

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC  
Form 10-K  
February 28, 2007

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from        to        .

Commission file number 0-16244

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## VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)  
**100 Sunnyside Boulevard, Suite B**  
**Woodbury, New York**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**11-2989601**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)  
**11797**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (516) 677-0200

Website: [www.veeco.com](http://www.veeco.com)

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

**Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share**

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

**None**

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

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

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, based on the closing price of the common stock on June 30, 2006 as reported on The Nasdaq National Market, was approximately \$724,834,555. Shares of common stock held by each officer and director and by each person who owns 10% or more of the outstanding common stock have been excluded from this computation in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

At February 20, 2007, the Registrant had 31,147,782 outstanding shares of common stock.

### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 4, 2007 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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## SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (the Report ) contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Discussions containing such forward-looking statements may be found in Items 1, 3, 7 and 7A hereof, as well as within this Report generally. In addition, when used in this Report, the words believes, anticipates, expects, estimates, plans, intends, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from projected results. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, the following:

- The cyclical nature of the microelectronics industries we serve directly affects our business.
- We operate in an industry characterized by rapid technological change.
- We face significant competition.
- We depend on a limited number of customers that operate in highly concentrated industries.
- Our quarterly operating results fluctuate significantly.
- We face securities class action and shareholder derivative lawsuits which could result in substantial costs, diversion of management's attention and resources and negative publicity.
- Our outsourcing strategy could adversely affect our results of operations.
- We rely on a limited number of suppliers.
- Our inability to attract, retain and motivate key employees could have a material adverse effect on our business.
- We are exposed to the risks of operating a global business.
- We are subject to foreign currency exchange risks.
- Our success depends on protection of our intellectual property rights.
- We may be subject to claims of intellectual property infringement by others.
- Our acquisition strategy subjects us to risks associated with evaluating and pursuing these opportunities and integrating these businesses.
- Changes in accounting standards for stock-based compensation may adversely affect our stock price and our ability to attract, motivate and retain key employees.
- The implementation of a new information technology system may disrupt our operations.
- We may not obtain sufficient affordable funds to finance our future needs.
- We are subject to risks of non-compliance with environmental and safety regulations.
- We have adopted certain measures that may have anti-takeover effects which may make an acquisition of our company by another company more difficult.

- The matters set forth in this Report generally, including the risk factors set forth in Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Consequently, such forward-looking statements should be regarded solely as the Company's current plans, estimates and beliefs. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect future events or circumstances after the date of such statements.

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**Item 1. Business.**

**The Company**

Veeco Instruments Inc. (together with its consolidated subsidiaries, Veeco, the Company or we) designs, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment primarily used by manufacturers in the data storage, research and industrial, semiconductor, high brightness light emitting diode (HB-LED) and wireless industries. These industries help create a wide range of information age products such as computer integrated circuits, personal computers, hard disk drives, network servers, digital cameras, wireless phones, TV set-top boxes, personal music/video players and personal digital assistants. Our broad line of products feature leading edge technology and allow customers to improve time-to-market of their next generation products. Veeco's products are also enabling advancements in the growing fields of nanoscience, nanobiology and other areas of scientific and industrial research.

Veeco's process equipment products precisely deposit or remove (etch) various materials in the manufacturing of advanced thin film magnetic heads (TFMHs) for the data storage industry, HB-LED/wireless devices (such as power amplifiers and laser diodes) and semiconductor devices. Veeco's key Process Equipment technologies include ion beam etch, ion beam, physical vapor and atomic layer deposition, and dicing and slicing products sold mostly to manufacturers of hard disk drives and metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) and molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) products sold to manufacturers of HB-LEDs and wireless telecommunications devices.

Veeco's metrology equipment (atomic force microscopes (AFMs) and optical profilers) is used to provide critical surface measurements on semiconductor devices and TFMHs. This equipment allows customers to monitor their products throughout the manufacturing process in order to improve yields, reduce costs and improve product quality. Veeco's metrology solutions are also used by many universities, scientific laboratories and industrial applications. Veeco sells its broad line of AFMs, scanning probe microscopes (SPMs), optical interferometers and stylus profilers to thousands of universities, research facilities and scientific centers worldwide.

Demand for many of Veeco's products has been driven by the increasing miniaturization of microelectronic components, the need for manufacturers to meet reduced time-to-market schedules while ensuring the quality of those components, and, in the data storage industry, the introduction of tunneling magnetoresistive (TMR) TFMHs and perpendicular recording technology which require additional manufacturing steps, new materials, and the ability to take critical measurements for quality control and yield management during the manufacturing process. The ability of Veeco's products to precisely deposit thin films, and/or etch sub-micron patterns and make critical surface measurements in these components enables manufacturers to improve yields and quality in the fabrication of advanced microelectronic devices.

Veeco was organized as a Delaware corporation in 1989.

**Our Strategy**

Veeco's strategy for growth and improved profitability focuses on the following key activities:

- Increasing our penetration into high-growth end markets such as data storage, HB-LED and scientific research/nanotechnology - which we believe offer diversification and have the potential to outgrow the traditional semiconductor equipment industry;
- Maximizing our broad line of process equipment and metrology solutions to introduce new products which address customers' technology requirements and roadmaps;

- Improving our operational efficiency through better supply chain management, including outsourcing of new products, and development of common hardware and software platforms for certain process equipment and metrology products;
- Capturing leading market share in all core products by delivering differentiated technology solutions; and
- Developing strategic relationships with worldwide technology leaders and offering these customers high-quality service and applications support in order to improve their time-to-market on leading edge devices.

Veeco serves its worldwide customers through our global sales and service organization located throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Asia Pacific. At December 31, 2006, Veeco had 1,279 employees, with manufacturing, research and development and engineering facilities located in New York, Arizona, California, Colorado, Minnesota and New Jersey.

### **Industry Background**

*General Introduction:* The market for microelectronic components continues to be driven by corporate and consumer use of information age products such as network personal computers ( PCs ), servers and the Internet, among others. While the Company believes that the PC and server markets still remain as the primary drivers of disk drive unit growth, disk drives are also increasingly being used for emerging consumer applications such as video music players, television set-top boxes, video-on-demand systems and electronic devices such as digital cameras, digital printers and personal digital assistants.

Continued demand for smaller, faster and less expensive microelectronic components, particularly in the consumer electronics industry, has led to increasing miniaturization of products. This miniaturization is achieved through an increased number of manufacturing steps involving greater use of precise etching and deposition equipment. In addition, metrology systems are used throughout the manufacturing process in order to monitor process accuracy, product quality, repeatability, and to measure critical dimensions and other physical features such as film thickness, line width, step height, sidewall angle and surface roughness, thereby improving yields. Wireless components, semiconductor and compound semiconductor devices, TFMHs, HB-LEDs and other electronic components often consist of many intricate patterns on circuits or film layers. Depending upon the specific design of any given integrated circuit, a variety of film thicknesses and a number of layers and film types will be used to achieve desired performance characteristics.

*Trends in the Data Storage Industry:* Worldwide storage demand continues to increase significantly, driven by intelligent internet storage, e-commerce, e-mail and new consumer applications now reaching higher volume including TV set-top boxes, personal audio and video recorders, digital cameras, auto navigation and music distribution systems. While much has been written in recent times about the competition hard disk drives face from flash memory, Veeco believes that hard disk drives ( HDDs ) will continue to provide the best value for mass storage and will remain at the forefront of large capacity storage applications for many years to come. In fact, the use of disk drives in many types of consumer applications has resulted in growth in the number of hard drive units shipped, which is expected to continue. According to data storage research firm IDC's 2006 report, consumer electronic applications of HDDs are forecasted to grow at a compound annual growth rate ( CAGR ) of 26% from 2006 to 2010. In addition, Veeco believes that the potential competition from flash will lead HDD manufacturers to continue to pursue advances in areal density (storage) in order to stay ahead on a price/performance basis.

In order to satisfy market demand for devices with greater storage capacity, the data storage industry has developed new head designs by incorporating higher areal densities, which enable storage of more data. The capacity of disk drives is largely determined by the capability of the magnetic recording heads, which read and write signals onto hard disks. The data storage industry continues to fund the development of new high-density thin film head technology, increasing areal density by approximately 30% every year.

Most importantly, the industry has begun to move to perpendicular recording technology in 2006, a technology which allows hard drive manufacturers to put more bits of data on each square inch of disk space because of changes in the magnetic geometry. The industry's transition to perpendicular recording will require thinner films, more layers and more complicated process equipment and metrology solutions from companies such as Veeco. According to Trend Focus, the industry's transition to perpendicular recording is early—approximately 14% of all hard drives shipped in 2006 benefited from perpendicular technology and about 30% of 2007 shipments are currently expected to be perpendicular. The industry is also shrinking the dimensions of its thin film magnetic heads (i.e. sliders) to a technology node known as Femto, which is also early in its adoption.

In August 2006, Peripheral Research, a data storage research organization, forecasted that thin film head production will grow approximately 12% from 2005 through 2009. Disk drive manufacturers are now increasing production of new 80 GB platters and funding development of 120 GB and beyond technology. Veeco believes that the data storage technology roadmap is more aggressive than the semiconductor industry's requirements for critical dimensions, film thickness, interface control and material selections.

Next generation HDDs will require new magnetic materials, smaller dimensional tolerances and increased automation in manufacturing. The Company believes that despite capital spending constraints within the data storage industry, substantial investment continues to be made in TMR and perpendicular recording technology. Furthermore, consolidation in the disk drive industry has led to fewer manufacturers that have greater financial stability. Veeco has and will continue to introduce important new process equipment products (including its NEXUS® Ion Beam Etch, Physical Vapor Deposition and Atomic Layer Deposition, Optium Lapping and Dicing products) to respond to the data storage industry's continued technology advances. In 2006, Veeco made a small investment in a technology company called Fluens Corporation (Fluens) that is developing alumina deposition technology. Veeco anticipates that its data storage customers will need to upgrade their alumina tools over the next two years. Additionally, the Company's creation of Slider Process Equipment enables Veeco to produce more components of the TFMH manufacturing process including back-end lapping, and dicing products, than ever before. This expanded product footprint makes Veeco well positioned to continue to capitalize on growth opportunities in the HDD industry.

Another trend in the hard drive industry which has the potential to impact Veeco is the increasing percentage of industry revenues being required for capital investment. According to research firm Coughlin Associates, the hard drive industry's percentage of sales spent on capital expenditures is increasing from approximately 8% in 2005 to over 10% by 2010.

While the data storage industry remains volatile on a quarterly basis due to its limited visibility, small customer base and customer management of quarterly capital expenditures, Veeco remains confident that these long-term technology changes and industry fundamentals offer the Company continued year-over-year growth opportunities.

*Trends in the Semiconductor Industry:* Current semiconductor industry technology trends include smaller feature sizes (sub-0.10 micron line widths), larger substrates (i.e., 300 mm wafers) and the increased use of metrology in the manufacturing process. According to VLSI, a semiconductor research organization, the percentage of capital expenditures devoted to metrology tools by semiconductor manufacturers is among the fastest growing part of the equipment business. Semiconductor manufacturers use metrology tools in their wafer fabrication facilities to detect process deviations as early in the manufacturing process as possible. These tools are critical for yield enhancement resulting in cost reduction in this increasingly competitive environment.

Veeco has sold over 450 automated AFM systems used in-line by manufacturers of semiconductor chips in their fabrication facilities. Veeco's AFMs are used by all of the top 10 integrated device manufacturers worldwide. Veeco's family of non-destructive AFM products includes our Vx Series

Atomic Force Profilers, which combine AFM resolution with long-scan capability and are well suited for chemical-mechanical polishing ( CMP ) and etch depth measurements; our X3D AFM for advanced lithography and photomask applications; and our Dimension ® X AFM for advanced etch measurements. In 2006, semiconductor manufacturers continued to place Veeco AFMs in-line for critical process measurements and used our instruments as critical reference metrology tools.

*Trends in the HB-LED/Wireless Industries:* In 2003, the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors voted to include non-silicon, wireless components (gallium arsenide and indium phosphide) on its roadmap. Veeco believes that compound semiconductor and traditional silicon materials ultimately will be used to create tomorrow's systems on a chip devices. The Company believes that future growth in this industry will be tied to the trend toward convergence and integration of semiconductor, compound semiconductor and wireless devices to produce cheaper and faster integrated components.

Veeco intends to position itself as a leading supplier of process equipment and metrology solutions to be used to create a broad range of compound semiconductor based devices such as mobile cell phones, wireless local area networks, and high-brightness blue/green/red/orange/yellow LEDs for applications such as general illumination and backlighting. Veeco is the only supplier of both MOCVD and MBE systems, the two key epitaxial deposition technologies used for wireless and HB-LED applications. MOCVD and MBE technologies are used to grow compound semiconductor materials (such as GaAs (gallium arsenide), GaN (gallium nitride), As/P (arsenic phosphide) and InP (indium phosphide)) at the atomic scale. Epitaxy is the critical first step in compound semiconductor wafer fabrication and is considered to be the highest value added process, ultimately determining device functionality and performance. The combination of MOCVD and MBE increases Veeco's customer base and total available market, and provides us with unique market positioning opportunities. Strategies Unlimited, an LED industry research organization, forecasts that the market for HB-LEDs will grow from \$12.5 billion in 2004 to \$25 billion in 2010. LEDs are becoming increasingly more prevalent in automotive applications, flat panel displays and other backlighting applications.

The HB-LED market is in its infancy, and as such Veeco expects the business to remain cyclical for the foreseeable future with some unpredictability in customers' buying patterns. However, the Company believes that this market represents a high-growth opportunity for the company due to the expanding applications for HB-LEDs, such as backlighting for large screen flat panel TVs (laser crystal diodes - LCDs), automotive applications and general illumination. In fact, the HB-LED/wireless portion of Veeco's business experienced the fastest revenue growth rate in 2006. According to Strategies Unlimited, in 2006 and beyond, growth rates (for LEDs) are forecast to increase as several emerging high-growth applications, such as LCD display backlighting and automotive forward lighting, begin to impact overall market growth. The research firm went on to forecast that while only 2% of today's LCD displays are currently backlit with HB-LEDs, this number would grow to 13% by 2009, particularly in small-screen applications (i.e. laptop computers) and large screen (i.e. TVs).

In order to gain market share in light of this growth opportunity, Veeco has introduced several generations of MOCVD tools, most recently its TurboDisc K-Series MOCVD systems in late 2006. By introducing new systems, Veeco is focused on delivering better uniformity and repeatability, helping its customers make higher-brightness HB-LEDs. Veeco also intends to continue to invest heavily in research and development and engineering in order to continue to deliver more advanced MOCVD solutions to its customers. The Company remains optimistic about the growth opportunity resulting from providing enabling equipment to the HB-LED industry.

*Trends in the Research Industry:* Veeco's broad based research business has historically tracked the growth of the economy and Gross Domestic Product, as our equipment and instruments are used in a wide range of industrial applications. A meaningful trend in the research industry is the growth in nanotechnology investment occurring at the scientific and university level. Nanotechnology is the ability to design and control the structure of an object at all lengths from the atom up to the macro scale.



Nanotechnology may lead to molecular level assembly allowing for the ability to build structures from the molecular level up, potentially eliminating waste, creating new compositions and materials, and enhancing the properties of materials. These innovations may lead to the creation of computer chips and other devices that are thousands of times smaller than current technologies permit.

Nanoscience and nanotechnology have received significant funding from the U.S. government and other countries, and are beginning to impact many industries, including life sciences, data storage, semiconductor, telecommunications and materials sciences. According to Lux Research Inc., global nanotechnology spending reached approximately \$12 billion in 2006, consisting of a combination of government, industry and venture capital funding. Veeco's metrology instruments are used by nanotechnology researchers, and Veeco currently sells to most major scientific and research organizations engaged in the field of nanotechnology. Veeco continues to introduce new AFMs and SPMs to respond to the growing need for specialized scientific research metrology tools.

In 2004, Veeco and The Dow Chemical Company (NYSE: DOW) announced that the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology Advanced Technology Program awarded them \$6.6 million in funding for a three-year project to develop a quantitative nano-mechanical measurement instrument. Veeco and Dow's proposal was one of 32 selected for award funding from a total of 870 proposals following a rigorous peer-review selection process. Veeco and Dow proposed to jointly develop and validate the world's first platform for high speed, high bandwidth, quantitative nano-mechanical measurements ( QNM ) on length scales smaller than 50nm, on a wide range of materials. Successful completion of this proposal would lead to the creation of a new measurement platform enabling the development of nanomaterials. The QNM is being developed at Veeco. The platform will be based on recently demonstrated advancements in atomic force microscopy. Veeco currently anticipates that new instruments created as a result of this project will begin to emerge from research and development in the 2007 time frame.

