



**ANNUAL  
INFORMATION  
FORM**

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**FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

RUSSEL METALS INC., SUITE 210, 1900 MINNESOTA COURT, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO CANADA L5N 3C9

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## **RUSSEL METALS INC.**

Russel Metals Inc. (Russel Metals or the Company) is one of the largest metals distribution and processing companies in North America. The Company primarily distributes steel products and conducts its distribution business in three principal business segments: metals service centers; energy tubular products and steel distributors. For the year ended December 31, 2010, Russel Metals had consolidated revenues of approximately \$2.2 billion. Our business includes operations in both Canada and the U.S. with approximately 71% of our consolidated revenue generated by our Canadian operations.

The address of Russel Metals' head and registered office is Suite 210, 1900 Minnesota Court, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 3C9, tel. no. (905) 819-7777, fax no. (905) 819-7409. Unless the context otherwise requires, references to "Company", "we", "us" or "our" as used herein refers to Russel Metals Inc. and its subsidiaries. All dollar references are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

## **HISTORY OF THE COMPANY**

Russel Metals Inc. is the successor corporation to Federal Grain Limited, which was incorporated under the laws of Canada in 1929 and subsequently amalgamated with Searle Grain Company Limited on August 1, 1967 to continue under the name Federal Grain Limited. The name was changed to Federal Industries Ltd. on April 16, 1973 and the Company was continued under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* on May 5, 1980. On June 1, 1995, the name was changed to Russel Metals Inc. On January 1, 2002, Russel Metals Inc. was formed upon the amalgamation of its predecessor of the same name with A. J. Forsyth and Company Limited, a subsidiary with Canadian service center operations, and three non-operating subsidiaries.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Overview**

We believe we are one of the two largest metals service centers operating in Canada. During 2010, we processed and distributed products to a broad base of approximately 28,000 customers through a network of 50 locations across Canada and 12 U.S. locations. Our network of metals service centers carries a broad line of metal products in a wide range of sizes, shapes and specifications, including carbon hot rolled and cold finished steel, pipe and tubular products, stainless steel, aluminum and other non-ferrous specialty metals. We purchase these products primarily from North American steel producers, and package and sell them to end users in accordance with their specific needs. Our metals service centers operations accounted for \$1.2 billion, or 56%, of our total revenues in 2010.

Our energy tubular products operations carry a specialized product line focused on the needs of its energy industry customers. These operations distribute oil country tubular goods (OCTG), line pipe, tubes, valves and fittings from five Canadian and two U.S. locations. We purchase these products either from the pipe processing arms of North American steel mills or from independent manufacturers of pipe and pipe accessories. Our energy tubular products operations accounted for \$704 million, or 32%, of our total revenues in 2010.

Our steel distributors act as master distributors selling steel in large volumes to other steel service centers and large equipment manufacturers mainly on an "as is" basis. The main steel products sourced by this segment are carbon steel plate, beams, channel, flat rolled products, rails and pipe products. Our steel distributors operations accounted for \$248 million, or 11%, of our total revenues in 2010.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

### Industry Overview

Metals service centers bridge the gap between the capabilities of large metal producers, who manufacture large volumes of steel, aluminum and specialty metals in standard sizes and configurations and require long lead times, and the specific needs of end users by acquiring large volumes of metal from producers and packaging and processing the metal in accordance with end user specifications. Many end users purchase metal products from service centers because their requirements are smaller than the minimum order quantities available from the producers or because such end users require specialized metal processing services, a commitment to reliable just-in-time delivery and flexibility to meet their changing product and manufacturing requirements that large producers are either unwilling or unable to provide. Service centers also allow end users to reduce their total production cost by shifting the responsibility for pre-production processing to service centers, which, through economies of scale, can achieve greater operational efficiency from the processing equipment.

We estimate that in 2010, the service center industry in Canada had total sales of approximately \$8 billion. According to industry sources, comparable statistics for the U.S. industry for 2010 indicate sales in excess of US\$47 billion.

Service centers are the largest category of customers of domestic steel producers in Canada. The following table shows Canadian shipments (net of returned shipments) by Canadian steel mills to Canadian service centers and all other net domestic shipments by Canadian steel mills for the years indicated. These figures do not include metal products other than steel, such as aluminum, that we also distribute.

### Net Domestic Shipments of Steel Mill Products by Canadian Steel Mills (millions of metric tons)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 <sup>(1)</sup>
Shipments to Cdn.										
Service Centers	4.02	4.06	3.65	3.65	3.42	3.68	3.65	3.40	2.26	3.24
All Other Shipments	7.53	7.59	7.69	7.62	6.83	7.00	6.43	5.75	3.35	4.10
<b>Total Shipments</b>	<b>11.55</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>11.33</b>	<b>11.27</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>10.08</b>	<b>9.18</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>7.34</b>
<b>% to Service Centers</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>

(1) 12 months ended November 30, 2010

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Total shipments in 2010 increased by 31% compared to total shipments in 2009. This is a result of the economic recovery impacting all industries. Shipments from service centers increased as a percentage of all shipments.

The metals service center industry is intensely competitive. Generally, the metals service center industry competes on price and the ability to provide customers with value-added services such as product selection, timely delivery, reliability, quality and processing capability. There has been significant consolidation in the industry in both the United States and Canada over the past decade; however, the industry remains highly fragmented. Many of our competitors are small companies, often owner-operated, with limited product lines, inventory and geographic customer bases.

## Competitive Strengths

We believe that the following strengths give us a competitive advantage in the metals distribution industry:

*Leading Market Position.* We are one of the two largest service center operators in Canada based on revenues. We also believe we are the largest service center operator in each of the regions of Canada except for Ontario where we are the second largest. Our 50 Canadian service centers serve a broad base of approximately 18,000 customers across all regions of Canada. Our geographic presence, large volume and leading market position enable us to successfully source steel at competitive prices.

*Strong Supplier Relationships and Unique Market Insight.* We are among the largest purchasers of steel in North America and have well-established relationships with North America's largest steel producers, which enable us to ensure multiple sources for steel products and services. We believe that our steel distributors operation is one of the largest independent steel importers in North America. Our steel distributors allow us to augment our product lines at our metals service centers when product is not available. We purchase steel from multiple suppliers around the world. This enables us to monitor global steel supply and assess its impact on North American steel demand and pricing trends. This timely access to market information and global outlook allows us to proactively manage inventory levels and prices in our service center operations.

*Successful Acquisition Strategy.* We have successfully integrated a number of acquisitions. For example, in October 2001, we acquired A.J. Forsyth and Company Limited, the leading service center operation in British Columbia, and in July 2003, we acquired Acier Leroux inc., the leading service center operation in Quebec. These acquisitions strengthened our Canadian service center market presence and were immediately accretive. In September 2007, we acquired JMS Metal Services, Inc. and related companies, and in November 2008 we acquired Norton Metal Products, Inc. and integrated it with our JMS operations. These acquisitions strengthened our U.S. service center franchise enabling us to serve in excess of 10,000 customers and provided us with a platform for growth. Once we have completed an acquisition, we rationalize the operations and balance sheet and reinforce the best practices found in our combined operations.

*Multiple Business Segments and Diversified Service Center Customer Base.* We operate in three segments of the metals distribution business, each with a distinct customer base and business cycle: metals service centers; energy tubular products; and steel distributors. Our largest segment, metals service centers, has a diversified customer base across a wide variety of industries, including machinery and equipment manufacturing, construction, shipbuilding and natural resources, such as mining and petroleum. None of our segments are significantly dependent on a single customer. In 2010, no customer accounted for more than 3% of our total revenues.

*Superior Service and Product Selection.* We believe that we have a reputation for superior and timely service, and diverse product selection. Each of our metals service centers has the ability to offer one stop shopping to our customers. We also provide customized processing services and offer just-in-time delivery to quickly satisfy end user specifications. We have developed strong relationships with our customers and are able to identify their needs early so we can respond to short lead times or just-in-time delivery requirements which are common in the industry. Because local managers have significant operational autonomy, our metals service centers can react quickly to changes in local markets and customer demands.

*Prudent Inventory Management.* We manage our inventory to avoid unnecessary commitments of working capital while maintaining sufficient supply to respond quickly to customer orders. We tailor our inventory and processing services at each service center location to the needs of that particular market. The negotiation of purchase agreements with suppliers is centralized to leverage our buying power and global market insights; however, the branch management team determines actual supply of inventory to each of our locations. Local monitoring allows us to more accurately assess inventory requirements at each metals service center. We believe our decentralized inventory management, combined with our global market insights, has allowed us to react more quickly than many of our competitors to changing metals prices and customer needs, and to optimize our use of working capital. As a result of our prudent inventory management, our metals service centers have consistently turned their inventory at higher turn rates than the industry average.

*Experienced Management Team.* Our senior executives and other key members of our management team have an average of 30 years of experience in the metals distribution business. To facilitate an entrepreneurial culture, our compensation policies, at both senior and local management levels, are based on the profitability and asset utilization of our business units.

