

METALS USA INC
Form S-3
May 01, 2003

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 1, 2003

Registration No. 333-

Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

METALS USA, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State of incorporation)

76-0533626
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**Three Riverway, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 965-0990**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of
Registrant's principal executive office)

**John A. Hageman, Esq.
Chief Administrative Officer,
Senior Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
Three Riverway, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 965-0990**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of
agent for service)

With a copy to:

**Eugene F. Cowell III, Esq.
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
711 Louisiana, Suite 1900 South
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 220-5800
Fax: (713) 236-0822**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier registration statement for the same offering. o

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$.01 par value	5,500,000	\$2.95	\$16,225,000.00	\$1,312.61

- (1) Shares of common stock that may be offered pursuant to this registration statement consist of shares distributed to certain selling shareholders in accordance with the Registrant's Plan of Reorganization. For the purposes of determining the number of shares of common stock to be included in this registration statement, we included both (i) beneficially owned to the selling shareholders and (ii) shares held in escrow by the exchange agent under our Plan of Reorganization that may be distributed to the selling shareholders upon final resolution of disputed claims under our Plan of Reorganization. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act, such number of shares of common stock registered hereby shall include an indeterminate number of shares of common stock that may be issued in connection with a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization or similar event.
- (2) The proposed maximum offering price per unit is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee and is based on the average of the high and low prices for the Company's common stock as reported on the OTC Bulletin Board on April 30, 2003 in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Company has applied for listing of its Common Stock on the American Stock Exchange, but such application has not been approved. The Company reasonably expects such application to be approved in the near future. The information contained in this Prospectus assumes and reflects the approval of such listing and the listing and registration of the Common Stock on the American Stock Exchange. The Company hereby undertakes not to request acceleration of the effectiveness of this Registration Statement, or to distribute the prospectus contained herein for delivery in connection with any sale of shares of Common Stock, unless and until either (i) such application for listing has been approved and the Common Stock is listed and registered on the American Stock Exchange or (ii) this Registration Statement has been amended by a pre-effective amendment hereto on Form S-1. The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 1, 2003

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS

METALS USA, INC.

5,500,000 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK, \$.01 PAR VALUE

This prospectus relates to up to 5,500,000 shares of common stock which may be sold from time to time by the selling shareholders, including their transferees, pledgees or donees or their successors. The shares are being registered to permit the selling shareholders to sell the shares from time to time in the public market. The selling shareholders may sell the common stock through ordinary brokerage transactions, directly to market makers of our shares or through any other means described in the section "Plan of Distribution" beginning on page 10. We cannot assure you that the selling shareholders will sell all or any portion of the common stock offered under this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of these shares.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMON SHARES INVOLVES RISK.
SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 5.

Our common stock is listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol . On , 2003, the last reported sales price of the common stock on the American Stock Exchange was \$.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated May [], 2003.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS	2
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION	3
INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE	3
UNCERTAINTY OF FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	4
FRESH START ACCOUNTING	4
RISK FACTORS	5
SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS	9
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	10
VALIDITY OF SECURITIES	12
EXPERTS	12

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus as if we had authorized it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which it relates. This prospectus is not an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation in that jurisdiction. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or any documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of the applicable document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities the selling shareholders may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a complete understanding of the offering of securities, you should refer to the registration statement relating to this prospectus, including its exhibits. You should read this prospectus together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

Unless otherwise indicated, all references to the "Company," "we," "us," "our" or other similar terms herein are intended to refer to Metals USA, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, like us, who file reports electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy this information at the Public Reference Room of the SEC, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549, or obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC Public Reference Room at prescribed rates. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330.

INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with the SEC, which means:

incorporated documents are considered part of the prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents; and

information that we file with the SEC will automatically update this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below which we have previously filed with the SEC under the Exchange Act:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002; and

Our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on November 20, 2002.