In 2005, Veeco announced a strategy to focus on growth opportunities in its scientific research business aligned to specific applications for nanotechnology that the Company has identified and may have higher growth than traditionally seen in this business. Under new management leadership and marketing direction, in 2005 Veeco identified the nanomaterials and nanobiotechnology marketplaces as key potential areas for future growth. It is Veeco's intention to continue to develop and introduce specific new products aligned to these market opportunities. In 2006, Veeco began to introduce new products to enable the Company to expand this market, including the BioScope II for life science applications and its next generation V Series SPMs. Veeco is also focused on expanding its served available market for atomic force microscopy, by introducing tools at new price-points, such as its Caliber® low cost/high value SPM as well as introducing new ease-of-use and fast scan features in 2007 and beyond.

### Veeco's Products

Veeco has two business segments, Process Equipment and Metrology. Net sales for these business segments is shown below for the years indicated:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2006	2005	2004
	(Dollars in millions)		
<b>Process Equipment</b>	\$ 268.9	\$ 227.9	\$ 227.6
% of net sales	61.0	% 55.5	% 58.3
<b>Metrology</b>	\$ 172.1	\$ 182.3	\$ 162.8
% of net sales	39.0	% 44.5	% 41.7
<b>Total net sales</b>	\$ 441.0	\$ 410.2	\$ 390.4

See Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for additional information regarding the Company's reportable segments and sales by geographic location.

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Below is a matrix indicating the industries to which Veeco's product families are primarily sold. This chart shows that Veeco's core technologies are applicable to multiple market opportunities:

	Data Storage			Semiconductor			HB-LED/Wireless			Scientific Research/ Industrial		
<b>Process Equipment</b>												
Ion Beam Deposition		X			X			X			X	
Ion Beam Etch		X			X			X				
Physical Vapor Deposition		X			X			X			X	
Atomic Layer Deposition		X										
Diamond Like Carbon Deposition		X										
Precision Lapping, Slicing, Dicing		X										
Metal Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition								X			X	
Molecular Beam Epitaxy		X			X			X			X	
<b>Metrology</b>												
Atomic Force Microscopes (automated)		X			X							
Research AFMs and SPMs		X			X			X			X	
Stylus Profilers		X			X						X	
Optical Interferometers		X			X						X	

*Process Equipment*

Veeco produces and sells several types of process equipment products capable of precisely depositing or etching thin film products, primarily used in the manufacture of data storage components such as TFMHs and compound semiconductor/wireless devices. Veeco's process equipment product line includes:

*Ion Beam Deposition ( IBD ) Systems:* Veeco's NEXUS IBD systems utilize ion beam technology to deposit precise layers of thin films and may be included on Veeco's cluster system platform to allow either parallel or sequential etch/deposition processes. Ion beam deposition systems deposit high purity thin film layers and provide maximum uniformity and repeatability. In addition to IBD systems, Veeco provides a broad array of ion beam sources.

*Ion Beam Etch ( IBE ) Systems:* Veeco develops and produces NEXUS IBE systems, which etch precise, complex features for use primarily by data storage and telecommunications device manufacturers in the fabrication of discrete and integrated microelectronic devices.

*Physical Vapor Deposition ( PVD ) Systems:* Veeco's NEXUS PVD systems deposit more than 20 types of materials, offering manufacturers a highly flexible platform for developing next-generation data storage and compound semiconductor applications. Veeco's PVD provides multiple targets, speeding the transition from development to high-volume production.

*Atomic Layer Deposition ( ALD ) Systems:* Veeco's NEXUS ALD systems deposit advanced dielectric and metal films found in current and emerging applications in the data storage and semiconductor markets. Designed with multiple source capability, each module can be configured to produce a range of films in both development and production modes. Part of the NEXUS platform family, Veeco's ALD module can be integrated with complementary modules (IBD, IBE and PVD) which share common hardware and software protocols.

*Diamond-Like Carbon ( DLC ) Deposition Systems:* Veeco's DLC deposition systems deposit protective coatings on advanced TFMHs. The system consists of a single cassette vacuum loadlock and a high vacuum processing chamber with two ion beam sources.



*Precision Lapping, Slicing, and Dicing Systems:* Veeco's Optium Slider process equipment products generally are used in back-end applications in a data storage fab where TFMHs or sliders are fabricated. This equipment includes lapping tools which enable precise material removal within three nanometers which is necessary for next generation TFMHs. Veeco also manufactures instruments that slice and dice wafers into rowbars and TFMHs.

*Metal Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition Systems:* Veeco's TurboDisc MOCVD products are a recognized industry leader in MOCVD production systems. MOCVD reactors are used in the growth of III-V compounds for numerous compound semiconductor applications, including data and telecommunications modules, cellular telephones and solar cells. Our MOCVD production systems are the recognized leader in growing gallium nitride-based devices, (green, and blue HB-LEDs) and arsenic phosphide based devices (red, orange and yellow HB-LEDs), which are used today in large area signage, mobile device backlighting and specialty illumination.

*Molecular Beam Epitaxy Systems:* MBE is the process of precisely depositing epitaxially aligned atomically thin crystal layers, or epilayers, of elemental materials onto a substrate in an ultra-high vacuum environment. For many compound semiconductors, MBE is the critical first step of the fabrication process, ultimately determining device functionality and performance. The performance characteristics of compound semiconductors are dependent on the crystalline structure, chemical composition, number and precise thickness of the epilayers. As a result, MBE is considered to be one of the highest value added steps in the production of compound semiconductors. Veeco provides a broad array of MBE components and systems for research and production applications.

#### *Metrology*

Veeco's surface metrology product line includes atomic force/scanning probe microscopes, optical metrology tools and stylus profilers. These products offer a broad range of solutions to customers in the data storage and semiconductor industries, as well as versatile tools for use by research and development centers and universities.

*Atomic Force/Scanning Probe Microscopes:* Veeco produces a broad range of AFM/SPM products designed for data storage, semiconductor and research and other industrial applications. Veeco's family of automated, non-destructive AFM products include our Vx Series Atomic Force Profilers which combine AFM resolution with long-scan capability for CMP applications; our X3D AFM for advanced lithography and photomask applications; and our Dimension X AFM for etch measurements. Veeco also has the world's broadest line of research AFMs and SPMs. Our Nanoscope products are widely used by leading nanotechnology research centers worldwide. Veeco was a pioneer of AFM technology and continues to develop new products for production and research applications.

The atomic force microscope feels the sample surface directly using a probe consisting of a very sharp tip or probe mounted on a microscopic spring arm (a cantilever). The interaction of the probe with the surface is detected by measuring deflections of the cantilever with an optical beam system. AFMs, which permit non-destructive measurements and resolution at the molecular level, can directly measure both lateral and vertical shapes with nanometer resolution and with direct 3D capability. In contrast, light-based metrology instruments, including confocal microscopes, have limited lateral resolution for measurements of less than half the wavelength of light, or less than about 250 nanometers. In addition to topography, AFMs can also directly measure the magnetic field (such as magnetic bits on a hard disk); electric field; hardness (such as thin film integrity); electric charge density (such as dopant concentrations in semiconductors); temperature (such as temperature distribution in disk drive recording head elements); and various chemical properties (such as the difference in binding preference among biological molecules). AFMs make these measurements on almost any surface; in air, vacuum or under fluids; and with minimal sample preparation.

*Stylus Profilers:* Stylus profilers are used to produce cross-sectional representations and/or quantitative measurements, which are displayed on a video monitor. Veeco's stylus profiler systems utilize a precision translation stage which creates relative motion between the sample and a diamond tipped stylus. As the sample moves under the stylus, surface variations cause vertical translation of the stylus, which is tracked and measured. Stylus profilers are widely used for height, width, pitch and roughness measurements of features on semiconductor devices, magnetic and optical storage media (such as hard drives), flat panel displays and hybrid circuits. Stylus profilers are often used for direct contact measurements and to measure larger feature sizes than Veeco's AFMs. Veeco believes that its stylus profiler products are recognized for their accuracy, repeatability, ease of use and technology features, and are designed to meet a range of industry specifications and customer requirements.

*Optical Metrology (Interferometry) Products:* Substantially all of Veeco's optical metrology instruments are designed to make non-contact surface measurements using interferometry technology. This process involves the use of either white light or laser sources to measure surface roughness and shape by creating interference patterns from the optical path difference between the test surface and a reference surface. Using a combination of phase shifting interferometry and vertical scanning interferometry, these instruments are designed to rapidly and precisely measure and characterize a range of surface sizes and shapes. Veeco's major optical products include the *NT* family and *SP3000* and the *HD-Series* optical profilers. The *NT* family product line measures surface roughness, heights and shapes. The *HD-Series* instruments are a line of microstructure measurement equipment used by manufacturers of mass memory components including manufacturers of TFMHs, disks, drives and suspensions. *HD-Series* instruments are used for research and development, production control, process improvement, incoming parts inspection, final parts inspection and field failure analysis.

#### **Service and Sales**

Veeco sells its products and services worldwide through various strategically located sales and service facilities located in the U.S., Europe, Asia Pacific and Japan, and believes that its customer service organization is a significant factor in the Company's success. The Company provides service and support on a warranty, service contract or an individual service-call basis. Veeco also offers enhanced warranty coverage and services, including preventative maintenance plans, on-call and on-site service plans and other comprehensive service arrangements, product and application training, consultation services and a 24-hour hotline service for certain products. The Company believes that offering 24 hour, 7 day per week worldwide support creates stronger relationships with customers and provides it with a significant competitive advantage. Revenues from sales of parts, service and support represented approximately 20%, 19% and 17% of Veeco's net sales for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Parts sales represented approximately 17%, 15% and 14% of Veeco's net sales for those periods, respectively, and service and support sales were 3%, 4% and 3%, respectively.

#### **Customers**

Veeco sells its products to many of the world's major data storage, semiconductor and HB-LED/wireless component manufacturers, and to customers in other industries, research centers and universities. For the year ended December 31, 2006, 42% of Veeco's sales were to data storage customers, 20% to HB-LED/wireless customers, 13% to semiconductor customers, and 25% to scientific research and industrial customers. We rely on certain principal customers for a significant portion of our sales including Seagate Technology, Inc., and Hitachi, Ltd. which have been two of our largest customers during the last three years. Sales to Seagate accounted for 18%, 15% and 10% of Veeco's total net sales in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Sales to Hitachi accounted for 10%, 9% and 6% of Veeco's total net sales in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. If any principal customer discontinues its relationship with us or suffers economic difficulties, our business, prospects, financial condition and operating results could be materially and adversely affected.

## Research and Development

Veeco believes that continued and timely development of new products and enhancements to existing products are necessary to maintain its competitive position. Veeco works collaboratively with its customers to help ensure its technology and product roadmaps are aligned with customer requirements. Veeco's research and development programs are organized by product line and new or improved products have been introduced into each of Veeco's product lines in each of the past three years.

Veeco's research and development expenses were approximately \$61.9 million, \$60.4 million and \$58.3 million, or approximately 14.0%, 14.7% and 14.9% of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. These expenses consisted primarily of salaries, project material and other product development and enhancement costs.

## Manufacturing

The Company's principal manufacturing activities, which consist principally of design, assembly, integration and test operations, are organized by product and take place at our facilities in Plainview, New York; Santa Barbara and Camarillo, California; Tucson, Arizona; Ft. Collins, Colorado; Somerset, New Jersey; and St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Company's sales, marketing, manufacturing and research and development functions are organized by product families. The Company believes that this organizational structure allows each product family manager to more closely monitor the products for which he is responsible, resulting in more efficient sales, marketing, manufacturing and research and development. The Company emphasizes customer responsiveness, customer service, high quality products and an interactive management style. By implementing these management philosophies, the Company believes that it has increased its competitiveness and positioned itself for future growth.

Certain of the Company's products are fully outsourced to one or more suppliers. In addition, certain of the components and sub-assemblies included in the Company's products are obtained from a single source or a limited group of suppliers. Although the Company does not believe it is dependent upon any of these suppliers as a sole source or limited source for any critical components, the inability of the Company to develop alternative sources, if necessary, a prolonged interruption in supply or a significant increase in the price of one or more components could adversely affect the Company's operating results and Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## Backlog

Veeco's backlog increased from \$114.1 million at December 31, 2005 to \$140.8 million at December 31, 2006. Backlog adjustments of \$26.0 million during 2006 included order cancellations primarily in the HB-LED/wireless industry for MOCVD products, as well as cancellations for AFM products. The Company's backlog generally consists of product orders for which a purchase order has been received and which are scheduled for shipment within twelve months. Veeco schedules production of its systems based on order backlog and customer commitments. Because certain of the Company's orders require products to be shipped in the same quarter in which the order is received, and because changes in delivery schedules, cancellations of orders and delays in shipment are possible, the Company does not believe that the level of backlog at any point in time is an accurate indicator of the Company's future performance. Due to changing business conditions and customer requirements, the Company may continue to experience cancellation and/or rescheduling of orders.

## Competition

In each of the markets that it serves, Veeco faces substantial competition from established competitors, some of which have greater financial, engineering, manufacturing and marketing resources

than Veeco as well as from smaller competitors. In addition, many of Veeco's products face competition from alternative technologies, some of which are more established than those used in Veeco's products. Significant factors for customer selection of metrology and process equipment tools include system performance, accuracy, repeatability, ease of use, reliability, cost of ownership and technical service and support. Veeco believes that it is competitive based on the customer selection factors in each market Veeco serves. None of Veeco's competitors compete with Veeco across all of Veeco's product lines.

Veeco competes with process equipment manufacturers such as Anelva, Unaxis, Hitachi, Riber, Aixtron and Oxford. Veeco competes with metrology product manufacturers such as KLA-Tencor, Seiko, Hitachi, Zygo, Agilent, and a variety of small manufacturers.

### **Intellectual Property**

Veeco's success depends in part on its proprietary technology. Although Veeco attempts to protect its intellectual property rights through patents, copyrights, trade secrets and other measures, there can be no assurance that Veeco will be able to protect its technology adequately or that competitors will not be able to develop similar technology independently.

Veeco has patents and exclusive and non-exclusive licenses to patents owned by others covering certain of its products, which Veeco believes provide it with a competitive advantage. Veeco has a policy of seeking patents on inventions concerning new products and improvements as part of its ongoing research, development and manufacturing activities. Veeco believes that there is no single patent which is critical to its operations, and that the success of its business depends primarily on the technical expertise, innovation and experience of its employees.

Veeco also relies upon trade secret protection for its confidential and proprietary information. There can be no assurance that others will not independently develop substantially equivalent proprietary information and techniques or otherwise gain access to Veeco's trade secrets or that Veeco can meaningfully protect its trade secrets. In addition, the Company cannot be certain that it will not be sued by third parties alleging that the Company has infringed their patents or other intellectual property rights. If any third party sues Veeco, the Company's business, results of operations or financial condition could be materially adversely affected. Veeco has brought a patent infringement lawsuit against Asylum Research. See Legal Proceedings Non-Environmental.

### **Employees**

At December 31, 2006, the Company had 1,279 employees, of which there were 367 in manufacturing and test, 197 in sales and marketing, 176 in service, 50 in product support, 333 in engineering, research and development, and 156 in information technology, general administration and finance. The success of the Company's future operations depends in large part on the Company's ability to recruit and retain engineers, technicians and other highly-skilled professionals who are in considerable demand. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in recruiting or retaining key personnel. The Company believes that its relations with its employees are good.

### **Available Information**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, information statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

**Internet Address**

We maintain a website where additional information concerning our business and various upcoming events can be found. The address of our website is [www.veeco.com](http://www.veeco.com). We provide a link on our website, under Investors Financial Info SEC Filings, through which investors can access our filings with the SEC, including our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports. These filings are posted to our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with the SEC.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors****Risk Factors That May Impact Future Results**

In addition to the other information set forth herein, the following risk factors should be carefully considered by shareholders of and potential investors in the Company.