## **Business Strategy**

Our primary goals are to continue to be a leading metals distribution company, increase our market share, expand services to customers and improve operating profits and cash flows. Our business strategies, aimed at achieving our goals, consist of the following:

*Managing Capital Utilization.* We will continue to aggressively manage our balance sheet to enable us to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures, trade letters of credit and working capital requirements. We intend to continue to manage inventory based on our expected customer demands rather than speculate on market pricing which will enable us to maximize our inventory turns. Our capital expenditures for maintenance of existing assets is less than depreciation expense. Our expenditures for new equipment and facilities along with capital expenditures for maintenance are expected to approximate depreciation expense over a period of years.

*Expanding through Select Acquisitions.* Over the past decade, we have strengthened our Canadian franchise through acquisitions, which we have rationalized and integrated with our existing operations. We now have a major presence in all of the Canadian regions. We believe that maintaining and growing that strong position should be the primary strategic goal of our acquisition policy. In 2007 and 2008, we strengthened our U.S. franchise through the acquisitions of JMS Metal Services and Norton Metal Products. We intend to continue to investigate acquisition opportunities that will be immediately accretive to earnings and that will enable us to build on our Canadian service center presence or grow our U.S. operations particularly in the region surrounding our JMS operations. In our energy tubular products and steel distributors operations, we will continue to look for strong product niche players or strong regional operations.

*Decentralizing Operating Management Combined with Economies of Scale.* We continue to manage our businesses on a decentralized basis, with local management accountable for day-to-day operations, profitability and growth of the business, which we believe fosters an entrepreneurial culture across our operations. Our localized operating management allows us to capitalize on end user relationships of our businesses and the local and regional market knowledge of the operations' staff. In addition, management oversight through centralized purchasing, management information systems and cash management enables us to benefit from economies of scale and lower purchasing costs.

## **Products, Services and Customers**

### **Metals Service Centers**

Our metals service centers sell plate, flat rolled carbon and other general line carbon steel products, as well as some stainless steel, aluminum and other non-ferrous specialty metal products in a wide range of sizes, shapes and specifications. General line steel products consisting of plate, structurals, bars, sheet, pipe, tubing and hollow structural steel tubing, are used by end users in a wide variety of industries. Within Canada, our metals service centers operate under the names Russel Metals, Métaux Russel, A. J. Forsyth, Acier Leroux, Acier Loubier, Acier Richler, B&T Steel, Leroux Steel, Mégantic Métal, Métaux Russel Produits Spécialisés, Russel Metals Specialty Products, McCabe Steel, Russel Leroux, and York-Ennis. Our U.S. service center operations are conducted under the names Russel Metals Williams Bahcall, JMS Russel Metals, Norton Metals and Baldwin International. The Russel Metals Williams Bahcall operation focuses primarily on the distribution of general line carbon products through three facilities in Wisconsin. The JMS Russel Metals operations distribute full-line carbon steel and non-ferrous products from seven facilities located in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Norton Metals, a division of JMS Russel Metals, focuses primarily on general line steel products in Texas. Baldwin International distributes specialty alloy products through its facility in Ohio.

Our metals service centers also provide customized processing services to satisfy specifications established by end users. By providing these services, as well as by offering inventory management and just-in-time delivery, we enable end users to reduce their overall production costs and decrease capital required for raw materials and metals processing equipment. Our value-added processes include, but are not limited to:

- shearing, slitting and cutting to length: the cutting of metal into smaller pieces or into narrower coils;
- laser, flame and plasma cutting: the cutting of metal to produce various shapes or parts according to end user supplied drawings;
- leveling: the flattening of metal to uniform tolerances for proper machining;
- tee-splitting: the splitting of metal beams;
- edge trimming: removing a portion of the edges of coiled metal to produce uniform width and round or smooth edges; and
- cambering: the bending of structural steel to improve load-bearing capabilities.

In 2010, our metals service centers segment handled an average of approximately 3,337 (2009: 3,102) transactions per day with an average revenue of approximately \$1,453 (2009: \$1,409) per transaction. Typically, our metals service centers sales are made on an individual purchase order basis.

Our metals service centers operations provide products and services to end users in a wide variety of industries, including machinery and equipment manufacturing, construction, shipbuilding and natural resources, such as mining and petroleum. During 2010, no individual service center customer accounted for more than 2% of our total revenue.

## **Energy Tubular Products**

Our energy tubular products operations distribute oil country tubular goods, line pipe, tubes, valves and fittings primarily to the energy industry. This segment consists of five businesses, each of which sells a distinct line of products. These businesses include:

*Fedmet Tubulars* -- a distributor of oil country tubular goods (which includes casing and tubing), line pipe and related products for use in oil and gas production and distribution. Fedmet Tubulars' sales office is located in Calgary, Alberta.

*Triumph Tubular & Supply* -- a distributor of oil country tubular goods for use in oil and gas production and distribution. Triumph's sales office is located in Calgary, Alberta.

*Comco Pipe and Supply Company* -- a distributor of pipe, valve and fitting products. Comco Pipe and Supply specializes in the supply and distribution of pipe and fluid handling products to the energy, construction, manufacturing, pulp and paper and mining industries. Comco Pipe and Supply is heavily involved in the distribution of pipe products for the oil sands of Northern Alberta. These products are distributed through facilities in Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta; Stonewall, Manitoba; and Guelph and Sarnia, Ontario.

*Pioneer Pipe* -- a distributor and processor of steel pipe products to the construction, oil and gas and ski industries in the western United States. Pioneer Pipe has facilities in Aurora, Colorado and Lindon, Utah.

*Spartan Steel Products* -- a supplier of steel pipe products mainly to the energy sector is headquartered in Evergreen, Colorado.

The energy tubular products businesses sell a range of products to end users located primarily in western Canada and the United States. Comco Pipe and Supply Company maintain their own facilities and the other operations in this segment locate their inventory in third party yards. During 2010, no individual energy sector customer accounted for more than 3% of our total revenue.

## **Steel Distributors**

Our steel distributors act as master distributors selling steel in large volumes to other steel service centers and large equipment manufacturers mainly on an "as is" basis. Our steel distributors source their steel domestically and off shore.

We source carbon steel, plate, beams, channel, flat rolled products, rail and pipe products. Sales commitments for a significant portion of these products are obtained prior to their purchase or while the product is in production and transit. Products for which sales commitments have not been obtained are held in public warehouses for resale to North American service centers and other customers.

Our steel distributors operations are conducted through Wirth Steel located in Canada and the Sunbelt Group located in the United States. Arrow Steel, a division of Sunbelt Group, processes coils.

In 2010, no individual customer of the steel distributors operations accounted for more than 1% of our total revenue.

## Revenue by Product

The following table sets out our revenues by product based on dollar revenues for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008.

(in millions, except percentages)	Years Ended December 31,					
	2010	% of Total	2009	% of Total	2008	% of Total
<b>Carbon:</b>						
Plate (Discreet & Plate in Coil)	\$ 454.5	20.9%	\$ 416.6	21.1%	\$ 892.9	26.5%
General Line:						
Structurals (WF & I Beam, Angles, Channels, Hollow Tubes)	441.5	20.3%	426.6	21.6%	620.3	18.5%
Bars (Hot Rolled and Cold Finished)	155.4	7.1%	145.1	7.4%	209.3	6.2%
Tubing/Pipe (Standard, Oil Country Tubular Goods)	738.6	33.9%	636.9	32.3%	1,098.1	32.6%
Flat Rolled						
Sheet, Strip & Coil	132.6	6.1%	107.3	5.4%	194.6	5.8%
Grating/Expanded	24.0	1.1%	20.8	1.1%	27.4	0.8%
Wire Rods/Wire Products/Rails	4.4	0.2%	5.7	0.3%	9.6	0.3%
Flanges, Fittings and Valves	58.6	2.7%	77.5	3.9%	134.5	4.0%
<b>Total Carbon</b>	<b>2,009.6</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>1,836.5</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>3,186.7</b>	<b>94.7%</b>
<b>Total Non-Ferrous (Sheet, Extrusion, Tubular Goods, etc.)</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,175.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 1,971.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 3,366.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Metal Suppliers

There has been considerable consolidation among steel mills during the past few years. Our largest supplier represents approximately 8% of our metal purchases. We purchase approximately 25% of our metal from our four largest suppliers.

North American steel mills are the primary source of supply for our metals service centers. In addition, we purchase steel from international sources when the particular product is in short supply domestically or when North American mills do not produce the particular product. We have developed an effective coordinated purchasing program that allows us to derive economies of scale through volume purchases, and also allows us to access metal supplies globally. We have no material long-term fixed price metal supply contracts. We believe that alternate suppliers are available with respect to all of our product lines and our metals service centers operations generally maintain multiple suppliers for all product lines. Our metals service centers operations have over 240 suppliers.

The primary sources of supply for the energy tubular products sector are the pipe processing arms of North American steel mills and independent manufacturers of pipe and accessories. The steel distributors sector deals on a regular basis with multiple suppliers in 20 countries around the world.

## **Competition**

Our Canadian and U.S. service centers compete with other service centers that are national, regional and local in geographic in their respective countries. The service center industry is highly competitive with competition focused on price, product availability and quality, processing capability and on-time delivery.

We believe that our service center operations are favourably positioned with respect to our competitors. The geographic scope and diversity of our Canadian operations and the breadth of our product line allow us to service national and regional end users throughout Canada. We believe that we provide our Canadian end users with a wider range of products and more value-added services than many of our regional or local competitors.

