## SYPRIS SOLUTIONS INC Form 10-K March 11, 2014 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

#### Washington, D.C. 20549

#### **FORM 10-K**

(Mark one)

Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Commission file number 0-24020

#### SYPRIS SOLUTIONS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware61-1321992(State or other jurisdiction(I.R.S. Employerof incorporation or organization)Identification No.)

101 Bullitt Lane, Suite 450(502) 329-2000Louisville, Kentucky 40222(So2) 329-2000(Address of principal executive<br/>offices, including zip code)(Registrant's telephone number,<br/>including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

(Title of each class)(Name of each exchange on which registered)Common Stock, \$.01 par valueThe NASDAQ Stock Market LLCSecurities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter (June 30, 2013) was \$33,905,599.

There were 20,377,418 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding as of March 4, 2014.

# DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to stockholders in connection with the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held April 29, 2014 are incorporated by reference into Part III to the extent described therein.

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In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, "Sypris," "the Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to Sypris Solutions, Inc. and its subsidiaries and predecessors, collectively. "Sypris Solutions" and "Sypris" are our trademarks. All other trademarks, servicemarks or trade names referred to in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are the property of their respective owners.

# PART I

#### Item 1. Business

General

We were formed as a Delaware corporation in 1997. We are a diversified provider of outsourced services and specialty products. We perform a wide range of manufacturing, engineering, design and other technical services, typically under sole-source contracts with corporations and government agencies principally in the markets for industrial manufacturing and aerospace and defense electronics.

We are organized into two business groups, the Industrial Group and the Electronics Group. The Industrial Group, which is comprised of Sypris Technologies, Inc. and its subsidiaries, generates revenue primarily from the sale of manufacturing services to customers in the market for truck components and assemblies and from the sale of products to the energy and chemical markets. The Electronics Group, which is comprised of Sypris Electronics, LLC and its subsidiary, generates revenue primarily from the sale of manufacturing services, technical services and products to customers in the market for aerospace and defense electronics.

We focus on those markets where we believe we have the expertise, qualifications and leadership position to sustain a competitive advantage. We target our resources to support the needs of industry participants that embrace multi-year contractual relationships as a strategic component of their supply chain management. These contracts, many of which are sole-source by part number and, historically, have been renewed for terms of up to five years, enable us to invest in leading-edge processes or technologies to help our customers remain competitive. The productivity, flexibility and economies of scale that can result offer an important opportunity for differentiating ourselves from the competition when it comes to cost, quality, reliability and customer service.

*Industrial Manufacturing Group (the Industrial Group).* Through our Industrial Group, we are a significant supplier of forged and machined components, serving the commercial vehicle, off highway vehicle, light truck and energy markets in North America. We produce drive train components including axle shafts, gear sets, differential cases, steer axle forgings, and other components under sole-source contracts with Meritor, Inc. (Meritor) and Dana Holding Corporation (Dana), the two primary providers of drive train assemblies for use by the leading truck manufacturers, including Ford Motor Company (Ford), Freightliner LLC (Freightliner), Mack Trucks, Inc. (Mack), Navistar International Corporation (Navistar), PACCAR, Inc. (PACCAR) and Volvo Truck Corporation (Volvo). We also supply Meritor with trailer axle beams for use by the leading trailer manufacturers, including Great Dane Limited Partnership (Great Dane), Hyundai Motor Company (Hyundai), Stoughton Trailers, LLC (Stoughton), Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company (Utility) and Wabash National Corporation (Wabash). We support our customers' strategies

to outsource non-core operations by supplying additional components and providing additional value added operations for drive train assemblies. Over the past several years, we have implemented a restructuring plan that has allowed us to adjust our overhead and infrastructure to be in line with current and projected levels of customer demand and market requirements. The plan has been successful, resulting in significant and permanent cost reductions that have lowered our operating breakeven level. The plan also included a diversification strategy which has resulted in the recent addition of long-term agreements with Eaton Corporation (Eaton) and American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc., under which we supply forgings. We expect to benefit from these actions in the future as global economic conditions and the strength of the commercial vehicle industry continue to improve.

Aerospace & Defense Electronics Group (the Electronics Group). Our Electronics Group is organized around two primary business lines: Information Security Solutions (ISS) and Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS).

*Information Security Solutions (ISS).* Our ISS business provides solutions in cyber security, secure communications, global electronic key management, Sypris Data Systems branded products, and product design and development to the U.S. Government, both defense and civilian agencies, international government agencies, as well as worldwide aerospace and defense prime contractors. This group has several contracts with the Department of Defense to design and build information assurance products, including link encryptors, data recording products and electronic key fill devices.

*Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS).* Our EMS business is focused on circuit card and full box build manufacturing, dedicated space and high reliability manufacturing, integrated design and engineering services, systems assembly and integration, design for manufacturability, and design to specification work. Our customers include large aerospace and defense companies such as Lockheed Martin Corporation (Lockheed Martin), Northrop Grumman Corporation (Northrop Grumman) and Exelis Inc. (Exelis).

The industry and business environment of our Electronics Group continues to be shaped by policy and budget decisions of the U.S. Government, as well as economic conditions. Recent actions of Congress and the Administration indicate an ongoing emphasis on federal budget deficit reduction. Near-term budget decisions by the Congress and the Administration may considerably reduce discretionary spending, of which defense constitutes the majority share. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (the "Budget Control Act") commits the U.S. Government to reduce the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion over ten years through a combination of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts and caps on discretionary spending. The deficit reduction "sequestration" under the Budget Control Act is split equally between defense and non-defense programs and went into effect on March 1, 2013. However, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provided some budget relief, reducing the discretionary sequester (and increasing funding) for fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 for both defense and non-defense programs. Unless Congress passes a similar law providing budget relief beyond fiscal year 2015, the full sequester cuts will go back into effect for fiscal year 2016. In addition, in February 2014, the Pentagon announced that its budget request for fiscal year 2015 would exceed the sequester caps but would be below the funding in the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request. Congress and the Administration continue to debate these long- and short-term funding issues, but reductions in U.S. military spending could materially adversely affect the results of our Electronics Group. Our Electronics Group accounted for approximately 11% of net revenue in 2013.

## **Our Markets**

*Industrial Group.* The industrial manufacturing markets include truck components and assemblies, trailer components and specialty closures. The truck components and assemblies market consists of the original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs, including Chrysler Group LLC, Ford, Freightliner, General Motors Company, Mack, Navistar, PACCAR and Volvo, and an extensive supply chain of companies of all types and sizes that are classified into different levels or tiers. The trailer market consists of OEMs including Great Dane, Wabash, Utility, Hyundai, Vanguard and Stoughton. Tier I companies represent the primary suppliers to the OEMs and include Meritor, Dana, Delphi Automotive LLP, Eaton and Visteon Corporation, among others. Below this group of companies reside numerous suppliers that either supply the OEMs directly or supply the Tier I companies. In all segments of the truck components and assemblies and the trailer markets, however, suppliers are under intense competitive pressure to improve product quality and to reduce capital expenditures, production costs and inventory levels. The specialty closures market consists primarily of oil and gas pipelines, which are also facing significant pressures to improve quality, reduce costs and defer capital expenditures.

