

# EXCHANGE RATE INFORMATION

The following table sets out information concerning the noon buying rate for the periods and dates indicated.

| Period                 | At End    | Average | High           | Low     |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|----------------|---------|
|                        | of Period | Rate(1) | (Per US\$1.00) |         |
| 2002                   | 1,186.3   | 1,242.0 | 1,332.0        | 1,160.6 |
| 2003                   | 1,192.0   | 1,183.0 | 1,262.0        | 1,146.0 |
| 2004                   | 1,035.1   | 1,139.3 | 1,195.1        | 1,035.1 |
| 2005                   | 1,010.0   | 1,023.2 | 1,059.8        | 997.0   |
| 2006                   | 930.0     | 954.3   | 1002.9         | 913.7   |
| 2007 (through June 26) | 926.1     | 934.8   | 949.1          | 922.3   |
| January                | 941.0     | 936.8   | 942.2          | 925.4   |
| February               | 942.3     | 936.9   | 942.3          | 932.5   |
| March                  | 941.1     | 942.9   | 949.1          | 937.2   |
| April                  | 931.0     | 930.7   | 937.0          | 926.1   |
| May                    | 927.4     | 927.6   | 934.0          | 922.3   |
| June (through June 26) | 926.1     | 928.3   | 932.3          | 926.1   |

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

- (1) The average rate for each full year is calculated as the average of the noon buying rates on the last business day of each month during the relevant year. The average rate for a full month is calculated as the average of the noon buying rates on each business day during the relevant month (or portion thereof).

We have translated the Won amounts into Dollars in this prospectus solely for your convenience. We make no representation that the Won or Dollar amounts contained in this prospectus could have been or could be converted into Dollar or Won, as the case may be, at any particular rate or at all.

## 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 67.7% of our total sales volume of steel products in 2006. 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.

From early 1997 until 1999, Korea experienced a significant financial and economic downturn, from which it is widely believed the country has now recovered to a significant extent. However, the economic indicators in recent years have shown mixed signs of recovery and uncertainty, and future recovery or growth of the economy is subject to many factors beyond our control. Events related to the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, recent developments in the Middle East including the war in Iraq, higher oil prices, and the general weakness of the global economy 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 financial condition and results of operations.

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

- financial problems relating to *chaebols*, or Korean conglomerates, and their suppliers;
- failure or lack of progress in restructuring of *chaebols* and other large troubled companies or the financial sector, including credit card companies;
- loss of investor confidence arising from corporate accounting irregularities and corporate governance issues of certain *chaebols*;
- a slowdown in consumer spending;
- 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 manufacturing base from Korea to China);
- social and labor unrest;
- a decrease in tax revenues and a substantial increase in the Korean government's expenditures for unemployment compensation and other social programs that, together, would lead to an increased government budget deficit;
- geo-political uncertainty and risk of further attacks by terrorist groups around the world;
- implementation of free trade agreements between Korea and other countries, including the United States;
- 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 accounted for 32.3% of our total sales volume of steel products in 2006. Our export sales volume to Asia, including China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, accounted for 63.8% of our total export sales volume for steel products in 2006, 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 50.8% of our total long-term debt (excluding discounts on debentures issued and including current portion) as of December 31, 2006;
- 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.***

We purchase substantially all of the principal raw materials we use from sources outside Korea, including iron ore and coal. In 2006, we imported approximately 42.6 million tons of iron ore and 19.7 million 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 or significant increases in market prices of essential raw materials, which could be caused by political or other events in the countries from which we import these materials, could adversely affect our 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. The International Iron and Steel Institute estimated the global crude steel production capacity to increase from 1,129 million tons in 2005 to 1,221 million tons in 2006 and expects that the production capacity to continue to increase further in 2007, primarily as a result of additions of new capacity in China, India and other Asian countries. 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 Mittal-Arcelor 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. 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. Exports to these regions accounted for 15.6% of our sales volume of steel products in 2006. See “Item 4. Information on the Company – Item 4B. 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 8.2% of our consolidated sales in 2006, is cyclical and also tends to fluctuate based on macroeconomic factors. Although we believe that our strategy of focusing on high-value-added plant construction and architectural works 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 and falling prices, which could adversely affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of our engineering and construction segment.

***Fixed price construction contracts without price escalation provisions could result in losses for our engineering and construction segment in the event that unforeseen additional expenses arise with respect to the construction project.***

Most domestic and international construction projects are carried out on a fixed price basis according to a predetermined timetable, pursuant to the terms of a fixed price contract. The pricing of fixed price contracts is crucial to the profitability of a contractor, as is the ability of the contractor to quantify risks to be borne by it and to provide for contingencies in the contract accordingly. If unforeseen additional expenses arise, for example due to increases in the cost of raw materials or supplies or because the property underlying a structure requires unforeseen remedial treatment in order for it to support the structure, such expenses are usually borne by the contractor, whose profit from the project will be correspondingly reduced or eliminated. If we experience significant unforeseen additional expenses with respect to our fixed price construction projects, we may incur losses on such projects, which could adversely affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of our engineering and construction segment.

***The Korean housing construction market fluctuates based on the Government's real estate policies.***

The performance of the housing construction business of POSCO Engineering & Construction is affected by a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. In particular, the housing market in Korea is influenced by the Government's real estate policies. In recent years, the Government has introduced a variety of new measures to mitigate increases in housing prices in Korea, which include constraints on the amount of mortgage loans, imposition of higher real estate and capital gains taxes and disclosure of construction project costs. The Government has also discouraged redevelopment of apartment complexes in certain parts of Seoul. In part due to such policies, the real estate market for new housing in Korea has experienced a slowdown in recent months. Additional changes in the Government's real estate policies may further reduce demand for new housing in Korea, which would negatively affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of our engineering and construction segment.

***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 weapon 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 return, the other five parties in the six-party talks agreed to provide emergency energy assistance to North Korea in the initial phase of 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil.

There can be no assurance that the February 2007 accord will be implemented as agreed or 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 10D. 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 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.

We are under no obligation to file any registration statement. If a registration statement is required for you to exercise preemptive rights but is not filed by us, you will not be able to exercise your preemptive rights for additional shares and may suffer dilution of your equity interest in us.

***This annual report contains "forward-looking statements" that are subject to various risks and uncertainties.***

This annual report contains "forward-looking statements" that are based on our current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about our company and our industry. The forward-looking statements