

MERCER INTERNATIONAL INC.
Form SC TO-I
December 18, 2009

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE TO
Tender Offer Statement under Section 14(d)(1) or 13(e)(1)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Mercer International Inc.
(Name of Subject Company (Issuer) and Filing Person (Offeror))

8.5% CONVERTIBLE SENIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2010
(Title of Class of Securities)

U58839AA6, 588056AG6 and 588056AF8
(CUSIP Numbers of Class of Securities)

David M. Gandossi
Mercer International Inc.
650 West Georgia Street
Suite 2840
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4N8
(604) 684-1099

(Name, address and telephone number of person authorized to receive notices and communications on behalf of filing person)

Copies to:

H.S. Sangra, Esq.
Sangra Moller LLP
1000 Cathedral Place, 925 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 3L2
(604) 662-8808

David R. Wilson, Esq.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Suite 2200, 1201 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3045
(206) 757-8274

CALCULATION OF FILING FEE

Transaction Valuation*
\$24,005,000

Amount of Filing Fee**
\$1,339.48

* The transaction valuation is estimated solely for the purposes of calculating the Filing Fee pursuant to Rule 0-11 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended (Rule 0-11). The transaction valuation estimate assumes the exchange of \$24,005,000 principal amount of the outstanding 8.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2010 of Mercer International Inc.

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The amount of Filing Fee is calculated in accordance with Rule 0-11 by multiplying the Transaction Valuation by .00005580 or \$55.80 for each \$1,000,000 of the value of the transaction.

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

Amount Previously Paid:

Form or Registration No.:

Filing Party:

Date Filed:

- Check the box if the filing relates solely to preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.

Check the appropriate boxes below to designate any transactions to which the statement relates:

- third-party tender offer subject to Rule 14d-1
- issuer tender offer subject to Rule 13e-4
- going-private transaction subject to Rule 13e-3
- amendment to Schedule 13D under Rule 13d-2

Check the following box if the filing is a final amendment reporting the results of the tender offer.:

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This Issuer Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO (this Schedule TO) is being filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) by Mercer International Inc., a Washington corporation (Mercer), pursuant to Section 13(e)-4 of the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended (the Exchange Act), in connection with Mercer's offer to exchange (the Exchange Offer) each \$1,000 principal amount of its currently outstanding 8.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2010 (the Old Notes), up to a maximum of \$23,625,000 aggregate principal amount on a pro rata basis (the Maximum Tender Amount), for its new 8.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2012 (the New Notes) in an amount equal to \$1,000 principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest on the \$1,000 principal amount of Old Notes up to and including December 9, 2009, which amount is approximately \$12.75.

The Exchange Offer shall commence on December 21, 2009 and shall expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on January 21, 2010 (the Expiration Date), unless extended or earlier terminated by Mercer.

The Exchange Offer is made upon the terms and subject to the conditions described in the Offering Circular (the Offering Circular) dated December 18, 2009, and the accompanying Letter of Transmittal. The Offering Circular and the accompanying Letter of Transmittal are filed as exhibits (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii), respectively, hereto and are incorporated herein by reference. The Exchange Offer is being made by Mercer pursuant to an exemption from registration under Section 3(a)(9) of the *Securities Act of 1933*, as amended and is contingent upon the satisfaction of certain customary conditions.

This Schedule TO is being filed in satisfaction of the reporting requirements of Rules 13e-4(b)(1) and (c)(2) promulgated under the Exchange Act, as amended.

Information set forth in the Offering Circular is incorporated by reference in response to Items 1 through 13 of this Schedule TO, except those items as to which information is specifically provided herein:

Item 1. Summary Term Sheet.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled Summary Summary Terms of the Exchange Offer and Questions and Answers about the Exchange Offer is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 2. Subject Company Information.

(a) Name and Address.

The name of the subject company is Mercer International Inc. The address of Mercer's principal executive offices is Suite 2840, 650 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4N8. Mercer's telephone number is (604) 684-1099.

(b) Securities.