**The cyclicity of the microelectronics industries we serve directly affects our business.**

Veeco's business depends in large part upon the capital expenditures of data storage, HB-LED/wireless and semiconductor manufacturers, as well as research and industrial customers, which accounted for the following percentages of our net sales for the periods indicated:

	Sales by Market					
	(% Revenue)					
	Year ended December 31,					
	2006		2005		2004	
Data Storage	42	%	41	%	32	%
HB-LED/wireless	20	%	15	%	25	%
Semiconductor	13	%	17	%	14	%
Scientific Research and Industrial	25	%	27	%	29	%

Veeco is subject to the business cycles of these industries, the timing, length and volatility of which are difficult to predict. These industries have historically been highly cyclical and have experienced significant economic downturns in the last decade. As a capital equipment provider, our revenues depend in large part on the spending patterns of these customers, who often delay expenditures or cancel or reschedule orders in reaction to variations in their businesses or general economic conditions. In downturns, we must be able to quickly and effectively align our costs with prevailing market conditions, as well as motivate and retain key employees. However, because a high proportion of our costs are fixed, our ability to reduce expenses quickly in response to revenue shortfalls is limited. A downturn in one or more of these industries could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results. During periods of rapid growth, we must be able to acquire and/or develop sufficient manufacturing capacity to meet customer demand, and attract, hire, assimilate and retain a sufficient number of qualified people. We cannot give assurances that our net sales and operating results will not be adversely affected if our customers experience economic downturns or slowdowns in their businesses.

**We operate in an industry characterized by rapid technological change.**

The data storage, HB-LED/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research and industrial industries are subject to rapid technological change. Our ability to remain competitive depends on our ability to enhance existing products and develop and manufacture new products in a timely and cost effective manner and to accurately predict technology transitions. Because new product development commitments must be made well in advance of sales, we must anticipate the future demand for products in selecting which development programs to fund and pursue. Our financial results for 2007 will depend to a great extent on the successful introduction of several new products, many of which require achieving increasingly



stringent technical specifications. We cannot be certain that we will be successful in selecting, developing, manufacturing and marketing new products or in enhancing existing products.

**We face significant competition.**

We face significant competition throughout the world in each of our reportable segments. Many of our competitors have greater financial, engineering, manufacturing and marketing resources than us. In addition, we face competition from smaller emerging equipment companies whose strategy is to provide a portion of the products and services we offer, using innovative technology to sell products into specialized markets. New product introductions or enhancements by our competitors could cause a decline in sales or loss of market acceptance of our existing products. Increased competitive pressure could also lead to intensified price competition resulting in lower margins. Our failure to compete successfully with these other companies would seriously harm our business.

**We depend on a limited number of customers that operate in highly concentrated industries.**

Our customer base is and has been highly concentrated. Orders from a relatively limited number of customers have accounted for, and likely will continue to account for, a substantial portion of our net sales, which may lead customers to demand pricing and other terms less favorable to us. Based on net sales, Seagate Technology, Inc. is our largest customer, with 18%, 15% and 10% of total net sales in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Our next largest customer is Hitachi Ltd., with 10%, 9% and 6% of total net sales in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively (our only customers with sales greater than 10% in any of the past three years).

If a principal customer discontinues its relationship with us or suffers economic setbacks, our business, financial condition and operating results could be materially and adversely affected. Our ability to increase sales in the future will depend in part upon our ability to obtain orders from new customers. We cannot be certain that we will be able to do so. In addition, because a relatively small number of large manufacturers, many of whom are our customers, dominate the industries in which they operate, it may be especially difficult for us to replace these customers if we lose their business. A substantial portion of orders in our backlog are orders from our principal customers.

In addition, a substantial investment is required by customers to install and integrate capital equipment into a production line. As a result, once a manufacturer has selected a particular vendor's capital equipment, we believe that the manufacturer generally relies upon that equipment for the specific production line application and frequently will attempt to consolidate its other capital equipment requirements with the same vendor. Accordingly, if a customer selects a competitor's product over ours for technical superiority or other reasons, we could experience difficulty selling to that customer for a significant period of time.

Furthermore, we do not have long-term contracts with our customers. As a result, our agreements with our customers do not provide any assurance of future sales and we are exposed to competitive price pressure on each new order we attempt to obtain. Our failure to obtain new sales orders from new or existing customers, would have a negative impact on our results of operations.

**The timing of our orders, shipments and revenue recognition may cause our quarterly operating results to fluctuate significantly.**

We derive a substantial portion of our net sales in any fiscal period from the sale of a relatively small number of high-priced systems. As a result, the timing of recognition of revenue for a single transaction could have a material effect on our sales and operating results for a particular fiscal period. As is typical in our industry, orders, shipments and customer acceptances often occur during the last few weeks of a quarter. As a result, delay of only a week or two can often shift the related booking or net sales into the next quarter, which could adversely affect our reported results for the prior quarter. Our quarterly results

have fluctuated significantly in the past and we expect this trend to continue. If our orders, shipments, net sales or operating results in a particular quarter do not meet expectations, our stock price may be adversely affected.

**Changes in our product mix may cause our quarterly operating results to fluctuate significantly.**

Certain of our business segments have historically had lower gross margins than other segments. We expect this trend to continue. If a greater portion of our overall business in the future comes from business segments operating at lower gross margins, then our overall gross margins will decline. This could have an adverse effect on our stock price.

**Our customers may cancel or reschedule their orders with us.**

Customer purchase orders are subject to cancellation or rescheduling by the customer, generally with limited or no penalties. Often, we have incurred expenses prior to such cancellation without adequate monetary compensation. Backlog adjustments during the year ended December 31, 2006, including order cancellations, were \$26.0 million.

**Our sales cycle is long and unpredictable.**

Historically, we have experienced long and unpredictable sales cycles (the period between our initial contact with a potential customer and the time when we recognize revenue from that customer). Our sales cycle can range up to twelve months. The timing of an order often depends on the capital expenditure budget cycle of our customers, which is completely out of our control. In addition, the time it takes us to build a product to customer specifications (the build cycle) typically ranges from one to six months, followed in certain cases by a period of customer acceptance during which the customer evaluates the performance of the system and may potentially reject the system. As a result of the build cycle and evaluation periods, the period between a customer's initial purchase decision and revenue recognition on an order often varies widely, and variations in length of this period can cause further fluctuations in our operating results. As a result of our lengthy sales cycle, we may incur significant research and development expenses, and selling and general and administrative expenses before we generate the related revenues for these products. We may never generate the anticipated revenues if a customer cancels or changes plans. Variations in the length of our sales cycle could also cause our net sales and therefore our cash flow and net income to fluctuate widely from period to period.

**We face securities class action and shareholder derivative lawsuits which could result in substantial costs, diversion of management's attention and resources and negative publicity.**

Veeco and certain of its officers have been named as defendants in a consolidated securities class action lawsuit pending in federal court in the Southern District of New York (the Court). The lawsuit arises out of the restatement in March 2005 of Veeco's financial statements for the quarterly periods and nine months ended September 30, 2004 as a result of the Company's discovery of certain improper accounting transactions at its TurboDisc business unit. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit seek unspecified damages and assert claims against all defendants for violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) and claims against the individual defendants for violations of Section 20(b) of the Exchange Act. The Court has certified a plaintiff class for the lawsuit consisting of all persons who acquired the Company's securities during the period from April 26, 2004 through February 10, 2005. The parties are currently involved in the discovery process. Although the Company believes this lawsuit is without merit and intends to defend vigorously against the claims, the lawsuit could result in substantial costs, divert management's attention and resources from our operations and negatively affect our public image and reputation.

In addition, three shareholder derivative lawsuits have been consolidated and are also pending before the Court. The plaintiffs in the consolidated derivative action assert that the Company's directors and certain of its officers breached fiduciary duties in connection with the improper accounting transactions at the TurboDisc business unit. The plaintiffs in the consolidated derivative action seek unspecified damages allegedly sustained by the Company and the return of all bonuses, restricted stock, stock options and other incentive compensation. The parties are currently involved in the discovery process on this action. An unfavorable outcome or prolonged litigation in these matters could materially harm the Company's business.

**Our outsourcing strategy could adversely affect our results of operations.**

To better align our costs with market conditions and to increase productivity and operational efficiency, we have outsourced, and plan to increase the outsourcing of, certain functions to third parties. While outsourcing may reduce our cost of operations, it also reduces our direct control over the services rendered. Although we attempt to select reputable providers, it is possible that one or more of these providers could fail to perform as we expect. In addition, the expanded role of third party providers has required and will continue to require us to implement changes to our existing operations and adopt new procedures and processes for retaining and managing these providers. If we do not timely and effectively develop and implement our outsourcing strategy or if third party providers do not perform as anticipated, we may not realize gross margin or productivity improvements and we may experience operational difficulties, increased costs, or even manufacturing delays, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**We rely on a limited number of suppliers.**

Failure of the suppliers of critical parts, components and manufacturing equipment to deliver sufficient quantities in a timely and cost-effective manner could adversely affect our business. We generally do not have guaranteed supply or pricing arrangements with our suppliers. As a result, we risk increased cost of materials and difficulty in procuring the parts we need to fill customer orders. We currently use numerous suppliers, however, some key parts may be obtained only from a single supplier or a limited group of suppliers. Failure of any of these suppliers to perform in a timely or quality manner could negatively impact our revenues and results of operations.

**Our inability to attract, retain and motivate key employees could have a material adverse effect on our business.**

Our success depends upon our ability to attract, retain and motivate key employees, including those in executive, managerial, engineering, marketing and other roles. Our growth is dependent on our ability to attract, retain and motivate highly skilled and qualified technical personnel, in addition to personnel that can implement and monitor our financial and managerial controls and reporting systems. Attracting, retaining and motivating qualified personnel may be difficult due to challenging industry conditions, competition for such personnel by other technology companies, consolidations and relocations of operations and workforce reductions. Our inability to attract, retain and motivate key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or operating results. On November 15, 2006, Edward H. Braun announced his intention to transition during 2007 from his current role as Veeco's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer to the position of Chairman. Mr. Braun will continue to serve as Chief Executive Officer until a successor has been appointed. A succession committee of the Board of Directors has been formed to search for a new Chief Executive Officer and the committee has been actively conducting a search. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement for Mr. Braun in his role as Chief Executive Officer will be found in a timely manner or upon terms and conditions that are acceptable.

**We are exposed to the risks of operating a global business.**

Approximately 67% of our 2006 and 2005 net sales were generated from sales outside the United States. We expect sales from non-U.S. markets to continue to represent a significant, and possibly increasing, portion of our sales in the future. Our non-U.S. sales and operations are subject to risks inherent in conducting business abroad, many of which are outside our control, including:

- difficulties in managing a global enterprise, including staffing, managing distributors and representatives and repatriation of earnings,
- difficulties in obtaining U.S. export licenses in connection with sales of products to customers in certain geographic regions, including China and Asia Pacific, a particular disadvantage relative to our non-U.S. competitors who are not required to comply with U.S. export controls,
- periodic regional economic downturns and unstable political environments,
- longer sales cycles and difficulty in collecting accounts receivable,
- multiple, conflicting and changing governmental laws and regulations, including import/export controls and other trade barriers, and
- different customs and ways of doing business.

Many of these challenges are present in China, a large potential market for the Company's products and an area that we anticipate will present a significant opportunity for growth. Instability in China and other foreign economies may continue and recur again in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition, political instability, terrorism, acts of war or epidemics in regions where we operate may adversely affect our business and results of operations.

**We are subject to foreign currency exchange risks.**

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risks that are inherent in our anticipated sales, sales commitments and assets and liabilities that are denominated in currencies other than the United States dollar. Although we attempt to mitigate our exposure to fluctuations in currency exchange rates, these hedging activities may not always be available or adequate to eliminate, or even mitigate, the impact of our exchange rate exposure. Failure to sufficiently hedge or otherwise manage foreign currency risks properly could materially and adversely affect our revenues and gross margins.

**Our success depends on protection of our intellectual property rights.**

Our success depends in part upon the protection of our intellectual property rights. We own various United States and international patents and have additional pending patent applications relating to certain of our products and technologies. The process of seeking patent protection is lengthy and expensive, and we cannot be certain that pending or future applications will actually result in issued patents or that issued patents will be of sufficient scope or strength to provide meaningful protection or commercial advantage. In addition, our intellectual property rights may be circumvented, invalidated or rendered obsolete by the rapid pace of technological change. Furthermore, the laws of other countries may less effectively protect our proprietary rights than U.S. laws. Infringement of our rights by a third party could result in uncompensated lost market and revenue opportunities.

On September 17, 2003, we commenced a lawsuit against Asylum Research Inc. ( Asylum ), a privately-held company founded by former Veeco employees. The lawsuit alleges infringement of five patents relating to our AFM technologies. We are seeking monetary damages and a permanent injunction to stop infringement. Asylum has asserted that the patents we are suing on are invalid and unenforceable and has filed a counterclaim for infringement of a patent licensed by Asylum and payment of royalties it believes it is owed. Cross motions for summary judgment related to the issues of infringement and/or validity of the patents in the suit are pending. The court has held hearings on the summary judgment motions and has referred many of the issues to a Special Master. We believe Asylum's claims are without merit and intend to vigorously pursue our claims. Nonetheless, the costs of pursuing this matter are significant and there can be no assurance that we will be successful in this matter. Costs to defend the patents are being capitalized by the Company. If the Company is not successful in defending the patents, these costs may be required to be written down under U.S. generally accepted accounting policies.

**We may be subject to claims of intellectual property infringement by others.**

From time to time we have received communications from other parties asserting the existence of patent or other rights which they believe cover certain of our products. We also periodically receive notice from customers who believe that we are required to indemnify them for damages they may incur related to infringement claims made against these customers by third parties. Our customary practice is to evaluate such assertions and to consider the available alternatives, including whether to seek a license, if appropriate. However, we cannot ensure that licenses can be obtained or, if obtained, will be on acceptable terms or that costly litigation or other administrative proceedings will not occur. If we are not able to resolve a claim, negotiate a settlement of the matter, obtain necessary licenses on commercially reasonable terms, and/or successfully prosecute or defend our position, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

**Our acquisition strategy subjects us to risks associated with evaluating and pursuing these opportunities and integrating these businesses.**

We have considered numerous acquisition opportunities and completed several significant acquisitions in the past. We may consider acquisitions of, or investments in, other businesses in the future. Acquisitions involve numerous risks, many of which are unpredictable and beyond our control, including:

- difficulties and increased costs in integrating the personnel, operations, technologies and products of acquired companies,
- diversion of management's attention while evaluating, pursuing and integrating the business to be acquired,
- potential loss of key employees of acquired companies, especially if a relocation or change in responsibilities is involved,
- difficulties in managing geographically dispersed operations in a cost-effective manner,
- lack of synergy or inability to realize expected synergies,
- increased amortization expense relating to intangible assets, and
- possible write-down of acquired intangible assets as a result of technological advancements or worse-than-expected performance by the acquired company.

Our inability to effectively manage these risks could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

In addition, if we issue equity securities to pay for an acquisition, the ownership percentage of our then-existing shareholders would be reduced and the value of the shares held by these shareholders could

be diluted, which could adversely affect the price of our stock and convertible subordinated notes. If we use cash to pay for an acquisition, the payment could significantly reduce the cash that would be available to fund our operations or other purposes, including making payments on the convertible subordinated notes. There can be no assurance that financing for future acquisitions will be available on favorable terms or at all.

**Changes in accounting standards for stock-based compensation may adversely affect our stock price and our ability to attract, motivate and retain key employees.**

We have historically used broad based stock option programs and other forms of equity-related incentives as a key component of our employee compensation packages. Pursuant to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 123(R) Share Based Payment , beginning in our first fiscal quarter of 2006, we were required to recognize compensation expense in our statement of operations for the fair value of unvested employee stock options outstanding on the date of adoption and new stock options granted to our employees after the adoption date over the related vesting periods of the stock options. The change in accounting treatment has resulted in and will in the future result in our reporting increased expenses, which has decreased and will decrease our net earnings, and could also adversely affect the market price of our common stock. The requirement to expense stock options granted to employees reduces the attractiveness of granting stock options. However, stock options remain an important employee retention tool, and we may not be able to attract and retain key personnel if we reduce the scope of our employee stock option program.

**The implementation of a new information technology system may disrupt our operations.**

Our ability to design, manufacture, market and service our products is dependent on information technology systems that encompass all of our major business functions. We are in the process of implementing a comprehensive enterprise resource planning ( ERP ) software system. This new ERP system will cover many areas of our business. System failure or malfunctioning may result in disruption of operations and the inability to process transactions and could adversely affect our financial results. If we encounter unforeseen delays or difficulties or significant increased costs in implementing our system, we could be adversely affected.