General economic and industry specific conditions have begun to stabilize, and improvements in the overall U.S. economy contributed to improved consumer confidence levels in 2013. In North America, production levels for light,

medium and heavy duty trucks have steadily increased over the past four years from a low in the depressed economic environment of 2008 and early 2009. Subject to the renewals of our supply agreements with Dana and Meritor, we continue to expect modest growth in production levels within our Industrial Group through 2014 and 2015.

*Electronics Group.* As noted above, the U.S. Government continues to focus on developing and implementing spending, tax and other initiatives to reduce the deficit, create jobs and stimulate the economy. This process and the spending reductions to defense programs has adversely impacted our portfolio of business in this segment, which is dependent upon discretionary appropriations for defense programs. Although we believe that our products and programs are well aligned with national defense and other priorities, shifts in domestic and international spending and tax policy, changes in security, defense and intelligence priorities, the affordability of our products and services, changes in or preferences for new or different technologies, general economic conditions and other factors may affect the level of funding for existing or proposed programs. Uncertainty over budget plans and national security spending may prove challenging for our customers, as well as the defense industry as a whole.

Market conditions for our ISS business are expected to be favorable over the long term, given the growing cyber security and intelligence markets. However, market conditions for our EMS business, dedicated to the aerospace and defense market, are characterized by a number of obstacles. The nature of providing outsourced manufacturing services to the aerospace and defense electronics industry differs substantially from the traditional commercial outsourced electronics manufacturing services industry. The cost of failure can be extremely high, the manufacturing requirements are typically complex and products are produced in relatively small quantities. Companies that provide these manufacturing services are required to maintain and adhere to a number of strict and comprehensive certifications, security clearances and traceability standards. As mentioned above, U.S. Government and private customer spending levels remain uncertain.

#### **Our Business Strategy**

Our objective is to improve our position in each of our core markets by increasing our number of multi-year contracts with customers and investing in highly automated production capacity to remain competitive on a global scale. We intend to serve our customers and achieve this objective by continuing to:

*Concentrate on our Core Markets.* We are a significant supplier of forged and machined components, serving the commercial vehicle, off highway vehicle, light truck and energy markets in North America. We have been an established supplier of manufacturing and technical services to major aerospace and defense companies and agencies of the U.S. Government for over 40 years. We will continue to focus on those markets where we have the expertise and qualifications to achieve a competitive advantage.

*Dedicate our Resources to Support Strategic Partnerships.* We will continue to dedicate our resources to support the needs of industry leaders that embrace multi-year contractual relationships as a strategic component of their supply chain management and have the potential for long-term growth. We prefer contracts that are sole-source by part number so we can work closely with the customer to the mutual benefit of both parties. Dana, Meritor, and Meritor's Brazilian subsidiary have awarded us with sole-source supply agreements for certain parts that run through at least 2014, 2015, and 2016 respectively. During 2013, Sypris and Dana executed an amendment to extend our current sole-source supply agreement until 2020. While Dana has attempted to repudiate this amendment, we are seeking to enforce the amendment through pending arbitration and litigation proceedings (see "Risk Factors – Customer contracts may not be renewed on acceptable terms or at all. Our largest customer Dana has notified us of its intent to terminate our supply relationship." in Part I, Item 1A. of this Annual Report on Form 10-K). Historically, we entered into multi-year manufacturing services agreements with Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Exelis. Our success in establishing outsourcing partnerships with key customers has historically led to additional contracts, and we believe that if we continue to successfully perform on current contracts, we should have additional growth opportunities with these and other customers.

*Pursue the Strategic Acquisition of Assets*. Over the long term, we will continue to target the strategic acquisition of assets that serve to consolidate our position in our core markets, expand our presence outside the U.S., create or strengthen our relationships with leading companies and expand our range of value-added services in return for multi-year supply agreements. We intend to acquire assets that can be integrated with our core businesses and that can be used to support other customers, thereby improving asset utilization and achieving greater productivity, flexibility and economies of scale.

*Grow Through the Addition of New Value-Added Services.* We hope to grow through the addition of new value-added manufacturing capabilities and the introduction of additional components in the supply chain that enable us to provide a more complete solution by improving quality and reducing product cost, inventory levels and cycle times for our customers. In many instances, we offer a variety of state-of-the-art machining capabilities to our customers in the industrial manufacturing markets that enable us to reduce labor and shipping costs and minimize cycle times for our customers over the long-term, providing us with additional growth opportunities in the future. Successfully migrating from design and manufacturing of complex circuit card assemblies to box builds would increase product content with our customers and would allow us to be a more significant player in the aerospace and defense market.

We believe that the number and duration of our strategic relationships enable us to invest in our business with greater certainty and with less risk than others that do not benefit from the type of longer term contractual commitments we receive from many of our major customers. The investments we make in support of these contracts are targeted to provide us with the productivity, flexibility, technological edge and economies of scale that we believe will help to differentiate us from the competition in the future when it comes to cost, quality, reliability and customer service.

#### **Our Services and Products**

We are a diversified provider of outsourced services and specialty products. Our services consist of manufacturing, technical and other services and products that are delivered as part of our customers' overall supply chain management. We provide our customers with services that include software licensing and development, design services, prototype development, product re-engineering, feature enhancement, product ruggedization, cost reduction, product miniaturization and electro-magnetic interference and shielding. We also apply our core technologies to the development and production of our own product line of high assurance security components, including cryptographic key management programs and data encryption and recording products for our U.S. Government and defense customers. The information below is representative of the types of products we manufacture, services we provide and the customers and industries for which we provide such products or services.

#### Industrial Group:

Dana Drive train components (including axle shafts, differential cases, gear sets, full float tubes) and steer axle components for use in light, medium and heavy-duty trucks.

Meritor Axle shafts and drive train components for medium and heavy-duty trucks as well as axle beams for trailers. Eaton Transmission shafts for heavy-duty trucks.

Jamison Products Specialty closures for oil and gas pipelines.

Electronics Group:

Northrop Grumman Circuit card assembly and sub-assembly design and build for electronic sensors and systems ranging from radar and targeting systems to tactical ground stations, navigation systems and integrated avionics.

U.S. Government Secure communications equipment, global key management solutions and data recording systems. Lockheed Martin Complex circuit cards for use in some of the nation's high priority space programs.

Exelis Complex circuit cards and subassemblies for use in weapons systems, targeting and warning systems.

#### **Manufacturing Services**

Our manufacturing services typically involve the fabrication or assembly of a product or subassembly according to specifications provided by our customers. We purchase raw materials or components from our customers and independent suppliers in connection with performing our manufacturing services. We strive to enhance our manufacturing capabilities by advanced quality and manufacturing techniques, lean manufacturing, just-in-time

procurement and continuous flow manufacturing, six sigma, total quality management, stringent and real-time engineering change control routines and total cycle time reduction techniques.