We also incorporate by reference each of the documents that we file in the future with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until all the securities described in this prospectus have been sold.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing) at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Metals USA, Inc.
Three Riverway, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77056
Attention: Investor Relations
(713) 965-0990

3

UNCERTAINTY OF FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Prospectus contains statements that constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes," "expects," "may," "estimates," "will," "should," "plans" or "anticipates" or the negative thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy. Readers are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve significant risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may vary materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

factors. These factors include the effectiveness of management's strategies and decisions, general economic and business conditions, developments in technology, new or modified statutory or regulatory requirements and changing prices and market conditions. This report identifies other factors that could cause such differences. No assurance can be given that these are all of the factors that could cause actual results to vary materially from the forward-looking statements.

FRESH START ACCOUNTING

We have applied "Fresh-Start Reporting" to our consolidated balance sheet as of October 31, 2002 in accordance with Statement of Position No. 90-7, "Financial Reporting by Entities in Reorganization Under the Bankruptcy Code" as promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or SOP 90-7. Under "Fresh-Start Reporting", a new reporting entity is considered to be created and the recorded amounts of assets and liabilities are adjusted to reflect their estimated fair values at the date "Fresh-Start Reporting" is applied. On October 31, 2002, or the Effective Date, we emerged from bankruptcy. As a result of the application of "Fresh-Start Reporting," the financial information of our Company as of any date or for periods after November 1, 2002 is not comparable to our historical financial information before November 1, 2002. As a result of the emergence from bankruptcy and for the purpose of presentation, activities subsequent to October 31, 2002 relate to the "Successor Company" and activities prior to November 1, 2002 relate to the "Predecessor Company."

4

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below and any risk factors included in our reports filed with the SEC incorporated by reference into this prospectus along with the other information contained in this prospectus and those reports before deciding whether to purchase any shares of our common stock. If any of the following risks or the risks contained in those reports actually occur, our business and operating results could be harmed. This could cause the value of our common stock to decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

We have recently emerged from Chapter 11 reorganization proceedings and have a history of recent losses.

We sought protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in November 2001. Excluding the effects of Asset impairments, Integration credit, "Fresh-start" reporting and Reorganization expenses we incurred net losses before discontinued items as illustrated in the following table (amounts are shown in millions of dollars):

	Two Months Ended December 31, 2002	Ten Months Ended October 31, 2002	Year Ended December 31, 2001	Year Ended December 31, 2000
(In millions of dollars)				
Income (loss) before taxes and discontinued items	\$ (2.1)	\$ 35.6	\$ (459.5)	\$ 5.3
Less Non-cash charges:				
Asset impairments and integration credit		(0.2)	384.0	
Fresh-start adjustments		109.7		
Gain on reorganization		(190.6)		
Less reorganization expenses(a)		28.3	19.4	
Income (loss) as adjusted for non-cash items and bankruptcy related costs	\$ (2.1)	\$ (17.2)	\$ (56.1)	\$ 5.3

(a) Reorganization expenses are attributable to bankruptcy related costs.

Our equity ownership, Board of Directors and a portion of our senior management was replaced in connection with our reorganization. While our current senior management has concentrated on reformulating and refining our business strategy, there can be no assurance that we will attain profitability or achieve growth in our operating performance.

We have substantial debt obligations.

Even after our emergence from bankruptcy, our long-term debt was \$127.4 million as of December 31, 2002, including \$112.6 million under our new financing agreement with a group of lenders, the New Credit Facility. We continue to be particularly susceptible to adverse changes in our industry, the economy and the financial markets. In addition, our ability to obtain additional debt financing or to engage in other business activities that may be in our interest may be limited by restrictive operating and financial covenants under the terms of the New Credit Facility and any other debt instruments. Those limits on financing may restrict our ability to service our debt obligations or finance future operations, potential acquisitions or other capital needs through additional debt financing if cash flow from operations is insufficient to service such obligations. Because we may be more leveraged than some of our competitors, our debt may place us at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, if we cannot achieve the financial results necessary to maintain compliance with these

5

covenants, we could be declared in default and be required to sell or liquidate our assets to repay outstanding debt.

We have limited liquidity which may not be adequate to fund future liquidity needs.

