

NEWPORT CORP
Form S-1
March 30, 2005
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 30, 2005

Registration No. 333-_____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-1

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

The Securities Act of 1933

NEWPORT CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

3821
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

94-0849175
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1791 Deere Avenue, Irvine, California 92606

(949) 863-3144

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

Jeffrey B. Coyne, Esq.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Newport Corporation

1791 Deere Avenue

Irvine, California 92606

(949) 863-3144

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

Copies to:

K.C. Schaaf, Esq.

STRADLING YOCCA CARLSON & RAUTH

660 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1600

Newport Beach, California 92660

(949) 725-4000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

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, 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.

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 effective registration statement for the same offering.

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share (1)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, \$0.1167 par value per share	3,220,300 shares	\$14.66	\$47,209,598	\$5,556.57

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- (1) The offering price is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) using the average of the high and low price reported by the Nasdaq National Market for the Registrant's common stock on March 29, 2005, which was \$14.66 per share.

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.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling stockholder may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is declared effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS (Subject to Completion)

Issued _____, 2005

NEWPORT CORPORATION

3,220,300 Shares of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the public offering, which is not being underwritten, of up to 3,220,300 shares of our common stock which are held by Thermo Electron Corporation, or Thermo, who we refer to in this prospectus as the selling stockholder. We originally issued the shares of our common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus to the selling stockholder in connection with our acquisition of Spectra-Physics, Inc. and certain related entities.

The selling stockholder may sell these shares from time to time on the over-the-counter market in regular brokerage transactions, in transactions directly with market makers or in privately negotiated transactions. For additional information on the methods of sale that may be used by the selling stockholder, see the section entitled Plan of Distribution on page 67. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of these shares. We will bear the costs relating to the registration of these shares.

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol NEWP. On _____, 2005, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$[_____] per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 2 to read about the risks you should consider carefully
before buying shares of our common stock.

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

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2005.

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, nor is it seeking an offer to buy, these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information in this prospectus is complete and accurate as of the date on the front cover, but the information may have changed since that date.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

We are a global supplier of advanced technology products and systems to a wide range of industries, including semiconductor manufacturing, scientific research, aerospace and defense/security, life and health sciences and communications.

In July 2004, we acquired all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Spectra-Physics, Inc., which was founded in 1961 as the world's first commercial laser company, and certain related entities (collectively, Spectra-Physics). Spectra-Physics manufactures high-power solid-state, gas and dye lasers, high-power laser diodes, and ultrafast laser systems, as well as photonics instruments and components, including light sources, monochromators, spectroscopy instrumentation, optical filters, ruled and holographic diffraction gratings and crystals. We have incorporated Spectra-Physics' laser and laser-related technology business into our new Lasers Division, and we have combined Spectra-Physics' photonics businesses with our Industrial and Scientific Technologies Division to create our new Photonics and Precision Technologies Division.

As a result of the Spectra-Physics acquisition, we now provide a significantly expanded product portfolio to our newly-aligned target customer end markets: scientific research, aerospace and defense/security; microelectronics (which is comprised primarily of semiconductor capital equipment customers); life and health sciences; and all other end markets (which include general industrial and fiber optic communications customers). This extensive portfolio enables us to offer our customers an end-to-end resource for products that make, manage and measure light. We provide:

high-power solid-state, gas and dye lasers and laser technology used in a wide array of applications, including scientific research, industrial and microelectronic manufacturing and life and health sciences;

components and integrated subsystems to manufacturers of semiconductor processing equipment, biomedical instrumentation and medical devices;

advanced automated assembly and test systems for manufacturers of communications and electronics devices; and

a broad array of high-precision systems, components and instruments to commercial, academic and government customers worldwide.

Our products leverage our expertise in laser technology, photonics instrumentation, precision robotics and automation, sub-micron positioning systems, vibration isolation, and optical subsystems and are designed to enhance the capabilities and productivity of our customers manufacturing, engineering and research applications.

We were established in 1969 as Newport Research Corporation. In 1978, Newport Research Corporation merged into James Dole Corporation, an entity which was incorporated in Nevada in 1938, and the company was renamed Newport Corporation following the merger.

