in fuel costs or availability of fuel emission credits or workforce issues;

our ability to operate our businesses efficiently, manage capital expenditures and costs (including general and administrative expenses) and generate earnings and cash flow;

restrictive covenants in our indebtedness that may adversely affect our operational flexibility;

general political conditions and developments in the United States and in foreign countries whose affairs affect supply, demand and markets for steel, metals and metal products;

Table of Contents

our ability to retain key employees; and

our expectations with respect to our acquisition activity.

We caution you that the foregoing list of important factors may not contain all of the material factors that are important to you. In addition, in light of these risks and uncertainties, the matters referred to in the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus may not in fact occur. Accordingly, investors should not place undue reliance on those statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, or to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making any investment decision, you should carefully consider the risk factors described in Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K and our other reports filed from time to time with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as the same may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by our filings under the Exchange Act, as well as any prospectus supplement relating to our securities. You also should carefully consider other information we include or incorporate by reference in this prospectus or in any applicable prospectus supplement. The risks and uncertainties described in the prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference into this prospectus are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that we are unaware of or that we believe are not material at the time could also materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations and the securities we offer by means of this prospectus. In any case, the value of our securities could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment. See also the information contained under the heading Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements above.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on the investor relations page of our corporate website at www.metalsusa.com. Except for those SEC filings incorporated by reference in this prospectus, none of the other information on those websites is part of this prospectus. You also may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at its public reference facilities at 100 F Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference much of the information that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Some information contained in this prospectus updates the information incorporated by reference, and information that we file in the future with the SEC will automatically modify, supersede, or update this prospectus. In other words, in the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information in this prospectus and/or information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below and any filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (other than documents or information furnished to and not filed with the SEC) after the initial filing of the registration statement related to this prospectus until the termination of the offering of these securities:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, filed on March 14, 2012; and

The description of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, contained in our Form 8-A, filed on April 6, 2010, and any subsequent amendment thereto filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Documents incorporated by reference are available without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this document. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this document by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at the following address:

Metals USA Holdings Corp.

2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 905

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308

Attn: Investor Relations

Telephone: (954) 202-4000

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference, or deemed to be incorporated by reference, in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete, and where reference is made to the particular provisions of such contract or other document, such provisions are qualified in all respects by reference to all of the provisions of such contract or other document. We will provide without charge to each person to whom a copy of this prospectus has been delivered, on the written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all of the documents which have been or may be incorporated in this prospectus by

Table of Contents

reference (other than exhibits to such documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in any such documents) and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. You may request a copy of these filings at the address and telephone number set forth above.

In reviewing any agreements incorporated by reference, please remember that they are included to provide you with information regarding the terms of such agreements and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about the Company. The agreements may contain representations and warranties by the Company or other parties, which should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate. The representations and warranties were made only as of the date of the relevant agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in such agreement and are subject to more recent developments. Accordingly, these representations and warranties alone may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time.

Table of Contents

INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement may include industry and trade association data, forecasts and information that we have prepared based, in part, upon data, forecasts and information obtained from independent trade associations, industry publications and surveys and other information available to us. Some data also is based on our good faith estimates, which are derived from management's knowledge of the industry and independent sources. Industry publications and surveys and forecasts generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Although we believe these sources are reliable, we have not independently verified the information. Statements as to our market position are based on market data currently available to us. Our estimates involve risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. Similarly, we believe our internal research is reliable, even though such research has not been verified by any independent sources.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities by us for general corporate purposes. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the securities by selling stockholders. General corporate purposes include working capital, the expansion of our production capabilities, purchases of capital equipment, acquisitions and the repayment, repurchase or redemption of outstanding indebtedness. We have not determined the specific portion of any net proceeds to be used for these purposes, and the net proceeds from the sale of the securities have not been accounted for in our normal budgeting process. The amounts actually expended for these purposes may vary significantly and will depend on a number of factors, including the amount of cash we generate from future operations, the actual expenses of operating our business, and opportunities that may be or become available to us.