We are currently funding our liquidity needs out of operating cash flow and from borrowings under the New Credit Facility. We believe our current liquidity is sufficient to meet our operating and capital expenditure requirements during 2003. No assurances can be given that our existing sources of liquidity will be adequate to fund future liquidity needs, if additional sources of liquidity become necessary, that they would be available to us or adequate. Any liquidity shortages would likely have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

Our historical financial information is not comparable to our current financial condition and results of operations.

As a result of our emergence from bankruptcy, we are operating our business under a new capital structure. We were subject to "Fresh-Start Reporting" and our balance sheet as of December 31, 2002 reflects the application of these rules. Accordingly, the financial information of our Company as of any date or for periods after November 1, 2002 is not comparable to our historical financial information before November 1, 2002. This is primarily due to the reduction in the carrying values of our property and equipment which were reduced to zero as a result of the reduced values attributable to the common stock based upon the estimated enterprise value for our Company as described in the disclosure statement filed with our Plan of Reorganization Under Chapter 11 of the Company and its Affiliated Debtors dated September 18, 2002, as amended, or the Reorganization Plan.

We cannot predict or quantify any negative impact of reorganization on some of our relationships with customers, suppliers and employees.

The effect, if any, which our Chapter 11 proceedings and our Reorganization Plan may have upon the continued operations of our Company cannot be accurately predicted or quantified. Our recent emergence from bankruptcy may adversely affect our ability to negotiate favorable terms with suppliers and may also adversely affect our ability to retain existing customers, and to obtain new customers. Failure to obtain favorable terms from suppliers, to retain existing customers or to obtain new customers may harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The cyclical downturn in the U.S. economy has negatively impacted our business and may continue to do so.

Our metal service center and distribution business has been impacted by decreasing volumes and declining prices starting in 2000 and continuing through the first quarter of 2003, due to softening demand from customers in the cyclical downturn in the U.S. economy. If weakness in product demand continues and volumes and pricing remain low, reduced sales could continue to materially adversely affect operating results. With respect to our Building Products Group, housing starts have recently declined from a record high, yet remain at historically high levels. The strong housing market has been driven by low mortgage rates. There can be no assurance that low mortgage rates will continue. In addition, adverse changes in mortgage rates and consumer confidence could materially affect our Building Products Group revenues and profits.

Varying metals prices may have a negative impact on our business.

The principal raw materials used by us are steel, aluminum and various specialty metals. The metals industry as a whole is cyclical, and at times pricing and availability of raw materials in the metals industry can be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control, including

general, domestic

6

and international economic conditions, labor costs, production levels, competition, import duties and tariffs and currency exchange rates. This volatility can significantly affect the availability and cost of raw materials for us, and may, therefore, adversely affect our net sales, operating margin and net income. Our service centers maintain substantial inventories of metal to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metal in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based on information derived from customers, market conditions, historic usage and industry research. Our commitments for metal purchases are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. We have no long-term, fixed-price purchase contracts. During periods of rising raw materials pricing, there can be no assurance we will be able to pass any portion of such increases on to customers. When raw material prices decline, customer demands for lower prices could result in lower sale prices and, as we use existing inventory, lower margins. Changing metal prices could adversely affect our gross profit margin and operating income.

Fluctuations in demand for our products may affect our level of sales.

Many of our products are sold to industries that experience significant fluctuations in demand based on economic conditions, energy prices, consumer demand and other factors beyond our control. No assurance can be given that we will be able to increase or maintain our level of sales in periods of economic stagnation or downturn.

We are engaged in a highly fragmented and competitive industry.

We compete with a large number of other value-added metals processors/service centers on a regional and local basis, some of which may have greater financial resources than us. We also compete to a lesser extent with primary metals producers, who typically sell to very large customers requiring regular shipments of large volumes of metals. Increased competition could have a material adverse effect on our net sales and profitability.

Our business is impacted by environmental regulation.