Our principal executive offices are located at 1791 Deere Avenue, Irvine, California 92606. Our telephone number at this location is (949) 863-3144. Our web site address is www.newport.com. Our web site and the information contained in or connected to our web site are not a part of this prospectus.

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Newport, Spectra-Physics and our logos are our trademarks. This prospectus also contains other trade names, trademarks and service marks of ours and of other persons.

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RISK FACTORS

The following is a summary of certain risks we face in our business. They are not the only risks we face. Additional risks of which we are not presently aware or that we currently believe are immaterial may also harm our business and results of operations. The trading price of our common stock could decline due to the occurrence of any of these risks, and investors could lose all or part of their investment. In assessing these risks, investors should also refer to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

We may not be able to effectively or completely integrate the business and operations of Spectra-Physics or future acquisitions, which could materially harm our operating results.

In connection with our acquisition of Spectra-Physics, we face several significant challenges in integrating the business and operations of Spectra-Physics with our own. We may not be able to achieve the integration in an effective, complete, timely or cost-efficient manner. The acquisition of Spectra-Physics approximately doubled our size, including with respect to revenue, number of employees and facilities. The acquisition and integration of Spectra-Physics with our operations involves substantial risks, including:

our overall ability to integrate and manage Spectra-Physics operations, products and personnel;

our ability to integrate the products of Spectra-Physics so that they complement our own;

our ability to continue the development of the Spectra-Physics products and underlying technology;

our ability to manufacture and sell the Spectra-Physics products;

a decline in the demand for the Spectra-Physics products in the marketplace;

our ability to retain and expand the customer base of Spectra-Physics;

customer dissatisfaction or performance problems with the Spectra-Physics products;

our ability to integrate the international operations of Spectra-Physics, particularly in those countries in which we have not had prior operations;

our ability to retain key personnel who remained employed with Spectra-Physics following the acquisition;

our ability to expand our financial and management controls and reporting systems and procedures to integrate and manage Spectra-Physics;

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our ability to realize expected synergies resulting from the acquisition;

diversion of management's time and attention;

administrative integration and elimination of redundancies;

assumption of unknown or contingent liabilities, or other unanticipated events or circumstances;

our ability to maintain the competitiveness of Spectra-Physics and its products and technology in the marketplace; and

the need to incur or record significant cash or non-cash charges or write down the carrying value of intangible assets obtained in the Spectra-Physics acquisition, which could adversely impact our cash flow or lower our earnings in the period or periods for which we incur such charges or write down such assets.

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The business and operations of Spectra-Physics may not achieve the anticipated revenues and operating results. We may in the future choose to close or divest certain sectors or divisions of Spectra-Physics, which could require us to record losses and/or spend cash relating to such closures or divestitures. Any of the foregoing risks could materially harm our business, financial conditions and results of operations.

In addition, we have in the past, and expect in the future, to achieve growth through a combination of internally developed new products and acquisitions. In recent years we have acquired several companies and technologies in addition to Spectra-Physics, and we expect to continue to pursue acquisitions of other companies, technologies and complementary product lines in the future to expand our product offerings and technology base to further our strategic goals. We have faced and continue to face the same and other similar risks as referenced above in connection with our prior acquisitions, and we expect that we would face the same and other similar risks as referenced above in connection with any such future acquisitions.

Our operating results are difficult to predict, and if we fail to meet the expectations of investors and/or securities analysts, the market price of our common stock will likely decline significantly.

Our operating results in any given quarter have fluctuated and will likely continue to fluctuate. These fluctuations are typically unpredictable and can result from numerous factors including:

fluctuations in our customers' capital spending, industry cyclicality (particularly in the semiconductor industry), levels of government funding available to our customers, and other economic conditions within the markets we serve;

demand for our products and the products sold by our customers;

the level of orders within a given quarter and preceding quarters;

the timing and level of cancellations and delays of orders for our products;

the timing of product shipments within a given quarter;

our timing in introducing new products;

variations in the mix of products we sell in each of the markets in which we do business;

changes in our pricing policies or in the pricing policies of our competitors or suppliers;

market acceptance of any new or enhanced versions of our products;

the availability and cost of key components and raw materials we use to manufacture our products;

our ability to manufacture a sufficient quantity of our products to meet customer demand;

fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;

timing of new product introductions by our competitors; and

our levels of expenses.

