

Item 3.B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable

Item 3.C. Reasons for Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable

Item 3.D. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the risks described below.

Korea is our most important market, and our current business and future growth could be materially and adversely affected if economic conditions in Korea deteriorate.

We are incorporated in Korea, and most of our operations and assets are located in Korea. In addition, Korea is our most important market, accounting for 66.2% of our total sales volume of steel products in 2007. Domestic demand for our products is affected by the condition of major steel consuming industries, such as construction, shipbuilding, automobile, electrical appliances and downstream steel processors, and the Korean economy in general. As a result, we are subject to political, economic, legal and regulatory risks specific to Korea.

The economic indicators in Korea in recent years have shown mixed signs, and future growth of the Korean economy is subject to many factors beyond our control. Recent developments in the Middle East including the war in Iraq and its aftermath, higher oil prices, the general weakness of the global economy due in part to problems in the U.S. mortgage and housing markets and the reduced availability of credit have increased the uncertainty of global economic prospects and may continue to adversely affect the Korean economy. Any future deterioration of the Korean and global economy could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Developments that could have an adverse impact on Korea's economy include:

- a slowdown in consumer spending and the overall economy;
- adverse changes or volatility in foreign currency reserve levels, commodity prices, exchange rates, interest rates or stock markets;
- adverse developments in the economies of countries that are important export markets for Korea, such as the United States, Japan and China, or in emerging market economies in Asia or elsewhere;
- the continued emergence of the Chinese economy, to the extent its benefits (such as increased exports to China) are outweighed by its costs (such as competition in export markets or for foreign investment and the relocation of the manufacturing base from Korea to China);
- the economic impact of any pending or future free trade agreements, including the Free Trade Agreement recently negotiated with the United States;
- social and labor unrest;
- substantial decreases in the market prices of Korean real estate;
- a decrease in tax revenues and a substantial increase in the Government's expenditures for unemployment compensation and other social programs that, together, would lead to an increased government budget deficit;
- financial problems or lack of progress in restructuring of Korean conglomerates, other large troubled companies, their suppliers or the financial sector;
- loss of investor confidence arising from corporate accounting irregularities and corporate governance issues of certain Korean conglomerates;
- geo-political uncertainty and risk of further attacks by terrorist groups around the world;

- the recurrence of severe acute respiratory syndrome or an outbreak of avian flu in Asia and other parts of the world;
- deterioration in economic or diplomatic relations between Korea and its trading partners or allies, including deterioration resulting from trade disputes or disagreements in foreign policy;
- political uncertainty or increasing strife among or within political parties in Korea;
- hostilities involving oil producing countries in the Middle East and any material disruption in the supply of oil or increase in the price of oil; and
- an increase in the level of tension or an outbreak of hostilities between North Korea and Korea or the United States.

We rely on export sales for a significant portion of our total sales. Adverse economic and financial developments in Asia in the future may have an adverse effect on demand for our products in Asia and increase our foreign exchange risks.

Our export sales and overseas sales to customers abroad accounted for 33.8% of our total sales volume of steel products in 2007. Our export sales volume to customers in Asia, including China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, accounted for 68.5% of our total export sales volume for steel products in 2007, and we expect our sales to these countries, especially to China, to remain important in the future. Accordingly, adverse economic and financial developments in these countries may have an adverse effect on demand for our products. Economic weakness in Asia may also adversely affect our sales to the Korean companies that export to the region, especially companies in the construction, shipbuilding, automobile, electrical appliances and downstream steel processing industries. Weaker demand in these countries, combined with addition of new steel production capacity, particularly in China, may also reduce export prices in Dollar terms of our principal products. We attempt to maintain and expand our export sales to generate foreign currency receipts to cover our foreign currency purchases and debt service requirements. Consequently, any decrease in our export sales could also increase our foreign exchange risks.

Depreciation of the value of the Won against the Dollar and other major foreign currencies may have a material adverse effect on the results of our operations and on the price of the ADSs.

Depreciation of the Won may materially affect the results of our operations because, among other things, it causes:

- an increase in the amount of Won required for us to make interest and principal payments on our foreign currency-denominated debt, which accounted for approximately 45.2% of our total long-term debt (excluding discounts on debentures issued and including current portion) as of December 31, 2007;
- an increase in Won terms in the costs of raw materials and equipment that we purchase from overseas sources and a substantial portion of our freight costs, which are denominated primarily in Dollars; and
- foreign exchange translation losses on liabilities, which lower our earnings for accounting purposes.