*Industrial Manufacturing Services.* We provide our customers with a wide range of capabilities, including automated forging, extruding, machining, induction hardening, heat-treating and testing services to meet the exacting requirements. We also design and fabricate production tooling, manufacture prototype products and provide other value-added services for our customers. Our manufacturing services contracts for the truck components and assemblies markets are generally sole-source by part number. Part numbers may be specified for inclusion in a single model or a range of models. Where we are the sole-source provider by part number, we are the exclusive provider to our customer of the specific parts and for any replacements for these parts that may result from a design or model change for the duration of the manufacturing contract.

*Electronics Manufacturing Services.* We provide our customers with a broad variety of value added solutions, from low-volume prototype assembly to high-volume turnkey manufacturing. We employ a multi-disciplined engineering team that provides comprehensive manufacturing and design support to customers. The manufacturing solutions we offer include design conversion and enhancement, process and tooling development, materials procurement, system assembly, testing and final system configuration. Our manufacturing services contracts for the aerospace and defense electronics market are generally sole-source by part number.

#### Products

In addition to our outsourced services, we provide some of our customers with specialized products including digital and analog data systems and encryption devices used in military applications and specialty closures and joints used in pipeline and chemical systems. As we look to grow our business, emphasis will be placed on the funding of new products to broaden our portfolio and meet the needs of our customers.

#### **Our Customers**

Our customers include large, established companies and agencies of the federal government. We provide some customers with a combination of outsourced services and products, while other customers may be in a single category of our service or product offerings. Our five largest customers in 2013 were Dana, Meritor, Sistemas Corporation (Sistemas), Northrop Grumman and Eaton, which in the aggregate accounted for 81% of net revenue. Our five largest customers in 2012 were Dana, Meritor, Sistemas, the Australian government and Eaton, which in the aggregate accounted for 79% of net revenue. In 2013, Dana and Meritor represented approximately 58% and 15% of our net revenue, respectively. In 2012, Dana and Meritor represented approximately 55% and 15% of our net revenue, respectively. In addition, U.S. governmental agencies accounted for 3% and 6% of net revenue in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

#### **Geographic Areas and Currency Fluctuations**

We are located in the U.S., Mexico, Denmark and the U.K. Our Mexican subsidiaries and affiliates are a part of our Industrial Group and manufacture and sell a number of products similar to those the Industrial Group produces in the U.S. Our Denmark subsidiary is a sales office and is part of our Electronics Group. Our U.K subsidiary is a sales office and is part of our Industrial Group. In addition to normal business risks, operations outside the U.S. may be subject to a greater risk of changing political, economic and social environments, changing governmental laws and regulations, currency revaluations and market fluctuations. Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates have primarily impacted our earnings only to the extent of remeasurement gains or losses related to U.S. dollar denominated accounts of our foreign subsidiaries, because the vast majority of our transactions are denominated in U.S. dollars. For the year ended December 31, 2013, other income, net, included foreign currency transaction losses of \$0.8 million.

Net revenues from Mexican operations were \$95.4 million, or 31%, and \$100.0 million, or 29%, of our consolidated net revenues in 2013 and 2012, respectively. In 2013, net income from our Mexican operations was \$7.7 million, as compared to our consolidated loss from continuing operations of \$9.9 million. In 2012, net income from our Mexican operations was \$7.5 million, as compared to our consolidated income from continuing operations of \$10.3 million.

You can find more information about our regional operating results, including our export sales, in "Note 20 Segment Information" to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

#### **Sales and Business Development**

Our principal sources of new business originate from the expansion of existing relationships, referrals and direct sales through senior management, direct sales personnel, domestic and international sales representatives, distributors and market specialists. We supplement these selling efforts with a variety of sales literature, advertising in numerous trade media and participating in trade shows. We also utilize engineering specialists extensively to facilitate the sales process by working with potential customers to reduce the cost of the service they need. Our specialists achieve this objective by working with the customer to improve their product's design for ease of manufacturing or by reducing the amount of set-up time or material that may be required to produce the product. The award of contracts or programs can be a lengthy process, which in some circumstances can extend well beyond 12 months. Upon occasion, we commit resources to potential contracts or programs that we ultimately do not win.

Our objective is to increase the value of the services we provide to the customer on an annual basis beyond the contractual terms that may be contained in a supply agreement. To achieve this objective, we commit to the customer that we will continuously look for ways to reduce the cost, improve the quality, reduce the cycle time and improve the life span of the products and/or services we supply the customer. Our ability to deliver on this commitment over time is expected to have a significant impact on customer satisfaction, loyalty and follow-on business.

#### Competition

The markets that we serve are highly competitive, and we compete against numerous domestic companies in addition to the internal capabilities of some of our customers. In the truck components and assemblies market, we compete primarily against other component suppliers such as Mid-West Forge, Inc., Spencer Forge and Machine, Inc. and Traxle, which serve as suppliers to many Tier I and smaller companies. In the aerospace and defense electronics market, we compete primarily against companies such as Celestica Inc., Jabil Circuit, Inc., LaBarge, Inc. and Safenet, Inc. We may face new competitors in the future as the outsourcing industry evolves and existing or start-up companies develop capabilities similar to ours. In addition, we will face new competitors as we attempt to increase and expand our business.

We believe that the principal competitive factors in our markets include the availability of capacity, technological capability, flexibility, financial strength and timeliness in responding to design and schedule changes, price, quality and delivery. Although we believe that we generally compete favorably with respect to each of these factors, some of our competitors, as compared to us, are larger and have greater financial and operating resources, greater geographic breadth and range of services, customer bases and brand recognition than we do. We also face competition from manufacturing operations of our current and potential customers that continually evaluate the relative benefits of internal manufacturing compared to outsourcing.

#### **Suppliers**

For significant portions of our business, we purchase raw materials and component parts from our customers or from suppliers chosen by our customers, at prices negotiated by our customers. When these suppliers increase their prices, cause delays in production schedules or fail to meet our customers' quality standards, our customers have contractually agreed to reimburse us for the costs associated with such price increases and not to charge us for costs caused by such delays or quality issues. Accordingly, our risks are largely limited to accurate inspections of such materials, timely communications and the collection of such reimbursements or charges, along with any additional costs incurred by us due to delays in, interruptions of, or non-optimal scheduling of production schedules. However, for a growing part of our business, we arrange our own suppliers and assume the additional risks of price increases, quality concerns and production delays.

Raw steel and fabricated steel parts are a major component of our cost of sales and net revenue for the truck components and assemblies business. We purchase a significant portion of our steel for use in this business at the direction of our customers, with any periodic changes in the price of steel being reflected in the prices we are paid for our services. Increases in the costs of steel or other supplies can increase our working capital requirements, scrap expenses and borrowing costs.

There can be no assurance that supply interruptions or price increases will not slow production, delay shipments to our customers or increase costs in the future, any of which could adversely affect our financial results. Delays, interruptions or non-optimal scheduling of production related to interruptions in raw materials supplies can be expected to increase our costs.

#### **Research and Development**

Our research and development activities are mainly related to our product lines that serve the aerospace and defense electronics market. Process improvement expenditures related to our outsourced services are not reflected in research and development expense. Accordingly, our research and development expense represents a relatively small percentage of our net revenue. Company-sponsored research and development costs are expensed as incurred. We invested \$3.0 million and \$3.8 million in research and development in 2013 and 2012, respectively. Customer-sponsored research and development costs are incurred under U.S. Government-sponsored contracts and require us to provide a product or service meeting certain defined performance or other specifications (such as designs). Customer-sponsored research and development is accounted for under the milestone method and included in our net revenue and cost of sales (see Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates in Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K).