We may in the future choose to change prices, increase spending, or add or eliminate products in response to actions by competitors or in an effort to pursue new market opportunities. These actions may also adversely affect our business and operating results and may cause our quarterly results to be lower than the results of previous quarters.

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In addition, we often recognize a substantial portion of our sales in the last month of the quarter. Thus, unexpected variations in timing of sales, particularly for our higher-priced, higher-margin products such as our laser products, can cause significant fluctuations in our quarterly operating results. Orders expected in one quarter could shift to another period due to changes in the anticipated timing of customers' purchase decisions or rescheduled delivery dates requested by our customers. Our operating results for a particular quarter or year may be adversely affected if our customers, particularly our largest customers, cancel or reschedule orders, or if we cannot fill orders in time due to unexpected delays in manufacturing, testing, shipping, and product acceptance. Also, we base our manufacturing on our forecasted product mix for the quarter. If the actual product mix varies significantly from our forecast, we may not be able to fill some orders during that quarter, which would result in delays in the shipment of our products and could shift sales to a subsequent period. In addition, our expenses for any given quarter are typically based on expected sales, and if sales are below expectations in any given quarter, the adverse impact of the shortfall on our operating results may be magnified by our inability to adjust spending quickly to compensate for the shortfall.

Due to these and other factors, we believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of results from operations, or any other similar period-to-period comparisons, should not be construed as reliable indicators of our future performance. In any period, our results may be below the expectations of market analysts and investors, which would likely cause the trading price of our common stock to drop.

We are highly dependent on the semiconductor equipment industry, which is volatile and unpredictable.

A substantial portion of our current and expected future business comes from sales of components, subsystems and laser products to manufacturers of semiconductor fabrication, metrology and wafer inspection equipment and sales of capital equipment to integrated semiconductor device manufacturers. The semiconductor market has historically been characterized by sudden and severe cyclical variations in product supply and demand. The timing, severity and duration of these market cycles are difficult to predict, and we may not be able to respond effectively to these cycles. The continuing uncertainty in this market severely limits our ability to predict our business prospects or financial results in this market.

During industry downturns, our revenues from this market will decline suddenly and significantly. Our ability to rapidly and effectively reduce our cost structure in response to such downturns is limited by the fixed nature of many of our expenses in the near term and by our need to continue our investment in next-generation product technology and to support and service our products. In addition, due to the relatively long manufacturing lead times for some of the systems and, subsystems we sell to this market, we may incur expenditures or purchase raw materials or components for products we cannot sell. Accordingly, downturns in the semiconductor capital equipment market may materially harm our operating results. Conversely, when upturns in this market occur, we must be able to rapidly and effectively increase our manufacturing capacity to meet increases in customer demand that may be extremely rapid, and if we fail to do so we may lose business to our competitors and our relationships with our customers may be harmed.

A limited number of customers account for a significant portion of our sales to the microelectronics market, and if we lose any of these customers or they significantly curtail their purchases of our products, our results of operations would be harmed.

Our sales to the microelectronics market (which is comprised primarily of semiconductor capital equipment customers) constituted 33.4%, 38.0% and 40.2% of our consolidated net sales for the year ended January 1, 2005 (which includes Spectra-Physics' results of operations for the period after July 16, 2004, the date of acquisition), and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively. We rely on a limited number of customers for a significant portion of our sales to this market. Our top five customers in this market comprised approximately 56.5%, 62.0%, and 69.8% of our sales to this market for the year ended January 1, 2005 (which includes Spectra-Physics' results of operations for the period after July 16, 2004, the date of acquisition), and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, respectively. No single customer in this market comprised 10% or more of our consolidated net sales in 2004. If any of our principal customers discontinues its relationship with us, replaces us as a vendor for certain products or suffers downturns in its business, our business and results of operations could be

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harmed significantly. In addition, because a relatively small number of companies dominate the front-end equipment portion of this market, and because those companies rarely change vendors in the middle of a product's life cycle, it may be particularly difficult for us to replace these customers if we lose their business.