Table of Contents**CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The table below sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges. We have not presented a ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends because we had no preferred stock outstanding in any of the fiscal years presented. The following table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, which is incorporated by reference herein. For further information, please see Exhibit 12.1 (Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges) to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	1.2x	2.3x	1.1x	1.4x	3.3x

Table of Contents

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

This prospectus also relates to the possible resale of up to a total of 23,728,650 shares of our common stock by certain Apollo Funds and certain of our current and former executive officers, employees and directors. Information about the current and former officers, employees and directors that may offer shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus will be set forth in one or more prospectus supplements or in filings that we make with the SEC under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Each of the current and former officers, employees and directors who may offer shares of common stock pursuant to this prospectus acquired the shares prior to the date of the filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The transactions in which the shares were acquired have been completed. The shares were acquired as part of the acquisition of the Company by certain Apollo Funds in November of 2005 and, in the case of the current and former executive officers, employees and directors, also through participating in certain employee benefit plans and/or stock incentive plans.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a description of the material terms of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation (the Certificate of Incorporation) and amended and restated bylaws (the Bylaws), and of specific provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL). The following description is intended as a summary only and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our Certificate of Incorporation, our Bylaws and the DGCL.

General

Pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation, our capital stock consists of a total of 150 million authorized shares, of which 140 million shares are designated common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 10 million shares are designated preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of March 14, 2012, there were 37,058,507 shares of common stock outstanding and no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

Common Stock

Voting Rights. Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. The holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors. Accordingly, holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors may elect all of the directors standing for election.

Dividend Rights. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably dividends if, as and when dividends are declared from time to time by our Board of Directors (the Board) out of funds legally available for that purpose, after payment of dividends required to be paid on outstanding preferred stock, as described below, if any. Under Delaware law, we can only pay dividends either out of surplus or out of the current or the immediately preceding year's net profits. Surplus is defined as the excess, if any, at any given time, of the total assets of a corporation over its total liabilities and statutory capital. The value of a corporation's assets can be measured in a number of ways and may not necessarily equal their book value.

Liquidation Rights. Upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the net assets available for distribution to the stockholders after payment of all debts, other liabilities, and accrued but unpaid dividends on any outstanding preferred stock, subject to the liquidation preferences of any outstanding preferred stock.

Other Matters. The common stock has no preemptive, subscription or conversion rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and the shares of our common stock offered hereby, upon payment and delivery in accordance with the underwriting agreement, will be fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our Certificate of Incorporation, shares of preferred stock are issuable from time to time, in one or more series, with the designations of the series, the voting rights (if any) of the shares of the series, the powers, preferences and relative, participation, optional or other special rights, if any, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof as our Board from time to time may adopt by resolution, subject to certain limitations. Each series will consist of that number of shares as will be stated and expressed in the certificate of designations providing for the issuance of the stock of the series. All shares of any one series of preferred stock will be identical.

The purpose of authorizing our Board to issue preferred stock and determine its rights and preferences is to eliminate delays associated with a stockholder vote on specific issuances. The issuance of preferred stock, while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have

Table of Contents

the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire, a majority of our outstanding voting stock. The existence of the authorized but undesignated preferred stock may have a depressive effect on the market price of our common stock.

A prospectus supplement relating to any series of preferred stock being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. They will include, where applicable:

the title and stated value of the series of shares of preferred stock and the number of shares constituting that series;

the number of shares of the series of preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of the shares of preferred stock;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or the method(s) of calculation for those values relating to the shares of preferred stock of the series;

the date from which dividends on shares of preferred stock of the series shall cumulate, if applicable;

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for shares of preferred stock of the series;

the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for shares of preferred stock of the series;

the provision for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, of shares of preferred stock of the series;

any listing of the series of shares of preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which shares of preferred stock of the series will be convertible into shares of preferred stock of another series or common stock, including the conversion price, or manner of calculating the conversion price;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange period, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

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whether interests in shares of preferred stock of the series will be represented by global securities;

