

NEWS



## A. M. CASTLE & CO.

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Traded: AMEX, MSE, CSE (CAS)  
Member: S&P SmallCap 600 Index

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2003**

### **A. M. CASTLE & CO. ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER OPERATING RESULTS**

**FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS, MAY 6, 2003** — **A. M. CASTLE & CO. (AMEX: CAS)**, A North American distributor of highly engineered metals and plastics, today announced its operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2003.

For the quarter, sales totalled \$141.6 million, an increase of 4.1 percent over sales of \$136.0 million for the first three months of 2002. Current quarter sales include \$3.3 million of revenues of its small order business, Metal Express, which was consolidated following the Company's purchase of its partner's remaining joint venture interest effective May 1, 2002. Metal revenues were relatively flat year-over-year while sales of its Total Plastics, Inc. subsidiary rose \$1.9 million, or 13.2 percent. Gross material margins rose \$1.9 million due primarily to the inclusion of Metal Express and the increased volume of Total Plastics. As a percent of sales, total gross material margins at 30.5 percent were comparable to the 30.4 percent reported in the prior quarter.

Other operating expenses rose \$3.1 million to \$42.7 million from \$39.6 million in the first quarter of 2002. The consolidation of Metal Express accounted for \$1.7 million of the increase while expenses at Total Plastics rose \$0.7 million in support of higher activity levels. Of the remaining \$0.7 million of increased expenses, \$0.4 million was due to lower non-cash pension income primarily due to a reduction in the expected long-term rate of return on pension assets from 10 percent to 9 percent. Financing expense increased to \$2.8 million from \$2.1 million a year-ago reflecting the impact of higher rates negotiated as part of the capital restructuring put in place in the later part of 2002 offset by reductions of \$14.8 million in the aggregate amount of debt and advances under the Company's accounts receivable purchase facility. After-

tax losses for the quarter totalled \$1.4 million as compared with \$0.2 million in 2002. Including dividends payable on preferred stock, the net loss applicable to common stock totalled \$1.6 million, or 10 cents per share, compared with \$0.2 million, or 1-cent per share, a year ago.

In making the announcement, G. Thomas McKane, President and CEO noted that "On a trailing quarter basis, sales were up \$17.4 million, or 14.0 percent. Gross material margins increased \$6.4 million from the fourth quarter of 2002. The Company's fourth quarter cost of sales included a \$1.3 million net inventory adjustment. Exclusive of this charge, gross material margins increased by \$5.1 million. Plant, delivery, selling and administrative expenses increased by \$2.3 million, or 13.5 percent on the incremental sales volume. As a result of the increased volume, we produced a \$2.8 million increase in EBITDA. This \$2.8 million represents a 16.1 percent return on incremental sales, indicative of the leverage the Company will realize when demand in our markets begins to recover."

Speaking to current market conditions, Mr. McKane noted that the Company was seeing single digit growth in the upper Midwest but that aerospace markets continue to decline as both commercial and private aircraft orders remain depressed.

In closing, Mr. McKane invited interested parties to listen to the Company's conference call scheduled for 11:00 (EST) today, Tuesday, May 6, 2003. Connection is available at [www.amcastle.com](http://www.amcastle.com) and will be available for 14 days following the call.

Founded in 1890, A. M. Castle & Co. provides highly engineered materials and value-added services to a wide range of industrial companies. The company is widely recognized as one of the leading industrial distributors of specialty metals such as carbon, alloy and stainless steels; aluminum; nickel alloy; titanium; and copper and brass. Through its subsidiary, Total Plastics, Inc., the company also distributes a broad range of value-added industrial plastics. Together, Castle and its affiliated companies operate over 50 locations throughout North America. Its common stock is traded on the American and Chicago Stock Exchanges under the ticker symbol "CAS."