The energy tubular products distribution industry has undergone consolidation in the last several years. There are now several large distributors both privately and publicly held. There remain many small private companies each having a unique product offering. These companies typically carry a broad product line and competition is focused on price, product availability and quality and on-time delivery.

Our steel distributors compete with other international steel importers, as well as steel producers in North America. Competition focuses on price, product quality and availability. The business is highly dependent on global economic conditions and on the relationships we have with our international network of suppliers.

## PROPERTIES

We have 70 warehouse facilities, 55 in Canada and 15 in the United States. The majority of the inventories at our steel distributors operations and our energy tubular products operations are held in public warehouses or yards until sold.

Set forth below is certain information, as of December 31, 2010, with respect to our principal operating facilities.

	Number of Facilities		Approximate Square Feet		
	Owned	Leased	Owned	Leased	Total
<b>Metals Service Centers</b>					
<b>Canada</b>					
British Columbia	9	1	312,841	22,399	335,240
Alberta	4	2	139,985	53,849	193,834
Saskatchewan	3	1	97,644	9,600	107,244
Manitoba	2	1	199,296	29,579	228,875
Ontario	6	4	620,856	108,917	729,773
Quebec	10	2	762,218	27,042	789,260
New Brunswick	3	-	74,400	-	74,400
Nova Scotia	1	-	55,680	-	55,680
Newfoundland	1	-	19,200	-	19,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,282,120</b>	<b>251,386</b>	<b>2,533,506</b>
<b>United States</b>					
Wisconsin	1	2	30,016	183,977	213,993
Ohio	1	-	41,040	-	41,040
Kentucky	1	-	78,900	-	78,900
Arkansas	2	1	705,000	50,000	755,000
Tennessee	1	-	70,000	-	70,000
Texas	1	-	140,890	-	140,890
Alabama	1	-	76,000	-	76,000
Georgia	1	-	55,000	-	55,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,196,846</b>	<b>233,977</b>	<b>1,430,823</b>
<b>Energy Tubular Products</b>					
<b>Canada</b>					
Alberta	1	1	45,000	8,100	53,100
Manitoba	-	1	-	9,500	9,500
Ontario	-	2	-	36,400	36,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>99,000</b>
<b>United States</b>					
Colorado	-	1	-	800	800
Utah	-	1	-	14,400	14,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>15,200</b>
<b>Steel Distributors</b>					
<b>United States</b>					
Texas	-	1	-	69,440	69,440

## **Non-Metals Operations**

Our non-metals operation, Thunder Bay Terminals, covers an area of approximately 290 acres at its location in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Most of the property is under long-term leases. A coal and other bulk products, such as potash, handling system is located at the site and comprises a number of structures, including structures which trains enter to be unloaded, and ship docking facilities.

## **EMPLOYEES**

As at December 31, 2010, we had approximately 2,430 full-time and full-time equivalent employees. Approximately 480 of these employees are located in the United States. We have 33 collective bargaining agreements covering approximately 830 employees at 38 of our locations. Through to the end of 2011, there are 12 collective bargaining agreements, which we intend to renegotiate prior to their expiration. We have maintained favourable relations with our employees. Since 2005, we have experienced only one work stoppage for a period of five weeks and have successfully renegotiated 71 collective agreements in that period.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time, we are involved in legal proceedings relating to claims arising out of our operations in the ordinary course of business. We do not believe that there are any material proceedings, pending or threatened against us or any of our properties other than those discussed in this document under "Environmental Regulation."

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**

We are subject to a variety of federal, provincial, territorial, state and local environmental laws and regulations in Canada and the United States. Such laws and regulations relate to, among other things, the discharge of contaminants into water and air and into and onto land, the disposal of waste, the handling, storage and transportation of hazardous materials and the storage of materials in underground tanks. In particular, operations divested between 1991 and 1997 included chrome plating facilities and the transportation and storage of petroleum products. We could be responsible for clean up of or damages from releases of hazardous materials on or emanating from the properties where these operations were conducted.

In Canada, while there are federal environmental statutes such as the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992* which apply to us, each Canadian province and territory and most municipalities in which we operate also enact and enforce their own environmental laws. In the United States, the primary federal regulatory laws to which we are subject include the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*, the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* and the *Clean Water Act*. We are also subject to environmental regulation at the state and local levels in the United States.

## **Environmental Policy**

We have adopted an environmental policy, applicable to all of our business segments, to ensure that our operations comply with applicable environmental laws in the jurisdiction in which they operate, and to minimize our operations' impact on the natural environment. Our policy is supported by an environmental management system, which clearly defines and communicates lines of responsibility for environmental matters within our organization, provides assistance and support to our operating units in addressing their individual environmental needs, and under which the environmental performance of our operations is monitored and reported to senior management. Standard operating procedures have been developed to encourage uniformity and consistency in the handling of environmental matters, where such matters are common to multiple operating locations. On a quarterly basis, we report to our Board, on changes to the laws and regulations as well as an update on our activities.

Since 2008, we have advanced our environmental reporting by participating in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). As a distributor, we are not a significant generator of greenhouse gases, but we are monitoring our emissions and taking actions to ensure we reduce our emissions. During 2010, we were recognized by CDP as a Carbon Disclosure Leader. Our manufacturing customer base could be impacted by environmental issues; however, the financial impact on us cannot be quantified at this time. Our business in the Canadian oil sands could be adversely impacted as environmental concerns may slow the development of the oil sands in the future.

We believe that our current operating facilities are in material compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations and our environmental policy.

## **Present Actions**

The following paragraphs summarize significant environmental litigation, regulatory action and remediation in which we are presently involved. Our anticipated expenditures on these sites all relate to previously divested or discontinued operations and do not relate to our metals distribution business.

### ***Denton, Maryland***

Pursuant to a Consent Order issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in 1987 and subsequently amended in April 1993, one of our non-operating subsidiaries is treating groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds from a former manufacturing facility on its property in Denton, Maryland. The 1993 amendment to the Consent Order allows our subsidiary to focus the remediation project on localized areas of contamination. During this 23 year period, approximately US\$3.0 million has been expended in connection with the investigation and remediation of groundwater on this site. The recurring annual cost to operate and maintain the treatment system is approximately US\$70,000. In addition, we may incur an additional expense of approximately US\$50,000 during 2011 or beyond, as a result of additional activities arising out of ongoing discussions with MDE and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) officials, in pursuit of eventual file closure.

### ***Hamilton, Ontario***

Contamination was discovered in 1991 by a subsidiary of ours on its property in Hamilton, Ontario, resulting from its historic, on-site chrome plating operations. The contamination, which consists primarily of chromium, was reported to the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the local municipality. Our subsidiary retained environmental consultants to determine the extent of contamination on the site and on neighboring properties and developed a plan to deal with the contamination, which was reviewed by the MOE and has been implemented. This plan involves the use of a groundwater extraction and treatment system, which has been installed and is presently remediating both contamination on site and that caused by the subsidiary on neighboring properties. Starting in 2008, our subsidiary has undertaken certain actions, to upgrade and improve the remediation system, and which resulted in accelerated removal of contaminants from the groundwater. Discussions continue with the MOE to ensure they remain informed and satisfied with our plan and our progress. During this 20 year period, approximately \$4.3 million has been expended and we expect that the groundwater extraction and treatment will continue indefinitely at an annual cost, including operating and maintenance expenses, of approximately \$160,000. In addition, we may from time to time incur additional expenses in connection with non-recurring items of additional targeted investigation or remediation.

### ***Whitehorse, Yukon***

Certain of our subsidiaries operated a petroleum distribution business in Alaska, Yukon and northern British Columbia including a petroleum pipeline between Whitehorse, Yukon and Skagway, Alaska. This business was sold as of June 1, 1995.

The purchasers of the petroleum distribution business have filed a complaint in Alaska and a writ in the Yukon Territory against us relating to environmental contamination at the Whitehorse lower tank farm and a historical barrel-washing pit. The actions relate to petroleum hydrocarbons and also lead, zinc and other contaminants. On October 5, 2000, Orders were issued by the Yukon Territorial government pursuant to the *Environment Act (Yukon)* against us and other responsible parties to investigate and establish a plan of restoration and restore this site. The Yukon Territorial government vacated these Orders in 2002; however, it has advised that it remains of the view that investigation and restoration remain necessary. Consequently, we and some others, under a cost-sharing agreement entered into in 2005, are continuing the investigation of the property and the development of an acceptable restoration plan. In this 10 year period, approximately \$2.0 million has been expended. A proposed risk-based remedial approach is being developed, the first stage of which has been submitted for consideration by the Yukon Territorial government and the Government of Canada. Our final costs with respect to these issues cannot be determined until a remedial approach has been decided, a restoration plan has been approved by applicable regulators, and third party liability, if any, has been taken into account. We believe that costs with respect to this matter will not be material.