Our operations are subject to extensive federal, state and local laws and regulations governing waste disposal, air and water emissions, the handling of hazardous substances, environmental protection, remediation, workplace exposure and other matters. We believe that we are in substantial compliance with all such laws and do not currently anticipate that we will be required to expend any substantial amounts in the foreseeable future in order to meet current environmental or workplace health and safety requirements. However, some of the properties we own or lease are located in areas with a history of heavy industrial use, and are on or near sites listed on the CERCLA National Priority List. We have a number of leased properties located in or near industrial or light industrial use areas; and accordingly, these properties may have been contaminated by pollutants which would have migrated from neighboring facilities or have been deposited by prior occupants. Furthermore, we are not aware of any notices from authoritative agencies with respect to clean-up/remediation claims for contamination at the leased properties. However, there can be no assurance that we will not be notified of such claims with respect to our existing leased or owned properties in the future.

Although no environmental claims have been made against us and we have not been named as a potentially responsible party by the Environmental Protection Agency or any other party, it is possible that we could be identified by the Environmental Protection Agency, a state agency or one or more third parties as a potentially responsible party under CERCLA or under analogous state laws. If so, we could incur substantial litigation costs to prove that we are not responsible for the environmental damage. We have obtained limited indemnities from the former stockholders of the acquired companies whose facilities are located at or near contaminated sites. The limited indemnities are subject to certain

7

deductible amounts, however, and there can be no assurance that these limited indemnities will protect us to any extent.

We rely on key personnel.

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

Most of our senior management at certain of our subsidiary operations is generally comprised of former owners who received the existing common stock outstanding prior to the Effective Date, and committed to stay with their operations after acquisition. As a result of the implementation of the Reorganization Plan, substantially all of these individuals have suffered significant losses in our old common stock and have lower incomes than they averaged when they owned their former businesses. These former owners have non-competition obligations that expire on the fifth anniversary of their date of acquisition. Substantially all of these agreements will expire by the end of the second quarter of 2003, and all of these obligations will expire by 2004. Further, as a result of the implementation of the Reorganization Plan, the former owners are no longer significant stockholders in the Company. Where desired, there is no assurance that we will be able to retain these individuals or find suitable replacements in a timely manner if such individuals leave the Company. The failure to retain or replace such management within a reasonable period of time could negatively impact results from operations at such locations.

We cannot assure you that there will continue to be an active market for the common stock.

Our common stock was approved for listing on the American Stock Exchange, or AMEX, on May , 2003. There can be no assurance that in the future our common stock will meet the continued listing requirements of the AMEX. Previously, our common stock was quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board, or OTCBB. Information with respect to OTCBB quotations reflects inter-dealer prices without retail markup, markdown or commission and may not represent actual transactions, and quotations on the OTCBB are sporadic. If our common stock were to be delisted by the AMEX, the market liquidity of our common stock would likely be negatively affected, which may make it more difficult for holders of our common stock to sell their securities in the open market. Additionally, if we were delisted from the AMEX, then public perception of the value of our common stock could be materially adversely affected and any additional financing may become difficult to obtain. You could lose your investment, and we could face greater difficulty raising capital necessary for our continued operations. Purchasers of the common stock offered hereby may be unable to resell such common stock at any price.

We do not anticipate paying dividends on the common stock.

We currently do not anticipate paying dividends on the common stock. The covenants in the New Credit Facility currently place certain restrictions on our ability to pay dividends to holders of the common stock.

Sales of stock by the selling shareholders may negatively affect the market price.

All of the common stock being offered hereby is offered solely by selling stockholders who are not restricted as to the prices at which they may sell the common stock. Shares sold below the current prices reported on the American Stock Exchange may adversely affect the market price of the common stock. The outstanding shares of common stock covered by this prospectus represent approximately 27.3% of our outstanding shares as of April 30, 2003. This large amount of common stock, if sold all at once or in blocks, may have a negative effect on the market price.

We expect to experience volatility in our stock price which could negatively affect your investment.

An investment in our common stock involves substantial risks. The stock market generally and the market for stocks of companies with lower market capitalizations, like us, in particular have from time

8

to time experienced and likely will again experience significant price and volume fluctuations that are unrelated to the operating performance of a particular company.

Sales of substantial amounts of common stock in the public market or the availability of substantial amounts of common stock for sale subsequent to this offering could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the common stock.