Appreciation of the Won, on the other hand, (i) causes our export products to be less competitive by raising our prices in Dollar terms and (ii) reduces net sales and accounts receivables in Won from export sales, which are primarily denominated in Dollars. However, because of the larger positive effects of the appreciation of the Won (i.e., the reverse of the negative effects caused by the depreciation of the Won, as discussed above), appreciation of the Won generally has a positive impact on our results of operations.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Won and the Dollar will also affect the Dollar equivalent of the Won price of the shares of our common stock on the Stock Market Division of the Korea Exchange (formerly the Korea Stock Exchange) and, as a result, will likely affect the market price of the ADSs. These fluctuations will also affect the Dollar conversion by the depositary for the ADRs of cash dividends, if any, paid in Won on shares of common stock represented by the ADSs.

We are dependent on imported raw materials, and significant increases in market prices of essential raw materials could adversely affect our margins and profits.

We purchase substantially all of the principal raw materials we use from sources outside Korea, including iron ore and coal. In 2007, POSCO imported approximately 45.5 million dry metric tons of iron ore and 24.4 million wet metric tons of coal. Iron ore is imported primarily from Australia, Brazil and India. Coal is imported primarily from Australia, China, Canada and Russia. Although we have not experienced significant unanticipated supply disruptions in the past, supply disruptions, which could be caused by political or other events in the countries from which we import these materials, could adversely affect our operations.

In addition, we are particularly exposed to increases in the prices of coal, iron ore and nickel, which represent the largest components of our cost of goods sold. The prices of iron ore and nickel have increased substantially in recent years. The average price of iron ore per ton (including all associated costs such as insurance, freight costs and customs duties) increased from \$45 in 2005 to \$55 in 2006 and \$64 in 2007 and increased further in the first half of 2008. The average price of nickel per ton (including insurance and freight costs) increased substantially in recent years from \$15,230 in 2005 to \$21,654 in 2006 and \$40,619 in 2007 but decreased in the first half of 2008. In addition, the price of coal, which remained relatively stable in 2005, 2006 and 2007, has increased substantially in the first half of 2008. Further increases in prices of our key raw materials and our inability to pass along such increases to our customers could adversely affect our margins and profits. Increased prices may also cause potential customers to defer purchase of steel products, which would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We expect global steel production capacity to continue to expand in the near future, and over-capacity in the global steel industry may return.

In recent years, driven in part by strong growth in steel consumption in China, the global steel industry has experienced renewed interest in expansion of steel production capacity. World Steel Dynamics estimated the global crude steel production capacity to increase from 1,340 million tons in 2006 to 1,421 million tons in 2007 and expects the production capacity to continue to increase further in 2008, primarily as a result of additions of new capacity in China and India. Over-capacity in the global steel industry may return if increase in demand from developing countries that have experienced significant growth in the past several years does not meet this growth in production capacity. Over-capacity will affect our ability to expand export sales and to increase steel production in general, as well as reduce export prices in Dollar terms of our principal products.

Consolidation in the global steel industry may increase competition.

In recent years, there has been a trend toward industry consolidation among our competitors. For example, consolidation of Mittal and Arcelor in 2006 has created a company with approximately 10% of global steel production capacity. Competition from global steel manufacturers with expanded production capacity such as ArcelorMittal and new market entrants, especially from China and India, could result in significant price competition, declining margins and reductions in revenue. Our larger competitors may use their resources, which may be greater than ours, against us in a variety of ways, including by making additional acquisitions, investing more aggressively in product development and capacity and displacing demand for our export products.

Expansion of our production operations abroad is important to our long-term success, and our limited experience in the operation of our business outside Korea increases the risk that our international expansion efforts will not be successful.