**We may not obtain sufficient affordable funds to finance our future needs.**

We may need to make significant capital expenditures to continue our operations and to enhance our manufacturing capability to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies. Also, our industry is characterized by the need for continued investment in research and development. If we fail to invest sufficiently in research and development, our products could become less attractive to potential customers. As a result of our emphasis on research and development and technological innovation, our operating costs may increase in the future. In addition, our 4.125% convertible subordinated notes come due in December 2008. As of February 15, 2007, we had \$154 million of these notes outstanding. If cash flow from our operations is not sufficient to repay these notes, we may have to borrow funds to do so. During the past few years, the markets for equity and debt securities have fluctuated significantly, especially with respect to technology-related companies, and during some periods offerings of those securities have been extremely difficult to complete. As a result, in the future we may not be able to obtain the additional funds required to fund our operations, invest sufficiently in research and development and repay or refinance our convertible subordinated notes on reasonable terms, or at all. Such a lack of funds could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results.

**We are subject to risks of non-compliance with environmental and safety regulations.**

We are subject to environmental and safety regulations in connection with our business operations, including but not limited to regulations related to the development, manufacture and use of our products.

Failure or inability to comply with existing or future environmental and safety regulations could result in significant remediation liabilities, the imposition of fines and/or the suspension or termination of development, manufacture or use of certain of our products, each of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

**We have adopted certain measures that may have anti-takeover effects which may make an acquisition of our company by another company more difficult.**

We have adopted, and may in the future adopt, certain measures that may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a takeover or other change in control of Veeco that a holder of our common stock might not consider in its best interest. These measures include:

- blank check preferred stock,
- classified board of directors,
- shareholder rights plan or poison pill, and
- certain certificate of incorporation and bylaws provisions.

Our board of directors has the authority to issue up to 500,000 shares of preferred stock and to fix the rights (including voting rights), preferences and privileges of these shares ( blank check preferred). Such preferred stock may have rights, including economic rights, senior to our common stock. As a result, the issuance of the preferred stock could have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock and could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire a majority of our outstanding common stock.

Our board of directors is divided into three classes with each class serving a staggered three-year term. The existence of a classified board will make it more difficult for our shareholders to change the composition (and therefore the policies) of our board of directors in a relatively short period of time.

We have adopted a shareholder rights plan, under which we have granted to our shareholders rights to purchase shares of junior participating preferred stock. This plan or poison pill could discourage a takeover that is not approved by our board of directors but which a shareholder might consider in its best interest, thereby adversely affecting our stock price.

We have adopted certain certificate of incorporation and bylaws provisions which may have anti-takeover effects. These include: (a) requiring certain actions to be taken at a meeting of shareholders rather than by written consent, (b) requiring a super-majority of shareholders to call a special meeting of shareholders or to approve certain amendments to our bylaws, (c) limiting the maximum number of directors, and (d) providing that directors may be removed only for cause. These measures and those described above may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a takeover or other change in control of Veeco that a holder of our common stock might consider in its best interest.

In addition, we are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, which prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination, including mergers and asset sales, with an interested stockholder (generally, a 15% or greater stockholder) for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. The operation of Section 203 may have anti-takeover effects, which could delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt that a holder of our common stock might consider in its best interest.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.**

None.

**Item 2. Properties.**

The Company's headquarters office and its principal manufacturing, research and development and sales and service facilities, as well as the approximate size and the segments which utilize such facilities, are:

Owned Facilities Location	Approximate Size (sq. ft.)		Mortgaged		Use
Plainview, NY	80,000		No		Process Equipment
Santa Barbara, CA	100,000		Yes		Metrology
St. Paul, MN(1)	125,000		Yes		Process Equipment
Tucson, AZ(2)	110,000		No		Metrology
Somerset, NJ	80,000		No		Process Equipment

Leased Facilities Location	Approximate Size (sq. ft.)	Lease Expires	Use
Fort Collins, CO(3)	47,000	2009	Process Equipment
Fremont, CA	14,000	2007	Process Equipment
Camarillo, CA	48,000	2007	Process Equipment
Camarillo, CA	26,000	2012	Process Equipment
Camarillo, CA	19,000	2010	Metrology
Santa Barbara, CA	24,000	2009	Metrology
Ventura, CA(4)	125,000	2009	Held for sublease
Woodbury, NY	32,000	2011	Headquarters

(1) The Company's Process Equipment business utilizes approximately 95,000 square feet of this facility. The balance is available for expansion.

(2) The Company's Metrology business utilizes approximately 75,000 square feet of this facility. The balance is available for expansion.

(3) The lease on a 13,000 square foot section of this property expires in 2007, while the lease on the remaining 34,000 square feet expires in 2009.

(4) This facility is leased from the former owner of Manufacturing Technology, Inc. ( MTI ). The Company has subleased a portion of this building and is marketing the remaining portion of this facility for sublease.

The Santa Barbara, California and St. Paul, Minnesota facilities are subject to mortgages, which at December 31, 2006, had outstanding balances of \$5.4 million and \$3.6 million, respectively. The Company also leases small offices in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania and Edina, Minnesota, for sales and service. The Company's foreign subsidiaries lease space for use as sales and service centers in England, France, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China and Taiwan. The Company believes its facilities are adequate to meet its current needs.



**Item 3. Legal Proceedings.**

**Environmental**

The Company may, under certain circumstances, be obligated to pay up to \$250,000 in connection with the implementation of a comprehensive plan of environmental remediation at its Plainview, New York facility. The Company has been indemnified for any liabilities it may incur in excess of \$250,000 with respect to any such remediation. No comprehensive plan has been required to date. Even without consideration of such indemnification, the Company does not believe that any material loss or expense is probable in connection with any remediation plan that may be proposed.

The Company is aware that petroleum hydrocarbon contamination has been detected in the soil at the site of a facility formerly leased by the Company in Santa Barbara, California. The Company has been indemnified for any liabilities it may incur which arise from environmental contamination at the site. Even without consideration of such indemnification, the Company does not believe that any material loss or expense is probable in connection with any such liabilities.

The former owner of the land and building in which the Company's Santa Barbara, California Metrology operations are located has disclosed that there are hazardous substances present in the ground under the building. Management believes that the comprehensive indemnification clause that is part of the purchase contract relating to the purchase of such land provides adequate protection against any environmental issues that may arise.

**Non-Environmental**

On September 17, 2003, the Company filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Central District of California against Asylum Research Inc., a privately-held company founded by former Veeco employees. The lawsuit alleges that the manufacture, use and sale of Asylum's MFP-3D AFM constitutes willful infringement of five patents owned by the Company, as well as other claims. The Company is suing for unspecified monetary damages and a permanent injunction to stop infringement. Asylum has asserted that the patents the Company is suing on are invalid and unenforceable, and has filed a counterclaim for infringement of a patent licensed by Asylum, and payment of royalties it believes it is owed. Cross motions for summary judgment related to the issues of infringement and/or validity of the patents in the suit are pending. The Court has held hearings on the summary judgment motions and has referred many of the issues to a Special Master. The Company believes that Asylum's claims are without merit and intends to vigorously pursue its claims. Costs to defend the patents are being capitalized by the Company. If the Company is not successful in defending the patents, these costs may need to be written down.

Veeco and certain of its officers have been named as defendants in a securities class action lawsuit consolidated in August 2005 that is pending in federal court in the Southern District of New York (the Court). The lawsuit arises out of the restatement in March 2005 of Veeco's financial statements for the quarterly periods and nine months ended September 30, 2004 as a result of the Company's discovery of certain improper accounting transactions at its TurboDisc business unit. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit seek unspecified damages and assert claims against all defendants for violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) and claims against the individual defendants for violations of Section 20(b) of the Exchange Act. The Court has certified a plaintiff class for the lawsuit consisting of all persons who acquired the Company's securities during the period from April 26, 2004 through February 10, 2005. The parties are currently involved in the discovery process. Although the Company believes this lawsuit is without merit and intends to defend vigorously against the claims, the lawsuit could result in substantial costs, divert management's attention and resources from our operations and negatively affect our public image and reputation.

In addition, three shareholder derivative lawsuits filed in March and April of 2005 have been consolidated and are also pending before the Court. The plaintiffs in the consolidated derivative action

assert that the Company's directors and certain of its officers breached fiduciary duties in connection with the improper accounting transactions at the TurboDisc business unit. The plaintiffs in the consolidated derivative action seek unspecified damages allegedly sustained by the Company and the return of all bonuses, restricted stock, stock options and other incentive compensation. The parties are currently involved in the discovery process on this action. An unfavorable outcome or prolonged litigation in these matters could materially harm the Company's business.

The Company is involved in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of its business. The Company does not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Item 4.** Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

None.

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**PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.**

The Company's common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ National Market under the symbol VECO. The 2006 and 2005 high and low closing bid prices are as follows:

	<b>2006 High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2005 High</b>	<b>Low</b>
First Quarter	\$ 23.35	\$ 17.83	\$ 20.50	\$ 13.98
Second Quarter	27.20	21.71	16.90	13.05
Third Quarter	24.67	20.13	21.37	15.77
Fourth Quarter	19.98	18.24	18.55	15.59

On February 20, 2007, the closing bid price for the Company's common stock on the NASDAQ National Market was \$20.39. As of February 20, 2007, the Company had approximately 340 shareholders of record.

In December 2001 and January 2002, the Company issued \$220.0 million of 4.125% convertible subordinated notes in a private placement. During the first quarter of 2006, the Company repurchased \$20.0 million of these notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$220.0 million to \$200.0 million. During the first quarter of 2007, the Company repurchased an additional \$46.0 million of these notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$200.0 million to \$154.0 million. The notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time on or prior to maturity into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$38.51 per share. The Company pays interest on these notes on June 21 and December 21 of each year. The notes will mature on December 21, 2008. The \$154.0 million of convertible subordinated notes are convertible into approximately 3,998,961 shares of Veeco common stock, which number is subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits and certain other transactions.

The Company has not paid dividends on its common stock. The Company intends to retain future earnings for the development of its business and, therefore, does not anticipate that the Board of Directors will declare or pay any dividends on the common stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, certain provisions of the Company's credit facility limit the Company's ability to pay dividends. The Board of Directors will determine future dividend policy based on the Company's consolidated results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements and other circumstances.

## Stock Performance Graph

**COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN**

Among Veeco Instruments Inc., The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index, Peer Group,  
and The S&P Smallcap 600 Index

**ASSUMES \$100 INVESTED ON DEC. 31, 2001**  
**ASSUMES DIVIDENDS REINVESTED**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING DEC. 31**

	<b>Cumulative Total Return as of December 31,</b>					
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Veeco Instruments Inc.	100.0	32.07	78.11	58.45	48.07	51.96
Philadelphia Semiconductor Index (SOXX)	100.0	51.06	96.09	77.85	88.50	82.07
Peer Group Index	100.0	49.55	88.46	71.57	69.60	90.17
S&P Smallcap 600 Index	100.0	85.37	118.48	145.32	156.48	180.14

Information is presented assuming \$100 invested on December 31, 2001 and the reinvestment of dividends, if any. The Peer Group Index consists of the following companies: ASM International N.V., Axcelis Technologies Inc., FEI Company, FSI International Inc., Mattson Technology Inc., Rudolph Technologies Inc., Semitool Inc., Therma-Wave Inc., Varian Semiconductor Equipment Associates Inc. and Zygo Corp.

**Item 6. Selected Consolidated Financial Data.**

The financial data set forth below should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and with the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

	Years ended December 31,				
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	(In thousands, except per share data)				
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Net sales	\$ 441,034	\$ 410,190	\$ 390,443	\$ 279,321	\$ 298,885
Cost of sales	246,910	236,090	238,686	152,307	183,042 (8)
Gross profit	194,124	174,100	151,757	127,014	115,843
Costs and expenses	170,508	161,869	158,337	129,436	142,827
Merger, restructuring and other expenses		1,165 (4)	3,562 (5)	5,403 (7)	11,248 (8)
Asset impairment charges			816 (5)		99,663 (8)
Write-off of purchased in-process technology	1,160 (1)		600 (5)	1,500 (7)	
Operating income (loss)	22,456	11,066	(11,558 )	(9,325 )	(137,895 )
Interest expense, net	4,268	7,568	8,470	7,811	6,002
Gain on extinguishment of debt	(330 )	(2)			
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes and noncontrolling interest	18,518	3,498	(20,028 )	(17,136 )	(143,897 )
Income tax provision (benefit) from continuing operations	4,959	4,395	42,527 (6)	(7,389 )	(20,513 )
Noncontrolling interest	(1,358 )	(3)			
Income (loss) from continuing operations	14,917	(897 )	(62,555 )	(9,747 )	(123,384 )
Discontinued operations:					
Loss on disposal, net of taxes					(346 )
Loss from discontinued operations, net of taxes					(346 )
Net income (loss)	\$ 14,917	\$ (897 )	\$ (62,555 )	\$ (9,747 )	\$ (123,730 )
<b>Income (loss) per common share:</b>					
Income (loss) per common share from continuing operations	\$ 0.49	\$ (0.03 )	\$ (2.11 )	\$ (0.33 )	\$ (4.24 )
Loss from discontinued operations					(0.01 )
Net income (loss) per common share	\$ 0.49	\$ (0.03 )	\$ (2.11 )	\$ (0.33 )	\$ (4.25 )
Diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations	\$ 0.48	\$ (0.03 )	\$ (2.11 )	\$ (0.33 )	\$ (4.24 )
Loss from discontinued operations					(0.01 )
Diluted net income (loss) per common share	\$ 0.48	\$ (0.03 )	\$ (2.11 )	\$ (0.33 )	\$ (4.25 )
Weighted average shares outstanding	30,492	29,921	29,650	29,263	29,096
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	31,059	29,921	29,650	29,263	29,096

	Years ended December 31,				
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 147,046	\$ 124,499	\$ 100,276	\$ 106,830	\$ 214,295
Goodwill	100,898	99,622	94,645	72,989	30,658
Working capital	248,060	229,650	216,802	257,466	351,106
Total assets	589,600	567,860	576,913	596,464	605,387
Long-term debt (including current installments)	209,204	229,580	229,935	230,268	230,585
Shareholders' equity	281,751	248,587	252,352	306,329	307,573

- (1) As part of the acquisition of 19.9% of the stock of Fluens, Veeco acquired \$1.2 million of in-process research and development projects, which were written-off during the third quarter of 2006. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (2) During the first quarter of 2006, the Company repurchased \$20.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 4.125% convertible subordinated notes. As a result of this repurchase, the amount of convertible subordinated notes outstanding was reduced to \$200.0 million, and the Company recorded a net gain from the early extinguishment of debt in the amount of \$0.3 million. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (3) Veeco accounts for Fluens by consolidating the results of Fluens' operations from the acquisition date and attributing the 80.1% portion that is not owned by Veeco to noncontrolling interest in Veeco's consolidated financial statements. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (4) Veeco incurred restructuring expenses of \$1.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2005 for personnel severance costs. See Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (5) Veeco incurred merger, restructuring and other expenses of \$3.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2004. Of these charges, \$2.8 million was for personnel severance costs and \$0.8 million was accrued for costs related to the internal investigation of improper accounting transactions at its TurboDisc business unit. Asset impairment charges of \$0.8 million related to the consolidation of the Advanced Imaging, Inc. (Aii) and MTI business were recorded relating to certain long-lived assets that were classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2004. Veeco also recorded a charge of \$0.6 million related to the write-off of purchased in-process technology in connection with the MTI acquisition. See Notes 2 and 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (6) For the year ended December 31, 2004, the Company recorded a charge of approximately \$54.0 million to establish a valuation allowance against substantially all of its domestic net deferred tax assets. See Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (7) Veeco incurred merger, restructuring and purchased in-process technology charges of \$6.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2003. Of these charges, \$5.4 million related to merger and restructuring charges (\$4.8 million for personnel severance and business relocation costs, and \$0.6 million for other merger and related expenses), and \$1.5 million for the write-off of purchased in-process technology (\$1.0 million write-off from the Aii acquisition and a \$0.5 million write-off from the TurboDisc acquisition).
- (8) Veeco incurred merger, restructuring and asset impairment charges of \$126.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2002. Of these charges, \$99.7 million related to asset impairment charges (\$94.4 million for goodwill impairment, \$3.5 million for impairment of land and buildings and \$1.8 million for impairment of other fixed assets), \$15.0 million was associated with the write-off of inventory (included in cost of sales), \$6.4 million was due to the

write-off of costs associated with the termination of the FEI Company merger agreement, \$5.4 million for personnel severance and business relocation costs and \$0.3 million related to a prepayment penalty for the early extinguishment of debt. The merger and restructuring charges are offset in part by approximately \$0.8 million of income related to the settlement of a post-retirement benefit plan for employees in the Process Equipment segment.