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the series of shares of preferred stock;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax consequences of owning or disposing of the shares of preferred stock of the series;

the relative ranking and preferences of shares of preferred stock of the series as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and

any limitations on issuance of any series of shares of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of shares of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

When we issue shares of preferred stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

Composition of Board of Directors; Election and Removal of Directors

In accordance with our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws, the number of directors comprising our Board is determined from time to time by our Board, and only a majority of the Board may fix the number of directors. We currently avail ourselves of the controlled company exception under the New York Stock

Table of Contents

Exchange rules which exempts us from certain requirements, including the requirements that we have a majority of independent directors on our Board and that we have compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees composed entirely of independent directors. We do, however, remain subject to the requirement that we have an audit committee composed entirely of independent members. Currently, we have seven directors. Each director is to hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. At any meeting of our Board, except as otherwise required by law, our Bylaws provide that a majority of the total number of directors then in office will constitute a quorum for all purposes, except that, for so long as there is at least one Apollo representative on the Board, then a quorum must include such representative unless he or she waives the right to be included in the quorum at such meeting.

The amended and restated investors rights agreement among Metals USA Holdings, certain Apollo Funds and certain members of our management (the Investors Rights Agreement) provides that, except as otherwise required by applicable law, certain Apollo Funds have the right to nominate (a) four directors as long as certain Apollo Funds own (including shares of common stock issuable under the terms of any exchangeable securities issued by us) at least 30% but less than 50% of our outstanding common stock, (b) three directors as long as certain Apollo Funds own (including shares of common stock issuable under the terms of any exchangeable securities issued by us) at least 20% but less than 30% of our outstanding common stock and (c) two directors as long as certain Apollo Funds own (including shares of common stock issuable under the terms of any exchangeable securities issued by us) at least 10% but less than 20% of our outstanding common stock. In the event that the Board increases its size beyond nine members, certain Apollo Funds' nomination rights will be proportionately increased, and rounded up to the nearest whole number of directors. The Investors Rights Agreement also provides that, except as otherwise required by applicable law, we will take all action within our respective power to cause all such nominees to be included in the slate of nominees recommended by the Board to the Company's stockholders for election as directors at each annual meeting of our stockholders, and we will use all reasonable efforts to cause the election of each such nominee, including soliciting proxies in favor of the election of such nominees. The Investors Rights Agreement also provides that, except as otherwise required by applicable law, certain Apollo Funds will have the right to designate a replacement to fill a vacancy on the Board that was nominated by certain Apollo Funds, and will provide that, except as otherwise required by applicable law, we will take all action within our power to cause such vacancy to be filled by the replacement designated by certain Apollo Funds (including by promptly appointing such designee to the Board). See Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions Investors Rights Agreement, incorporated by reference into this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that our Board is divided into three classes of directors, with the classes to be as nearly equal in number as possible. As a result, approximately one-third of our Board will be elected each year. The classification of directors has the effect of making it more difficult for stockholders to change the composition of our Board. Our Certificate of Incorporation also provides that stockholders do not have the right to cumulative votes in the election of directors. Under the DGCL, unless otherwise provided in our Certificate of Incorporation, directors serving on a classified board may be removed by the stockholders only for cause. Our Certificate of Incorporation does not make an exception to this rule. In addition, except to the extent otherwise provided in the Investors Rights Agreement, our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that any vacancies on our Board will be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, although less than a quorum, subject to certain Apollo Funds' rights as described above.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Our Bylaws provide that special meetings of the stockholders may be called only by the Board or the Chairman of the Board.

Table of Contents

Section 203 of the DGCL

In our Certificate of Incorporation, we elect not to be subject to Section 203 of the DGCL. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a three-year period following the time that this stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in the manner prescribed therein. A business combination includes a merger, asset sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or, in some cases, within three years prior, did own) 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock.