The subject class of securities is Mercer's 8.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2010. As of September 30, 2009, approximately \$67.3 million aggregate principal amount of Old Notes, convertible into approximately 8,678,064 shares of our common stock, were outstanding. On December 10 and 11, 2009, Mercer completed a private exchange with holders of approximately \$43.3 million principal amount of the Old Notes on terms identical to those of the Exchange Offer (the Private Exchange). As a result of the Private Exchange, approximately \$24.0 million

aggregate principal amount of Old Notes, convertible into approximately 3,097,419 shares of our common stock, remain outstanding as of the date hereof.

(c) Trading and Market Price.

The Old Notes are not listed on any national securities exchange. To the knowledge of Mercer, there is no established trading market for the Old Notes except for limited or sporadic quotations.

Item 3. Identity and Background of Filing Person.

(a) Name and Address.

The principal executive offices of the filing person, Mercer International Inc., are located at Suite 2840, 650 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4N8, and the telephone number at that address is (604) 684-1099.

As required by General Instruction C to Schedule TO, the following persons are the directors and executive officers of Mercer. No single person or group of persons controls Mercer.

| Name | Position |
|-----------------------|--|
| Jimmy S.H. Lee | Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Kenneth A. Shields | Lead Director, Vice Chairman |
| William D. McCartney | Director |
| Graeme A. Witts | Director |
| Eric Lauritzen | Director |
| Guy W. Adams | Director |
| George Malpass | Director |
| David M. Gandossi | Secretary, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Claes-Inge Isacson | Chief Operating Officer |
| David K. Ure | Vice President, Controller |
| Leonhard Nossol | Group Controller for Europe |
| David M. Cooper | Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Europe |
| Eric X. Heine | Vice President of Sales and Marketing for North America and Asia |
| Wolfram Ridder | Vice President of Business Development |
| Brian Merwin | Vice President Strategic Initiatives |
| Genevieve Stannus | Treasurer |
| Niklaus Gruenenfelder | Managing Director of Stendal |

The address and telephone number of each director and executive officer is: c/o Mercer International Inc., Suite 2840, 650 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4N8, and such person's telephone number is (604) 684-1099.

The following table lists the name and address of each person that may be considered a controlling person of Mercer, who is a person specified in Instruction C to Schedule TO as of the date hereof:

| Name | Address | Percentage of Voting Securities Owned |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| | | 22.1(2) |

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Peter R. Kellogg and IAT Reinsurance
Company Ltd. (IAT)(1)(3)(4)

120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

- (1) Based on a Form 4 (the September Form 4) filed with the SEC on September 29, 2008 by Peter Kellogg jointly with IAT, Peter Kellogg has beneficial ownership of 8,046,394 shares of our common stock.
- (2) Based on 36,443,447 shares of our common stock outstanding as of the date of this Schedule TO.

- (3) According to the Form 4, IAT, a Bermuda corporation, has direct ownership over 7,886,232 shares of our common stock. Peter Kellogg is the sole owner of IAT's voting stock and has direct ownership over 160,162 shares of our common stock.
- (4) According to the September Form 4 and the most recent Schedule 13G filed by Peter Kellogg and IAT dated December 31, 2007, Peter Kellogg disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of our common stock held by IAT or its subsidiaries.

Item 4. *Terms of the Transaction.*

(a) Material Terms.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled Summary, Questions and Answers About the Exchange Offer, Terms of the Exchange Offer, Description of Mercer Capital Stock, Description of the New Notes, Comparison between the Material Terms of the Old Notes and the New Notes and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Purchases

To Mercer's knowledge, based on reasonable inquiry, no Old Notes are owned by any officer, director or affiliate of Mercer. Therefore, no Old Notes will be acquired from any officer, director or affiliate of Mercer in connection with the Exchange Offer.

Item 5. *Past Contacts, Transactions, Negotiations and Agreements.*

(e) Agreements involving the subject company's securities.

In respect of the Old Notes, Mercer entered into an indenture dated as of October 10, 2003, as amended and supplemented, with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (which is filed as an exhibit to this Schedule TO).

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled Terms of the Exchange Offer, Information Agent, Exchange Agent, Description of Mercer Capital Stock and Interests of Directors and Officers, and in the related Letter of Transmittal, is incorporated herein by reference in response to this item.

Item 6. *Purposes of the Transaction and Plans or Proposals.*

(a) Purposes.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled Terms of The Exchange Offer Purpose and Background of the Exchange Offer is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Use of Securities Acquired.