We conduct international trading and construction operations abroad, and our business relies on a global trading network comprised of overseas subsidiaries, branches and representative offices. Although many of our subsidiaries and overseas branches are located in developed countries, we also operate in numerous countries with developing economies. In addition, we intend to continue to expand our production operations internationally by carefully seeking out promising investment opportunities, particularly in China, India and Vietnam, in part to prepare for the eventual maturation of the Korean steel market. We may enter into joint ventures with foreign steel producers that would enable us to rely on these businesses to conduct our operations, establish local networks and

coordinate our sales and marketing efforts abroad. To the extent that we enter into these arrangements, our success will depend in part on the willingness of our partner companies to dedicate sufficient resources to their partnership with us.

In other situations, we may decide to establish manufacturing facilities by ourselves instead of relying on partners. The demand and market acceptance for our products produced abroad are subject to a high level of uncertainty and are substantially dependent upon the market condition of the global steel industry. We cannot assure you that our international expansion plan will be profitable or that we can recoup the costs related to such investments.

Expansion of our trading, construction and production operations abroad requires management attention and resources. In addition, we face additional risks associated with our expansion outside Korea, including:

- challenges caused by distance, language and cultural differences;
- higher costs associated with doing business internationally;
- legal and regulatory restrictions, including foreign exchange controls that might prevent us from repatriating cash earned in countries outside Korea;
- longer payment cycles in some countries;
- credit risk and higher levels of payment fraud;
- currency exchange risks;
- potentially adverse tax consequences;
- political and economic instability; and
- seasonal reductions in business activity during the summer months in some countries.

Several of our products have been and may become subject to anti-dumping or countervailing proceedings, which may have an adverse effect on our export sales.

In recent years, several of our products have been subject to anti-dumping or countervailing proceedings, including in the United States and China. In addition, the European Union initiated an anti-dumping investigation in October 2007 into our sales of stainless steel cold-rolled coils in European countries. We expect the European Union to announce its decision in early 2009. Further increases in or new imposition of anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, quotas or tariffs on our sales in these markets may have a material adverse effect on our exports to these regions in the future. Our export sales and overseas sales to customers in the United States, China and Europe accounted for 14.0% of our sales volume of steel products in 2007. See “Item 4. Information on the Company – Item 4.B. Business Overview – Markets – Exports.”

Cyclical fluctuations based on macroeconomic factors may adversely affect the business and performance of our engineering and construction segment.

In order to complement our steel operations, we engage in engineering and construction activities through POSCO Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd., a 90.9%-owned subsidiary. The engineering and construction segment, which accounted for approximately 8.6% of our consolidated sales in 2007, is highly cyclical and tends to fluctuate based on macroeconomic factors, such as consumer confidence and income, employment levels, interest rates, inflation rates, demographic trends and policies of the Government. Although we believe that our strategy of focusing on high-value-added plant construction and urban planning and development projects such as Songdo New City has enabled us to be exposed to a lesser degree to general economic conditions in Korea in comparison to some of our domestic competitors, our construction revenues have fluctuated in the past depending on the level of domestic construction activity including new construction orders. Our construction operations could suffer in the future in the event of a general downturn in the construction market resulting in weaker demand, which could adversely affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of our engineering and construction segment.

Many of our engineering and construction segment's domestic and overseas construction projects are on a fixed-price basis, which could result in losses for us in the event that unforeseen additional expenses arise with respect to the project.

Many of our engineering and construction segment's domestic and overseas construction projects are carried out on a fixed-price basis according to a predetermined timetable, pursuant to the terms of a fixed-price contract. Under such fixed-price contracts, we retain all cost savings on completed contracts but are also liable for the full amount of all cost overruns and may be required to pay damages for late delivery. The pricing of fixed-price contracts is crucial to our profitability, as is our ability to quantify risks to be borne by us and to provide for contingencies in the contract accordingly.

We attempt to anticipate increases in costs of labor, raw materials and parts and components in our bids on fixed-price contracts. However, the costs incurred and gross profits realized on a fixed-price contract may vary from our estimates due to factors such as:

- unanticipated variations in labor and equipment productivity over the term of a contract;
- unanticipated increases in labor, raw material, parts and components, subcontracting and overhead costs, including as a result of bad weather;
- delivery delays and corrective measures for poor workmanship; and
- errors in estimates and bidding.

If unforeseen additional expenses arise over the course of a construction project, such expenses are usually borne by us, and our profit from the project will be correspondingly reduced or eliminated. If we experience significant unforeseen additional expenses with respect to our fixed price projects, we may incur losses on such projects, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations of our engineering and construction segment.