Certain Corporate Anti-Takeover Provisions

Certain provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws summarized below may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, deter or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider to be in its best interests, including attempts that might result in a premium being paid over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Preferred Stock

Our Certificate of Incorporation contains provisions that permit our Board to issue, without any further vote or action by the stockholders, shares of preferred stock in one or more series and, with respect to each such series, to fix the number of shares constituting the series and the designation of the series, the voting rights (if any) of the shares of the series, and the powers, preferences and relative, participation, optional and other special rights, if any, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions, of the shares of such series. See Preferred Stock.

Classified Board; Number of Directors

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that our Board is divided into three classes of directors, with the classes to be as nearly equal in number as possible and the number of directors on our Board may be fixed only by the majority of our Board. See Composition of Board of Directors; Election and Removal of Directors.

Removal of Directors, Vacancies

Our stockholders are able to remove directors only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our capital stock entitled to vote in the election of directors. Vacancies on our Board may be filled only by a majority of our Board. Except as otherwise required by applicable law, the Investors Rights Agreement provides that certain Apollo Funds have the right to designate a replacement to fill a vacancy on our Board resulting from the resignation or removal of a director that was designated by certain Apollo Funds. See Composition of Board of Directors; Election and Removal of Directors.

No Cumulative Voting

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that stockholders do not have the right to cumulative votes in the election of directors.

Calling of Special Meetings of Stockholders

Our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by our Board or the Chairman of the Board.

Table of Contents

Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations

Our Bylaws provide that stockholders seeking to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring business before an annual meeting of stockholders must provide timely notice of their proposal in writing to the corporate secretary.

Generally, to be timely, a stockholder's notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 90 days or more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary date of the previous year's annual meeting. Our Bylaws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. These provisions may impede stockholders' ability to bring matters before an annual meeting of stockholders or make nominations for directors at an annual meeting of stockholders.

Delaware Takeover Statute

In our Certificate of Incorporation, we elect not to be subject to Section 203 of the DGCL, which would have imposed additional requirements regarding certain mergers and other business combinations.

All the foregoing proposed provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws could discourage potential acquisition proposals and could delay or prevent a change in control. These provisions are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of the Board and in the policies formulated by the Board and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of control. These provisions are designed to reduce our vulnerability to an unsolicited acquisition proposal. The provisions also are intended to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy fights. These same provisions may delay, deter or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider to be in its best interest. In addition, such provisions could have the effect of discouraging others from making tender offers for our shares and, as a consequence, they also may inhibit fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that could result from actual or rumored takeover attempts. Such provisions also may have the effect of preventing changes in our management.

Corporate Opportunity

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that no officer or director of us who is also an officer, director, employee, managing director or other affiliate of Apollo Global Management, LLC or its affiliates will be liable to us or our stockholders for breach of any fiduciary duty by reason of the fact that any such individual directs a corporate opportunity to another person, including Apollo, instead of us, or does not communicate information regarding a corporate opportunity to us that the officer, director, employee, managing director or other affiliate has directed to another person, including Apollo.

Amendment of Our Certificate of Incorporation

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority in voting power of all the shares entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, shall be required to modify, amend or repeal, the Certificate of Incorporation.

Amendment of Our Bylaws

Our Bylaws provide that they can be amended by the vote of the holders of a majority of the shares then entitled to vote or by the vote of a majority of the Board.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that no director will be personally liable for monetary damages for breach of any fiduciary duty as a director, except with respect to liability:

for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;

Table of Contents

for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the DGCL (governing distributions to stockholders); or

for any transaction from which the director derived any improper personal benefit.

However, if the DGCL is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of our directors will be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as so amended. The modification or repeal of this provision of our Certificate of Incorporation will not adversely affect any right or protection of a director existing at the time of such modification or repeal.

Our Certificate of Incorporation provides that we will, to the fullest extent from time to time permitted by law, indemnify our directors and officers against all liabilities and expenses in any suit or proceeding arising out of their status as an officer or director or their activities in these capacities. We will also indemnify any person who, at our request, is or was serving as a director, officer or employee of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. We may, by action of our Board, provide indemnification to our employees and agents within the same scope and effect as the foregoing indemnification of directors and officers.