#### Patents, Trademarks and Licenses

We own or license a number of patents and trademarks, but our business as a whole is not materially dependent upon any one patent, trademark, license or technologically related group of patents or licenses.

We regard our manufacturing processes and certain designs as proprietary trade secrets and confidential information. We rely largely upon a combination of trade secret laws, non-disclosure agreements with customers, suppliers and consultants, and our internal security systems, confidentiality procedures and employee confidentiality agreements to maintain the trade secrecy of our designs and manufacturing processes.

#### **Government Regulation**

Our operations are subject to compliance with regulatory requirements of federal, state and local authorities, in the U.S., the U.K., Denmark and Mexico, including regulations concerning financial reporting and controls, labor relations, minimum pension funding levels, export and import matters, health and safety matters and protection of the environment. While compliance with applicable regulations has not adversely affected our operations in the past, there can be no assurance that we will continue to be in compliance in the future or that these regulations will not change or that the costs of compliance will not be material to us.

We must comply with detailed government procurement and contracting regulations and with U.S. Government security regulations, certain of which carry substantial penalty provisions for nonperformance or misrepresentation in the course of negotiations. Our failure to comply with our government procurement, contracting or security obligations could result in penalties or our suspension or debarment from government contracting, which would have a material adverse effect on our consolidated results of operations.

We are required to maintain U.S. Government security clearances in connection with certain activities of our Electronics Group. These clearances could be suspended or revoked if we were found not to be in compliance with applicable security regulations. Any such revocation or suspension would delay our delivery of products to customers. Although we have adopted policies directed at ensuring our compliance with applicable regulations, and there have been no suspensions or revocations at our facilities, there can be no assurance that the approved status of our facilities or personnel will continue without interruption.

We are also subject to comprehensive and changing federal, state and local environmental requirements, both in the U.S. and in Mexico, including those governing discharges to air and water, the handling and disposal of solid and

hazardous wastes and the remediation of contamination associated with releases of hazardous substances. We use hazardous substances in our operations and, as is the case with manufacturers in general, if a release of hazardous substances occurs on or from any properties that we may own or operate, we may be held liable and may be required to pay the cost of remedying the condition. The amount of any resulting liability could be material.

## Employees

As of December 31, 2013, we had a total of 1,181 employees, of which 898 are engaged in manufacturing and providing our technical services, 17 are engaged in sales and marketing, 118 are engaged in engineering and 148 are engaged in administration. Approximately 500 of our employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements with various unions that expire on various dates through 2016. Excluding certain Mexico employees covered under an annually ratified agreement, collective bargaining agreements covering 149 employees expire within the next 12 months. Although we believe overall that relations with our labor unions are positive, there can be no assurance that present and future issues with our unions will be resolved favorably, that negotiations will be successful or that we will not experience a work stoppage, which could adversely affect our consolidated results of operations.

#### **Internet Access**

Copies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are available free of charge through our website (www.sypris.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file the material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

#### **Risks Related to Our Business and Forward-Looking Statements**

This annual report and our other oral or written communications may contain "forward-looking" statements. These statements may include our expectations or projections about the future of our industries, business strategies, the markets in which we operate, potential acquisitions, contracts with customers, new business opportunities or financial results and our views about developments beyond our control including government spending, domestic or global economic conditions, trends and market forces. These statements are based on management's views and assumptions at the time originally made, and we undertake no obligation to update these statements, except as may be required by law. There can be no assurance that our expectations, projections or views will come to pass, and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

A number of significant risk factors could materially affect our specific business operations and cause our performance to differ materially from any future results projected or implied by our prior statements, including those described below. Many of these risk factors are also identified in connection with the more specific descriptions contained throughout this report.

Customers

#### We need to generate new business revenues supported by a sustainable competitive advantage.

Our businesses generally require a higher level of new business revenues in order to operate profitably. Unless we can develop and offer new products and services with a sustainable competitive advantage, we may be unable to maintain the critical mass of capital investments or talented employees that are needed to succeed in our chosen markets. In the

truck components and assemblies markets, our revenues are highly dependent upon the overall demand for new vehicles. In the aerospace and defense markets, our revenues are highly dependent upon new product development (especially in our cybersecurity programs), effective marketing and sales activities, the development of additional profitable capacity (especially in our space engineering programs) and the profitable management of our legacy products and services.

# Customer contracts may not be renewed on acceptable terms or at all. Our largest customer Dana has notified us of its intent to terminate our supply relationship.

Our two largest customers, Dana and Meritor, have contracts with expiration dates of December 31, 2014 and, for a portion of the Meritor goods, May 2, 2015. In 2013, Dana and Meritor represented approximately 58% and 15% of our revenues. While we have executed an extension of the Dana contract extending until 2020, Dana is attempting to repudiate that extension. We may not be able to enforce or renew either or both these agreements on acceptable terms or at all. The failure to do so or otherwise maintain our current levels of work from both of these customers would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and financial performance.

We are in the process of negotiating with Dana to attempt to continue our long-standing relationship as one of its suppliers. We have also been in litigation over the validity of the amended and restated supply agreement that Dana and Sypris entered into in July, 2013. The failure to resolve the ongoing dispute with Dana on acceptable terms, to succeed in enforcing the extended agreement, or to enter into a new or replacement agreement with Dana on acceptable terms would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and financial performance.

#### Customer contracts could be less profitable than expected.

We generally bear the risk that our contracts could be unprofitable or less profitable than planned, despite our estimates of revenues and future costs to complete such contracts.

A material portion of our business, historically, has been conducted under multi-year contracts, which generally include fixed prices or periodic price reductions without minimum purchase requirements. Over time, our revenues may not cover our increasing operating costs which could adversely impact our results. Our financial results are at greater risk when we accept contractual responsibility for raw material or component prices, when we cannot offset price reductions and cost increases with operating efficiencies or other savings, when we must submit contract bid prices before all key design elements are finalized or when we are subjected to other competitive pressures which erode our margins. The profitability of our contracts also can be adversely affected by unexpected start-up costs on new programs, operating inefficiencies, ineffective capital investments, inflationary pressures or inaccurate forecasts of future unit costs.

In the past, we have signed long-term supply agreements with Dana and Meritor and acquired their facilities in Morganton, North Carolina and Toluca, Mexico, among other manufacturing assets. Although most of these acquired facilities have well-established product markets, these customers or their products may not continue to be successful, product enhancements may not be made in a timely fashion, and any long-term pricing agreements could generate lower margins than anticipated. If these facilities are required to operate at underutilized levels, it could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Unexpected changes in our customers' demand levels have harmed our operating results in the past and could do so in the future. Many of our customers will not commit to firm production or delivery schedules. Disagreements over pricing, quality, delivery, capacity, exclusivity or trade credit terms could disrupt order schedules. Orders may also fluctuate due to changing global capacity and demand, new products, changes in market share, reorganizations or bankruptcies, material shortages, labor disputes or other factors that discourage outsourcing. These forces could increase, decrease, accelerate, delay or cancel our delivery schedules.

