

STANDARD MOTOR PRODUCTS INC
Form 10-K
March 09, 2012

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

or

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

For the transaction period from ____ to ____

Commission file number: 1-4743
Standard Motor Products, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New York
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

11-1362020
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

37-18 Northern Blvd., Long Island City, N.Y.
(Address of principal executive offices)

11101
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(718) 392-0200

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

Title of each class
Common Stock, par value \$2.00 per share

Name of each exchange on which registered
New York Stock Exchange

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

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 whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if
any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T
(\$232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required

to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock based on the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange on June 30, 2011 (the last business day of registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter) of \$15.23 per share held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$289,948,239. For purposes of the foregoing calculation only, all directors and officers have been deemed to be affiliates, but the registrant disclaims that any of such are affiliates.

As of February 29, 2012, there were 22,834,994 outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$2.00 per share.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The information required by Part III of this Report is incorporated herein by reference from the registrant's definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 17, 2012.

STANDARD MOTOR PRODUCTS, INC.

INDEX

	Page No.
PART I.	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	3
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	13
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	20
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	21
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	22
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	23
PART II.	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	23
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	26
Item 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	28
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	47
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	48
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	99
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	99
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	100
PART III.	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	100
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	100
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	100
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	100

Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	100
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PART
IV.

Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	101
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<u>Signatures</u>	102
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2

Index

PART I

In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, “Standard Motor Products,” “we,” “us,” “our” and the “Company” refer to Standard Motor Products, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise. This Report, including the documents incorporated herein by reference, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements in this Report are indicated by words such as “anticipates,” “expects,” “believes,” “intends,” “plans,” “estimates,” “projects,” “strategies,” and similar expressions. These statements represent our expectations based on current information and assumptions and are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those which are anticipated or projected as a result of certain risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, our significant indebtedness; economic and market conditions (including access to credit and financial markets); the performance of the aftermarket sector and the automotive sector generally; changes in business relationships with our major customers and in the timing, size and continuation of our customers’ programs; changes in the product mix and distribution channel mix; the ability of our customers to achieve their projected sales; competitive product and pricing pressures; increases in production or material costs that cannot be recouped in product pricing; successful integration of acquired businesses; our ability to achieve cost savings from our restructuring initiatives; product liability and environmental matters (including, without limitation, those related to asbestos-related contingent liabilities and remediation costs at certain properties); as well as other risks and uncertainties, such as those described under Risk Factors, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk and those detailed herein and from time to time in the filings of the Company with the SEC. Forward-looking statements are made only as of the date hereof, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In addition, historical information should not be considered as an indicator of future performance.

ITEM 1.

BUSINESS

Overview

We are a leading independent manufacturer and distributor of replacement parts for motor vehicles in the automotive aftermarket industry, with an increasing focus on the original equipment service market. We are organized into two major operating segments, each of which focuses on a specific line of replacement parts. Our Engine Management Segment manufactures ignition and emission parts, ignition wires, battery cables and fuel system parts. Our Temperature Control Segment manufactures and remanufactures air conditioning compressors, air conditioning and heating parts, engine cooling system parts, power window accessories, and windshield washer system parts.

We sell our products primarily to warehouse distributors, large retail chains, original equipment manufacturers and original equipment service part operations in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Our customers consist of many of the leading warehouse distributors, such as CARQUEST Corporation and NAPA Auto Parts, as well as many of the leading auto parts retail chains, such as Advance Auto Parts, Inc., AutoZone, Inc., O’Reilly Automotive, Inc., Canadian Tire Corporation and Pep Boys. Our customers also include national program distribution groups, such as Federated Auto Parts, Inc., All Pro/Bumper to Bumper (Aftermarket Auto Parts Alliance, Inc.), Automotive Distribution Network and The National Pronto Association, and specialty market distributors. We distribute parts under our own brand names, such as Standard®, BWD®, Intermotor®, GP Sorensen®, TechSmart™, OEM®, Four Seasons®, Factory Air®, EVERCO®, ACi®, Imperial® and Hayden® and through private labels, such as CARQUEST®, O’Reilly Import Direct® and Master Pro®, NAPA® Echlin®, NAPA® Temp Products and NAPA® Belden®.

Index

Business Strategy

Our goal is to grow revenues and earnings and deliver returns in excess of our cost of capital by providing high quality original equipment and replacement products to the engine management and temperature control markets. The key elements of our strategy are as follows:

- **Maintain Our Strong Competitive Position in the Engine Management and Temperature Control Businesses.** We are one of the leading independent manufacturers serving North America and other geographic areas in our core businesses of Engine Management and Temperature Control. We believe that our success is attributable to our emphasis on product quality, the breadth and depth of our product lines for both domestic and import vehicles, and our reputation for outstanding customer service.