## **RISKS RELATED TO OUR BUSINESS AND THE METALS DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY**

### ***Volatile metal prices can cause significant fluctuations in our operating results.***

The price we pay for, and availability of, steel and various specialty metals (such as aluminum and stainless), and the prices we can charge for such products, fluctuate due to numerous factors beyond our control, including Canadian, American and international economic conditions, currency exchange rates, global demand for steel and other metal products, including demand in high-growth markets such as China and India, trade sanctions, tariffs, labor costs, competition, over capacity of steel producers and price surcharges. Substantially all of our revenues are derived from the sale of steel and specialty metals. As a result, fluctuations in availability and cost of steel and specialty metals and the prices we can charge for our products may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. We have no material long-term, fixed-price purchase contracts. Our commitments for metal purchases are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time that we place our orders. During periods of rising raw materials pricing, we may be unable to pass on such increases, which may include surcharges by our suppliers, to end users. To the extent we are not able to pass on to our customers any increases, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be materially adversely affected. When metal prices decline, end user demands for lower prices and competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sales prices and, consequently, lower margins as we sell existing inventory. In addition, we may incur write-downs of our inventories to net realizable value.

### ***Our business may be affected by the cyclicity of the metals industry and the industries that purchase our products. The economic downturn reduced demand for our products and demand subsequent to the economic recovery has not returned to pre-recession levels.***

We operate businesses that are substantially affected by changes in economic cycles and whose revenues and earnings vary with the level of general economic activity in the markets they serve. Periods of economic slowdown or recession in Canada, the United States or other countries, or the perception that one may occur, could decrease the demand for our products, affect the availability and cost of our products and adversely affect our revenues, operating profits and net earnings.

Some of our customers operate in industries that experience significant fluctuations in demand based on economic conditions, oil and gas prices and other factors, including exchange rate fluctuations, that are beyond our control. Many of our customers generate a significant portion of their revenues through exporting goods to the United States. Thus, a strengthening in the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar can adversely affect the competitiveness of these customers. The Canadian dollar depreciated relative to the U.S. dollar approximately 19% in 2008, strengthened approximately 17% in 2009 and strengthened approximately 4% in 2010. If the ability of our customers to export their products to the United States is further reduced, the demand for our products could decline, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial conditions, results of operations and cash flows.

### ***The global financial and banking crises caused a lack of credit availability that continues to limit the ability of our customers to obtain credit.***

In times of global financial and banking crises, the ability of our customers to maintain credit availability has become more challenging. In particular, the financial stability of many of our customers may impact their ability to pay us amounts due, affecting our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Significant competition could reduce our market share and harm our financial performance.***

We face significant competition in our metals service centers and energy tubular products operations. In Canada, our primary competitors are other service centers and energy products distributors, which are national, regional and local in geographic coverage. In the United States, we compete with other service centers and energy product distributors, which are national, regional and local in geographic coverage. We also compete with steel producers which are larger than we are, that typically sell to very large end users requiring regular shipments of large volumes of metals. Competition is based on price, product availability and quality, processing capability and on-time delivery. Some of our competitors may have lower steel costs and fewer environmental and government regulations, as well as lower public company regulatory compliance obligations and related costs, than we do. Increased competition could reduce our profitability by forcing us to lower our prices or to offer increased services at a higher cost to us.

Our steel distributors compete with other international steel importers and exporters as well as North American steel producers in the destination market. Competition is principally based on price, product quality and availability, and terms of shipment (including freight costs, which vary and can be as much as 15% of the landed cost of a product). The imposition of trade sanctions by governments on the import of steel products into such government's jurisdiction may place us at a competitive disadvantage as compared to domestic steel producers in such jurisdiction.

***An interruption in sources of metals supply could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.***

We purchase our principal inventory, including carbon steel, stainless steel, alloy steel, aluminum and a variety of other metals, on a frequent basis from a number of producers, primarily in North America, to keep our inventory levels to a minimum. We have no material long-term fixed price contracts to purchase metal. The number of available suppliers has been reduced by industry consolidation and further consolidation may occur in the future impacting availability of certain products. If, in the future, we are unable to obtain sufficient amounts of steel and other metal products at competitive prices or on a timely basis from our traditional suppliers, we may not be able to obtain such products from alternative sources at competitive prices to meet our delivery schedules, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Production time and the cost of our products could increase if we were to lose one of our primary suppliers. Any interruption or reduction in the supply of any of these products may make it difficult or impossible to satisfy customers' just-in-time delivery requirements, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Any future acquisitions could be difficult to integrate and could adversely affect our operating results.***

A substantial part of our growth in profitability has come from acquisitions, which we have successfully integrated. As part of our strategy, we expect to continue to pursue complementary acquisitions and investments. Acquisitions may involve debt incurrence, operating losses, dilutive issuances of equity securities and significant cash expenditures that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Any future acquisitions may involve a number of risks, including:

- our inability to integrate the acquired business;
- diversion of management attention;
- goodwill impairment adversely affecting our reported net income;
- our inability to retain the management or other key employees of the acquired business;
- our inability to establish uniform standards, controls, procedures and policies;
- our inability to retain customers of our acquired companies;
- exposure to legal claims for activities of the acquired business prior to the acquisition;
- damage to our reputation as a result of performance or customer satisfaction problems relating to an acquired business; and
- the performance of any acquired business could be lower than we anticipated.

***If we fail to renegotiate any of our collective agreements or if we or our principal customers or suppliers experience work stoppages, our financial condition may be harmed.***

As of December 2010, we had 33 collective bargaining agreements covering approximately 830 employees belonging to a variety of unions at 38 of our locations. Through to the end of 2011, 12 collective bargaining agreements will expire. If we fail to renegotiate any of these contracts, we may face work stoppages. Even if we do renegotiate these contracts, any renewal of collective bargaining agreements could result in higher wages or benefits to union members. We cannot assure that there will not be any labour disruptions, or higher ongoing labour costs, either of which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In addition, many of our customers and suppliers have unionized work forces. If one or more of our customers or suppliers experience a material work stoppage or slow down, it could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Environmental liabilities could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial position.***

We are subject to a variety of federal, provincial, territorial, state and local environmental laws and regulations in Canada and the United States. Such laws and regulations relate to, among other things, the discharge of contaminants into water and air and into and onto land, the disposal of waste, the handling, storage and transportation of hazardous materials, and the storage of materials in underground tanks. In particular, our divested non-metal operations included chrome plating facilities and the transportation and storage of petroleum products and hazardous materials. We could be responsible for clean up of, or damages from, releases of hazardous materials on or emanating from the properties where these operations were conducted. We are required by environmental laws and regulations to conduct our operations in compliance with permits issued by governmental authorities. The failure to have such permits or to comply with their terms could result in fines or penalties.

In Canada, there are federal environmental statutes such as the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992*, which apply to us. In addition, each Canadian province and territory and most municipalities in which we operate also enact and enforce their own environmental laws. In the United States, the primary federal regulatory laws to which we are subject include the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*, the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* and the *Clean Water Act*. We are also subject to environmental regulation at the state and local levels in the United States.

There are currently remediation and/or investigation activities at three former facilities where soil and/or groundwater contamination is present. Financial costs with respect to those activities cannot be predicted at this time. See "Business -- Environmental Regulation" for more details about our environmental proceedings. In addition, some of our current properties are located in industrial areas with histories of heavy industrial use, which may require us to incur expenditures and to become subject to environmental liabilities for contamination that arises from our current or former operations or from causes other than our operations. Such environmental costs could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. We do not carry environmental insurance coverage to offset the effects of such potential losses. We may be required as a matter of law to satisfy, with respect to the government or third parties, the environmental liabilities related to divested businesses should the acquirers of our divested businesses fail to fulfill any environmental obligations for events prior to divestiture. Because of the potential existence of currently unknown environmental issues and frequent changes to environmental laws and regulations and the interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations, there can be no assurance that compliance with environmental laws, or remediation obligations under such laws, will not have a material adverse effect on us in the future.

***Changes in government regulations relating to workplace safety and worker health could have an adverse effect on our business.***

Our operations are subject to laws and regulations relating to workplace safety and worker health and related regulations, which, among other requirements, establish noise, dust and safety standards. While we believe that we are in material compliance with currently applicable laws and regulations, future events such as any changes in laws and regulations, may give rise to additional expenditures or liabilities. We cannot assure you that compliance with such government regulations will not materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***We are exposed to currency exchange risk, which could have a material adverse effect on our operating results.***

Although our financial results are reported in Canadian dollars, a portion of our sales and operating costs are denominated in U.S. dollars. In addition, we are exposed to currency exchange risk on our debt, including the notes and interest thereon, and assets denominated in U.S. dollars. Since we present our financial statements in Canadian dollars, any change in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar during a given financial reporting period would result in a foreign currency loss or gain on the translation of our U.S. dollar denominated debt and assets into Canadian dollars. Consequently, our reported earnings could fluctuate materially as a result of foreign exchange translation gains or losses. While it is not our normal practice to enter into significant hedging arrangements other than in relation to our long-term debt, we may use futures and forward contracts to partially hedge against short-term fluctuations in currency; however, such activities provide only short-term protection against a limited portion of our currency exposure.

We have in the past and may in the future, hedge a portion of our net exchange rate exposure under the U.S. dollar denominated debt with respect to either or both of principal and interest by way of one or more swap transactions to Canadian dollars, to the extent our management and our Board considers it reasonable to do so having regard to the then prevailing levels of our net assets located in the United States and our U.S. dollar revenues, and to the extent available on reasonable terms; however, such activities provide only short-term protection and there can be no assurance that they will be effective in insulating us against exchange rate fluctuations. We do not currently have swaps to hedge our foreign exchange exposure on our U.S. debt.