Inaccurate forecasting of our customers' requirements can disrupt the efficient utilization of our manufacturing capacity, inventories or workforce. If we lose anticipated revenues, we might not succeed in redeploying our substantial capital investment and other fixed costs, potentially forcing additional plant closures, impairments of long-lived and other assets or increased losses. If we receive unanticipated orders or rapid increases in demand, these incremental volumes could be unprofitable due to the higher costs of operating above our optimal capacity.

We depend on a few key customers in challenging industries for most of our revenues.

Our five largest customers in 2013 were Dana, Meritor, Sistemas, Northrop Grumman and Eaton, collectively accounting for 81% of net revenue. Our five largest customers in 2012 were Dana, Meritor, Sistemas, the Australian government and Eaton, collectively accounting for 79% of net revenue. In addition, U.S. governmental agencies accounted for 3% and 6% of net revenue in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The truck components and assemblies industry has experienced credit risk, highly cyclical market demand, labor unrest, rising steel costs, bankruptcy and other obstacles, while the aerospace and defense electronics industry has experienced consolidation, increased competition, disruptive new technologies and uncertain funding.

We depend on the continued growth and financial stability of these customers and our core markets, as well as general economic conditions. Adverse changes affecting these customers, markets or economic conditions could harm our operating results. The truck components and assemblies market is highly cyclical, due in part to regulatory deadlines, the availability or scarcity of credit, fluctuations in oil prices and pent-up demand for replacement vehicles.

Rising costs of steel or component parts could increase our inventory and working capital levels and present challenges to our customers who seek to pass those costs on to their customers. Many of our customers' labor disputes, financial difficulties and restructuring needs have created rising uncertainty and risk, which could increase our costs or impair our business model.

The aerospace and defense industry is pressured by cyclicality, rapid technological change, shortening product life cycles, decreasing margins, unpredictable funding levels and government procurement and certification processes. Our aerospace and defense business faces an aging portfolio of legacy products and services which must be replenished with new technologies if we are to successfully maintain or expand our market share. Our failure to address any of these factors, particularly in our secured electronic communications or space engineering programs, could impair our business model.

There can be no assurance that any of our customers will not default on, delay or dispute payment of, or seek to reject our outstanding invoices in bankruptcy or otherwise.

#### Congressional budgetary constraints or reallocations could reduce our government sales.

Our Electronics Group sells manufacturing services and products to a number of U.S. government agencies, which in the aggregate represented approximately 3% and 6% of our net revenue in 2013 and 2012, respectively. We also serve as a contractor for large aerospace and defense companies such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Exelis, typically under federally funded programs, which represented approximately 5% and 4% of net revenue in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Our government contracts have many inherent risks that could adversely impact our financial results. These contracts depend upon the continuing availability of Congressional appropriations. The budget appropriations process in Congress has at times become highly politicized and unpredictable, including the growing use of "continuing resolutions" as a temporary approach to the resolution of disputes over funding levels. In addition, the Budget Control Act commits the U.S. Government to reduce the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion over ten years through a combination of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts and caps on discretionary spending. This "sequestration" under the Budget Control Act is split equally between defense and non-defense programs and went into effect on March 1, 2013. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provided some budget relief, reducing the discretionary sequester (and increasing funding) for FY2014 and FY2015 for both defense and non-defense programs.

The Electronics Group already has been significantly adversely affected by declines in the overall government defense market due to the effects of sequestration, and may be further affected if funding for programs in which we participate, either by selling services and products directly to U.S. government agencies or as a subcontractor to prime contractors such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Excelis, is reduced, delayed or cancelled. Our ability to obtain new contract awards also could be negatively affected.

Congress and the Administration continue to debate these funding issues, but reductions in U.S. military spending also could materially adversely affect the results of our Electronics Group, and we expect that certain military and defense

programs will experience delays while the receipt of government approvals remain pending.

Future levels of governmental spending, including delays, declines or reallocations in the funding of certain programs could adversely affect our financial results, if we are unable to offset these changes with new business or cost reductions.

**Suppliers** 

## Interruptions in the supply of key components could disrupt production.

Some of our manufacturing services or products require one or more components that are available from a limited number of providers or from sole-source providers. In the past, some of the materials we use, including steel, certain forgings or castings, capacitors and memory and logic devices, have been subject to industry-wide shortages or capacity allocations. As a result, suppliers have been forced to allocate available quantities among their customers, and we have not been able to obtain all of the materials desired. Some of our suppliers have struggled to implement reliable quality control systems which can negatively impact our operating efficiency and financial results. In downward business cycles, the tightening of credit markets has threatened the financial viability of an increasing number of suppliers of key components and raw materials and forced unanticipated shutdowns. Our inability to reliably obtain these or any other materials when and as needed could slow production or assembly, delay shipments to our customers, impair the recovery of our fixed costs and increase the costs of recovering to customers' schedules, including overtime, expedited freight, equipment maintenance, operating inefficiencies, higher working capital and the obsolescence risks associated with larger buffer inventories. Each of these factors could adversely affect operating results.

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#### Shortages or increased costs of utilities could harm our business and our customers.

We and our customers depend on a constant supply of electricity and natural gas from utility providers for the operation of our respective businesses and facilities. In the past, we have experienced power outages which reduced our ability to deliver products and meet our customers' demand for those products. If we or our customers experience future interruptions in service from these providers, our production and/or delivery of products could be negatively affected. Additionally, due to the heavy consumption of energy in our production process and the businesses of our customers, if the cost of energy significantly increases, our results of operations and those of our customers could be negatively impacted.

#### Execution

#### Contract terminations or delays could harm our business.

We often provide manufacturing services and products under contracts that contain detailed specifications, quality standards and other terms. If we are unable to perform in accordance with such terms, our customers might seek to terminate such contracts, demand price concessions or other financial consideration or downgrade our past performance rating, an increasingly critical factor in federal procurement competitions. Moreover, many of our contracts are subject to termination for convenience or upon default. These provisions could provide only limited recoveries of certain incurred costs or profits on completed work and could impose liability for our customers' costs in procuring undelivered items from another source. If any of our significant contracts were to be repudiated, terminated or not renewed, such as the Dana and Meritor contracts described above, we would lose substantial revenues, and our operating results as well as prospects for future business opportunities could be adversely affected. For example, as described above, our supply agreement with Dana represented approximately 58% of our revenues in 2013, and this agreement currently provides for its expiration on December 31, 2014, unless renewed by the parties.

We are subject to various audits, reviews and investigations, including private party "whistleblower" lawsuits, relating to our compliance with federal and state laws. Should our business be charged with wrongdoing, or determined not to be a "presently responsible contractor," we could be temporarily suspended or debarred for up to three or more years from receiving new government contracts or government-approved subcontracts.