The right to be indemnified will include the right of an officer or a director to be paid expenses in advance of the final disposition of any proceeding, provided that, if required by law, we receive an undertaking to repay such amount if it will be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified.

Our Board may take such action as it deems necessary to carry out these indemnification provisions, including adopting procedures for determining and enforcing indemnification rights and purchasing insurance policies. Our Board may also adopt bylaws, resolutions or contracts implementing indemnification arrangements as may be permitted by law. Neither the amendment nor repeal of these indemnification provisions, nor the adoption of any provision of our Certificate of Incorporation inconsistent with these indemnification provisions, will eliminate or reduce any rights to indemnification relating to their status or any activities prior to such amendment, repeal or adoption.

We believe these provisions assist in attracting and retaining qualified individuals to serve as directors.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol MUSA.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS

The following description, together with the additional information that we include in any applicable prospectus supplement and in any related free writing prospectuses, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the stock purchase contracts that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any stock purchase contracts that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of stock purchase contracts in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any stock purchase contracts offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of stock purchase contract that describes the terms of the particular stock purchase contract we are offering before the issuance of the related stock purchase contract. The following summaries of material provisions of the stock purchase contracts are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the stock purchase contracts applicable to the stock purchase contracts that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the stock purchase contracts that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete stock purchase contracts that contain the terms of the stock purchase contracts.

We may issue stock purchase contracts, including contracts obligating holders to purchase from us and us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. Alternatively, the stock purchase contracts may obligate us to purchase from holders, and obligate holders to sell to us, a specified or varying number of shares of common stock. The consideration per share of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by a specific reference to a formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may provide for settlement by delivery by us or on our behalf of shares of the underlying security, or they may provide for settlement by reference or linkage to the value, performance or trading price of the underlying security. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of certain of our securities or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis and may be paid on a current or on a deferred basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and may provide for the prepayment of all or part of the consideration payable by holders in connection with the purchase of the underlying security or other property pursuant to the stock purchase contracts.

The securities related to the stock purchase contracts may be pledged to a collateral agent for our benefit pursuant to a pledge agreement to secure the obligations of holders of stock purchase contracts to purchase the underlying security or property under the related stock purchase contracts. The rights of holders of stock purchase contracts to the related pledged securities will be subject to our security interest therein created by the pledge agreement. No holder of stock purchase contracts will be permitted to withdraw the pledged securities related to such stock purchase contracts from the pledge arrangement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus and the related warrant agreements and warrant certificates. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

General

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities.

We may evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue under a separate agreement. We may enter into a warrant agreement with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address and other information regarding the warrant agent in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of warrants.

If we decide to issue warrants pursuant to this prospectus, we will specify in a prospectus supplement the terms of the warrants, including, if applicable, the following:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

the number of shares of stock purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreement and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

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the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

the manner in which the warrant agreement and warrants may be modified;

a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations of owning or exercising the warrants;

Table of Contents

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants may have no rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including, in the case of warrants to purchase our common stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase shares of our common stock at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants may also provide that they may be exercised on a cashless or net basis. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate, if applicable, and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to us or a warrant agent in order to exercise a warrant.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at our offices, the corporate trust office of a warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the shares of our common stock purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender shares of our common stock as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Any warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplement and in any related free writing prospectuses, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We have filed, as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, the form of indenture pursuant to which the debt securities will be issued and will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, a form of debt security that describes the terms of the particular debt securities we are offering before the issuance of such debt securities. We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more distinct series. The debt securities may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities may be issued under a senior indenture and subordinated debt securities may be issued under a subordinated indenture. If we issue debt securities pursuant to an indenture, we will specify the trustee under such indenture in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will include in a supplement to this prospectus the specific terms of debt securities being offered, including the terms, if any, on which debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other debt securities. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of debt securities and any indentures are summaries of those provisions, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the debt securities and the indentures (including any amendments or supplements we may enter into from time to time which are permitted under the debt securities or any indenture).