The microelectronics market is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent product introductions, changing customer requirements and evolving industry standards. Because our customers face uncertainties with regard to the growth and requirements of these markets, their products and components may not achieve, or continue to achieve, anticipated levels of market acceptance. If our customers are unable to deliver products that gain market acceptance, it is likely that these customers will not purchase our products or will purchase smaller quantities of our products. We often invest substantial resources in developing our systems and subsystems in advance of significant sales of these systems and/or subsystems to such customers. A failure on the part of our customers' products to gain market acceptance, or a failure of the semiconductor capital equipment market to grow would have a significant negative effect on our business and results of operations.

A significant portion of our future growth is dependent on the growth of 300mm semiconductor wafer processes and lower than expected demand for equipment designed for these processes could negatively impact our revenues.

A significant portion of our expected future system and subsystem business in the semiconductor capital equipment market is comprised of products for the fabrication, inspection and metrology of 300mm semiconductor wafers. Wafer fabrication, inspection and metrology equipment for 300mm wafers is in an early stage of its adoption, and is expected to be driven by the need for the ability to manufacture more semiconductor chips at lower cost. The deployment of such equipment requires a significant capital investment by semiconductor manufacturers, and many semiconductor manufacturers have delayed plans to deploy such equipment until market conditions improve. In addition, certain industry analysts have recently forecasted more conservative capital equipment spending and slower adoption of new technologies by semiconductor manufacturers in future periods. If the demand for capital equipment for 300mm wafers does not increase, or increases more slowly than expected, demand for our system and subsystem products will likewise be adversely affected, and our business and results of operations could be harmed significantly.

Many of the markets and industries that we serve are subject to rapid technological change, and if we do not introduce new and innovative products or improve our existing products, our business and results of operations will be negatively affected.

Many of our markets are characterized by rapid technological advances, evolving industry standards, shifting customer needs and new product introductions and enhancements. Products in our markets often become outdated quickly and without warning. We depend to a significant extent upon our ability to enhance our existing products, to anticipate and address the demands of the marketplace for new and improved technology, either through internal development or by acquisitions, and to be price competitive. If we or our competitors introduce new or enhanced products, it may cause our customers to defer or cancel orders for our existing products. In addition, because certain of our markets experience severe cyclicity in capital spending, if we fail to introduce new products in a timely manner we may miss market upturns, and may fail to have our products or subsystems designed into our customers' products. We may not be successful in acquiring, developing, manufacturing or marketing new products on a timely or cost-effective basis. If we fail to adequately introduce new, competitive products on a timely basis, our business and results of operations would be harmed.

We offer products for multiple industries and must face the challenges of supporting the distinct needs of each of the markets we serve.

We offer products for a number of markets, including semiconductor capital equipment, scientific research, aerospace and defense/security, life and health sciences and fiber optic communications. Because we operate in multiple markets, we must work constantly to understand the needs,

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standards and technical requirements of several different industries and must devote significant resources to developing different products for these industries. Product development is costly and time consuming. Many of our products are used by our customers to develop,

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manufacture and test their own products. As a result, we must anticipate trends in our customers' industries and develop products before our customers' products are commercialized. If we do not accurately predict our customers' needs and future activities, we may invest substantial resources in developing products that do not achieve broad market acceptance. Our decision to continue to offer products to a given market or to penetrate new markets is based in part on our judgment of the size, growth rate and other factors that contribute to the attractiveness of a particular market. If our product offerings in any particular market are not competitive or our analyses of a market are incorrect, our business and results of operations would be harmed.

Because the sales cycle for some of our products is long and difficult to predict, and certain of our orders are subject to rescheduling or cancellation, we may experience fluctuations in our operating results.