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**Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

**Executive Summary**

Veeco designs, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment primarily used by manufacturers in the data storage, scientific and industrial research, semiconductor, HB-LED (high-brightness light emitting diode) and wireless industries. These industries help create a wide range of information age products such as computer integrated circuits, personal computers, hard disk drives, network servers, digital cameras, wireless phones, TV set-top boxes, personal music/video players and personal digital assistants. Our broad line of products features leading edge technology and allows customers to improve time-to-market of their next generation products. Veeco's products are also enabling advancements in the growing fields of nanoscience, nanobiology and other areas of scientific and industrial research.

Veeco's process equipment products precisely deposit or remove (etch) various materials in the manufacturing of TFMHs for the data storage industry, HB-LED/wireless devices (such as power amplifiers and laser diodes) and semiconductor mask reticles. Veeco's metrology equipment is used to provide critical surface measurements on semiconductor devices and TFMHs. This equipment allows customers to monitor their products throughout the manufacturing process in order to improve yields, reduce costs and improve product quality. Veeco's metrology solutions are also used by many universities, scientific laboratories and industrial applications. Veeco sells its broad line of AFMs, optical interferometers and stylus profilers to thousands of universities, research facilities and scientific centers worldwide.

We currently maintain facilities in Arizona, California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey and New York, with sales and service locations around the world. Each of our products is currently manufactured in only one location, since we believe that the technological know-how and precision needed to make each of our products requires specialized expertise.

**Highlights of 2006**

- Revenue increased 7.5% to \$441.0 million from \$410.2 million in 2005. Veeco experienced strong growth in the HB-LED/wireless market, representing a 41.6% increase from 2005. This growth was somewhat offset by a 16.7% decline in sales to the semiconductor industry;
- Veeco's 2006 sales by segment were \$268.9 million from Process Equipment and \$172.1 million from Metrology, up 18.0% and down 5.6%, respectively, from 2005;
- 2006 sales by region were 33% North America, 16% Europe, 13% Japan and 38% Asia Pacific;
- Orders were \$493.8 million in 2006, up from \$404.8 million in 2005;
- Veeco improved its gross margin in 2006 through an increase in sales volume as well as continued cost reductions and improved supply chain management, which included outsourcing;
- Veeco's continued focus on operational improvements and cost control resulted in a \$11.4 million increase in operating income from the prior year;
- Net income was \$14.9 million in 2006 compared to a net loss of (\$0.9) million in 2005;
- Diluted net income per share was \$0.48 compared to a loss of (\$0.03) in 2005; and
- Veeco generated \$22.5 million of cash during 2006, after the effect of an early debt repurchase of \$19.5 million.



### Outlook/Opportunities

In 2007, Veeco will continue its strategy for growth focused on:

- Offering a broad line of well differentiated Process Equipment and Metrology technologies;
- Establishing strategic relationships with technology leaders worldwide;
- Capturing leading market share in our core products;
- Leveraging our exposure to high-growth end markets, including data storage, HB-LED/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research;
- Fueling our growth through internal development of new products; and
- Continuing to improve our operations with the goal of remaining profitable through industry cycles.

As Veeco enters 2007, the Company sees positive market conditions across several of our core markets, in particular the HB-LED/wireless and scientific research sectors. Veeco's data storage order rate has slowed at the end of 2006 and early 2007 as customers absorb the significant amount of capital purchased from Veeco through the first nine months of 2006. Based upon early indications of high capacity utilization at our key customers and other factors, our current expectation is for Veeco's data storage order rate to improve beginning in the second quarter of 2007. This, coupled with significant new product introductions in Process Equipment and Metrology and continued investments in technology by our customers across our end markets, leads us to currently predict revenue growth in 2007. In addition, consumer spending on many types of electronics has increased and various worldwide economies, such as those in the Asia Pacific region, are experiencing growth. The Company reviews a number of indicators to predict the strength of our markets going forward. These include plant utilization trends, capacity requirements and capital spending trends. At the beginning of 2007, many of these trends appear to be overall positive.

Technology changes are continuing in all of Veeco's markets: the continued increase of 80 GB hard drives and investment in 120 GB hard drives and the transition to perpendicular recording in data storage; the increased usage of mini drives in consumer electronic applications; the increased use of Veeco's automated AFMs as critical reference tools for sub 90 nanometer semiconductor applications; the opportunity for Veeco's MOCVD and MBE to further penetrate the emerging wireless and HB-LED market. Veeco believes that these trends, together with the continued healthy funding of nanoscience research, will prompt our customers to seek our next-generation solutions to address their manufacturing and technology challenges.

Veeco will continue its focus on increasing shareholder value through operational excellence and cash generation. The Company's goal is to increase gross margins again in 2007, with improvements in both Process Equipment and Metrology, specifically in the latter half of 2007 as revenues are forecasted to increase. Veeco anticipates that progress in this area will continue to come from activities such as better supply chain management, including outsourcing of new products, differentiated, value-added new product introductions which focus on achieving better gross margins and development of common hardware and software platforms.

**Results of Operations****Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2005**

The following tables show selected items of Veeco's Consolidated Statements of Operations, percentages of sales, and comparisons between 2006 and 2005 and the analysis of sales and orders for the same periods between our segments, industries and regions (in \$000s):

	Year ended December 31, 2006		2005		Dollar and Percentage Change Year to Year		
Net sales	\$441,034	100.0 %	\$410,190	100.0 %	\$30,844	7.5	%
Cost of sales	246,910	56.0	236,090	57.6	10,820	4.6	
Gross profit	194,124	44.0	174,100	42.4	20,024	11.5	
Operating expenses:							
Selling, general and administrative expense	93,110	21.1	84,667	20.6	8,443	10.0	
Research and development expense	61,925	14.0	60,382	14.7	1,543	2.6	
Amortization expense	16,045	3.6	16,583	4.0	(538 )	(3.2 )	
Other (income) expense, net	(572 )	(0.1 )	237	0.1	(809 )	(341.4 )	
Merger, restructuring and other expenses		0.0	1,165	0.3	(1,165 )	(100.0 )	
Write-off of purchased in-process technology	1,160	0.3		0.0	1,160	100.0	
Total operating expenses	171,668	38.9	163,034	39.7	8,634	5.3	
Operating income	22,456	5.1	11,066	2.7	11,390	102.9	
Interest expense	9,194	2.1	10,203	2.5	(1,009 )	(9.9 )	
Interest income	(4,926 )	(1.1 )	(2,635 )	(0.7 )	(2,291 )	86.9	
Gain on extinguishment of debt	(330 )	(0.1 )		0.0	(330 )	100.0	
Income before income taxes and noncontrolling interest	18,518	4.2	3,498	0.9	15,020	429.4	
Income tax provision	4,959	1.1	4,395	1.1	564	12.8	
Noncontrolling interest	(1,358 )	(0.3 )		0.0	(1,358 )	100.0	
Net income (loss)	\$14,917	3.4 %	\$(897 )	(0.2 )%	\$15,814	1,763.0 %	

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	Sales		Dollar and		Orders		Dollar and		Book to	
	Year ended		Percentage		Year ended		Percentage		Bill Ratio	
	December 31, 2006	2005	Change Year to Year		December 31, 2006	2005	Change Year to Year		2006	2005
<b>Segment Analysis</b>										
Process Equipment	\$268,878	\$227,861	\$41,017	18.0 %	\$314,725	\$228,725	\$86,000	37.6 %	1.17	1.00
Metrology	172,156	182,329	(10,173 )	(5.6 )	179,077	176,055	3,022	1.7	1.04	.97
Total	\$441,034	\$410,190	\$30,844	7.5 %	\$493,802	\$404,780	\$89,022	22.0 %	1.12	.99
<b>Industry Analysis</b>										
Data Storage	\$183,877	\$167,420	\$16,457	9.8 %	\$208,597	\$166,000	\$42,597	25.7 %	1.13	.99
HB-LED/wireless	88,563	62,566	25,997	41.6	111,273	62,390	48,883	78.4	1.26	1.00
Semiconductor	57,628	69,207	(11,579 )	(16.7 )	64,153	66,413	(2,260 )	(3.4 )	1.11	.96
Research and Industrial	110,966	110,997	(31 )	(0.0 )	109,779	109,977	(198 )	(0.2 )	.99	.99
Total	\$441,034	\$410,190	\$30,844	7.5 %	\$493,802	\$404,780	\$89,022	22.0 %	1.12	.99
<b>Regional Analysis</b>										
US	\$145,635	\$136,489	\$9,146	6.7 %	\$162,015	\$132,971	\$29,044	21.8 %	1.11	.97
Europe	69,310	81,476	(12,166 )	(14.9 )	65,988	72,937	(6,949 )	(9.5 )	.95	.90
Japan	57,241	66,500	(9,259 )	(13.9 )	60,523	64,797	(4,274 )	(6.6 )	1.06	.97
Asia Pacific	168,848	125,725	43,123	34.3	205,276	134,075	71,201	53.1	1.22	1.07
Total	\$441,034	\$410,190	\$30,844	7.5 %	\$493,802	\$404,780	\$89,022	22.0 %	1.12	.99

Net sales of \$441.0 million for 2006 were up 7.5% from \$410.2 million in 2005. In 2006, Process Equipment sales were up \$41.0 million, or 18.0%, primarily due to sales to HB-LED/wireless and data storage customers. The increases in these areas were driven by the increased use of hard drives in consumer electronics and improved conditions within the HB-LED/wireless market. Metrology sales decreased by 5.6% to \$172.1 million in 2006, from \$182.3 million in 2005, primarily due to a decrease in AFM sales to customers in the semiconductor industry. In 2006, we continued to experience an increase in sales to Asia Pacific, which increased \$43.1 million compared to 2005, and to the U.S., which increased \$9.2 million compared to 2005. These increases were partially offset by a \$12.2 million decrease in sales to Europe and a \$9.3 million decline in sales to Japan. The Company believes that there will continue to be period-to-period variations in the geographic distribution of sales.

Orders of \$493.8 million in 2006 were up 22.0% compared to 2005. By segment, Process Equipment orders increased by 37.6%, due to improved data storage industry conditions resulting from the expanded use of hard drives in consumer electronics and improved conditions within the HB-LED/wireless market. Metrology orders remained relatively flat compared to 2005. By industry, orders from data storage customers increased 25.7%, resulting from technology changes requiring increases in equipment capital expenditures. HB-LED/wireless orders increased 78.4%, predominantly due to a significant increase in demand for MOCVD systems. Regionally, the 53.1% increase in orders to the Asia Pacific region and the 21.8% increase in orders to the U.S. were partially offset by decreased orders in Europe of 9.5% and Japan of 6.6%.

The book-to-bill ratio for the year ended December 31, 2006, which is calculated by dividing orders received in a given time period by revenue recognized in that same time period, was 1.12 to 1. During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company experienced order cancellations and adjustments of \$26.0 million, primarily in the HB-LED/wireless industry for MOCVD products, as well as cancellations for AFM products. The Company also experienced rescheduling of order delivery dates by customers. Due to changing business conditions and customer requirements, the Company may continue to experience cancellations and/or rescheduling of orders.

Gross profit in 2006, increased as a percentage of net sales to 44.0% from 42.4% in 2005. Gross profit was \$194.1 million in 2006, compared to \$174.1 million in 2005. Process Equipment gross margins increased to 39.3% from 35.3% in 2005, primarily due to an increase in sales volume of \$41.0 million, improved product

mix, cost reductions and improved supply chain management, which included outsourcing. Metrology gross margins increased slightly, to 51.5% in 2006 from 51.4% in 2005.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$8.4 million, or 10.0%, in 2006, principally due to higher personnel costs, including increased bonus and profit sharing expenses, higher non-cash compensation related to stock options and restricted shares, as well as annual salary increases. In addition, selling, general and administrative expenses increased due to increased consulting costs related to implementation of a new company-wide integrated applications software, litigation related expenses for the securities class action and consolidated derivative action lawsuits as well as expansion of field sales and marketing personnel to support the Company's new product introductions and the Company's Asia-Pacific operations, including travel and related expenses.

Research and development expense totaled \$61.9 million, or 14.0% of sales, in 2006, compared with \$60.4 million, or 14.7% of sales, in 2005. This \$1.5 million increase in spending principally resulted from new product development efforts in Ion Beam and MOCVD.

Amortization expense totaled \$16.0 million, or 3.6% of sales, in 2006, compared with \$16.6 million, or 4.0% of sales, in 2005. This \$0.6 million decrease is attributable to certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized.

The Company incurred merger, restructuring and other expenses of \$1.2 million during 2005, which consisted of personnel severance costs related to consolidation and cost reduction actions. As of December 31, 2006, the entire amount of these charges had been paid. (See Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details).

In 2006, Veeco invested \$0.5 million to purchase 19.9% of the common stock of Fluens. Approximately 31% of Fluens is owned by a Vice President of one of Veeco's business units. The Company determined that Fluens is a variable interest entity and the Company is its primary beneficiary as defined by Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation (FIN) 46R, *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities (revised December 2003) an interpretation of ARB No. 51*. As such, the Company has consolidated the results of Fluens' operations from the acquisition date, and has attributed the 80.1% portion that is not owned by Veeco to noncontrolling interest in the Company's consolidated financial statements. As part of the purchase accounting adjustments made in connection with the acquisition, the Company recorded \$1.2 million of in-process research and development projects, which were written-off during 2006.

Other income, net, was \$0.6 million in 2006 compared with other expense, net of \$0.2 million in 2005. The change is primarily due to \$0.4 million loss realized in 2005 on the sale of fixed assets, miscellaneous income in 2006 related to the sale of one of the Company's domain names and a reduction in foreign currency exchange losses.

During the first quarter of 2006, the Company repurchased \$20.0 million of its convertible subordinated notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$220.0 million to \$200.0 million. The repurchase amount was \$19.5 million in cash, of which \$19.4 million related to principal and \$0.1 million related to accrued interest. As a result of the repurchase, the Company recorded a net gain from the early extinguishment of debt in the amount of \$0.3 million.

Interest expense totaled \$9.2 million in 2006, compared to \$10.2 million in 2005. This reduction in interest expense is related to the early extinguishment of debt.

Interest income totaled \$4.9 million in 2006, compared to \$2.6 million in 2005. The change is due to the increase in interest rates and higher cash balances invested during 2006.

Income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2006, amounted to \$5.0 million, or 26.8% of income before income taxes and noncontrolling interest as compared to \$4.4 million, or 125.6% of income before

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income taxes in 2005. (See Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details). The 2006 provision for income taxes included \$3.6 million relating to Veeco's foreign operations, which continue to be profitable, and \$1.4 million relating to the Company's domestic operations. Due to significant domestic net operating loss carryforwards, which are fully reserved by a valuation allowance, Veeco's domestic operations are not expected to incur significant income taxes for the foreseeable future. During the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company released \$2.2 million of its valuation allowance due to the utilization of net operating loss carryforwards. The 2005 provision for income taxes primarily related to Veeco's foreign operations, which were profitable.

Noncontrolling interest was a credit to income of \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. As the Company is the primary beneficiary of Fluens, a variable interest entity as defined by FIN46(R), Veeco is required to consolidate Fluens and eliminate the portion of its results attributable to noncontrolling interests. As a result, the Company eliminated from its net income 80.1% of the write-off of Fluens in-process technology and Fluens' operating losses since the acquisition date.

**Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004**

The following tables show selected items of Veeco's Consolidated Statements of Operations, percentages of sales, and comparisons between 2005 and 2004 and the analysis of sales and orders for the same periods between our segments, industries and regions (in \$000's):

	Year ended December 31, 2005		2004		Dollar and Percentage Change Year to Year	
Net sales	\$410,190	100.0 %	\$390,443	100.0 %	\$19,747	5.1 %
Cost of sales	236,090	57.6	238,686	61.1	(2,596 )	(1.1 )
Gross profit	174,100	42.4	151,757	38.9	22,343	14.7
Operating expenses:						
Selling, general and administrative expense	84,667	20.6	82,511	21.2	2,156	2.6
Research and development expense	60,382	14.7	58,338	14.9	2,044	3.5
Amortization expense	16,583	4.0	18,465	4.7	(1,882 )	(10.2 )
Other expense (income), net	237	0.1	(977 )	(0.2 )	1,214	124.3
Merger, restructuring and other expenses	1,165	0.3	3,562	0.9	(2,397 )	(67.3 )
Asset impairment charges		0.0	816	0.2	(816 )	100.0
Write-off of purchased in-process technology		0.0	600	0.2	(600 )	100.0
Total operating expenses	163,034	39.7	163,315	41.9	(281 )	(0.2 )
Operating income (loss)	11,066	2.7	(11,558 )	(3.0 )	22,624	195.7
Interest expense	10,203	2.5	10,250	2.6	(47 )	(0.5 )
Interest income	(2,635 )	(0.7 )	(1,780 )	(0.5 )	(855 )	48.0
Income (loss) before income taxes	3,498	0.9	(20,028 )	(5.1 )	23,526	117.5
Income tax provision	4,395	1.1	42,527	10.9	(38,132 )	(89.7 )
Net loss	\$(897 )	(0.2 )%	\$(62,555 )	(16.0 )%	\$61,658	98.6 %

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	Sales					Orders				
	Year ended December 31, 2005	2004	Dollar and Percentage Change Year to Year		Year ended December 31, 2005	2004	Dollar and Percentage Change Year to Year		Book to Bill Ratio 2005 2004	
<b>Segment Analysis</b>										
Process Equipment	\$ 227,861	\$ 227,606	\$ 255	0.1 %	\$ 228,725	\$ 260,984	\$ (32,259)	(12.4) %	1.00	1.15
Metrology	182,329	162,837	19,492	12.0	176,055	159,282	16,773	10.5	.97	.98
Total	\$ 410,190	\$ 390,443	\$ 19,747	5.1 %	\$ 404,780	\$ 420,266	\$ (15,486)	(3.7) %	.99	1.08
<b>Industry Analysis</b>										
Data Storage	\$ 167,420	\$ 123,953	\$ 43,467	35.1 %	\$ 166,000	\$ 126,119	\$ 39,881	31.6 %	.99	1.02
HB-LED/wireless	62,566	98,452	(35,886 )	(36.5 )	62,390	122,876	(60,486 )	(49.2 )	1.00	1.25
Semiconductor	69,207	54,453	14,754	27.1	66,413	66,334	79	0.1	.96	1.22
Research and Industrial	110,997	113,585	(2,588 )	(2.3 )	109,977	104,937	5,040	4.8	.99	0.92
Total	\$ 410,190	\$ 390,443	\$ 19,747	5.1 %	\$ 404,780	\$ 420,266	\$ (15,486)	(3.7) %	.99	1.08
<b>Regional Analysis</b>										
US	\$ 136,489	\$ 146,082	\$ (9,593 )	(6.6) %	\$ 132,971	\$ 154,561	\$ (21,590)	(14.0) %	.97	1.06
Europe	81,476	68,446	13,030	19.0	72,937	78,938	(6,001 )	(7.6 )	.90	1.15
Japan	66,500	67,309	(809 )	(1.2 )	64,797	66,016	(1,219 )	(1.8 )	.97	.98
Asia Pacific	125,725	108,606	17,119	15.8	134,075	120,751	13,324	11.0	1.07	1.11
Total	\$ 410,190	\$ 390,443	\$ 19,747	5.1 %	\$ 404,780	\$ 420,266	\$ (15,486)	(3.7) %	.99	1.08

Net sales of \$410.2 million for 2005 were up 5.1% from \$390.4 million in 2004. In 2005, Process Equipment sales were up \$0.3 million, or 0.1%. This reflects increased purchases by data storage customers, resulting from a continued increase in capacity in the data storage industry as well as technology investment in next-generation, higher areal density perpendicular thin film heads offset by a reduction of sales of MOCVD products, primarily to customers in the HB-LED/wireless industry, and a reduction in MBE sales attributable to less purchases by customers in the research and industrial and HB-LED/wireless industries. Metrology sales increased by 12.0% to \$182.3 million in 2005, from \$162.8 million in 2004, primarily due to increased purchases in the semiconductor and data storage markets. In 2005, we continued to experience a shift in sales from the U.S. to the Asia Pacific region, which experienced increased sales of \$17.1 million in 2005 compared to 2004, due to manufacturing base shifts. The Company believes that there will continue to be period-to-period variations in the geographic distribution of sales.

Orders of \$404.8 million in 2005 were down 3.7% as compared to 2004. By segment, orders in Process Equipment decreased by 12.4%, due to a decrease in HB-LED orders for MOCVD systems, offset in part, by improved data storage industry conditions resulting from the expanded use of hard drives in consumer electronics. Orders in the Metrology segment increased by 10.5%, due primarily to higher demand in the data storage and semiconductor industries. By industry, orders from data storage customers increased 31.6% on higher deposition and etch orders. HB-LED/wireless orders decreased 49.2% predominantly due to a significant reduction in demand for MOCVD systems. Regionally, the decline in orders in the U.S. of 14.0% and the increase in orders to the Asia Pacific region of 11.0% is mostly the result of a continued shift to overseas production by our customers, primarily in the data storage industry.

The book-to-bill ratio for the year ended December 31, 2005, which is calculated by dividing orders received in a given time period by revenue recognized in that same time period, was .99 to 1. During the year ended December 31, 2005, the Company experienced order cancellations of \$16.7 million, primarily in the data storage and HB-LED/wireless industries. The Company also experienced rescheduling of order delivery dates by customers. Due to changing business conditions and customer requirements, the Company may continue to experience cancellations and/or rescheduling of orders.

Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2005, increased as a percentage of net sales to 42.4% from 38.9% in 2004. Gross profit was \$174.1 million in 2005, compared to \$151.8 million in 2004. The increase in gross margins was partially attributed to a product mix shift from lower gross margin process equipment products to the higher gross margin metrology products. The percentage of total sales for metrology products increased from 41.7% in 2004 to 44.4% in 2005, which represents a \$19.5 million increase in revenue. Process equipment product sales remained flat when compared to 2004, but as a

percentage of total sales declined from 58.3% in 2004 to 55.6% in 2005. Process Equipment gross margins increased to 35.3% from 30.3% in 2004, primarily due to an increase in sales volume of higher deposition and etch tools, cost reductions including warranty and material costs and improved supply chain management which included outsourcing, offset in part by a decline in sales volume of MOCVD systems. Gross profit in 2004 was negatively impacted by \$0.4 million in purchase accounting adjustments relating to the acquisition of Aii and \$1.1 million in purchase accounting adjustments relating to the acquisition of TurboDisc. These purchase accounting adjustments resulted from the required capitalization of profit in inventory and the permanent elimination of certain deferred revenue. Metrology gross margins decreased slightly from 52.0% in 2004 to 51.4% in 2005 primarily due to an unfavorable AFM product mix.

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$2.2 million, or 2.6% in 2005 principally due to higher personnel costs, including increased bonus and profit sharing expenses and additional management totaling \$3.8 million, as well as an increase in legal and insurance costs of \$1.1 million. These increases were partially offset by a reduction in selling expenses of \$1.6 million resulting from reduced personnel and a reduction in commissions expense of \$1.1 million due to the continued shift in revenues to the Asia Pacific region, where commission rates are lower.

Research and development expense totaled \$60.4 million or 14.7% of sales in 2005, compared with \$58.3 million or 14.9% of sales in 2004. This \$2.0 million increase in spending principally resulted from new product development in Ion Beam and MOCVD products, as well as incremental costs attributable to the MTI acquisition in October 2004.

Amortization expense totaled \$16.6 million or 4.0% of sales in 2005, compared with \$18.5 million or 4.7% of sales in 2004. This \$1.9 million decrease is attributable to certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized.

Other expense, net, was \$0.2 million in 2005 compared with other income, net of \$1.0 million in 2004. The change is primarily due to foreign currency exchange losses and a loss realized on the sale of fixed assets in 2005.

The Company incurred merger, restructuring and other expenses of \$1.2 million during 2005, which consisted of personnel severance costs related to consolidation and cost reduction actions. As of December 31, 2005, \$0.9 million of these severance charges are included in accrued expenses. They were paid by the third quarter of 2006. During 2004, the Company incurred \$3.6 million of merger, restructuring and other expenses, which was comprised of \$2.8 million in severance related to a reduction in employment in the fourth quarter of 2004 and \$0.8 million for costs related to the internal investigation of improper accounting transactions at TurboDisc. As of December 31, 2005, the entire amount of these charges had been paid. (See Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details).

Asset impairment charges of \$0.8 million in 2004 related to the consolidation of the Aii and MTI businesses and to certain long-lived assets of Aii that were classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2004. In accordance with SFAS No. 144, these long-lived assets were measured at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value less selling costs.

The \$0.6 million write-off of purchased in-process technology in 2004 resulted from the MTI acquisition of projects that had not reached technological feasibility and had no alternate uses. (See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details on the projects included).

Interest income totaled \$2.6 million compared to \$1.8 million in the comparable 2004 period. The change is due to the increase in interest rates and higher cash balances invested during 2005.

Income taxes for the year ended December 31, 2005, amounted to \$4.4 million, or 125.6% of income before income taxes as compared to \$42.5 million, or 212.3% of loss before income taxes in 2004. (See Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details). The 2005 provision for

income taxes included \$3.2 million relating to our foreign operations, which are profitable, and \$1.2 million relating to our domestic operations, which incurred a taxable loss. A portion of the domestic loss was taxable. The provision for income taxes in 2004 included a \$54.0 million charge due to providing a full valuation allowance on our domestic net deferred tax assets, and foreign taxes of \$1.8 million partially offset by income tax benefits derived from a domestic net operating loss.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Historically, Veeco's principal capital requirements have included the funding of acquisitions and capital expenditures. The Company traditionally has generated cash from operations and debt and stock issuances. Veeco's ability to generate sufficient cash flows from operations is dependent on the continued demand for the Company's products and services.

Veeco's primary source of funds at December 31, 2006, consisted of \$147.0 million of cash and cash equivalents. This amount represents an increase of \$22.5 million from the December 31, 2005 balance of \$124.5 million. The Company's primary future cash commitment is in 2008, when the \$154 million of 4.125% convertible subordinated notes outstanding as of February 7, 2007 mature. The notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time on or prior to maturity into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$38.51 per share and are redeemable by Veeco under certain circumstances. (See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for details).

Cash provided by operations during the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$46.0 million compared to \$44.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2005. The \$46.0 million was comprised of \$14.9 million in net income and \$33.1 million derived from adjustments for non-cash items, partially offset by a net \$2.0 million decrease from changes in operating assets and liabilities. The non-cash items included \$30.1 million in depreciation and amortization expense. The net \$2.0 million decrease in operating assets and liabilities included higher cash balances resulting from a \$9.2 million increase in accounts payable, a \$0.2 million increase in accrued expenses and other current liabilities and a \$3.8 million decrease in accounts receivable, offset by cash used for a \$10.5 million increase in inventories and a \$4.7 million increase in other, net. Accounts payable increased by \$9.2 million, as the Company managed its payables to increase days payable outstanding, as well as the timing of payments processed at the end of the year. Accounts receivable decreased \$3.8 million during 2006 due to an improvement in days sales outstanding. Inventories increased by approximately \$10.5 million during the year, principally due to shipment delays in the both the process equipment and metrology segments and the build up of work-in-process for products to be shipped in the first quarter of 2007. In addition, inventories increased due primarily to revenue recognition being deferred on certain tools shipped, where title does not transfer to the end customer until final customer acceptance. The \$4.7 million increase in other, net is mainly due to increased VAT (value added tax) related to Veeco's foreign subsidiaries and other receivables relating to grant programs, insurance reimbursements for legal claims and capitalized software.

Cash used in investing activities of \$18.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2006, resulted primarily from capital expenditures of \$17.4 million and earn-out payments totaling \$3.1 million to the former owners of TurboDisc and Nanodevices Inc. Partially offsetting these cash uses were the net satisfaction of an escrow account related to a prior year acquisition. In 2007, the Company expects to invest approximately \$16.8 million in total capital projects primarily related to engineering equipment and lab tools used in producing, testing and process development for Veeco's products, enhanced manufacturing facilities and the continuing implementation of SAP and related computer systems.

Cash used in financing activities of \$4.4 million in 2006 primarily consisted of cash used in the repurchase of a portion of the Company's outstanding convertible subordinated notes, as discussed below, partially offset by \$15.5 million of common stock issuances resulting from the exercise of employee stock options and the purchase of shares under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan.



On December 21, 2001, the Company issued \$200.0 million of 4.125% convertible subordinated notes, and on January 3, 2002, the Company issued an additional \$20.0 million of notes pursuant to an over-allotment option. During the first quarter of 2006, the Company repurchased \$20.0 million of its notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$220.0 million to \$200.0 million. The repurchase amount was \$19.5 million in cash, of which \$19.4 million related to principal and \$0.1 million related to accrued interest. As a result of the repurchase, the Company recorded a net gain from the early extinguishment of debt in the amount \$0.3 million. During the first quarter of 2007, the Company repurchased an additional \$46.0 million of these notes. Veeco paid \$45.2 million in cash for the repurchase, of which \$45.0 million related to principal and \$0.2 million related to accrued interest. As a result of this repurchase, the amount of Veeco's convertible subordinated notes outstanding was reduced to \$154.0 million and Veeco recorded a net gain of \$0.6 million. The Company may engage in similar transactions in the future depending on market conditions, its cash position and other factors.

The notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time on or prior to maturity into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$38.51 per share. The Company pays interest on these notes on June 21 and December 21 of each year. The notes will mature on December 21, 2008. The notes are subordinated in right of payment to substantially all other indebtedness of the Company. The notes are repayable upon certain change of control events and upon the acceleration of certain other indebtedness. The notes may be redeemed at the option of the Company at the redemption prices set forth in the indenture relating to the notes.

The Company has a revolving credit facility which provides for borrowings of up to \$50.0 million (the Facility). The Facility's annual interest rate is a floating rate equal to the prime rate of the agent bank plus 1/4% and is adjustable to a minimum rate equal to the prime rate in the event the Company's ratio of debt to cash flow is below a defined amount. A LIBOR based interest rate option is also provided. Borrowings under the Facility may be used for general corporate purposes, including working capital and acquisitions. The Facility contains certain restrictive covenants, which among other requirements, impose limitations with respect to the incurrence of indebtedness, the payment of dividends, long-term leases, investments, mergers, acquisitions, consolidations and sales of assets. The Company is in compliance with these restrictive covenants as of December 31, 2006. The Company is required to satisfy certain financial tests under the Facility and substantially all of the assets of the Company and its material domestic subsidiaries, other than real estate, have been pledged to secure the Company's obligations under the Facility. As of December 31, 2006, no borrowings were outstanding under the Facility. The Company had unsecured letters of credit outstanding at December 31, 2006 in the amount of \$3.2 million. The Facility expires on March 14, 2008.

At December 31, 2006, Veeco's contractual cash obligations and commitments are as follows (in thousands):

Contractual Cash Obligations and Commitments	Payments due by period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt	\$ 209,204	\$ 5,597	\$ 200,512	\$ 441	\$ 2,654
Interest on debt(1)	18,973	8,786	9,013	424	750
Operating leases	13,730	4,200	5,332	3,126	1,072
Letters of credit	3,182	3,182			
Purchase commitments	13,592	13,592			
	\$ 258,681	\$ 35,357	\$ 214,857	\$ 3,991	\$ 4,476

(1) Veeco's repurchase of \$46.0 million of debt during the first quarter of 2007 will reduce these interest commitments by \$1.7 million in 2007 and \$1.9 million in 2008.

The Company believes that existing cash balances together with cash generated from operations and amounts available under the Company's \$50.0 million Facility will be sufficient to meet the Company's projected working capital and other cash flow requirements for the next twelve months, as well as the Company's contractual obligations, detailed in the above table. The Company believes it will be able to meet its obligation to repay the \$154.0 million subordinated notes that mature on December 21, 2008 through a combination of conversion of the notes outstanding, refinancing, cash generated from operations, and other means.