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be our direct unsecured obligations. Any debt securities designated as senior will rank equally with any of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. Any debt securities designated as subordinated will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to any senior indebtedness. There may be subordinated debt securities that are senior or junior to other series of subordinated debt securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the debt securities or any series thereof, including, if applicable:

the title of the debt securities and whether the debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the principal amount of the debt securities will mature;

if the debt securities bear interest, the rate or rates at which the debt securities bear interest, or the method for determining the interest rate, and the date or dates from which interest will accrue;

if the debt securities bear interest, the dates on which interest will be payable, or the method for determining such dates, and the regular record dates for interest payments;

the place or places where the payment of principal, any premium and interest will be made, where the debt securities may be surrendered for transfer or exchange and where notices or demands to or upon us may be served;

any optional redemption provisions, which would allow us to redeem the debt securities in whole or in part;

any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities;

Table of Contents

if the currency in which the debt securities will be issuable is United States dollars, the denominations in which any registered securities will be issuable, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

if other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the principal amount of debt securities which will be payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities;

the events of default and covenants relevant to the debt securities, including, the inapplicability of any event of default or covenant set forth in the indenture relating to the debt securities, or the applicability of any other events of defaults or covenants in addition to the events of default or covenants set forth in the indenture relating to the debt securities;

the name and location of the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee under the indenture for such debt securities;

if other than United States dollars, the currency in which the debt securities will be paid or denominated;

if the debt securities are to be payable, at our election or the election of a holder of the debt securities, in a currency other than that in which the debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable, the terms and conditions upon which that election may be made, and the time and manner of determining the exchange rate between the currency in which the debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the currency in which the debt securities are to be so payable;

the designation of the original currency determination agent, if any;

if the debt securities are issuable as indexed securities, the manner in which the amount of payments of principal, any premium and interest will be determined;

if the debt securities do not bear interest, the dates on which we will furnish to the applicable trustee the names and addresses of the holders of the debt securities;

any provisions for the satisfaction and discharge or defeasance or covenant defeasance of the indenture under which the debt securities are issued;

the date as of which any bearer securities and any global security will be dated if other than the date of original issuance of the first debt security of a particular series to be issued;

whether and under what circumstances we will pay additional amounts to non-United States holders in respect of any tax assessment or government charge;

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of a global security or securities and, in that case, any depository and global exchange agent for the global security or securities, whether the global form shall be permanent or temporary;

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if debt securities are to be issuable initially in the form of a temporary global security, the circumstances under which the temporary global security can be exchanged for definitive debt securities and whether the definitive debt securities will be registered securities and provisions relating to the payment of interest in respect of any portion of a global security payable in respect of an interest payment date prior to the exchange date;

the extent and manner to which payment on or in respect of debt securities will be subordinated to the prior payment of our other liabilities and obligations;

whether payment of any amount due under the debt securities will be guaranteed by one or more guarantors, including one or more of our subsidiaries;

whether the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and if secured, the property covered by the security interest, the priority of the security interest, the method of perfecting the security interest and any escrow arrangements related to the security interest;

Table of Contents

whether the debt securities will be convertible and the terms of any conversion provisions;

the forms of the debt securities;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the debt securities; and

any other terms of the debt securities, which terms shall not be inconsistent with the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that provides that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series under one or more indentures, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. Unless indicated in a prospectus supplement, we may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable indenture.

We intend to disclose any restrictive covenants for any issuance or series of debt securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or the selling stockholders may offer and sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to or through underwriters, brokers or dealers;

directly to one or more other purchasers in negotiated sales or competitively bid transactions;

through a block trade in which the broker or dealer engaged to handle the block trade will attempt to sell the common stock as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

through agents on a best-efforts basis; or

otherwise through a combination of any of the above methods of sale.

The selling stockholders may also sell their shares of common stock in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, or any other available exemption, rather than by use of this prospectus.