Many of our capital equipment, system and subsystem products are complex, and customers for these products require substantial time to make purchase decisions. These customers often perform, or require us to perform extensive configuration, testing and evaluation of our products before committing to purchasing them. The sales cycle for our capital equipment, system and subsystem products from initial contact through shipment typically varies, is difficult to predict and can last as long as one year. The orders comprising our backlog are often subject to cancellation and changes in delivery schedules by our customers without significant penalty. We have from time to time experienced order rescheduling and cancellations that have caused our revenues in a given period to be materially less than would have been expected based on our backlog at the beginning of the period. If we experience such rescheduling and/or cancellations in the future, our operating results will fluctuate from period to period. These fluctuations could harm our results of operations and cause our stock price to drop.

If we are delayed in introducing our new products into the marketplace, or if our new products contain defects, our operating results will suffer.

Because certain of our products, particularly lasers, are sophisticated and complex, we may experience delays in introducing new products or enhancements to our existing products. If we do not introduce our new products or enhancements into the marketplace in a timely fashion, our customers may choose to use competitors' products. In addition, because certain of our markets, such as the semiconductor equipment market, are highly cyclical in nature, if we fail to timely introduce new products in advance of an upturn in the market's cycle, we may be foreclosed from selling products to many customers until the next cycle. As such, our inability to introduce new or enhanced products in a timely manner could cause our business and results of operations to suffer. In addition, our products may contain defects or undetected errors. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses in fixing any defects or undetected errors, which could result in damage to our competitive position and harm our business and results of operations.

We face significant risks from doing business in foreign countries.

Our business is subject to risks inherent in conducting business internationally. For the year ended January 1, 2005 (which includes Spectra-Physics' results of operations for the period after July 16, 2004, the date of acquisition), and for the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, our international revenues accounted for approximately 37.8%, 31.5% and 29.1%, respectively, of total net sales, with a substantial portion of international sales originating in Europe. We expect that international revenues will continue to account for a significant percentage of total net sales for the foreseeable future, and that, in particular, the proportion of our sales to Asian customers will increase as a result of the purchase of Spectra-Physics. Our international operations expose us to various risks, which include:

adverse changes in the political or economic conditions in countries or regions where we manufacture or sell our products;

challenges of administering our business globally;

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compliance with multiple and potentially conflicting regulatory requirements including export requirements, tariffs and other trade barriers;

longer accounts receivable collection periods;

overlapping, differing or more burdensome tax structures;

adverse currency fluctuations;

differing protection of intellectual property;

difficulties in staffing and managing each of our individual foreign operations;

increased risk of exposure to terrorist activities; and

trade restrictions and licensing requirements.

In addition, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates could affect the sales price in local currencies of our products in foreign markets, potentially making our products less price competitive. Such exchange rate fluctuations could also increase the costs and expenses of our foreign operations or require us to modify our current business practices. If we experience any of the risks associated with international business, our business and results of operations could be significantly harmed.

We face substantial competition, and if we fail to compete effectively, our operating results will suffer.

The markets for our products are intensely competitive, and we believe that competition from both new and existing competitors will increase in the future. We compete in several specialized markets, against a limited number of companies in each market. We also face competition in some of our markets from our existing and potential customers who have developed or may develop products that are competitive to ours, or who engage subcontract manufacturers to manufacture subassembly products on their behalf. Many of our existing and potential competitors are more established, enjoy greater name recognition and possess greater financial, technological and marketing resources than we do. Other competitors are small and highly specialized firms that are able to focus on only one aspect of a market. We compete on the basis of product performance, features, quality, reliability and price and on our ability to manufacture and deliver our products on a timely basis. We may not be able to compete successfully in the future against existing or new competitors. In addition, competitive pressures may force us to reduce our prices, which could negatively affect our operating results. If we do not respond adequately to competitive challenges, our business and results of operations would be harmed.

If we fail to protect our intellectual property and proprietary technology, we may lose our competitive advantage.