During the first half of 2006, the Company made payments for earn-out provisions to the former shareholders of Nanodevices Inc. for \$1.1 million and to the former owner of TurboDisc for \$2.0 million. Such amounts were accrued at December 31, 2005. In addition, the Company was potentially liable for an earn-out payment to the former shareholders of Advanced Imaging, Inc. based on achieving revenue in excess of certain targets for 2006, which were not met. There are no remaining payment obligations to any of these shareholders.

In 2006, Veeco invested \$0.5 million to purchase 19.9% of the common stock of Fluens. Approximately 31% of Fluens is owned by a Vice President of one of Veeco's business units. Veeco and Fluens plan to jointly develop a next-generation process for high-rate deposition of aluminum oxide for data storage applications. If this development is successful and upon the satisfaction of certain additional conditions by May 2009, Veeco will be obligated to purchase the balance of the outstanding stock of Fluens for \$3.0 million plus an earn-out payment to Fluens' other stockholders based on future performance.

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to minimize the impact of foreign exchange rate changes on earnings and cash flows. On December 28, 2006 and December 30, 2005, the Company entered into forward contracts for the months of January of 2007 and 2006, respectively, for the notional amounts of approximately \$1.3 million and \$16.9 million, respectively. The fair values of the contracts at inception were zero, which did not significantly change at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

#### **Application of Critical Accounting Policies**

*General:* Veeco's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires Veeco to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments, including those related to bad debts, inventories, intangible assets and other long-lived assets, income taxes, warranty obligations, restructuring costs and contingent liabilities, including potential litigation. Management bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. The Company considers certain accounting policies related to revenue recognition, the valuation of inventories, the impairment of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets, the impairment of long-lived assets, warranty costs, the accounting for deferred taxes and share-based compensation to be critical policies due to the estimation processes involved in each.

*Revenue Recognition:* The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with the SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 104, *Revenue Recognition*. Certain of our product sales are accounted for as multiple-element arrangements in accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 00-21, *Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables*. A multiple-element arrangement is a transaction which may involve the delivery or performance of multiple products, services, or rights to use assets, and performance may occur at different points in time or over different periods of time. The Company

recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collectibility is reasonably assured. For products produced according to the Company's published specifications, where no installation is required or installation is deemed perfunctory and no substantive customer acceptance provisions exist, revenue is recognized when title passes to the customer, generally upon shipment. For products produced according to a particular customer's specifications, revenue is recognized when the product has been tested, it has been demonstrated that it meets the customer's specifications and title passes to the customer. The amount of revenue recorded is reduced by the amount of any customer retention (generally 10% to 20%), which is not payable by the customer until installation is completed and final customer acceptance is achieved. Installation is not deemed to be essential to the functionality of the equipment since installation does not involve significant changes to the features or capabilities of the equipment or building complex interfaces and connections. In addition, the equipment could be installed by the customer or other vendors and generally the cost of installation approximates only 1% to 2% of the sales value of the related equipment. For new products, new applications of existing products, or for products with substantive customer acceptance provisions where performance cannot be fully assessed prior to meeting customer specifications at the customer site, revenue is recognized upon completion of installation and receipt of final customer acceptance. Since title to goods generally passes to the customer upon shipment and 80% to 90% of the contract amount becomes payable at that time, inventory is relieved and accounts receivable is recorded for the amount billed at the time of shipment. The profit on the amount billed for these transactions is deferred and recorded as deferred profit in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, \$0.3 and \$0.5 million, respectively, are recorded in deferred profit. Service and maintenance contract revenues are recorded as deferred revenue, which is included in other accrued expenses, and recognized as revenue on a straight-line basis over the service period of the related contract.

*Inventory Valuation:* Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (principally first-in, first-out method) or market. Management evaluates the need to record adjustments for impairment of inventory on a quarterly basis. The Company's policy is to assess the valuation of all inventories, including raw materials, work-in-process, finished goods and spare parts. Obsolete inventory or inventory in excess of management's estimated usage for the next 12 months' requirements is written-down to its estimated market value, if less than its cost. Inherent in the estimates of market value are management's estimates related to Veeco's future manufacturing schedules, customer demand, technological and/or market obsolescence, possible alternative uses and ultimate realization of excess inventory.

*Goodwill and Indefinite-Lived Intangible Asset Impairment:* The Company has significant intangible assets related to goodwill and other acquired intangibles. In assessing the recoverability of the Company's goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets, the Company must make assumptions regarding estimated future cash flows and other factors to determine the fair value of the respective assets. If it is determined that impairment indicators are present and that the assets will not be fully recoverable, their carrying values are reduced to estimated fair value. Impairment indicators include, among other conditions, cash flow deficits, an historic or anticipated decline in revenue or operating profit, adverse legal or regulatory developments, and a material decrease in the fair value of some or all of the assets. Assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are identifiable cash flows that are largely independent of the cash flows generated by other asset groups. Changes in strategy and/or market conditions could significantly impact these assumptions, and thus Veeco may be required to record impairment charges for those assets not previously recorded. During the fourth quarter of 2006, 2005 and 2004, as required, the Company performed an annual impairment test, and based upon the judgment of management, it was determined that no impairment exists.

*Long-Lived Asset Impairment:* The carrying values of long-lived assets are periodically reviewed to determine if any impairment indicators are present. If it is determined that such indicators are present and the review indicates that the assets will not be fully recoverable, based on undiscounted estimated cash

flows over the remaining depreciation period, their carrying values are reduced to estimated fair value. Impairment indicators include, among other conditions, cash flow deficits, an historic or anticipated decline in revenue or operating profit, adverse legal or regulatory developments, and a material decrease in the fair value of some or all of the assets. Assets are grouped at the lowest level for which there is identifiable cash flows that are largely independent of the cash flows generated by other asset groups. Assumptions utilized by management in reviewing for impairment of long-lived assets could be effected by changes in strategy and/or market conditions which may require Veeco to record additional impairment charges for these assets, as well as impairment charges on other long-lived assets not previously recorded. During 2004, \$0.8 million in fixed asset impairment charges were recorded by the Company related to the consolidation of the Aii and MTI business. No asset impairment charges were recorded during 2006 and 2005.

*Warranty Costs:* The Company estimates the costs that may be incurred under the warranty it provides and records a liability in the amount of such costs at the time the related revenue is recognized. Estimated warranty costs are determined by analyzing specific product and historical configuration statistics and regional warranty support costs. The Company's warranty obligation is affected by product failure rates, material usage and labor costs incurred in correcting product failures during the warranty period. As the Company's customer engineers and process support engineers are highly trained and deployed globally, labor availability is a significant factor in determining labor costs. The quantity and availability of critical replacement parts is another significant factor in estimating warranty costs. Unforeseen component failures or exceptional component performance can also result in changes to warranty costs. If actual warranty costs differ substantially from the Company's estimates, revisions to the estimated warranty liability would be required.

*Deferred Tax Valuation Allowance:* As part of the process of preparing Veeco's Consolidated Financial Statements, the Company is required to estimate its income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which it operates. This process involves estimating the actual current tax expense, together with assessing temporary differences resulting from differing treatment of items for tax and accounting purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are included within the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. The carrying value of deferred tax assets is adjusted by a valuation allowance to recognize the extent to which the future tax benefits will be recognized on a more likely than not basis. Our net deferred tax assets consist primarily of net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards, and timing differences between the book and tax treatment of inventory and other asset valuations. Realization of these net deferred tax assets is dependent upon our ability to generate future taxable income.

We record valuation allowances in order to reduce our deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized. In assessing the adequacy of recorded valuation allowances, we consider a variety of factors, including the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, future taxable income, and prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. Under SFAS No. 109, factors such as current and previous operating losses are given significantly greater weight than the outlook for future profitability in determining the deferred tax asset carrying value.

For the year ended December 31, 2004, the Company recognized a charge of approximately \$54.0 million to establish a valuation allowance against substantially all of its domestic net deferred tax assets, which consist of net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards, as well as temporary deductible differences. At December 31, 2004 the Company's valuation allowance was \$62.8 million. The valuation allowance of \$70.0 million at December 31, 2005, increased by approximately \$7.2 million during 2005, principally due to the benefit derived from the extraterritorial income exclusion and additional foreign tax credits. The valuation allowance of \$67.8 million at December 31, 2006 decreased by approximately \$2.2 million in 2006, principally due to the utilization of net operating losses resulting in a decrease in net domestic deferred tax assets. The valuation allowance was calculated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 109, which places primary importance on the Company's historical results of operations.

Although the Company earned net income of \$14.9 million in 2006 and its results in prior years were significantly affected by restructuring and other charges, the Company's historical loss and the losses incurred in 2005 and 2004 represent negative evidence sufficient to require a full valuation allowance under the provisions of SFAS No. 109. If the Company is able to realize part or all of the deferred tax assets in future periods, it will reduce its provision for income taxes with a release of the valuation allowance in an amount that corresponds with the income tax liability generated.

*Share-Based Compensation:* Prior to 2006, the Company accounted for its stock option plans under the recognition and measurement principles of Accounting Principles Board ( APB ) Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*, and related interpretations and generally, no compensation expense was reflected in net income as all options granted under those plans had an exercise price equal to the market value of the underlying common stock on the date of grant. Effective January 1, 2006, the Company adopted SFAS No. 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*, which is a revision of SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*, supersedes APB No. 25 and amends SFAS No. 95, *Statement of Cash Flows*. Generally, the approach in SFAS No. 123(R) is similar to the approach described in SFAS No. 123. However, SFAS No. 123(R) requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the income statement based on their fair values. Pro forma disclosure is no longer an alternative. SFAS No. 123(R) was adopted using the modified prospective method of application, which requires Veeco to recognize compensation expense on a prospective basis. Therefore, prior period financial statements have not been restated. Under this method, in addition to reflecting compensation expense for new share-based awards, expense is also recognized to reflect the remaining service period of awards that had been included in the pro forma disclosures in prior periods. SFAS No. 123(R) also requires the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost to be reported as a financing cash flow, rather than as an operating cash flow as required under previous accounting literature, which has the effect of reducing consolidated net operating cash flows and increasing consolidated net financing cash flows in periods after adoption. For the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company did not recognize any consolidated financing cash flows for such excess tax deductions.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, the Company granted 161,200 stock options and 240,650 restricted common stock awards and units to its directors, officers and employees. As a result of adopting SFAS No. 123(R), the Company's net income for the year ended December 31, 2006, was \$0.6 million lower than if it had continued to account for share-based compensation under APB No. 25. Net income per common share and diluted net income per common share for the year ended December 31, 2006, are \$0.02 lower than if the Company had continued to account for share-based compensation under APB No. 25. As of December 31, 2006, the total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested stock awards and option awards is \$4.2 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, and the related weighted average period over which it is expected that such unrecognized compensation costs will be recognized is approximately 2.3 years for the nonvested stock awards and 2 years for option awards.

With the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) on January 1, 2006, the Company is required to record the fair value of stock-based compensation awards as an expense. In order to determine the fair value of stock options on the date of grant, the Company applies the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Inherent in the model are assumptions related to expected stock-price volatility, option life, risk-free interest rate and dividend yield. While the risk-free interest rate and dividend yield are less subjective assumptions, typically based on factual data derived from public sources, the expected stock-price volatility and option life assumptions require a level of judgment which make them critical accounting estimates. Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2005, the Company used an expected stock-price volatility assumption that is a combination of both historical and implied volatilities of the underlying stock, which is obtained from public data sources. Prior to that time, the Company based this assumption solely on historical volatility. With regard to the weighted-average option life assumption, the Company considers the exercise behavior of past grants and models the pattern of aggregate exercises.

*Recent Accounting Pronouncements:* In July 2006, FASB issued FIN 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes*. FIN 48 clarifies the accounting and disclosure for income taxes by defining the threshold for recognizing the benefits of tax return positions in the financial statements as more-likely-than-not to be sustained by the taxing authority. It also provides guidance on derecognition, measurement and classification of income tax uncertainties, along with any related interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. The Company is currently assessing the impact of FIN 48 on its consolidated financial position and results of operations.

In September 2006, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. Statement No. 157 establishes a common definition for fair value to be applied to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requiring use of fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosure about such fair value measurements. Statement No. 157 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The adoption of this statement is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position and results of operations.

In September 2006, the FASB issued FASB Statement No. 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans*. Statement No. 158 requires an employer to recognize the overfunded or underfunded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan as an asset or liability in its statement of financial position and to recognize changes in that funded status in the year in which the changes occur through comprehensive income. This Statement also requires an employer to measure the funded status of a plan as of the date of its year-end statement of financial position, with limited exceptions. The recognition and disclosure provisions of Statement No. 158 are effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2006. The requirement to measure plan assets and benefit obligations as of the date of the employer's fiscal year-end statement of financial position is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2008. The Company adopted the recognition and disclosure provisions of this statement for the year ended December 31, 2006. The adoption of this statement had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial position and results of operations.

**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.**

*Market Risk*

The principal market risks (such as the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices) to which the Company is exposed are:

- rates on debt and short-term and long-term investment portfolios, and
- exchange rates, generating translation and transaction gains and losses.

*Interest Rates*

Veeco centrally manages its debt and investment portfolios considering investment opportunities and risks, tax consequences and overall financing strategies. Veeco's investment portfolios at December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively, consist of cash equivalents. Assuming year-end 2006 variable debt and investment levels, a one-point change in interest rates would not have a material impact on net interest expense. In December 2001 and January 2002, respectively, the Company issued an aggregate of \$220.0 million of 4.125% convertible subordinated notes. During the first quarter of 2006, the Company repurchased \$20.0 million of its notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$220.0 million to \$200.0 million. During the first quarter of 2007, the Company repurchased \$46.0 million of its notes, reducing the amount outstanding from \$200.0 million to \$154.0 million. The notes are convertible, at the option of the holder, at any time on or prior to maturity into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$38.51 per share. The Company pays interest on these notes on June 21 and December 21 of each year. Interest

payments commenced on June 21, 2002 (see Note 4 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements). The notes will mature on December 21, 2008. The notes are redeemable at the option of the Company, at the redemption prices set forth in the indenture.

#### *Foreign Operations*

Operating in international markets involves exposure to movements in currency exchange rates, which are volatile at times. The economic impact of currency exchange rate movements on Veeco is complex because such changes are often linked to variability in real growth, inflation, interest rates, governmental actions and other factors. These changes, if material, could cause the Company to adjust its financing and operating strategies. Consequently, isolating the effect of changes in currency does not incorporate these other important economic factors.

Veeco's net sales to foreign customers represented approximately 67% of Veeco's total net sales in 2006 and 2005 and 63% in 2004. The Company expects that net sales to foreign customers will continue to represent a large percentage of Veeco's total net sales. Veeco's net sales denominated in foreign currencies represented approximately 16% of total net sales in 2006, 20% in 2005 and 23% in 2004. The aggregate foreign currency exchange loss included in determining consolidated results of operations was approximately \$0.3 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.2 million in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Included in the aggregate foreign currency exchange loss were (losses) gains relating to forward contracts of (\$0.2) million, \$0.2 million, and \$0.0 million in 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. These amounts were recognized and included in other (income) expense, net. As of December 31, 2006, approximately \$0.1 million of gains related to forward contracts were included in prepaid expenses and other current assets and cash in an amount equivalent to such gains was received in January 2007. As of December 31, 2005, approximately \$0.1 million of losses related to forward contracts were included in accrued expenses and subsequently paid in January 2006. On December 28, 2006, the Company entered into forward contracts for the month of January 2007 for the notional amount of \$1.3 million. The fair values of the contracts at inception were zero, which did not significantly change at December 31, 2006. Veeco is exposed to financial market risks, including changes in foreign currency exchange rates. To mitigate these risks, Veeco uses derivative financial instruments. Veeco does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes. The Company enters into monthly forward contracts to reduce the effect of fluctuating foreign currencies on short-term foreign currency-denominated intercompany transactions and other known currency exposures. The average notional amount of such contracts outstanding was approximately \$3.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2006. The changes in currency exchange rates that have the largest impact on translating Veeco's international operating (loss) profit are the Japanese Yen and the Euro. The Company believes that based upon its hedging program, a 10% change in foreign exchange rates would have an immaterial impact on the consolidated results of operations. The Company believes that this quantitative measure has inherent limitations because, as discussed in the first paragraph of this section, it does not take into account any governmental actions or changes in either customer purchasing patterns or our financing and operating strategies.

#### *Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements*

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future material effect on the Company's financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenue or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.**

The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company are listed in the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule filed as part of this Form 10-K.