***The failure of our key computer-based systems could have a material adverse effect on our business.***

We depend to a significant degree on our computer based systems in the operation of our business, particularly in our inventory management. The destruction or the failure of any such computer-based systems for any significant period of time would materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. We have a disaster recovery plan established and tested for our service center computer system. There is no certainty that our plan will be successful in an actual disaster.

***The loss of key individuals could adversely affect our ability to implement our business strategy.***

Our success is dependent in large part on the management and leadership skills of our senior management team, including Brian R. Hedges, our Chief Executive Officer and Marion E. Britton, our Chief Financial Officer. In addition, because of our decentralized operating structure, the loss of any senior managers or key employees at regional centers could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. We cannot assure that we will be able to attract and retain equally qualified personnel when needed. If we lose any of these executives or senior management or fail to attract and retain equally qualified personnel, we may not be able to implement our business strategy.

## **GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS**

On February 20, 2008, we announced a Normal Course Issuer Bid, under which we could purchase for cancellation up to 6,000,000 of our common shares. During 2008, we purchased 3,579,100 common shares under the normal course issuer bid at an average price of \$24.14. We have not renewed our Normal Course Issuer Bid since it expired in February 2009.

Effective November 28, 2008, we purchased 100% of the outstanding shares of Norton Metal Products, Inc. for approximately \$31 million in cash.

On October 8, 2009, we issued \$175 million 7.75% convertible unsecured subordinated debentures due September 30, 2016 for net proceeds of \$167 million. Each debenture is convertible into common shares at the option of the holder at a conversion price of \$25.75 per common share.

## **RATINGS**

We have received the following credit ratings from each of Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) and Standard & Poor's (S&P) (each a Rating Agency).

	<b>Moody's</b>	<b>S &amp; P</b>
Corporate rating	Ba1	BB+
Senior unsecured notes	Ba1	BB
Outlook	Stable	Stable

### ***Moody's Investors Service***

Moody's credit ratings are on a long-term debt rating scale that ranges from Aaa to C, which represents the range from highest to lowest quality of such securities rated. According to Moody's, a rating of Ba is the fifth highest of nine major categories. Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 in each generic rating classification from Aa to Caa in its corporate bond

rating system. The modifier 1 indicates that the issue ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category, the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking and the modifier 3 indicates that the issue ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category. The rating outlook is stable.

### ***Standard & Poor's Ratings Services***

S&P's credit ratings are on a long-term debt rating scale that ranges from AAA to D, which represents the range from the highest to lowest quality of such securities rated. According to S&P, the BB+ rating is the fifth highest of ten major rating categories. The ratings from AA to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories. The rating outlook is stable.

We understand that the ratings are based on, among other things, information furnished to the Ratings Agencies by us and information obtained by the Ratings Agencies from publicly available sources. The credit ratings given by the Ratings Agencies are not recommendations to buy, hold or sell any of our securities since such ratings do not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. There is no assurance that any rating will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any rating will not be revised or withdrawn entirely by a Rating Agency in the future.

### ***What the ratings address***

Unsecured Debt: Credit ratings are the current opinion of the rating agency on creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation and a specific class of financial obligation for a specific financial program. Ratings take into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and take into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated.

Rating Outlook: Rating outlook assesses the potential direction of a long-term credit rating over the intermediate to longer-term. In determining a rating outlook consideration is given to any changes in the economic and fundamental business conditions. An outlook is not necessarily a precursor of a rating change.

## MARKET FOR THE SECURITIES OF RUSSEL METALS

Our common shares are listed and posted for trading on The Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "RUS". Information concerning the trading prices and volumes during the 2010 fiscal year is set out in the following table:

### The Toronto Stock Exchange Share Price Trading Range

Month	High	Low	Close	Share Volume
December 2010	\$23.94	\$20.98	\$22.90	3,321,570
November 2010	22.38	19.75	20.91	2,954,187
October 2010	21.65	19.96	20.08	2,996,926
September 2010	21.31	19.02	21.14	3,188,589
August 2010	20.44	18.64	19.10	3,564,822
July 2010	19.79	17.67	19.59	2,318,310
June 2010	19.79	17.76	18.14	3,998,837
May 2010	21.68	16.25	18.80	5,956,867
April 2010	22.25	20.25	21.32	5,469,139
March 2010	20.40	18.35	20.23	4,699,794
February 2010	19.39	16.59	18.98	4,895,596
January 2010	19.40	17.26	17.30	2,816,810

Our convertible unsecured subordinated debentures are listed for trading on The Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "RUS.DB". Information concerning the trading prices and volumes during the 2010 fiscal year is set out in the following table:

### The Toronto Stock Exchange Debenture Price Trading Range

Month	High	Low	Close	Trading Volume
December 2010	\$115.00	\$112.00	\$114.00	23,670
November 2010	114.00	112.00	113.00	44,230
October 2010	115.00	111.00	113.70	9,470
September 2010	111.01	109.50	110.51	40,130
August 2010	110.00	108.50	110.00	6,880
July 2010	108.50	107.00	108.50	23,430
June 2010	108.45	106.60	107.00	48,580
May 2010	109.56	105.00	107.50	39,880
April 2010	117.00	108.75	109.56	18,370
March 2010	110.25	107.50	109.00	11,350
February 2010	108.50	106.50	107.51	22,025
January 2010	108.49	106.00	106.50	70,820

The transfer agent and registrar for our common shares and convertible debentures is CIBC Mellon Trust Company, 320 Bay Street, P.O. Box 1, Toronto, Ontario M5H 4A6.

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of common shares without nominal or par value. As at December 31, 2010, 59,978,173 shares were issued and outstanding. Holders of the Company's common shares are entitled to receive notice of any meetings of shareholders and are entitled to one vote per common share held. Holders of the Company's common shares are entitled to receive on a pro-rata basis such dividends, if any, as and when declared by the Board.

At December 31, 2010, the Company had outstanding \$175 million of 7.75% convertible debentures due September 30, 2016. Each convertible debenture is convertible into common shares of the Company at the option of the holder at any time on or prior to the business day immediately preceding (i) maturity date; or (ii) the date specified for redemption of the convertible debentures, at a conversion price of \$25.75 being a conversion rate of 38.8350 common shares per \$1,000 principal amount of convertible debentures.

## MATERIAL CONTRACTS

The following are the material contracts, other than contracts entered into in the ordinary course of business, which we have entered into and are still in effect:

1. Trust Indenture between Russel Metals Inc. and US Bank National Association dated February 20, 2004 for the US\$175 million 6 3/8% Senior Notes due March 1, 2014.
2. Credit facility entered into between Russel Metals Inc. and its subsidiary FIL (US) Inc. as Borrowers and a syndicate of Canadian and US banks, including the Royal Bank of Canada, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., The Bank of Nova Scotia, Comerica Bank, Laurentian Bank of Canada and ATB Financial. The original credit agreement was effective October 29, 2004 and was subsequently amended February 25, 2005, March 20, 2006, October 6, 2006, December 27, 2007, May 1, 2009 and June 24, 2010. The current agreement expires June 24, 2012 and entitles us to borrow, on a revolving basis, up to \$202.5 million to be utilized for borrowings and two letter of credit lines of \$25 million each.
3. Trust Indenture between Russel Metals Inc. and CIBC Mellon Trust Company dated October 8, 2009 as amended on December 14, 2010 providing for the \$175 million of 7.75% convertible unsecured subordinated debentures due September 30, 2016.

## DIVIDEND RECORD

The following table shows common share dividends paid on a per share basis.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2010	2009	2008
Common shares	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.85

Our quarterly dividend was increased \$0.05 per share to \$0.45 per share in 2007. An additional supplemental dividend of \$0.05 per share was declared in the third quarter of 2008. In the first quarter of 2009, the quarterly dividend was reduced by \$0.20 per share to \$0.25 per share which was paid in 2009 and 2010.

Our ability to pay dividends on common shares is impacted by restrictions associated with the senior notes due March 1, 2014. Dividends on common shares in excess of \$0.08 per share per quarter and the repurchase of common shares are considered to be restricted payments under the Note Indenture. At December 31, 2010, we have \$248 million available for restricted payments.

Our ability to make restricted payments is adjusted quarterly by 50% of the quarterly net income or loss if our cumulative net income from December 31, 2003 is positive, or 100% of the quarterly net income or loss if our cumulative net income from December 31, 2003 is negative. Net income is adjusted for certain exclusions.

Our ability to pay dividends is also impacted by covenants in our syndicated bank facility. The payment of any dividend will be subject to our having excess borrowing base availability of

not less than four times the declared dividend. We do not believe this requirement will restrict our ability to pay a dividend as our borrowing base, which is based on our levels of accounts receivable and inventories, has traditionally been in excess of borrowings. At December 31, 2010 our excess borrowing base availability was \$392 million or approximately 26 times the declared dividend.

## MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES

The following is a list of our major subsidiaries at December 31, 2010, all of which are wholly owned.

	Jurisdiction of incorporation
Fedmet Corp.	State of Delaware
Fedmet Enterprises Corporation	State of Delaware
Fedmet International Corporation	State of Delaware
FIL (US) Inc.	State of Alaska
JMS Russel Metals Corp.	State of Delaware
Pioneer Steel & Tube Corp.	State of Delaware
RMI Holdings LLC	State of Delaware
Russel Metals Corp.	State of Delaware
Russel Metals JMS Corporation	State of Delaware
RMJMS LLC	State of Delaware
Russel Metals Williams Bahcall Inc.	State of Delaware
Sunbelt Group L.P.	State of Texas
Thunder Bay Terminals Ltd.	Ontario
Triumph Tubular & Supply Ltd.	Alberta
Wirth Steel, a General Partnership	Quebec

## DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets out the name, municipality of residence and the principal occupation of each of our directors. Each individual was a director on December 31, 2010. Information relating to our senior executive officers follows.