The Old Notes acquired pursuant to the Exchange Offer will be cancelled by Mercer.

(c) Plans.

Not applicable.

Item 7. *Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration.*

(a) Source of Funds.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled Summary Exchange Offer Consideration , Terms of the Exchange Offer Exchange Offer Consideration , Information Agent and Exchange Agent is incorporated herein by reference. In accordance with the terms of the Exchange Offer, Mercer would have to issue approximately \$23,932,125 aggregate principal amount of New Notes to acquire the Maximum Tender Amount. Mercer expects to pay the fees and expenses in connection with the Exchange Offer from Mercer s working capital.

(b) Conditions.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the section entitled "Terms of the Exchange Offer - Conditions of the Exchange Offer" is incorporated herein by reference.

(c) Borrowed Funds.

Not applicable.

Item 8. *Interest in the Securities of the Subject Company.*

(a) Securities Ownership.

Not applicable.

(b) Securities Transactions.

On December 10 and 11, 2009, Mercer completed the Private Exchange. Pursuant to the terms of the Private Exchange Mercer exchanged an aggregate of \$43,250,000 principal amount of Old Notes for \$43,811,653 aggregate principal amount of New Notes. The Private Exchange was conducted on the same terms as those offered in this Exchange Offer and was carried out pursuant to the terms of Exchange Agreements dated November 25, 2009 and filed as Exhibits to Mercer's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on November 27, 2009.

IAT and Peter R. Kellogg exchanged an aggregate of \$15,750,000 principal amount of Old Notes for \$15,954,533 aggregate principal amount of New Notes in the Private Exchange.

Item 9. *Persons/Assets, Retained, Employed, Compensated or Used.*

(a) Solicitations and Recommendations.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled "Information Agent" and "Exchange Agent" is incorporated herein by reference. None of Mercer, the information agent or the exchange agent is making any recommendation as to whether holders of Old Notes should tender such Old Notes for exchange in the Exchange Offer. No commission or remuneration is paid to solicit the Exchange Offer and no person has been directly or indirectly employed, retained, engaged or otherwise compensated to make solicitations or recommendations in connection with the Exchange Offer.

Item 10. *Financial Statements.*

(a) Financial Information.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the sections entitled "Exchange Rates", "Available Information", and "Selected Consolidated Financial and Operating Data" and "Ratio of Operating EBITDA to Fixed Charges" is incorporated herein by reference. The information, including the financial statements set forth under Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, in Mercer's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 and Part 1, Item 1 Financial Statements, in Mercer's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009 are incorporated herein by reference and can also be accessed electronically on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

(b) Pro Forma Information.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the section entitled Capitalization of Mercer and Pro-Forma Financial Information is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 11. Additional Information.

(a) Agreements, Regulatory Requirements and Legal Proceedings.

The information set forth in the Offering Circular in the section entitled "Terms of the Exchange Offer" "Conditions to the Exchange Offer" is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Other Material Information.

Not applicable.

Item 12. Exhibits.

The following are attached as exhibits to this Schedule TO:

- (a)(1)(i) Offering Circular, dated December 18, 2009.
- (a)(1)(ii) Form of Letter of Transmittal.
- (a)(1)(iii) Form of Letter to DTC Participants.
- (a)(1)(iv) Form of Letter to Clients for use by brokers, dealers, commercial banks, trust companies and other nominees.
- (a)(5) Press Release, dated December 18, 2009. Incorporated herein by reference from Mercer's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 18, 2009.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (d) (i) Indenture dated as of October 10, 2003 between Mercer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. Incorporated herein by reference from Mercer's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 15, 2003.
- (d) (ii) First Supplemental Indenture dated as of March 1, 2006 to Indenture dated as of October 10, 2003 between Mercer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. Incorporated herein by reference from Form 10-K dated March 16, 2006.
- (d) (iii) Indenture dated as of December 10, 2009 between Mercer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. Incorporated herein by reference from Mercer's Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 10, 2009.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) Not applicable.

Item 13. Information Required by Schedule 13E-3.

- (a) Not applicable.

SIGNATURE

After due inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

MERCER INTERNATIONAL INC.

Name: David M. Gandossi

By: /s/ David M. Gandossi

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 18, 2009

EXHIBIT INDEX

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