**Quarterly Results of Operations**

The following table presents selected unaudited financial data for each quarter of fiscal 2006 and 2005. Although unaudited, this information has been prepared on a basis consistent with the Company's audited Consolidated Financial Statements and, in the opinion of the Company's management, reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) that the Company considers necessary for a fair presentation of this information in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Such quarterly results are not necessarily indicative of future results of operations and should be read in conjunction with the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and the notes thereto.

**Quarterly Statements of Operations (In thousands, except per share data):**

	Fiscal 2006					Fiscal 2005				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
Net sales	\$ 93,918	\$ 111,635	\$ 112,369	\$ 123,112	\$ 441,034	\$ 93,850	\$ 103,415	\$ 100,078	\$ 112,847	\$ 410,190
Cost of sales	52,149	61,923	64,513	68,325	246,910	56,318	59,989	55,816	63,967	236,090
Gross profit	41,769	49,712	47,856	54,787	194,124	37,532	43,426	44,262	48,880	174,100
Costs and expenses	40,130	44,105	41,727	44,546	170,508	39,387	41,394	40,049	41,039	161,869
Merger, restructuring and other expenses									1,165	1,165
Write-off of purchased in-process technology			1,160		1,160					
Operating income (loss)	1,639	5,607	4,969	10,241	22,456	(1,855)	2,032	4,213	6,676	11,066
Interest expense, net	1,378	1,149	1,056	685	4,268	2,146	1,959	1,815	1,648	7,568
Gain on extinguishment of debt	(330)				(330)					
Income (loss) before income taxes and noncontrolling interest	591	4,458	3,913	9,556	18,518	(4,001)	73	2,398	5,028	3,498
Income tax provision	833	1,433	612	2,081	4,959	701	522	832	2,340	4,395
Noncontrolling interest			(1,207)	(151)	(1,358)					
Net (loss) income	\$ (242)	\$ 3,025	\$ 4,508	\$ 7,626	\$ 14,917	\$ (4,702)	\$ (449)	\$ 1,566	\$ 2,688	\$ (897)
<b>Net (loss) income and diluted net (loss) income per common share:</b>										
Net (loss) income per common share	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.49	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.09	\$ (0.03)
Diluted net (loss) income per common share	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.48	\$ (0.16)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.09	\$ (0.03)
Weighted average shares outstanding	30,081	30,322	30,693	30,859	30,492	29,855	29,863	29,965	30,002	29,921
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	30,081	31,254	31,393	31,185	31,059	29,855	29,863	30,360	30,264	29,921



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A variety of factors influence the level of the Company's net sales in a particular quarter including economic conditions in the semiconductor, data storage and HB-LED/wireless industries, the timing of significant orders, shipment delays, specific feature requests by customers, the introduction of new products by the Company and its competitors, production and quality problems, changes in material costs, disruption in sources of supply, seasonal patterns of capital spending by customers, and other factors, many of which are beyond the Company's control. In addition, the Company derives a substantial portion of its revenues from the sale of products which have an average selling price in excess of \$750,000. As a result, the timing of recognition of revenue from a single transaction could have a significant impact on the Company's net sales and operating results in any given quarter.

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**Item 9.** Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

None.

**Item 9A.** Controls and Procedures.

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Company's senior management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-14 and 15d-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act)) designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

The Company has evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures under the supervision of and with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective in timely alerting them to material information required to be included in our periodic Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Subsequent to that evaluation there have been no significant changes in our disclosure controls or procedures or other factors that could significantly affect these controls or procedures after such evaluation.

**Design and Evaluation of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, we have included a report of management's assessment of the design and effectiveness of its internal controls as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006. Our independent registered public accounting firm also attested to, and reported on, management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Management's report and the independent registered public accounting firm's attestation report are included in our Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2006 under the captions entitled Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

**Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The Company is presently in the process of implementing a new company-wide integrated applications software and, as of December 31, 2006, has completed the conversion to this new platform in approximately 70% of Veeco's businesses with the remainder expected to be completed in 2007. As a result, certain changes have been made to the Company's internal controls, which management believes will strengthen the Company's internal control structure. There have been no other significant changes in our internal controls or other factors that could significantly affect these controls after such evaluation.

**Item 9B.** Other Information.

None

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**PART III**

Portions of the information required by Part III of Form 10-K are incorporated by reference from Veeco's Proxy Statement to be filed with the SEC in connection with Veeco's 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Proxy Statement).

**Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.**

The information required by Item 10 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our Proxy Statement under the headings Corporate Governance, Executive Officers and Section 16(a) Reporting Compliance.

Veeco has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Officers (the Code) which applies to its chief executive officer, president, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and persons performing similar functions. A copy of the Code can be found on Veeco's website (www.veeco.com). Veeco intends to disclose on its website the nature of any future amendments to and waivers of the Code that apply to the chief executive officer, president, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or persons performing similar functions. The website address above is intended to be an inactive, textual reference only. None of the material on this website is part of this report.

**Item 11. Executive Compensation.**

The information required by Item 11 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our Proxy Statement under the heading Executive Compensation.

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.**

The information required by Item 12 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our Proxy Statement under the heading Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Equity Compensation Plan Information.

The following table gives information about our common stock that may be issued under our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2006. See Note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included herein for information regarding the material features of these plans.

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)		Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	5,905,678	(A)	\$ 25.50	2,174,724
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	457,235	(B)	\$ 26.55	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,362,913</b>			<b>2,174,724</b>

(A) Includes 8,765 stock options assumed in connection with the acquisition of CVC, Inc. on May 10, 2000, which merger was approved by stockholders.

(B) Includes 197,192 stock options assumed in connection with the acquisition of Applied Epi, Inc. on September 17, 2001.

**Item 13.** Certain Relationships, Related Transactions and Director Independence.

The information required by Item 13 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our Proxy Statement under the headings Independence of the Board of Directors and Certain Relationships and Related Transactions.

**Item 14.** Principal Accounting Fees and Services.

The information required by Item 14 of Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our Proxy Statement under the heading Proposal 2 Ratification of the Appointment of Ernst & Young LLP.

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**PART IV****Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.**

(a) The Registrant's financial statements together with a separate table of contents are annexed hereto. The financial statement schedule is listed in the separate table of contents annexed hereto.

## (b) Exhibits

Unless otherwise indicated, each of the following exhibits has been previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Company under File No. 0-16244.

Number	Exhibit	Incorporated by Reference to the Following Documents
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company dated December 1, 1994, as amended June 2, 1997 and July 25, 1997.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1997, Exhibit 3.1
3.2	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 29, 1998.	Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, Exhibit 3.2
3.3	Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 5, 2000.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2000, Exhibit 3.1
3.4	Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Veeco.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001, Exhibit 3.1
3.5	Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, effective October 26, 2000.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-49476), filed November 7, 2000, Exhibit 4.3
4.1	Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as Rights Agent, including the form of the Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights setting forth the terms of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as Exhibit A, the form of Rights Certificates as Exhibit B and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Stock as Exhibit C.	Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated March 15, 2001, Exhibit 1
4.2	Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated as of September 6, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as rights agent.	Current Report on Form 8-K, filed September 21, 2001, Exhibit 4.1
4.3	Amendment No 2 to Rights Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as rights agent.	Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 4.1
4.4	Indenture between Veeco and State Street Bank and Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, dated December 21, 2001, relating to the 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ % convertible subordinated notes due 2008.	Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-84252), filed March 13, 2002, Exhibit 4.1

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4.5	Form of Note/Indenture relating to Debt Securities which may be offered on a delayed or continuous basis.	Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-128004), filed September 28, 2005, Exhibit 4.1
10.1	Credit Agreement, dated as of March 15, 2005, among Veeco Instruments Inc., HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders named therein.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2005, Exhibit 10.1
10.2	First Amendment dated as of April 6, 2006 to the Credit Agreement dated March 15, 2005 among Veeco Instruments Inc., HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as administrative agent, and the lenders named therein.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2006, Exhibit 10.1
10.3	Security Agreement dated as of March 15, 2005 among Veeco Instruments Inc., the subsidiaries of Veeco named therein and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as administrative agent.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2005, Exhibit 10.2
10.4	Loan Agreement dated as of December 15, 1999 between Applied Epi, Inc. and Jackson National Life Insurance Company.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, Exhibit 10.2
10.5	Amendment to Loan Documents effective as of September 17, 2001 between Applied Epi, Inc. and Jackson National Life Insurance Company (executed in June 2002).	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2002, Exhibit 10.2
10.6	Promissory Note dated as of December 15, 1999 issued by Applied Epi, Inc. to Jackson National Life Insurance Company.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, Exhibit 10.3
10.7*	Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1992 Employees Stock Option Plan.	Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 33-93958), Exhibit 10.20
10.8*	Amendment dated May 15, 1997 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1992 Employees Stock Option Plan.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-35009) filed September 5, 1997, Exhibit 10.1
10.9*	Amendment dated July 25, 1997 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1992 Employees Stock Option Plan.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-35009) filed September 5, 1997, Exhibit 10.2
10.10*	Amendment dated May 29, 1998 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1992 Employees Stock Option Plan.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-79469) filed May 27, 1999, Exhibit 10.1

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10.11*	Amendment dated May 14, 1999 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1992 Employees Stock Option Plan.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-79469) filed May 27, 1999, Exhibit 10.2
10.12*	Veeco Instruments Inc. 1994 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors.	Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 33-85184), Exhibit 10.17
10.13*	Amendment dated May 15, 1996 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1994 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-08981) filed July 26, 1996, Exhibit 10.2
10.14*	Amendment dated May 15, 1997 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1994 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-35009) filed September 5, 1997, Exhibit 10.3
10.15*	Amendment dated May 21, 1999 to Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 1994 Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-79469) filed May 27, 1999, Exhibit 10.3
10.16*	Veeco Instruments Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, effective July 20, 2006.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.4
10.17*	Form of Restricted Stock Agreement pursuant to the Veeco Instruments Inc. 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, effective November 2005	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, Exhibit 10.3
10.18*	Form of Directors Restricted Stock Agreement pursuant to the Veeco Instruments Inc. 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, effective May 2006	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.2
10.19*	Form of Notice of Restricted Stock Award and related terms and conditions pursuant to the Veeco Instruments Inc. 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, effective June 2006	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.3
10.20*	Veeco Instruments Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan for Non-Officer Employees.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File Number 333-49476) filed November 7, 2000, Exhibit 4.4
10.21*	Amendment No. 1 to the Veeco Instruments Inc. 2000 Stock Option Plan for Non-Officer Employees, effective dated July 26, 2001.	Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File Number 333-66574) filed August 2, 2001, Exhibit 4.2
10.22*	Veeco Instruments Inc. 2006 Long-Term Cash Incentive Plan	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.1
10.23*	Employment Agreement dated as of April 1, 2003 between Edward H. Braun and Veeco Instruments Inc.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, Exhibit 10.3

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10.24*	Employment Agreement dated as of April 1, 2003 between John F. Rein, Jr. and Veeco Instruments Inc.	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, Exhibit 10.5
10.25*	Form of Amendment to Employment Agreements of Edward H. Braun and John F. Rein, Jr., effective June 9, 2006	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.2
10.26*	Letter Agreement dated January 21, 2004 between the Company and John P. Kiernan.	Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, Exhibit 10.38
10.27*	Letter Agreement dated October 31, 2005 between Veeco Instruments Inc., and Robert P. Oates	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, Exhibit 10.1
10.28*	Letter Agreement dated October 31, 2005 between Veeco Instruments Inc., and Jeannine P. Sargent	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2005, Exhibit 10.2
10.29*	Form of Amendment to Letter Agreements of John P. Kiernan, Robert P. Oates and Jeannine M. Sargent, effective June 9, 2006	Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, Exhibit 10.3
10.30*	Form of Indemnification Agreement entered into between Veeco Instruments Inc. and each of its directors and executive officers.	Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 23, 2006, Exhibit 10.1
10.31*	Employment Agreement Amendment Singapore of Benjamin Loh Gek Lim effective December 12, 2005	Filed herewith
10.32*	Employment Agreement Amendment of Benjamin Loh Gek Lim effective December 6, 2006	Filed herewith
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant.	Filed herewith
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.	Filed herewith
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a 14(a) or Rule 15d 14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.	Filed herewith
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a 14(a) or Rule 15d 14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.	Filed herewith
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002	Filed herewith
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes- Oxley Act of 2002	Filed herewith

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\* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement, as required by Item 15(a)(3) of Form 10-K.



**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on February 27, 2007.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.  
By:

/s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN  
Edward H. Braun  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated, on February 27, 2007.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>
/s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN Edward H. Braun	Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)
/s/ RICHARD A. D AMORE Richard A. D Amore	Director
/s/ JOEL A. ELFTMANN Joel A. Elftmann	Director
/s/ HEINZ K. FRIDRICH Heinz K. Fridrich	Director
/s/ DOUGLAS A. KINGSLEY Douglas A. Kingsley	Director
/s/ PAUL R. LOW Paul R. Low	Director
/s/ ROGER D. MCDANIEL Roger D. McDaniel	Director
/s/ IRWIN H. PFISTER Irwin H. Pfister	Director
/s/ PETER J. SIMONE Peter J. Simone	Director
/s/ JOHN F. REIN, JR. John F. Rein, Jr.	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (principal financial officer)
/s/ JOHN P. KIERNAN John P. Kiernan	Senior Vice President, Finance and Corporate Controller (principal accounting officer)

**Veeco Instruments Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Index to Consolidated Financial Statements  
and Financial Statement Schedule**

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**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( GAAP ). The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions in and dispositions of the assets of the Company;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recognized as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ( COSO ) in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework*.

Based on our assessment and those criteria, management believes that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006.

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP, has audited management's assessment of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, and their report is shown on page F-3.

Veeco Instruments Inc.  
Woodbury, NY  
February 27, 2007

/s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN  
Edward H. Braun  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*  
Veeco Instruments Inc.  
February 27, 2007

/s/ JOHN F. REIN, JR.  
John F. Rein, Jr.  
*Executive Vice President,  
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary*  
Veeco Instruments Inc.  
February 27, 2007

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on  
Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

**To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of Veeco Instruments Inc.**

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, that Veeco Instruments Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the COSO criteria. Also, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on the COSO criteria.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the 2006 consolidated financial statements of the Company, and our report dated February 26, 2007, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

New York, New York  
February 26, 2007

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Financial Statements**

**To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of Veeco Instruments Inc.**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Veeco Instruments Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2006. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule in the accompanying Index. These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Company at December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2006, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, effective January 1, 2006.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated February 26, 2007, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

New York, New York  
February 26, 2007

**Veeco Instruments Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(Dollars in thousands)

	December 31,	
	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 147,046	\$ 124,499
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,683 in 2006 and \$1,860 in 2005	86,589	89,230
Inventories	100,355	88,904
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	9,378	9,640
Deferred income taxes	2,565	2,870
Total current assets	345,933	315,143
Property, plant and equipment at cost, net	73,510	69,806
Goodwill	100,898	99,622
Purchased technology, less accumulated amortization of \$64,736 in 2006 and \$51,992 in 2005	43,852	55,776
Other intangible assets, less accumulated amortization of \$26,740 in 2006 and \$22,274 in 2005	25,053	26,899
Other assets	354	614
Total assets	\$ 589,600	\$ 567,860
<b>Liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 40,588	\$ 31,289
Accrued expenses	48,714	51,169
Deferred profit	251	537
Income taxes payable	2,723	2,123
Current portion of long-term debt	5,597	375
Total current liabilities	97,873	85,493
Deferred income taxes	2,423	1,048
Long-term debt	203,607	229,205
Other non-current liabilities	2,304	3,527
Noncontrolling interest	1,642	
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, 500,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding		
Common stock, 60,000,000 shares authorized; 31,118,622 and 30,060,182 shares issued and outstanding in 2006 and 2005, respectively	309	300
Additional paid-in-capital	391,376	373,741
Accumulated deficit	(113,528 )	(128,445 )
Accumulated other comprehensive income	3,594	2,991
Total shareholders' equity	281,751	248,587
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 589,600	\$ 567,860

See accompanying notes.

**Veeco Instruments Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations**  
**(In thousands, except per share data)**

	<b>Year ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net sales	\$ 441,034	\$ 410,190	\$ 390,443
Cost of sales	246,910	236,090	238,686
Gross profit	194,124	174,100	151,757
Costs and expenses:			
Selling, general and administrative expense	93,110	84,667	82,511
Research and development expense	61,925		