### DIRECTORS

Name, Municipality of Residence and Position Held	Date Became Director	Principal Occupation
ALAIN BENEDETTI (1)(3) Ste-Anne-des-Lacs, Quebec, Canada Director	February 23, 2006	Corporate Director
JAMES F. DINNING (2)(4) Calgary, Alberta, Canada Director	February 17, 2003	Chair of the Board Western Financial Group Inc. (insurance, investment and banking)
CARL R. FIORA (3)(4) Middletown, Ohio, U.S.A. Director	May 11, 1994	Corporate Director
ANTHONY F. GRIFFITHS (2)(3) Toronto, Ontario, Canada Director; Chair of the Board	May 14, 1997	Corporate Director

BRIAN R. HEDGES Toronto, Ontario, Canada Director	May 12, 2009	President and CEO of the Company
ALICE D. LABERGE (1)(3) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Director	July 30, 2007	Corporate Director
LISE LACHAPELLE (1)(2) Ile-des-soeurs, Quebec, Canada Director	May 15, 1996	Corporate Director
WILLIAM M. O'REILLY (2)(4) Scarborough, Ontario, Canada Director	May 12, 2009	Corporate Director
JOHN W. ROBINSON (1)(4) Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A. Director	May 11, 1995	Corporate Director

- (1) Member of the Audit Committee
- (2) Member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee
- (3) Member of the Management Resources and Compensation Committee
- (4) Member of the Environmental Management and Health & Safety Committee

Mr. Benedetti is a Corporate Director. In addition, he is past Chair of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. From 1998 to his retirement in June 2004 he was Vice Chair and Canadian Area Managing Partner of Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Benedetti is currently a director of Dorel Industries Inc. and Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited. He is a Governor of Dynamic Mutual Funds.

Mr. Dinning is Chair of the Board of Western Financial Group Inc. (insurance, investment and banking), since 2004. From 1998 to 2004, Mr. Dinning was Executive Vice President of TransAlta Corporation and from 1997 to 1998 was Senior Vice President. Prior to 1997, Mr. Dinning held several key positions during his 11 years as a member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta, including Provincial Treasurer from 1992 to 1997. Mr. Dinning is a director of The Armstrong Group, Liquor Stores Income Fund, Oncolytics Biotech Inc. and Parkland Income Fund. He is also Chair of the Board of Export Development Canada, a Crown Corporation wholly owned by the Government of Canada and serves as Chancellor of the University of Calgary.

Mr. Fiora is a Corporate Director. At the time of his retirement in November 1990, Mr. Fiora was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Armco Steel Company L.P., a steel manufacturing company.

Mr. Griffiths has served as the Company's Chair of the Board and as a Director since May 1997. From 1985 to 1993 Mr. Griffiths served in several capacities at Mitel Corporation, including Chief Executive Officer and Chair. From 1993 to present, Mr. Griffiths has been associated with various companies acting as an independent consultant. Mr. Griffiths is a director of Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (and its subsidiary companies Crum & Forster Holdings Corp., Northbridge Financial Corporation, Odyssey Re Holdings Corp. and Zenith National Insurance Corp.), Gedex Inc., Jaguar Mining Inc., Novadaq Technologies Inc. and Vitran Corporation Inc. Mr. Griffiths is also a trustee of The Brick Group Income Fund and its subsidiary companies The Brick Group Income Fund and The Brick Trust.

Mr. Hedges is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Hedges is a Chartered Accountant. He has been employed with the Company since 1994. His business career encompasses the positions of Chief Financial Officer, President and CEO of Gandalf Technologies, as well as Chief Financial Officer of Teleglobe Inc. Both companies were involved

in the Canadian international telecommunications industry. Mr. Hedges was Chief Financial Officer of the Company from 1994 until his appointment as Chief Operating Officer on February 18, 2008. On May 12, 2009, Mr. Hedges was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hedges also sits on the board of a charitable organization in support of Carleton University.

Ms. Laberge is a Corporate Director. She was President and Chief Executive Officer of Fincentric Corporation (a global provider of software solutions to financial institutions) from December 2003 to July 2005. Prior to this appointment she was Chief Financial Officer of Fincentric. Prior to joining Fincentric in October 2000, Ms. Laberge was with MacMillan Bloedel Limited for over 18 years in a variety of financial positions including Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Laberge is currently a director of the Royal Bank of Canada, Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Delta Hotels Limited and SilverBirch Management Limited.

Mrs. Lachapelle is a Corporate Director and a consultant in corporate strategy. She was the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Forest Products Association of Canada and a consultant in corporate strategy from September 1994 to 2001. Prior to September 1994, she was President of Strategico Inc., a consulting firm specializing in public policies, for one year and a consultant with Strategico for three years. Mrs. Lachapelle is a director of Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. and INNERGEX Renewable Energy Inc. She is also a director of BNP Paribas (Canada) and Mirabaud Canada Inc., Canadian subsidiaries of global banks.

Mr. O'Reilly was the Managing Partner and was a member of the Management Committee of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, the principal legal advisor to the Company from 1996 until his retirement from that position on May 31, 2010. He has been a partner of that firm since 1976, except for the period from August 1993 to January 1996 when he served as an executive officer of Russel Metals to assist the Company in the completion of a significant restructuring program. Mr. O'Reilly was the Secretary of Russel Metals from May, 1994 to May, 2009 when he was first elected as a director of the Company.

Mr. Robinson is a Corporate Director. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of SMP Steel Corp. (steel distribution) until his retirement in December 1998.

### **SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

<b>Name and municipality of Residence</b>	<b>Position Held</b>	<b>Principal Occupation</b>
BRIAN R. HEDGES Toronto, Ontario, Canada	President and Chief Executive Officer	Executive Officer of Russel Metals Inc.
MARION E. BRITTON Mississauga, Ontario, Canada	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	Executive Officer of Russel Metals Inc.

Mr. Hedges is a director and executive officer of the Company. Mr. Hedges' biography can be found under the directors table.

Ms. Britton is an executive officer of the Company. Ms. Britton is a Chartered Accountant. In 1984, Ms. Britton joined Marshall Drummond McCall, which was acquired by Russel Metals in 1987. From 1987 to 1994, Ms. Britton was responsible for financial management for the Metals Operations. In 1994, Ms. Britton assumed the role of Vice President and Corporate Controller and in 2004 Ms. Britton was appointed to Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer responsible for our internal control systems and financial reporting. On February 18, 2008, Ms. Britton was appointed Chief Financial Officer. On May 12, 2009, Ms. Britton was also appointed Secretary.

During the last five years, all of the directors and officers have had the principal occupations indicated opposite their respective names, with the exception of W.M. O'Reilly, B.R. Hedges and M.E. Britton whose occupational history is described above.

All directors serve one-year terms and are elected at the annual meeting of shareholders. The term of office of each of the current directors will expire at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on May 12, 2011.

Mr. Hedges, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, is not an independent <sup>(1)</sup> director, as he is a member of management. Mr. Hedges was elected as a director on May 12, 2009. None of the other directors has any material business or professional relationship with the Company. In particular, based on a review of Mr. O'Reilly's relationship with Davies, Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP following his retirement as Managing Partner and a member of the Management Committee of that firm on May 31, 2010, the Board has determined, with the benefit of independent legal advice from a nationally recognized law firm, that Mr. O'Reilly is an independent director of the Company.

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(1) The Toronto Stock Exchange Company Manual provides that: "An independent director is defined as a person who: (a) is not a member of management and is free from any interest and any business or other relationship which in the opinion of the Exchange could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with the director's ability to act in the best interest of the company; and (b) is a beneficial holder, directly or indirectly, or is a nominee or associate of a beneficial holder, collectively of 10% or less of the votes attaching to all issued and outstanding securities of the applicant".

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## **COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors delegates certain of its functions to four committees of the Board to facilitate more detailed consideration of certain issues. These committees bring recommendations to the Board for consideration and approval as appropriate.

The Audit Committee meets quarterly to review our financial statements, management's discussion and analysis of financial conditions and results of operations, report to shareholders and press releases. The Audit Committee monitors the integrity of internal control and management information through discussions with management and regular meetings with the external auditors. In addition, the Committee reviews other public disclosure documents, including the annual information form, the management proxy circular, registrations and prospectuses. All directors on this Committee are independent.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee develops comprehensive written mandates for each of the Board committees, monitors and evaluates the corporate governance system, recommends candidates for election to the Board and serves as a forum for concerns of directors which may not be appropriate for discussion in full Board meetings. All directors on this Committee are independent.

The Management Resources and Compensation Committee reviews compensation policies for our executive officers and is responsible for succession planning for the most senior members of management.

We have established an Environmental Management and Health & Safety Committee for the purpose of reviewing compliance policies and procedures in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements with regard to environmental and health and safety issues.

As at the date hereof, our directors and executive officers as a group beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over 332,958 common shares representing approximately 0.56% of the outstanding common shares of the Company.