In addition, we or any selling stockholder may enter into option, share lending or other types of transactions that require us or such selling stockholder to deliver shares of common stock to an underwriter, broker or dealer, who will then resell or transfer the shares of common stock under this prospectus. We or any selling stockholder may enter into hedging transactions with respect to our securities. For example, we or such selling stockholder may:

enter into transactions involving short sales of the shares of common stock by underwriters, brokers or dealers;

sell shares of common stock short and deliver the shares to close out short positions;

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver shares of common stock to an underwriter, broker or dealer, who will then resell or transfer the shares of common stock under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the shares of common stock to an underwriter, broker or dealer, who may sell the loaned shares or, in the event of default, sell the pledged shares.

The prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the manner and terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the offering terms, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

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

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

If we or any selling stockholders use underwriters or dealers in the sale, the common stock will be acquired by the underwriters or dealers for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

Table of Contents

at prices related to such prevailing market prices;

at varying prices determined at the time of sale; or

at negotiated prices.

If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities, the securities may be offered either to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities if they purchase any of the securities.

If indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement, we or the selling stockholders may sell the common stock through agents from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions that we or any selling security holders pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. We or any selling stockholder may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain purchasers to purchase the common stock at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The delayed delivery contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any commissions we or any selling stockholders pay for solicitation of these delayed delivery contracts.

Agents, underwriters and other third parties described above may be entitled to indemnification by us and by any selling stockholder against certain civil liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents or underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents, underwriters and such other third parties may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us or any selling stockholder in the ordinary course of business.

We or the selling stockholders may sell offered securities to one or more purchasers directly, in which case no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MUSA. Common stock sold under this prospectus will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, upon official notice of issuance. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold by us for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the aggregate maximum discount, commission or agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be; however, it is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be significantly less than this amount.

If 5% or more of the net proceeds of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will be received by a FINRA member participating in the offering or affiliates or associated persons of such FINRA member, the offering will be conducted in accordance with FINRA Rule 5121 (or any successor rule).

Other than this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, the information on our website or the website of any agent or dealer and any information contained in any other website maintained by any agent or dealer:

is not part of this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement or the registration statement of which they form a part;

Table of Contents

has not been approved or endorsed by us or by any agent or dealer in its capacity as an agent or dealer, except, in each case, with respect to the website maintained by such entity; and

should not be relied upon by investors.

There can be no assurance that we or the selling stockholders will sell all or any of the securities offered by this prospectus.

This prospectus also may be used in connection with any issuance by us of common stock or preferred stock upon exercise of a warrant if such an issuance is not exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, D.C.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, and the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and the effectiveness of Metals USA Holdings Corp. and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Metals USA Holdings Corp.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Stock Purchase Contracts

Warrants

Debt Securities

PROSPECTUS

, 2012

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, payable by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered. All amounts are estimates, except for the SEC registration fee.

SEC registration fee	\$ 57,509.54
The New York Stock Exchange listing fee	*
Transfer agent fees	*
Printing expenses	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Rating agency fees	*
Miscellaneous	*
Total	*

* These fees are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Metals USA Holdings is a Delaware corporation. Section 145(a) of DGCL provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the DGCL provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted under similar standards, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that despite the adjudication of liability, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 145 of the DGCL further provides that to the extent a director or officer of a corporation has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against any expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith; that indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and that the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against any liability asserted against him or incurred by him in any such capacity or arising out of his status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liabilities under Section 145.

Table of Contents

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides that a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment thereto validly approved by stockholders may eliminate or limit personal liability of members of its board of directors or governing body for breach of a director's fiduciary duty. However, no such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for breaching his duty of loyalty, failing to act on good faith, engaging in intentional misconduct or knowingly violating a law, paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase which was illegal or obtaining an improper personal benefit. A provision of this type has no effect on the availability of equitable remedies, such as injunction or rescission, for breach of fiduciary duty. Our Certificate of Incorporation contains a provision which eliminates the personal liability of our directors to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.