The 5,500,000 shares of common stock offered hereby will be freely tradable immediately following this offering. In addition, all of our remaining outstanding shares are also available for sale in the public market at any time.

SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS

We are registering the shares of common stock offered hereby in order to permit the selling shareholders to offer the shares of common stock for resale from time to time. Pursuant to the Reorganization Plan, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the selling shareholders that requires us to file this registration statement with the SEC to register for resale the shares of common stock issued to the selling

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

shareholders under the Reorganization Plan. We are required to cause such registration statement to remain effective (subject to suspension during certain specified periods) until all such shares have been resold or, if earlier, October 31, 2005. We are also required to permit the inclusion of such shares on a "piggyback" basis in certain other registration statements filed by our Company until such date. We are required to pay all costs of compliance with the registration rights agreement and the reasonable fees and expenses of a single counsel for holders of such shares in connection therewith. Except for the ownership of the shares of common stock offered hereby, the selling shareholders have not had any material relationship with us within the past three years.

The selling shareholders are not obligated to sell any of the shares offered by this prospectus and may sell all, some or none of their shares in this offering. See "Plan of Distribution." Accordingly, we cannot estimate how many shares the selling shareholders will own upon the consummation of any such sales. Also, the selling shareholders may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of or may in the future sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or a portion of their shares since the date on which the shares were issued in transactions exempt from registration requirements of the Securities Act, including pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

The table below lists the selling shareholders and other information regarding the ownership of the common stock by the selling shareholders. The first column indicates the names of the selling shareholders. The second column lists (i) the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the selling shareholders, plus (ii) the number of shares of common stock, based on its ownership of warrants, that would have been issuable to the selling shareholders as of May 1, 2003 assuming exercise of the warrants held by the selling shareholders on that date. The third column lists the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be offered by this prospectus by the selling shareholders, which amount constitutes the sum of (x) the shares specified in clause (i) of the previous sentence and (y) shares held in escrow by the exchange agent under the Reorganization Plan that may be distributed to the selling shareholders upon final resolution of disputed claims under our Reorganization Plan. The fourth and fifth columns assume the sale of all of the shares offered by the selling shareholders pursuant to this prospectus. We are currently in the process of finalizing our distribution of new common stock under our Reorganization Plan. Upon final resolution of all disputed claims, we expect to release additional equity to the recipients under the Reorganization Plan. Based on our current

9

estimates of what we expect to distribute, the amounts of common stock being offered hereby by the selling shareholders may be less than the respective amounts included in the third column.

Name	Number of Shares Owned Prior to Offering (2)	Number of Shares Being Offered	Number of Shares Owned After Offering	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock After Offering
Citadel Equity Fund Ltd.(1)	3,134,090	3,833,235	5,090	*
Citadel Credit Trading Ltd.(1)	1,362,721	1,666,765	2,171	*

* less than 1 percent

(1) Citadel Limited Partnership ("Citadel") is the trading manager of Citadel Equity Fund Ltd. and Citadel Credit Trading Ltd. and consequently has voting control and investment discretion over securities held by Citadel Equity Fund Ltd and Citadel Credit Trading Ltd. Citadel disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares beneficially owned by Citadel Equity Fund Ltd. and Citadel Credit Trading Ltd. and each of Citadel Equity Fund Ltd. and Citadel Credit Trading Ltd. disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by the other. Kenneth C. Griffin indirectly controls Citadel. Mr. Griffin disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by Citadel Equity Fund Ltd and Citadel Credit Trading Ltd.

(2) Does not includes 699,145 and 304,044 shares, respectively, held in escrow by the exchange agent under the Reorganization Plan that may be distributed to the selling shareholders upon final resolution of disputed claims.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We are registering the shares of common stock to permit the resale of the shares of common stock by the holders from time to time after the date of this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale by the selling shareholders of the shares of common stock.

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

The selling shareholders may sell all or a portion of common stock beneficially owned by them and offered hereby from time to time directly or through one or more broker dealers or agents. If the common stock is sold through broker-dealers, the selling shareholders will be responsible for commissions or agent's commissions. The common stock may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of the sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions,

- (1) on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the securities may be listed or quoted at the time of sale,
- (2) in the over-the-counter market,
- (3) in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or systems or in the over-the-counter market,
- (4) through the writing of options, whether such options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise, or
- (5) through the settlement of short sales.