The domestic residential property business of our engineering and construction segment is highly dependent on the real estate market in Korea, which is substantially affected by the Government's real estate policies.

The performance of the domestic residential property business of our engineering and construction segment is highly dependent on the general condition of the real estate market in Korea. The Korean real estate market has been subject to substantial fluctuations in recent years, and some market analysts and commentators have warned of a property market "bubble" in certain regions of Korea, particularly in the residential sector. Such fluctuations have led the Government to introduce a series of measures over the past few years to mitigate increases in housing prices in Korea, which include constraints on the amount of mortgage loans and imposition of higher real estate and capital gains taxes, as well as discouraging redevelopment of existing apartment complexes in certain parts of Seoul. In addition, the Government began imposing ceilings on the prices at which developers can sell newly constructed apartments to the public and disclosure of certain costs related to the development and construction of apartments. In part due to such policies, the real estate market for new residential properties in Korea has experienced a slowdown in recent years, with an increase in new homes left unsold nationwide.

We cannot assure you that significant declines in demand or prices will not take place in the Korean real estate market in the future. Additional changes in the Government's real estate policies may further reduce demand and depress prices for new residential properties in Korea, which could negatively affect our engineering and construction segment's business, results of operations and financial conditions.

We may not be able to successfully execute our diversification strategy.

In part to prepare for the eventual maturation of the Korean steel market, our overall strategy includes securing new growth engines by diversifying into new businesses related to our steel operations that we believe will offer greater potential returns, such as liquefied natural gas production, logistics and magnesium coil and sheet production, as well as entering into new businesses not related to our steel operations such as power generation, development of alternative energy and advanced materials, information and technology related consulting services

and wireless broadband Internet access service. Our ability to implement this diversification strategy will depend on a variety of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including the availability of qualified engineers and personnel, establishment of new relationships and expansion of existing relationships with various customers and suppliers, procurement of necessary technology and know-how to engage in such businesses and access to investment capital at reasonable costs. No assurance can be given that our diversification strategy can be completed profitably.

We are subject to environmental regulations, and our operations could expose us to substantial liabilities.

We are subject to national and local environmental laws and regulations, including increasing pressure to reduce emission of carbon dioxide relating to our manufacturing process, and our steel manufacturing and construction operations could expose us to risk of substantial liability relating to environmental or health and safety issues, such as those resulting from discharge of pollutants and carbon dioxide into the environment, the handling, storage and disposal of solid or hazardous materials or wastes and the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites. We may be responsible for the investigation and remediation of environmental conditions at currently and formerly operated manufacturing or construction sites. We may also be subject to associated liabilities, including liabilities for natural resource damage, third party property damage or personal injury resulting from lawsuits brought by the government or private litigants. In the course of our operations, hazardous wastes may be generated at third party-owned or operated sites, and hazardous wastes may be disposed of or treated at third party-owned or operated disposal sites. If those sites become contaminated, we could also be held responsible for the cost of investigation and remediation of such sites, for any associated natural resource damage, and for civil or criminal fines or penalties.

Failure to protect our intellectual property rights could impair our competitiveness and harm our business and future prospects.

We believe that developing new steel manufacturing technologies that can be differentiated from those of our competitors, such as FINEX, strip casting and silicon steel manufacturing technologies, is critical to the success of our business. We take active measures to obtain protection of our intellectual property by obtaining patents and undertaking monitoring activities in our major markets. However, we cannot assure you that the measures we are taking will effectively deter competitors from improper use of our proprietary technologies. Our competitors may misappropriate our intellectual property, disputes as to ownership of intellectual property may arise and our intellectual property may otherwise become known or independently developed by our competitors. Any failure to protect our intellectual property could impair our competitiveness and harm our business and future prospects.

We rely on trade secrets and other unpatented proprietary know-how to maintain our competitive position, and unauthorized disclosure of our trade secrets or other unpatented proprietary know-how could negatively affect our business.