In addition, our Certificate of Incorporation and our Bylaws, subject to certain exemptions and conditions, require us to indemnify to the full extent permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware in the event each person who is involved in legal proceedings by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to us unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Delaware Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. We are also required to advance to such persons expenses incurred in defending a proceeding to which indemnification might apply, provided the recipient provides an undertaking agreeing to repay all such advanced amounts if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified. In addition, the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws specifically provide that the indemnification rights granted thereunder are non-exclusive.

The foregoing statements are subject to the detailed provisions of Sections 102(b)(7) and 145 of the DGCL, the full text of our Certificate of Incorporation, which is incorporated by reference herein, and the full text of our Bylaws, which is incorporated by reference herein.

We currently have an insurance policy covering our directors and officers to insure against certain losses incurred by them.

Item 16. Exhibits, Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules.**(a) Exhibits**

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement*
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated May 18, 2005 between Metals USA, Inc., Flag Acquisition Corporation and Flag Intermediate Corporation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to Metals USA, Inc.'s Registration Statement (File No. 333-132918-26) on Form S-4 filed on March 31, 2006)
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Metals USA Holdings Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Metals USA Holdings Corp.'s Form 8-K filed on April 6, 2010)
3.2	Bylaws of Metals USA Holdings Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Metals USA Holdings Corp.'s Form S-1/A filed on March 19, 2010)
4.1	Form of Indenture**

Table of Contents

Exhibit Number	Description
4.2	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.3	Form of Debt Security*
4.4	Form of Warrant Agreement, including the Form of Warrant Certificate*
4.5	Form of Stock Purchase Contract*
4.6	Form of common stock certificate of Metals USA Holdings Corp. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Metals USA Holdings Corp. s Form S-1/A filed on March 19, 2010)
5.1	Opinion of Hogan Lovells US LLP**
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 12.1 to Metals USA Holdings Corp. s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011)
23.1	Consent of Hogan Lovells US LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)**
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP**
24.1	Power of Attorney (included in the signature page to this Registration Statement)**
25.1	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.*

* To be filed by amendment or incorporated by reference in connection with the offering of specific securities.

** Filed herewith.

Item 17. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of Regulation C of the Securities Act of 1933 (Rule 424(b)) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent, no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

Table of Contents

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:

(a) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(b) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; or

(ii) If the registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

Table of Contents

(iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby further undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) In the event that rights or warrants are to be offered to existing security holders and any securities not taken by the security holders are to be offered to the public, the undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to supplement the prospectus, after the expiration of the subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, the transactions by the underwriters during the subscription period, the amount of unsubscribed securities to be purchased by the underwriters, and the terms of any subsequent reoffering thereof. If any public offering by the underwriters is to be made on terms differing from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus, a post-effective amendment will be filed to set forth the terms of such offering.

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described in Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(j) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Fort Lauderdale, State of Florida, on March 14, 2012.

METALS USA HOLDINGS CORP.

By: /s/ C. LOURENCO GONCALVES
 Name: **C. Lourenco Goncalves**
 Title: **Chief Executive Officer and President**

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints C. Lourenco Goncalves, Robert C. McPherson, III and William A. Smith, II, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, from such person and in each person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement or any registration statement relating to this Registration Statement under Rule 462 and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated below.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ C. LOURENCO GONCALVES C. Lourenco Goncalves	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)	March 13, 2012
/s/ M. ALI RASHID M. Ali Rashid	Director	March 13, 2012
/s/ ERIC L. PRESS Eric L. Press	Director	March 13, 2012
/s/ MATTHEW R. MICHELINI Matthew R. Michelini	Director	March 13, 2012
/s/ JOHN T. BALDWIN John T. Baldwin	Director	March 13, 2012
/s/ MARK A. SLAVEN Mark A. Slaven	Director	March 13, 2012

Table of Contents

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ LARRY K. POWERS Larry K. Powers	Director	March 12, 2012
/s/ ROBERT C. MCPHERSON, III Robert C. McPherson, III	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 13, 2012
/s/ DANIEL L. HENNEKE Daniel L. Henneke	Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	March 13, 2012

Table of Contents

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