To maintain our strong competitive position in our markets, we remain committed to the following:

- providing our customers with broad lines of high quality engine management and temperature control products, supported by the highest level of customer service and reliability;
 - continuing to maximize our production and distribution efficiencies;
- continuing to improve our cost position through increased global sourcing and increased manufacturing in low cost countries; and
- focusing further on our engineering development efforts including a renewed focus on bringing more product manufacturing in house.
- **Provide Superior Customer Service, Product Availability and Technical Support.** Our goal is to increase sales to existing and new customers by leveraging our skills in rapidly filling orders, maintaining high levels of product availability, providing insightful customer category management, and providing technical support in a cost-effective manner. In addition, our category management and technically skilled sales force professionals provide product selection and application support to our customers.
- **Expand Our Product Lines.** We intend to increase our sales by continuing to develop internally, or through potential acquisitions, the range of Engine Management and Temperature Control products that we offer to our customers. We are committed to investing the resources necessary to maintain and expand our technical capability to manufacture multiple product lines that incorporate the latest technologies.
- **Broaden Our Customer Base.** Our goal is to increase our customer base by (a) continuing to leverage our manufacturing capabilities to secure additional original equipment business with automotive, industrial, marine, military and heavy duty vehicle and equipment manufacturers and their service part operations as well as our existing customer base including traditional warehouse distributors, large retailers, other manufacturers and export customers, and (b) supporting the service part operations of vehicle and equipment manufacturers with value added services and product support for the life of the part.
- **Improve Operating Efficiency and Cost Position.** Our management places significant emphasis on improving our financial performance by achieving operating efficiencies and improving asset utilization, while maintaining product quality and high customer order fill rates. We intend to continue to improve our operating efficiency and cost position by:
 - increasing cost-effective vertical integration in key product lines through internal development;
 - focusing on integrated supply chain management;
 - relocating manufacturing to our low-cost off-shore plants;

Index

- maintaining and improving our cost effectiveness and competitive responsiveness to better serve our customer base, including sourcing certain products from low cost countries such as those in Asia;
 - enhancing company-wide programs geared toward manufacturing and distribution efficiency; and
 - focusing on company-wide overhead and operating expense cost reduction programs, such as closing excess facilities and consolidating redundant functions.
- Cash Utilization. We intend to apply any excess cash flow from operations and the management of working capital primarily to reduce our outstanding indebtedness, pay dividends to our shareholders, repurchase shares of our common stock and expand our product lines through potential acquisitions.

The Automotive Aftermarket

The automotive aftermarket industry is comprised of a large number of diverse manufacturers varying in product specialization and size. In addition to manufacturing, aftermarket companies allocate resources towards an efficient distribution process and product engineering in order to maintain the flexibility and responsiveness on which their customers depend. Aftermarket manufacturers must be efficient producers of small lot sizes and do not have to provide systems engineering support. Aftermarket manufacturers also must distribute, with rapid turnaround times, products for a full range of vehicles on the road. The primary customers of the automotive aftermarket manufacturers are national and regional warehouse distributors, large retail chains, automotive repair chains and the dealer service networks of original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”).

During periods of economic decline or weakness, more automobile owners may choose to repair their current automobiles using replacement parts rather than purchasing a new automobile, which benefits the automotive aftermarket industry, including suppliers like us. Current global economic and financial market conditions have adversely affected, and may continue to adversely affect, the volume of new cars and truck sales, which could also benefit the automotive aftermarket.

The automotive aftermarket industry differs substantially from the OEM supply business. Unlike the OEM supply business that primarily follows trends in new car production, the automotive aftermarket industry’s performance primarily tends to follow different trends, such as:

- growth in number of vehicles on the road;
- increase in average vehicle age;
- change in total miles driven per year;
- new and modified environmental regulations;
- increase in pricing of new cars;
- economic and financial market conditions;
- new car quality and related warranties; and
- change in average fuel prices.

Traditionally, the parts manufacturers of OEMs and the independent manufacturers who supply the original equipment (“OE”) part applications have supplied a majority of the business to new car dealer networks. However, certain parts manufacturers have become more independent and are no longer affiliated with OEMs, which has provided, and may continue to provide, opportunities for us to supply replacement parts to the dealer service networks of the OEMs, both for warranty and out-of-warranty repairs.

Index

Financial Information about our Operating Segments

The table below shows our consolidated net sales by operating segment and by major product group within each segment for the three years ended December 31, 2011. Our two major reportable operating segments are Engine Management and Temperature Control.

	2011		Year Ended December 31, 2010				2009		
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	
(Dollars in thousands)									
Engine Management:									
Ignition, Emission and Fuel									
System Parts	\$523,984	59.9	%	\$478,578	59.0	%	\$420,083	57.2	%
Wires and Cables	104,689	12.0	%	98,755	12.2	%	86,352	11.7	%
Total Engine Management	628,673	71.9	%	577,333	71.2	%	506,435	68.9	%
Temperature Control:									
Compressors	123,785	14.1	%	104,733	12.9	%	89,125	12.1	%
Other Climate Control Parts	109,938								