#### We must operate more efficiently, or our results could suffer.

If we are unable to improve the cost, efficiency and yield of our operations, or if our costs increase, our financial results could suffer. A number of major obstacles could include: the loss of substantial revenues due to a sluggish economic recovery; inflationary pressures; increased borrowing due to declining sales; changes in anticipated product mix and the associated variances in our profit margins; efforts to increase our manufacturing capacity and launch new programs; efforts to migrate, restructure or move business operations from one location to another; the breakdown of critical machinery or equipment; the need to identify and eliminate our root causes of scrap; our ability to achieve expected annual savings or other synergies from past and future business combinations; inventory risks due to shifts in market demand; obsolescence; price erosion of raw material or component parts; shrinkage, or other factors affecting our inventory valuations; and an inability to successfully manage growth, contraction or competitive pressures in our primary markets.

Our management or systems could be inadequate to support our existing or future operations, especially as we downsize our operating staff to reduce expenses in any extended economic downturn. Growth in our business could require us to invest in additional equipment to improve our efficiency. We may have limited experience or expertise in installing or operating such equipment, which could negatively impact our ability to deliver products on time or with acceptable costs. In addition, a material portion of our manufacturing equipment requires significant maintenance to operate effectively, and we may experience maintenance and repair issues. Our efforts to restructure, relocate and consolidate a significant number of the operations, especially in our truck component manufacturing plants, could cause certain of these facilities to operate at underutilized levels, which could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. In our Electronics Group, the risk of technical failures, nonconformance with customer specifications, an inability to deliver next generation products or other quality concerns could materially impair our operating results.

#### Our growth strategies could be ineffective due to the risks associated with further acquisitions.

Our growth strategy has included acquiring complementary businesses. We could fail to identify, finance or complete suitable acquisitions on acceptable terms and prices. Acquisition efforts entail a number of risks, including: diversion of management's attention; difficulties in integrating systems, operations and cultures; potential loss of key employees and customers of the acquired companies; lack of experience operating in the geographic market of the acquired business; an increase in our expenses and working capital requirements; risks of entering into markets or producing products where we have limited or no experience; difficulties in integrating purchased technologies and products with our technologies and products; our ability to improve productivity and implement cost reductions; our ability to secure collective bargaining agreements with employees; and exposure to unanticipated liabilities.

Our discovery of, or failure to discover, material issues during due diligence investigations of acquisition targets, either before closing with regard to potential risks of the acquired operations, or after closing with regard to the timely discovery of breaches of representations or warranties, or of certain indemnified environmental conditions, could seriously harm our business.

#### Cyber security risks could negatively affect operations and result in increased costs.

Our Electronics Group, as a U.S. defense contractor, and our Company overall, face cyber security threats, threats to the physical security of our facilities and employees and terrorist acts, as well as the potential for business disruptions associated with information technology failures and natural disasters.

We routinely experience cyber security threats, threats to our information technology infrastructure and attempts to gain access to our sensitive information, as do our customers, suppliers and subcontractors. Prior cyber attacks directed at us have not had a material impact on our financial results. Due to the evolving nature of these security threats, however, the impact of any future incident cannot be predicted.

Although we work cooperatively with our customers and our suppliers, subcontractors, and other partners to seek to minimize the impacts of cyber threats, other security threats or business disruptions, we must rely on the safeguards put in place by those entities, and those safeguards might not be effective.

The costs related to cyber security or other security threats or disruptions may not be fully insured or indemnified by other means. Occurrence of any of these events could adversely affect our internal operations, the services we provide to customers, loss of competitive advantages derived from our research and development efforts, early obsolescence

of our products and services, our future financial results, our reputation or our stock price.

## Competition

#### Increasing competition could limit or reduce our market share.

We operate in highly competitive environments that include our customers' internal capabilities. We believe that the principal competitive factors in our markets include the availability of manufacturing capacity, technological strength, speed and flexibility in responding to design or schedule changes, price, quality, delivery, cost management and financial strength. Our earnings could decline if our competitors or customers can provide comparable speed and quality at a lower cost, or if we fail to adequately invest in the range and quality of manufacturing services and products our customers require.

Some of our competitors, as compared to us, are larger and have greater financial and organizational resources, geographic breadth and range of services, customer bases and brand recognition than we do. As a result, our competitors may respond more quickly to technological changes or customer needs, consume lower fixed and variable unit costs, negotiate reduced component prices, and obtain better terms for financing growth. If we fail to compete in any of these areas, we may lose market share and our business could be seriously harmed. There can be no assurance that we will not experience increased competition or that we will be able to maintain our profitability if our competitive environment changes.

#### Our technologies could become obsolete, reducing our revenues and profitability.

The markets for our products and services are characterized by changing technology and continuing process development. The future of our business will depend in large part upon the continuing relevance of our technological capabilities. We could fail to make required capital investments, develop or successfully market services and products that meet changing customer needs and anticipate or respond to technological changes in a cost-effective and timely manner. Our inability to successfully launch or sustain new or next generation programs or product features, especially in accordance with budgets or committed delivery schedules, could materially adversely affect our financial results. We could encounter competition from new or revised technologies that render our technologies and equipment less profitable or obsolete in our chosen markets and our operating results may suffer. In particular, the Company is currently developing new products and pursuing new programs in an attempt to replenish the Electronics Group's revenue stream, which has been declining since 2009. However, commercializing the new products and programs is costly, has been slower than anticipated and is not expected to result in significant revenue in 2014. The launch of any new products or programs within the Electronics Group may not be successful.

#### Access to Capital

#### An inability to obtain favorable financing could impair our growth.

Our operating results could be materially adversely affected by *the costs and availability of debt or equity financing*. Our future liquidity and capital requirements are difficult to predict because they depend on numerous factors, including the pace at which we grow our business and acquire new facilities or the loss of anticipated revenues due to the effects of any extended economic downturn. One method we have used to obtain multi-year supply agreements is to buy a customer's non-core manufacturing assets and produce products for them. We may need to raise substantial additional funds in order to pursue this strategy. We cannot be certain that we will be able to obtain additional financing on favorable terms or at all. Additional equity financing could result in dilution to existing holders. If additional financing is obtained in the form of debt, the terms of the debt could place restrictions on our ability to operate or increase the financial risk of our capital structure. Our ability to borrow under our credit facility (the "Credit Facility") is conditioned upon our compliance with various financial covenants. We could lose our access to such financing if we experience adverse changes in our operations, poor financial results, increased risk profiles of our businesses, declines in our credit ratings, any actual or alleged breach of our debt covenants, insurance conditions or similar agreements or any adverse regulatory developments. In any extended economic downturn, we may need to raise capital through the sale of core or non-core assets or businesses, and our inability to successfully do so could materially adversely impact our operating results or access to sufficient capital.

Any inability to raise additional funds as needed could impair our ability to operate and grow our business. Such financing could be subject to a number of factors, including market conditions, our operating performance and investor sentiment. These factors may make the timing, amount, terms and conditions of additional financing

unattractive for us.

## We may be unable to comply with the covenants in our Credit Facility.

Our Credit Facility requires us to comply with certain financial covenants regarding cumulative quarterly fixed charge coverage ratios. The Credit Facility also contains a number of covenants that, among other things, limit or restrict our ability to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, engage in sale and leaseback transactions, prepay other indebtedness, modify organizational documents and certain other agreements, create restrictions affecting subsidiaries, make dividends and other restricted payments, create liens, make investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers, change the nature of our business and engage in certain transactions with affiliates. No assurances can be given that changing business, regulatory or economic conditions might not cause the Company to violate one or more covenants which could result in default or acceleration of any debt under the Credit Facility.