If any director of the Company is, or within ten years before the date of this annual information form has been, a director or officer of any other issuer that, while such director was acting in that capacity, (a) was the subject of a cease trade or similar order, or an order that denied the other issuer access to any exemptions under Canadian securities legislation, for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, we are required to state that fact and describe the basis on which the order was made and whether the order is still in effect; or (b) became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets, we are required to state that fact. To our knowledge, the only directors in respect of whom any such disclosure is required are Mr. A. F. Griffiths and Mrs. L. Lachapelle. In relation to part (a), Mr. Griffiths was formerly a director of Brazilian Resources, Inc., which was issued a temporary cease trade order by the Ontario Securities Commission on June 10, 2001 relating to management and insiders. This order was rescinded on July 30, 2001. In relation to part (b), Mr. Griffiths was a director of Consumers Packaging Inc. in 2001 at the time it was placed into liquidation under the protection of the CCAA and cease trade orders were issued against management and insiders due to failure to file financial statements. Mr. Griffiths was a director of Slater Steel Inc. in 2003, when it operated under the protection of the CCAA in an orderly wind-down. Mr. Griffiths and Mrs. Lachapelle were directors of AbitibiBowater Inc. in 2009 at the time when AbitibiBowater Inc. and certain of its U.S. and Canadian subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware for relief under the provisions of Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, as amended, and certain of its Canadian subsidiaries sought creditor protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act with the Superior Court of Quebec in Canada. In December 2010, AbitibiBowater Inc. emerged from Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection.

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

The members of the audit committee are A. Benedetti (Chair), A.D. Laberge, L. Lachapelle and J. Robinson. The audit committee has direct communication with our finance department to review issues as appropriate and meets directly with the external auditors on a quarterly basis.

Each member of the Audit Committee is independent and financially literate. A. Benedetti and A.D. Laberge are considered to be "financial experts", as defined in the Charter of the Audit Committee following this section. Each member of the Audit Committee has the ability to perform their responsibilities as an Audit Committee member based on their education and/or experience as summarized below:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| A. Benedetti<br>(Chair) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chartered Accountant</li> <li>• Former Chair of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants</li> <li>• Former Vice Chair and Canadian Area Managing Partner for Ernst &amp; Young LLP</li> <li>• Chair of the Audit Committee of Dorel Industries Inc., Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and Dynamic Mutual Funds</li> <li>• Former Chair of the Audit Committee of Birks &amp; Mayors Inc.</li> </ul>   |
| A.D. Laberge            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former President and CEO and CFO of Fincentic Corporation</li> <li>• Former Senior Vice President of Finance and CFO of MacMillan Bloedel Limited</li> <li>• Chair of the Audit Committee of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan</li> <li>• Audit Committee member of Royal Bank of Canada</li> <li>• Former Audit Committee member of Catalyst Paper Corporation</li> <li>• Former Chair of the Audit Committee of B.C. Hydro</li> <li>• Master of Business Administration</li> </ul> |

- L. Lachapelle
- Former President and CEO of Forest Products Association of Canada
  - Former President of Strategico Inc.
  - Former Audit Committee member of AbitibiBowater Inc.
  - Bachelor of Commerce
- J. Robinson
- Former President and CEO of SMP Steel Corp.

### ***Audit Fees***

The aggregate fees charged by Deloitte & Touche LLP for audit services for the year ended December 31, 2010 were \$1.3 million (2009: \$1.2 million).

### ***Audit-Related Fees***

The aggregate fees charged by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the year ended December 31, 2010 for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit and are not reported above were \$0.2 million (2009: \$0.3 million). Such services included advice on the implementation of IFRS and audits of employee benefit plans.

### ***Tax Fees***

The aggregate fees charged by Deloitte & Touche for U.S. tax compliance and planning work for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 were \$0.2 million (2009: \$0.3 million).

# **CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE GENERAL**

## **1. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The primary purpose of the Committee is to assist Board oversight of:

- (a) the integrity of Russel's financial statements;
- (b) Russel's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- (c) the External Auditor's qualifications and independence; and
- (d) the performance of Russel's internal audit function and the External Auditor.

## **2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

### *2.1 Definitions*

In this Charter:

- (a) "Board" means the board of directors of Russel;
- (b) "Chair" means the chair of the Committee;
- (c) "Committee" means the audit committee of the Board;
- (d) "Director" means a member of the Board;
- (e) "External Auditor" means Russel's independent auditor; and
- (f) "Russel" means Russel Metals Inc.

### *2.2 Interpretation*

The provisions of this Charter are subject to the provisions of Russel's by-laws and to the applicable provisions of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (the "Act"), and any other applicable legislation.

## **3. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

### *3.1 Establishment of the Audit Committee*

The Committee is hereby continued with the constitution, function and responsibilities herein set forth.

### *3.2 Appointment and Removal of Members of the Committee*

- (a) Board Appoints Members. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board, having considered the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board.
- (b) Annual Appointments. The appointment of members of the Committee shall take place annually at the first meeting of the Board after a meeting of the shareholders at which Directors are elected, provided that if the appointment of members of the Committee is not so made, the Directors who are then serving as members of the Committee shall continue as members of the Committee until their successors are appointed.
- (c) Vacancies. The Board may appoint a member to fill a vacancy, which occurs in the Committee between annual elections of Directors.
- (d) Removal of Member. Any member of the Committee may be removed from the Committee by a resolution of the Board.

### 3.3 *Number of Members*

The Committee shall consist of three or more Directors.

### 3.4 *Independence of Members*

Each member of the Committee shall be independent for the purposes of all applicable regulatory and stock exchange requirements.

### 3.5 *Financial Literacy*

- (a) **Financial Literacy Requirement.** Each member of the Committee shall be financially literate or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee.
- (b) **Definition of Financial Literacy.** "Financially literate" means the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by Russel's financial statements.

### 3.6 *Audit Committee Financial Expert*

- (a) **Attributes of an Audit Committee Financial Expert.** To the extent possible, the Board will appoint to the Committee at least one Director who has the following attributes:
  - (i) an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles and financial statements;
  - (ii) ability to assess the general application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves;
  - (iii) experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by Russel's financial statements, or experience actively supervising one or more persons engaged in such activities;
  - (iv) an understanding of internal controls and procedures for financial reporting; and
  - (v) an understanding of audit committee functions.
- (b) **Experience of the Audit Committee Financial Expert.** To the extent possible, the Board will appoint to the Committee at least one Director who acquired the attributes in (a) above through:
  - (i) education and experience as a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant or auditor or experience in one or more positions that involve the performance of similar functions (or such other qualification as the Board interprets such qualification in its business judgment);
  - (ii) experience actively supervising a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant, auditor or person performing similar functions;
  - (iii) experience overseeing or assessing the performance of companies or public accountants with respect to the preparation, auditing or evaluation of financial statements; or
  - (iv) other relevant experience.

### 3.7 *Retirement and Term*

- (a) Rotation of Membership. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee shall recommend to the Board a process for ensuring that at least every three years, unless otherwise expressly determined by the Board, at least one member of the Committee will retire from the Committee and at least one new member will be appointed to the Committee who has not been a member of the Committee for at least three years.
- (b) Six Year Term Limit. No person shall serve on the Committee for a period of more than six consecutive years unless the Board shall, in any particular case, specifically determine to make an exception from such limitation.

### 3.8 *Board Approval Required*

No member of the Committee shall serve on more than three other public company audit committees without the approval of the Board.

## 4. **COMMITTEE CHAIR**

### 4.1 *Board to Appoint Chair*

The Board shall appoint the Chair from the members of the Committee who are unrelated directors (or, if it fails to do so, the members of the Committee shall appoint the Chair of the Committee from among its members).

### 4.2 *Term*

The position of Chair shall normally be rotated every three years, but the term of any Chair may be extended for a longer term, not to exceed six years.

## 5. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### 5.1 *Quorum*

A quorum of the Committee shall be two.

### 5.2 *Secretary*

The Chair shall designate from time to time a person who may, but need not, be a member of the Committee, to be Secretary of the Committee.

### 5.3 *Time and Place of Meetings*

The time and place of the meetings of the Committee and the calling of meetings and the procedure in all things at such meetings shall be determined by the Committee; provided, however, the Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

### 5.4 *In Camera Meetings*

The Committee shall meet separately, periodically, with each of:

- (a) management;
- (b) the External Auditor; and
- (c) the internal auditor.

### 5.5 *Right to Vote*

Each member of the Committee shall have the right to vote on matters that come before the Committee.

## 5.6 *Invitees*

The Committee may invite Directors, officers and employees of Russel or any other person to attend meetings of the Committee to assist in the discussion and examination of the matters under consideration by the Committee. The External Auditor shall receive notice of each meeting of the Committee and shall be entitled to attend any such meeting at Russel's expense.

## 5.7 *Regular Reporting*

The Committee shall report to the Board at the Board's next meeting the proceedings at the meetings of the Committee and all recommendations made by the Committee at such meetings.

## 6. **AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE**

### 6.1 *Retaining and Compensating Advisors*

The Committee shall have the authority to engage independent counsel and other advisors as the Committee may deem appropriate in its sole discretion and to set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the audit committee. The Committee shall not be required to obtain the approval of the Board in order to retain or compensate such consultants or advisors.