Our success and ability to compete depend in large part upon protecting our proprietary technology. We rely on a combination of patent, trademark and trade secret protection and nondisclosure agreements to protect our proprietary rights. The steps we have taken may not be

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sufficient to prevent the misappropriation of our intellectual property, particularly in foreign countries where the laws may not protect our proprietary rights as fully as in the United States. The patent and trademark law and trade secret protection may not be adequate to deter third party infringement or misappropriation of our patents, trademarks and similar proprietary rights. In addition, patents issued to us may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented. Our rights granted under those patents may not provide competitive advantages to us, and the claims under our patent applications may not be allowed. We have in the past and may in the future be subject to or may initiate interference proceedings in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which can demand significant financial and management resources. The process of seeking patent protection can be time consuming and expensive and patents may not be issued from currently pending or future applications. Moreover, our existing patents or any new patents that may be issued may not be sufficient in

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scope or strength to provide meaningful protection or any commercial advantage to us. We may in the future initiate claims or litigation against third parties for infringement of our proprietary rights in order to determine the scope and validity of our proprietary rights or the proprietary rights of our competitors, which claims could result in costly litigation, the diversion of our technical and management personnel and the assertion of counterclaims by the defendants, including counterclaims asserting invalidity of our patents. For example, we have notified several manufacturers of semiconductor wafer handling robots and load ports that we believe that they are infringing upon certain of our U.S. patents, and may institute litigation against one or more of such companies in the future. We will take such actions where we believe that they are of sufficient strategic or economic importance to us to justify the cost.

We have experienced, and may in the future experience, intellectual property infringement claims, which could be costly and time-consuming to defend.

We have from time to time received communications from third parties alleging that we are infringing certain trademarks, patents or other intellectual property rights held by them. Whenever such claims arise, we evaluate their merits. Any claims of infringement brought by third parties could result in protracted and costly litigation, and we could become subject to damages for infringement, or to an injunction preventing us from selling one or more of our products or using one or more of our trademarks. Such claims could also result in the necessity of obtaining a license relating to one or more of our products or current or future technologies, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Any intellectual property litigation and the failure to obtain necessary licenses or other rights or develop substitute technology may divert management's attention from other matters and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, the terms of our customer contracts typically require us to indemnify the customer in the event of any claim of infringement brought by a third party based on our products. Any such claims of this kind may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

If we are unable to attract new employees and retain and motivate existing employees, our business and results of operations will suffer.

Our ability to maintain and grow our business is directly related to the service of our employees in each area of our operations. Our future performance will be directly tied to our ability to hire, train, motivate and retain qualified personnel. Competition for personnel in the technology marketplace is intense, and if we are unable to hire sufficient numbers of employees with the experience and skills we need or to retain our employees, our business and results of operations would be harmed.

Our reliance on sole-source and limited source suppliers could result in delays in production and distribution of our products.

We obtain some of the materials used to build our systems and subsystems, such as the sheet steel used in some of our vibration isolation tables, and the laser crystals used in certain of our laser products, from single or limited sources due to unique component designs as well as specialized quality and performance requirements needed to manufacture our products. If our components or raw materials are unavailable in adequate amounts at acceptable quality levels or are unavailable on satisfactory terms, we may be required to purchase them from alternative sources, if available, which could increase our costs and cause delays in the production and distribution of our products. If we do not obtain comparable replacement components from other sources in a timely manner, our business and results of operations will be harmed. Many of our suppliers require long lead-times to deliver the quantities of components that we need. If we fail to accurately forecast our needs, or if we fail to obtain sufficient quantities of components that we use to manufacture our products, then delays or reductions in production and shipment could occur, which would harm our business and results of operations.

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Our products could contain defects, which would increase our costs and harm our business.

Certain of our products, especially our laser and automation products, are inherently complex in design and require ongoing regular maintenance. Further, the manufacture of these products often involves a highly complex and precise process. As a result of the technical complexity of these products, design defects, changes in our or our suppliers' manufacturing processes or the inadvertent use of defective materials by us or our suppliers could adversely affect our manufacturing yields and product reliability, which could in turn harm our business, operating results, financial condition and customer relationships.

We provide warranties for our products, and we accrue allowances for estimated warranty costs at the time we recognize revenue for the sale of the products. The determination of such allowances requires us to make estimates of product return rates and expected costs to repair or replace the products under warranty. We establish warranty reserves based on historical warranty costs for our products. If actual return rates or repair and replacement costs differ significantly from our estimates, adjustments to recognize additional cost of sales may be required in future periods.