#### Labor Relations

#### We must attract and retain qualified employees while successfully managing related costs.

Our future success in a changing business environment, including during rapid changes in the size, complexity or skills required of our workforce, will depend to a large extent upon the efforts and abilities of our executive, managerial and technical employees. The loss of key employees, especially in a recovering economic environment, could have a material adverse effect on our operations. Our future success will also require an ability to attract and retain qualified employees, especially those with engineering or production expertise in our core business lines. Labor disputes or changes in the cost of providing pension and other employee benefits, including changes in health care costs, investment returns on plan assets and discount rates used to calculate pension and related liabilities or other requirements to accelerate the level of our pension fund contributions to reduce or eliminate underfunded liabilities, could lead to increased costs or disruptions of operations in any of our business units.

#### Disputes with labor unions could disrupt our business plans.

We currently have collective bargaining agreements covering approximately 500 employees (all of which are in the Industrial Group), or 42% of total employees. Excluding certain Mexico employees covered under an annually ratified agreement, collective bargaining agreements covering 149 employees expire within the next 12 months. Certain Mexico employees are covered by an annually ratified collective bargaining agreement. These employees represent approximately 26% of the Company's workforce, or 311 employees. We could experience a work stoppage or other disputes which could disrupt our operations or the operations of our customers and could harm our operating results.

#### Regulatory

#### Environmental, health and safety risks could expose us to potential liability.

We are subject to a variety of environmental regulations relating to the use, storage, discharge and disposal of hazardous chemicals and substances used in our operations. If we fail to comply with present or future regulations, we could be forced to alter, suspend or discontinue our manufacturing processes and pay substantial fines or penalties.

Groundwater and other contamination has occurred at certain of our current and former facilities during the operation of those facilities by their former owners, and this contamination may occur at future facilities we operate or acquire. There is no assurance that environmental indemnification agreements we have secured from former owners of these properties will be adequate to protect us from liability.

The Marion, Ohio property formerly owned by Sypris is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds, certain metals, PCBs and other contaminants, some of which exceed the state voluntary action program standards applicable to the site. The property was sold in March 2013 to Whirlpool Corporation (Whirlpool). Whirlpool has indemnified the Company against the legacy environmental risks on the property.

We previously acquired certain business assets formerly located at a leased facility in Littleton, Colorado, where chlorinated solvents had been disposed of on site by a prior owner of the business at the site, contaminating the groundwater at and around the site. The seller of the assets to us is operating a remediation system on the site approved by the State of Colorado and has entered into a consent order with the EPA providing for additional investigation at the site. In addition, Sypris has been contractually indemnified by the prior owners of the facility.

Our Morganton, North Carolina facility is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, certain metals and other contaminants, some of which may exceed the State of North Carolina standards applicable to the site. The Company is aware of no current litigation, material remediation claims or other proceedings with respect to this facility.

Our Toluca, Mexico facility is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds and volatile organic compounds, among other concerns. We continue to test and assess this site to determine the extent of any contamination by the prior owners of the facility. Under our purchase agreement for this facility, Dana has agreed to indemnify us for, among other things, environmental conditions that existed on the site as of closing and as to which we notified Dana prior to June 30, 2006, subject to certain other conditions involving Dana's release of, or continuing right to seek indemnity from, Eaton, from which Dana acquired the property.

The Kenton, Ohio property formerly owned by Sypris is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, volatile organic compounds, certain metals, PCBs and other contaminants. Under our purchase agreement for this property, Meritor agreed to indemnify us for, among other things, environmental conditions that existed on the site as of closing and as to which we notified Meritor prior to May 2, 2006. The building and real property were sold in January 2012.

Our business is also subject to potential liabilities with respect to health and safety matters. We are required to comply with federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations governing the health and safety of our workforce, and we could be held liable for damages arising out of human exposure to hazardous substances or other dangerous working conditions. Health and safety laws and regulations are complex and change frequently. As a result, our future costs to comply with such laws or the liabilities incurred in the event of any violations may increase significantly.

#### Adverse regulatory developments or litigation could harm our business.

Our businesses operate in heavily regulated environments. We must successfully manage the risk of changes in or adverse actions under applicable law or in our regulatory authorizations, licenses and permits, governmental security clearances or other legal rights to operate our businesses, to manage our work force or to import and export goods and services as needed. Our business activities expose us to the risks of litigation with respect to our customers, suppliers, creditors, stockholders or from product liability, environmental or asbestos-related matters. We also face the risk of other adverse regulatory actions, compliance costs or governmental sanctions, as well as the costs and risks related to our ongoing efforts to design and implement effective internal controls.

#### **Other Risks**

#### We face other factors which could seriously disrupt our operations.

Many other risk factors beyond our control could seriously disrupt our operations, including: risks relating to war, future terrorist activities, computer hacking or other cyber attacks, or political uncertainties; risks relating to natural disasters or other casualties which could shut down our domestic or foreign facilities, disrupt transportation of products or supplies, increase the costs under our self insurance program or change the timing and availability of funding in our aerospace and defense electronics markets; risks inherent in operating abroad, including foreign currency exchange rates, adverse regulatory developments, and miscommunications or errors due to inaccurate foreign language translations or currency exchange rates; or our failure to anticipate or to adequately insure against other risks and uncertainties present in our businesses including unknown or unidentified risks.

# Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

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# Item 2. Properties

Our principal manufacturing services operations are engaged in electronics manufacturing services for our aerospace and defense customers and industrial manufacturing services for our truck components and assemblies customers. The following chart indicates the significant facilities that we own or lease, the location and size of each such facility and the manufacturing certifications that each facility possesses. The facilities listed below (other than the corporate office) are used principally as manufacturing facilities.

| Location   | Segment (Market   | Own or Lease<br>(Expiration) | Approximate | Certifications  |  |
|--|---|------------------------------|-------------|---|--|
|  | Served)   |                              | Square Feet |   |  |
| <i>Corporate Office:</i><br>Louisville, Kentucky<br><i>Manufacturing and Ser</i> | vice Facilities:<br>Industrial Group  | Lease (2024)                 | 21,600      |   |  |
| Louisville, Kentucky   | (Truck Components<br>& Assemblies;<br>Specialty Closures)<br>Industrial Group | Own                          | 450,000     | QS 9000<br>TS 16949   |  |
| Morganton, North<br>Carolina   | (Truck Components<br>& Assemblies)  | Own                          | 360,000     | TS 16949<br>ISO 14001   |  |
| Tampa, Florida   | Electronics Group<br>(Aerospace &<br>Defense                                  | Lease (2016)                 | 318,000     | ISO 9001<br>ISO 14001<br>AS 9100<br>NASA-STD-8739<br>IPC-A-610, Rev D, Class<br>3<br>J-STD-001, Rev D, Class<br>3 |  |
| Toluca, Mexico   | Electronics)<br>Industrial Group  | Own                          | 217,000     | CMMI Level 3<br>TS 16949  |  |

(Truck Components

& Assemblies)

In addition, we lease space in one other facility in Copenhagen, Denmark, which is utilized as a sales office for our Electronics Group.