We rely on trade secrets and unpatented proprietary know-how and information. We enter into confidentiality agreements with each of our employees and consultants upon the commencement of an employment or consulting relationship. These agreements generally provide that all inventions, ideas, discoveries, improvements and patentable material made or conceived by the individual arising out of the employment or consulting relationship and all confidential information developed or made known to the individual during the term of the relationship is our exclusive property. We cannot assure the enforceability of these types of agreements, or that they will not be breached. We also cannot be certain that we will have adequate remedies for any breach. The disclosure of our trade secrets or other know-how as a result of such a breach could adversely affect our business.

Escalations in tension with North Korea could have an adverse effect on us and the market value of our securities.

Relations between Korea and North Korea have been tense throughout Korea's modern history. The level of tension between the two Koreas has fluctuated and may increase abruptly as a result of current and future events. In recent years, there have been heightened security concerns stemming from North Korea's nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs and increased uncertainty regarding North Korea's actions and possible responses from the

international community. In December 2002, North Korea removed the seals and surveillance equipment from its Yongbyon nuclear power plant and evicted inspectors from the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency. In January 2003, North Korea renounced its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Since the renouncement, Korea, the United States, North Korea, China, Japan and Russia have held numerous rounds of six party multi-lateral talks in an effort to resolve issues relating to North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

In addition to conducting test flights of long-range missiles, North Korea announced in October 2006 that it had successfully conducted a nuclear test, which increased tensions in the region and elicited strong objections worldwide. In response, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution that prohibits any United Nations member state from conducting transactions with North Korea in connection with any large scale arms and material or technology related to missile development or weapons of mass destruction and from providing luxury goods to North Korea, imposes an asset freeze and travel ban on persons associated with North Korea's weapons program, and calls upon all United Nations member states to take cooperative action, including through inspection of cargo to or from North Korea. In response, North Korea agreed in February 2007 at the six-party talks to shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, and readmit international inspectors to conduct all necessary monitoring and verifications. In October 2007, Korea and North Korea held a summit meeting to discuss easing tensions and fostering peace on the Korean peninsula. Mr. Lee, Myung Bak, who became the President of Korea in February 2008, has announced that no further summit meetings will be held until North Korea discontinues its nuclear weapons program.

There can be no assurance that the level of tension on the Korean peninsula will not escalate in the future. Any further increase in tension, including a breakdown of high-level contacts between Korea and North Korea or occurrence of military hostilities, could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

If you surrender your ADRs to withdraw shares of our common stock, you may not be allowed to deposit the shares again to obtain ADRs.

Under the deposit agreement, holders of shares of our common stock may deposit those shares with the ADR depositary's custodian in Korea and obtain ADRs, and holders of ADRs may surrender ADRs to the ADR depositary and receive shares of our common stock. However, under current Korean laws and regulations, the depositary bank is required to obtain our prior consent for the number of shares to be deposited in any given proposed deposit that exceeds the difference between (i) the aggregate number of shares deposited by us for the issuance of ADSs (including deposits in connection with the initial and all subsequent offerings of ADSs and stock dividends or other distributions related to these ADSs) and (ii) the number of shares on deposit with the depositary bank at the time of such proposed deposit. It is possible that we may not give the consent. As a result, if you surrender ADRs and withdraw shares of common stock, you may not be able to deposit the shares again to obtain ADRs. See "Item 10. Additional Information – Item 10.D. Exchange Controls."

You may not be able to exercise preemptive rights for additional shares of common stock and may suffer dilution of your equity interest in us.

The Commercial Code of Korea and our articles of incorporation require us, with some exceptions, to offer shareholders the right to subscribe for new shares in proportion to their existing ownership percentage whenever new shares are issued. If we issue new shares to persons other than our shareholders (See "Item 10.B. Memorandum and Articles of Association – Preemptive Rights and Issuance of Additional Shares"), a holder of our ADSs will experience dilution of such holding. If none of these exceptions is available, we will be required to grant preemptive rights when issuing additional common shares under Korean law. Under the deposit agreement governing the ADSs, if we offer any rights to subscribe for additional shares of our common stock or any rights of any other nature, the ADR depositary, after consultation with us, may make the rights available to you or use reasonable efforts to dispose of the rights on your behalf and make the net proceeds available to you. The ADR depositary, however, is not required to make available to you any rights to purchase any additional shares unless it deems that doing so is lawful and feasible and:

- a registration statement filed by us under the Securities Act is in effect with respect to those shares; or
- the offering and sale of those shares is exempt from or is not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act.