Our customers may discover defects in our products after the products have been fully deployed and operated under peak stress conditions. In addition, some of our products are combined with products from other suppliers, which may contain defects. As a result, should problems occur, it may be difficult to identify the source of the problem. If we are unable to identify and fix defects or other problems, we could experience, among other things:

loss of customers;

increased costs of product returns and warranty expenses;

damage to our brand reputation;

failure to attract new customers or achieve market acceptance;

diversion of development and engineering resources; or

legal action by our customers.

The occurrence of any one or more of the foregoing factors could seriously harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our products are subject to potential product liability claims which, if successful, could adversely effect our results of operations.

We are exposed to significant risks for product liability claims if personal injury or death results from the use of our products. We may experience material product liability losses in the future. We currently maintain insurance against product liability claims. However, our

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insurance coverage may not continue to be available on terms that we accept, if at all. This insurance coverage also may not adequately cover liabilities that we incur. Further, if our products are defective, we may be required to recall or redesign these products. A successful claim against us that exceeds our insurance coverage level, or any claim or product recall, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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While we believe we currently have adequate internal control over financial reporting, we are required to evaluate our internal control over financial reporting under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and any adverse results from such evaluation could result in a loss of investor confidence in our financial reports and have an adverse effect on our stock price.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Section 404), we are required to furnish a report by our management each year on our internal control over financial reporting. This report contains, among other matters, an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of the end of our fiscal year, including a statement as to whether or not our internal control over financial reporting is effective. This assessment must include disclosure of any material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting identified by management. This report must also contain a statement that our auditors have issued an attestation report on management's assessment of such internal controls.

The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) provides a framework for companies to assess and improve their internal control systems. Auditing Standard No. 2 provides the professional standards and related performance guidance for auditors to attest to, and report on, management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting under Section 404. Management's assessment of internal controls over financial reporting requires management to make subjective judgments and, particularly because Section 404 and Auditing Standard No. 2 are newly effective, some of the judgments will be in areas that may be open to interpretation and therefore the report may be uniquely difficult to prepare and our auditors may not agree with our assessments.

Spectra-Physics, which now constitutes over half of our business, was formerly a division of a much larger organization with more complex and integrated internal control processes, causing our review of those internal controls over financial reporting to be time-consuming and costly. While we currently believe that the internal control over financial reporting of Spectra-Physics is effective, we are still performing the system and process documentation and evaluation relating to Spectra-Physics needed to comply with Section 404 and, as permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, will not complete such work until 2005. During this process, if our management identifies one or more material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, we will be unable to assert such internal control is effective.

If we are unable to assert each year that our internal control over financial reporting is effective (or if our auditors are unable to attest that our management's report is fairly stated or they are unable to express an opinion on the effectiveness of our internal controls), we could lose investor confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, which would have an adverse effect on our stock price. In addition, if any such unidentified material weaknesses were to result in fraudulent activity and/or a material misstatement or omission in our financial statements, we could suffer losses and be subject to civil and criminal penalties, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our financial results could be adversely affected by changes in the accounting rules governing the recognition of stock-based compensation expense.

We measure compensation expense for our employee stock compensation plans under the intrinsic value method of accounting prescribed by APB Opinion No. 25, *Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees*. Recently, the Financial Accounting Standards Board has adopted changes to the accounting rules concerning the recognition of stock option compensation expense which would require us to account for equity compensation under the fair value method of accounting prescribed by SFAS No. 123R, *Share-Based Payment*. We provide disclosures of our operating results as if we had applied the fair value method of accounting on a pro forma basis in accordance with SFAS No. 123, *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*. Beginning in the third quarter of 2005, we and other companies currently using the intrinsic value method will be required to measure compensation expense using the fair value method, which will adversely affect our results of operations by significantly increasing our equity compensation expense.

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Compliance with environmental regulations and potential environmental liabilities could adversely affect our financial results.