Below is a listing and description of the various manufacturing certifications or specifications that we utilize at our facilities.

Certification/Specification Description

AS 9100 A quality management system developed by the aerospace industry to measure supplier conformance with basic common acceptable aerospace quality requirements.

A certification process for electronics assembly manufacturing which describes materials, methods and verification criteria for producing high quality electronic products. Class 3 specifically includes high performance or performance-on-demand products where equipment downtime cannot be tolerated, end-use environment may be uncommonly harsh, and the equipment must function when required.

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J-STD-001 A family of voluntary standards of industry-accepted workmanship criteria for electronic assemblies.

CMMI Level-3 An internationally recognized measure of an organization's engineering process maturity.

- ISO A certification process comprised of quality system requirements to ensure quality in the areas of design,development, production, installation and servicing of products.
- ISO A family of voluntary standards and guidance documents defining specific requirements for anEnvironmental Management System.

NASA-STD-8739 A specification for space programs designated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

QS A certification process developed by the nation's major automakers that focuses on continuous improvement,
9000 defect reduction, variation reduction and elimination of waste.

TS 16949 A quality certification system developed within the automotive sector. Using ISO 9001:2000 as its foundation, ISO/TS 16949:2002 specifies the quality management system (QMS) requirements for the design, development, production, installation and servicing of automotive related products.

## Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are involved from time to time in litigation and other legal or environmental proceedings incidental to our business. There are currently no material pending legal proceedings to which we are a party. Ongoing environmental matters include the following:

The Marion, Ohio property formerly owned by Sypris is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds, certain metals, PCBs and other contaminants, some of which exceed the State of Ohio voluntary action program standards applicable to the site. The property was sold in March 2013 to Whirlpool. Whirlpool has indemnified the Company against the legacy environmental risks on the property.

In December 1992, we acquired certain business assets formerly located at a leased facility in Littleton, Colorado. Certain chlorinated solvents disposed of on the site by Honeywell, a previous owner of the business, have contaminated the groundwater at and around the site. Alliant Techsystems, from which we acquired the business assets, operates a remediation system approved by the State of Colorado and has also entered into a consent order

with the EPA providing for additional investigation at the site. Alliant Techsystems has agreed to indemnify us with respect to these matters.

Our Morganton, North Carolina facility is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, certain metals and other contaminants, some of which exceed the State of North Carolina notification standards applicable to the site. No litigation or other proceedings are underway with respect to this site.

Our Toluca, Mexico facility is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds and volatile organic compounds, among other concerns. Under our purchase agreement for this facility, Dana has agreed to indemnify us for, among other things, environmental conditions that existed on the site as of closing and as to which we notified Dana prior to June 30, 2006, to the extent of any indemnification owed to Dana by Eaton or any other matters for which Dana has released Eaton.

The Kenton, Ohio property formerly owned by Sypris is subject to soil and groundwater contamination involving petroleum compounds, volatile organic compounds, certain metals, PCBs and other contaminants. Under our purchase agreement for this facility, Meritor has agreed to indemnify us for, among other things, environmental conditions that existed on the site as of closing and as to which we notified Meritor prior to May 2, 2006. The building and real property were sold in January 2012, and the building was subsequently razed by the buyer. Under the terms of the sale agreement, no warranties relating to the property were made including existing environmental conditions and all liability has been passed to the buyer.

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# Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

# PART II

# Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

We are a smaller reporting company as defined in Item 10(f)(1) of Regulation S-K and thus are not required to provide the performance graph required in paragraph (e) of Item 201 of Regulation S-K.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "SYPR." The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing sale prices per share of our common stock as reported by the NASDAQ Global Market.

|                               | High   | Low    |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Year ended December 31, 2013: |        |        |
| First Quarter                 | \$4.49 | \$3.60 |
| Second Quarter                | 3.96   | 3.06   |
| Third Quarter                 | 3.39   | 3.03   |
| Fourth Quarter                | 3.22   | 2.57   |
| Year ended December 31, 2012: |        |        |
| First Quarter                 | \$4.25 | \$3.77 |
| Second Quarter                | 6.97   | 3.95   |
| Third Quarter                 | 7.56   | 5.65   |
| Fourth Quarter                | 7.28   | 3.58   |

As of March 4, 2014, there were 735 holders of record of our common stock. The amount of cash dividends declared per share for each fiscal quarter in 2013 and 2012 is presented in the table below.

Dividends per Common Share

| Year ended December 31, 2013: | \$<br>0.02 |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| First Quarter                 | 0.02       |
| Second Quarter                | 0.02       |
| Third Quarter                 | 0.02       |
| Fourth Quarter                |            |
|                               |            |
| Year ended December 31, 2012: |            |
| First Quarter                 | \$<br>0.02 |
| Second Quarter                | 0.00       |
| Second Quarter                | 0.02       |
| Third Quarter                 | 0.02       |
|                               |            |

Dividends may be paid on common stock only when, as and if declared by our Board of Directors in its sole discretion. The Company's Credit Facility contains restrictions related to dividend payments, as further described in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations–Liquidity" below.

The following table summarizes our shares of common stock repurchased during the three months ended December 31, 2013 (dollars in thousands except per share data):

|   |               |                 | Total                            | Maximum                |
|---|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
|   |               |                 | Number of                        | Dollar<br>Value of     |
|   | Total         | Average         | Shares                           | Shares                 |
| Period  | Number        | Price           | <b>Purchased</b><br>as a Part of | that May<br>Yet Be     |
|   | of Shares     | Paid per        |                                  | I et De                |
|   | Purchased (a) | Share           | Publicly<br>Announced            | Purchased<br>Under the |
|   |               |                 | Plans or                         | Plans or               |
|   |               |                 | Programs                         | Programs<br>(b)        |
| 9/30/2013 - 10/27/2013                                    |               | \$ —            |                                  | \$ 4,330               |
| $\frac{10/28/2013 - 11/24/2013}{11/25/2013 - 12/31/2013}$ | -             | \$ 3.16<br>\$ — | 8,675<br>—                       | \$ 4,303<br>\$ 4,303   |

The total number of shares purchased includes shares purchased under the Executive Equity Repurchase Agreement (described below). The Company also withholds shares from employees to satisfy either the exercise (a) price of stock options exercised or the statutory withholding tax liability resulting from the vesting of restricted stock awards. Shares of common stock withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations were immediately cancelled.

On December 20, 2011, our Board of Directors approved and we announced an authorization for the repurchase of up to \$5.0 million of our outstanding shares of common stock. The Board also authorized an Executive Equity Repurchase Agreement whereby management, including officers and directors, would grant the Company a first (b)right to purchase shares held by such individuals, at current market prices (calculated as the average of the previous five days' closing prices), any time a party to the agreement departed the Company or intended to sell more than 1,500 shares of common stock. The agreement has a five-year term, subject to earlier termination by the Company, and participation by each individual is voluntary.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

We are a smaller reporting company as defined in Item 10(f)(1) of Regulation S-K and thus are not required to report the selected financial data in Item 301 of Regulation S-K.