### 6.2 *Other Expenses*

The Committee shall determine, and Russel shall pay, the ordinary expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out their duties.

### 6.3 *Recommendations to the Board*

The Committee shall have the authority to make recommendations to the Board, but shall have no decision-making authority other than as specifically contemplated in this Charter.

## 7. **REMUNERATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### 7.1 *Remuneration of Committee Members*

Members of the Committee and the Chair shall receive such remuneration for their service on the Committee as the Board may determine from time to time.

### 7.2 *Directors' Fees*

No member of the Committee may earn fees from Russel or any of its subsidiaries other than directors' fees (which fees may include cash and/or shares or options or other in-kind consideration ordinarily available to directors, as well as all of the regular benefits that other directors receive). For greater certainty, no member of the Committee shall accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from Russel.

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

## 8. **INTEGRITY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### 8.1 *Review and Approval of Financial Information*

- (a) Annual Financial Statements. The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the External Auditor, Russel's audited annual financial statements and related MD&A together with the report of the External Auditor thereon and, if appropriate, recommend to the Board that it approve the audited annual financial statements.

- (b) Interim Financial Statements. The Committee shall review and discuss the report of the External Auditor with management and the External Auditor and approve Russel's interim unaudited financial statements (including, without limitation, its quarterly unaudited financial statements and any other unaudited special purpose financial statements intended for publication) and related MD&A.
- (c) Material Public Financial Disclosure. The Committee shall discuss with management and the External Auditor:
  - (i) the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made in connection with earnings press releases;
  - (ii) financial information and earnings guidance (if any) provided to analysts and rating agencies; and
  - (iii) press releases containing financial information (paying particular attention to any use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information).
- (d) Procedures for Review. The Committee shall be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of Russel's disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from Russel's financial statements (other than financial statements, MD&A and earnings press releases, which are dealt with elsewhere in this Charter) and shall periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.
- (e) Accounting Treatment. The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the External Auditor:
  - (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation, including any significant changes in Russel's selection or application of accounting principles and major issues as to the adequacy of Russel's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies;
  - (ii) analyses prepared by management and/or the External Auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements; and
  - (iii) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures on Russel's financial statements.
- (f) The Committee should review and discuss with management and, if appropriate, with the External Auditor or legal counsel, the management certifications of the financial statements as required by National Instrument 52-109.

## 9. **EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

### 9.1 *External Auditor*

- (a) Authority with Respect to External Auditor. As a representative of Russel's shareholders, the Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the External Auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for Russel. In the discharge of this responsibility, the Committee shall:

- (i) have sole responsibility for recommending to the Board the person to be proposed to Russel's shareholders for appointment as External Auditor for the above-described purposes as well as the responsibility for recommending such External Auditor's compensation and determining at any time whether the Board should recommend to Russel's shareholders whether the incumbent External Auditor should be removed from office;
  - (ii) review the terms of the External Auditor's engagement, discuss the audit fees with the External Auditor and be solely responsible for approving such audit fees; and
  - (iii) require the External Auditor to confirm in its engagement letter each year that the External Auditor is accountable to the Board and the Committee as representatives of shareholders.
- (b) Independence. The Committee shall satisfy itself as to the independence of the External Auditor. As part of this process the Committee shall:
  - (i) assure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner as required by law and consider whether, in order to ensure continuing independence of the External Auditor, Russel should rotate periodically, the audit firm that serves as External Auditor;
  - (ii) require the External Auditor to submit on a periodic basis to the Committee, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the External Auditor and Russel and that the Committee is responsible for actively engaging in a dialogue with the External Auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the External Auditor and for recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response to the External Auditor's report to satisfy itself of the External Auditor's independence;
  - (iii) unless the Committee adopts pre-approval policies and procedures, approve any non-audit services provided by the External Auditor and may delegate such approval authority to one or more of its independent members who shall report promptly to the Committee concerning their exercise of such delegated authority; and
  - (iv) review and approve the policy setting out the restrictions on Russel hiring partners, employees and former partners and employees of Russel's current or former External Auditor.
- (c) Issues Between External Auditor and Management. The Committee shall:
  - (i) review any problems experienced by the External Auditor in conducting the audit, including any restrictions on the scope of the External Auditor's activities or an access to requested information;
  - (ii) review any significant disagreements with management and, to the extent possible, resolve any disagreements between management and the External Auditor; and
  - (iii) review with the External Auditor:
    - any accounting adjustments that were proposed by the External Auditor, but were not made by management;
    - any communications between the audit team and audit firm's national office respecting auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement;
    - any management or internal control letter issued, or proposed to be issued by the External Auditor to Russel; and
    - the performance of Russel's internal audit function and internal auditors.

- (d) Non-Audit Services.
- (i) The Committee shall either:
    - approve any non-audit services provided by the External Auditor or the external auditor of any subsidiary of Russel to Russel (including its subsidiaries); or
    - adopt specific policies and procedures for the engagement of non-audit services, provided that such pre-approval policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service, the audit committee is informed of each non-audit service and the procedures do not include delegation of the audit committee's responsibilities to management.
  - (ii) The Committee may delegate to one or more independent members of the Committee the authority to pre-approve non-audit services in satisfaction of the requirement in the previous section, provided that such member or members must present any non-audit services so approved to the full audit committee at its first scheduled meeting following such pre-approval.
  - (iii) The Committee shall instruct management to promptly bring to its attention any services performed by the External Auditor which were not recognized by Russel at the time of the engagement as being non-audit services.
- (e) Evaluation of External Auditor. The Committee shall evaluate the External Auditor each year, and present its conclusions to the Board. In connection with this evaluation, the Committee shall:
- (i) review and evaluate the performance of the lead partner of the External Auditor;
  - (ii) obtain the opinions of management with respect to the performance of the External Auditor; and;
  - (iii) obtain and review a report by the External Auditor describing:
    - the External Auditor's internal quality-control procedures;
    - any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the External Auditor's firm or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the External Auditor's firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and
    - all relationships between the External Auditor and Russel (for the purposes of assessing the External Auditor's independence).
- (f) Review of Management's Evaluation and Response. The Committee shall:
- (i) review management's evaluation of the External Auditor's audit performance;
  - (ii) review the External Auditor's recommendations, and review management's response to and subsequent follow-up on any identified weaknesses;
  - (iii) review management's response to significant internal control recommendations of the internal audit staff and the External Auditor;
  - (iv) receive regular reports from management and receive comments from the External Auditor, if any, on:
    - Russel's principal financial risks;
    - the systems implemented to monitor those risks; and
    - the strategies (including hedging strategies) in place to manage those risks; and
  - (v) recommend to the Board whether any new material strategies presented by management should be considered appropriate and approved.

## 10. **INTERNAL CONTROL**

### 10.1 *Review by Audit Committee*

The Committee shall review any internal control report prepared by management, including management's assessment of the effectiveness of Russel's internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting.

## 11. **INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION**

### 11.1 *Internal Auditor*

In connection with Russel's internal audit function, the Committee shall:

- (a) review the terms of reference of the internal auditor and meet with the internal auditor as the Committee may consider appropriate to discuss any concerns or issues;
- (b) in consultation with the External Auditor and the internal audit group, review the adequacy of Russel's internal control structure and procedures designed to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and any special audit steps adopted in light of material deficiencies and controls;
- (c) review the periodic reports of activities of the internal auditor; and
- (d) periodically review with the internal auditor any significant difficulties, disagreements with management or scope restrictions encountered in the course of the work of the internal auditor.

The Director of Internal Audit shall have dual reporting to the Chair of the Audit Committee and to the Chief Executive Officer of Russel.

## 12. **COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

### 12.1 *Risk Assessment and Risk Management*

The Committee shall discuss Russel's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.

### 12.2 *Related Party Transactions*

The Committee shall review and approve all related party transactions in which Russel is involved or which Russel proposes to enter into.

### 12.3 *WhistleBlowing*

The Committee shall put in place procedures for:

- (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by Russel regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
- (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of Russel of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

## 13. **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

On an annual basis, the Committee shall follow the process established by the Board and overseen by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for assessing the performance of the Committee.

#### 14. **CHARTER REVIEW**

The Committee shall review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend to the Board any changes it deems appropriate.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information, including directors' and officers' remuneration and securities authorized for issuance under the Company's Share Option Plan, is contained in our Management Proxy Circular.

Additional financial information is provided in our consolidated financial statements and its Managements Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2010.

A copy of the foregoing documents together with a copy of this annual information form and any interim financial statements issued by us subsequent to December 31, 2010 may be obtained on request to the Assistant Secretary, Russel Metals Inc., Suite 210, 1900 Minnesota Court, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 3C9. These documents are also posted regularly to our web site located at [www.russelmetals.com](http://www.russelmetals.com). (See Investor Relations and Financial Reports.) These documents, together with other additional information relating to our Company may be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

When the securities of Russel Metals are in the course of a distribution pursuant to a short-form prospectus or when a preliminary short-form prospectus has been filed in respect of a distribution of our securities, we will provide to any person, upon request to our Assistant Secretary at the address noted above, one copy of this annual information form, our Annual Report, any interim financial statements, our Management Proxy Circular and any other document that is incorporated by reference into the preliminary prospectus or prospectus.