If the selling shareholders effect such transactions by selling shares of common stock to or through broker-dealers or agents, such brokers-dealers, or agents may receive commissions in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling shareholders or commissions from purchasers of the shares of common stock for whom they may act as agent or to whom they may sell as principal (which discounts, concessions or commissions as to particular brokers-dealers or agents may be in

10

excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved). In connection with sales of the common stock or otherwise, the selling shareholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock in the course of hedging in positions they assume. The selling shareholders may also sell shares of common stock short and deliver shares of common stock covered by this prospectus to close out short positions, provided that the short sale is made after the registration statement is declared effective and a copy of this prospectus is delivered in connection with the short sale. The selling shareholders may also loan or pledge shares of common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell such shares.

The selling shareholders may pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock from time to time pursuant to the prospectus. The selling shareholders also may transfer and donate the shares of common stock in other circumstances in which case the transferees, donees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of the prospectus.

The selling shareholders and any broker-dealer participating in the distribution of the shares of common stock may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any commissions paid, or any discounts or concessions allowed to any such broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act.

Under the securities laws of some states, the shares of common stock may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the shares of common stock may not be sold unless such shares have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

There can be no assurance that any selling shareholder will sell any or all of the shares of common stock registered pursuant to the shelf registration statement, of which this prospectus forms a part.

The selling shareholders and any other person participating in such distribution will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules of regulations thereunder, including, without limitation, Regulation M of the Exchange Act, which may limit the timing of the purchases and sales of any of the shares of common stock by the selling shareholders and any other participating person. Regulation M may also restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the shares of common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of common stock. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the shares of common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of common stock.

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

We will pay all fees and expenses incident to our obligation to register the shares of common stock pursuant to the registration rights agreement, including, without limitation, Commission filing fees and expenses of compliance with state securities or "blue sky" laws; provided, however, that the selling shareholders will pay all discounts, selling concessions or commissions, if any. In connection with sales made pursuant to this prospectus, we will indemnify the selling shareholders against liabilities, including some liabilities under the Securities Act, in accordance with the registration rights agreements or the selling shareholders will be entitled to contribution. We will be indemnified by the selling shareholders against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act that may arise from any written information furnished to us by the selling shareholders for use in this prospectus, in accordance with the related registration rights agreement or we will be entitled to contribution.

11

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

The validity of the shares of common stock offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

The consolidated balance sheets of Metals USA, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2002 (Successor Company balance sheet) and 2001 (Predecessor Company balance sheet) and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity (deficit) and cash flows for the period from November 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 (Successor Company operations), the period from January 1, 2002 to October 31, 2002, and the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 (Predecessor Company operations), included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 and incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference (which report expresses an unqualified opinion and includes 1) an explanatory paragraph referring to the application of fresh start accounting in accordance with AICPA's Statement of Position 90-7 "Financial Reporting for Entities in Reorganization Under the Bankruptcy Code" and the lack of comparability of financial information between reporting periods, and 2) an emphasis paragraph related to the Adoption of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, "Accounting for Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets" on January 1, 2002), and has been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

12

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

ITEM 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered are estimated as follows:

Registration fee	
Legal fees and expenses	
Accounting fees and expenses	
Printing and engraving expenses	
Miscellaneous expenses	
	<hr/>
Total	<hr/>

ITEM 15. Indemnification of Directors And Officers

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

Section 145(a) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL") provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the DGCL provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted under similar standards, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that despite the adjudication of liability, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 145 of the DGCL further provides that to the extent a director or officer of a corporation has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against any expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith; that indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; and that the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against any liability asserted against him or incurred by him in any such capacity or arising out of his status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liabilities under Section 145.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides that a corporation in its original certificate of incorporation or an amendment thereto validly approved by stockholders may eliminate or limit personal liability of members of its board of directors or governing body for breach of a director's

13

fiduciary duty. However, no such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for breaching his duty of loyalty, failing to act on good faith, engaging in intentional misconduct or knowingly violating a law, paying a dividend or approving a stock repurchase which was illegal or obtaining an improper personal benefit. A provision of this type has no effect on the availability of equitable remedies, such as injunction or rescission, for breach of fiduciary duty.