This release may contain forward-looking statements relating to future financial results. Actual results may differ materially as a result of factors over which the company has no control. These risk factors and additional information are included in the company's reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Financial tables to follow...**



CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

(Amounts in thousands)

(Unaudited)

	March 31, 2003	December 31, 2002	March 31, 2002
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash .....	\$ 1,306	\$ 918	\$ 1,248
Accounts receivable .....	42,714	34,273	31,966
Inventories (principally on last-in, first-out basis) .....	128,092	131,704	133,652
Income tax receivable .....	12,929	9,897	4,973
Other current assets .....	7,492	7,930	7,435
Current assets – discontinued subsidiary .....	—	—	8,705
Total current assets .....	192,533	184,722	187,979
Investment in joint ventures .....	7,404	7,278	9,373
Goodwill .....	31,978	31,947	31,197
Pension assets .....	40,719	40,359	29,783
Advances to joint ventures and other assets .....	6,534	6,754	4,384
Property, plant and equipment at cost:			
Land .....	6,027	6,025	5,824
Buildings .....	53,440	53,322	51,328
Machinery and equipment .....	126,311	125,376	124,840
	185,778	184,723	181,992
Less—accumulated depreciation .....	(105,534)	(103,188)	(97,656)
	80,244	81,535	84,336
Non-current assets – discontinued subsidiary .....	—	—	2,419
Total assets .....	<u>\$359,412</u>	<u>\$352,595</u>	<u>\$349,471</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>			
Accounts payable .....	\$ 68,256	\$ 64,192	\$ 62,332
Accrued liabilities .....	16,834	16,092	14,523
Deferred and current taxes .....	4,386	4,351	3,674
Current portion of long-term debt .....	9,622	3,546	2,442
Current liabilities – discontinued subsidiary .....	—	—	6,584
Total current liabilities .....	99,098	88,181	89,555
Long-term debt, less current portion .....	103,814	108,801	113,146
Long-term debt – discontinued subsidiary .....	—	—	853
Deferred and current taxes .....	23,011	21,101	20,358
Minority interest .....	1,376	1,352	1,290
Post retirement benefit obligations .....	2,222	2,236	2,181
Stockholders' equity			
Preferred stock .....	11,239	11,239	—
Common stock .....	158	158	147
Additional paid in capital .....	35,017	35,017	28,459
Earnings reinvested in the business .....	83,851	85,490	95,496
Accumulated other comprehensive loss .....	(35)	(555)	(1,555)
Other—deferred compensation .....	(109)	(195)	(457)
Treasury stock, at cost .....	(230)	(230)	(2)
Total stockholders' equity .....	129,891	130,924	122,088
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity .....	<u>\$359,412</u>	<u>\$352,595</u>	<u>\$349,471</u>

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Dollars in thousands)

(Unaudited)

For the Three Months

Ended March 31,

2003 2002

Cash flows from operating activities:

Net loss .....	\$ (1,645)	\$ (152)
Net income from discontinued operations.....	—	(7)
Depreciation and amortization .....	2,304	2,034
Equity in (earnings) loss of joint ventures .....	37	(166)
(Decrease) increase in deferred taxes.....	(1,361)	1,592
Non-cash pension income .....	(240)	(616)
Other .....	12	(461)
Cash from operating activities before working capital changes.....	(893)	2,224
Sale of accounts receivable.....	4,300	2,000
Other decrease (increase) in working capital.....	(2,922)	(1,853)
Net cash from operating activities – continuing operations .....	485	2,371
Net cash from operating activities – discontinued operations .....	—	2,936
Net cash from operating activities .....	485	5,307

Cash flows from investing activities:

Advances to joint ventures .....	(114)	(1,605)
Capital expenditures, net of sales proceeds.....	(736)	(851)
Net cash from investing activities – continuing operations.....	(850)	(2,456)
Net cash from investing activities – discontinued operations .....	—	(16)
Net cash from investing activities .....	(850)	(2,472)

Cash flows from financing activities:

Long-term borrowings, net.....	697	(4,105)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash.....	56	6
Other.....	—	83
Net cash from financing activities – continuing operations.....	753	(4,016)
Net cash from financing activities – discontinued operations .....	—	628
Net cash from financing activities.....	753	(3,388)
Net increase in cash .....	388	(553)
Cash - beginning of year .....	918	1,801
Cash - end of period.....	<u>\$ 1,306</u>	<u>\$ 1,248</u>