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (as amended and restated, the "Certificate of Incorporation") contains a provision which limits the liability of the directors of the Company to the Company or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. In addition, our Certificate of Incorporation and our Amended and Restated Bylaws (as amended and restated, the "Bylaws"), subject to certain exemptions and conditions, require us to indemnify to the full extent permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware in the event each person who is involved in legal proceedings by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the Company unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Delaware Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. We are also required to advance to such persons expenses incurred in defending a proceeding to which indemnification might apply, provided the recipient provides an undertaking agreeing to repay all such advanced amounts if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified. In addition, the Bylaws specifically provide that the indemnification rights granted thereunder are non-exclusive.

We currently have an insurance policy covering our directors and officers to insure against certain losses incurred by them.

ITEM 16. Exhibits

Edgar Filing: METALS USA INC - Form S-3

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1	Plan of Reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code for Metals USA, Inc. and its Affiliate Debtors as included in the Disclosure Statement Pursuant to Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code thereto dated September 18, 2002, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 1-13123) filed with the Commission on September 19, 2002.
4.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Metals USA, Inc. (the "Company"), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2002.
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2002.
4.3	Form of Common Stock Certificate of the Company, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on November 20, 2002.

14

-
- 4.4 Warrant Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2002, between the Company and Equiserve Trust Company, N.A., as Warrant Agent, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.3 to the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on November 20, 2002.
 - 4.5 Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2002, between the Company and the initial holders, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2002.
 - 4.5(a) Amendment to Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of April 3, 2003, between the Company and the initial holders, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.5(a) to the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A (File No. 1-13123), filed with the Commission on April 30, 2003.
 - 5.1 Opinion of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.
 - 23.1 Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
 - 23.2 Consent of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
 - 24.1 Powers of Attorney (included in signature pages).

ITEM 17. Undertakings

- (a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:
 - (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum

C. Lourenço Gonçalves
Chief Executive Officer and President

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below hereby appoints John A. Hageman and Terry L. Freeman and each of them (with full power to each of them to act alone) as his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to execute any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement and any registration statement for the same offering filed pursuant to Rule 462 under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and anything appropriate or necessary to be done, as fully and for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each said attorney-in-fact and agent or his substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on May 1, 2003.

/s/ C. LOURENÇO GONÇALVES	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (principal executive officer)
C. Lourenço Gonçalves	
/s/ TERRY L. FREEMAN	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer and principal accounting officer)
Terry L. Freeman	
/s/ DANIEL W. DIENST	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director
Daniel W. Dienst	
/s/ EUGENE I. DAVIS	Director
Eugene I. Davis	
17	
/s/ JOHN T. DILACQUA, JR.	Director
John T. DiLacqua, Jr.	
/s/ JACK G. LECKIE	Director
Jack G. Leckie	
/s/ GERALD E. MORRIS	Director
Gerald E. Morris	
/s/ CHARLES P. SANIDA	Director
Charles P. Sanida	

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
5.1	Opinion of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.
23.1	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
23.2	Consent of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Powers of Attorney (included in signature pages).

QuickLinks

[EXPLANATORY NOTE](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS](#)

[WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION](#)

[INFORMATION WE INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE](#)

[UNCERTAINTY OF FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS](#)

[FRESH START ACCOUNTING](#)

[RISK FACTORS](#)

[SELLING SECURITY HOLDERS](#)

[PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION](#)

[VALIDITY OF SECURITIES](#)

[EXPERTS](#)

[PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS](#)

[ITEM 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution](#)

[ITEM 15. Indemnification of Directors And Officers](#)

[ITEM 16. Exhibits](#)

[ITEM 17. Undertakings](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[POWER OF ATTORNEY](#)

[EXHIBIT INDEX](#)