Our operations are subject to various federal, state and local environmental protection regulations relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing discharges of pollutants into the air and water, the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and the cleanup of contaminated sites. In the United States, we are subject to the federal regulation and control of the Environmental Protection Agency. Comparable authorities are involved in other countries. Some of our operations require environmental permits and controls to prevent and reduce air and water pollution, and these permits are subject to modification, renewal and revocation by issuing authorities. Future developments, administrative actions or liabilities relating to environmental matters could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Although we believe that our safety procedures for using, handling, storing and disposing of such materials comply with the standards required by state and federal laws and regulations, we cannot completely eliminate the risk of accidental contamination or injury from these materials. In the event of such an accident involving such materials, we could be liable for damages and such liability could exceed the amount of our liability insurance coverage and the resources of our business.

Spectra-Physics Mountain View, California facility is an EPA-designated Superfund site and is subject to a cleanup and abatement order from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Spectra-Physics, along with several other entities with facilities located near the Mountain View, California facility, have been identified as Responsible Parties with respect to this Superfund site, due to releases of hazardous substances during the 1960s and 1970s. The site is mature, and investigations and remediation efforts have been ongoing for approximately 20 years. Spectra-Physics and the other Responsible Parties have entered into a cost-sharing agreement covering the costs of remediating the off-site groundwater impact. We have established reserves relating to the estimated cost of these remediation efforts, however our ultimate costs of remediation are difficult to predict. In addition, while we are not aware of any unresolved property damage or personal injury claims relating to this site, such claims could be made against us in the future. While Thermo Electron Corporation has agreed in connection with our purchase of Spectra-Physics to indemnify us, subject to certain conditions, for environmental liabilities relating to this site in excess of our reserves, this indemnity may not cover all liabilities relating to this site. In such event, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Natural disasters or power outages could disrupt or shut down our operations, which would negatively impact our operations.

We are headquartered, and have significant operations, in the State of California and other areas where our operations are susceptible to damages from earthquakes, floods, fire, loss of power or water supplies, or other similar contingencies. If any of our facilities were to experience a catastrophic loss or significant power outages, it could disrupt our operations, delay production, shipments and revenue, and result in large expenses to repair or replace the facility, any of which would harm our business. We are predominantly uninsured for losses and interruptions caused by earthquakes.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains certain 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 and we intend that such forward-looking statements be subject to the safe harbors created thereby. For this purpose, any statements contained in this prospectus except for historical information may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, words such as may, will, expect, believe, anticipate, intend, could, estimate, or continue or other variations thereof or comparable terminology are intended to identify forward-looking statements. In addition, any statements that refer to projections of our future financial performance, trends in our businesses, or other characterizations of future events or circumstances are forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included herein are based on current expectations and involve a number of risks and uncertainties, all of which are difficult or impossible to predict accurately and many of which are beyond our control. As such, our actual results may differ significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in more detail under the sections of this prospectus entitled Risk Factors and Business and elsewhere in this prospectus. Readers should carefully review these risks, as well as the additional risks described in other documents we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In light of the significant risks and uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking information included herein, the inclusion of such information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that such results will be achieved, and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking information. We undertake no obligation to revise the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

USE OF PROCEEDS

All proceeds from the sale of our common stock covered by this prospectus will belong to the selling stockholder upon the sale of its shares. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling stockholder.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We declared no dividends on our common stock in 2004 or 2003. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future, however, we will periodically review this issue in the future based on changes in our financial position and investment opportunities, as well as any changes in the tax treatment of dividends.

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol NEWP. As of February 28, 2005, we had 1,198 common stockholders of record based upon the records of our transfer agent which do not include beneficial owners of common stock whose shares are held in the names of various securities brokers, dealers and registered clearing agencies. The following table reflects the high and low sales prices of our common stock for each quarterly period during the last two completed fiscal years:

<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
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January 1, 2005	\$ 14.37	\$ 10.96
October 2, 2004	15.83	11.05
July 3, 2004	17.73	13.74
April 3, 2004	22.33	15.25
December 31, 2003	17.57	14.14
September 30, 2003	19.18	14.02
June 30, 2003	16.67	11.41
March 31, 2003	14.99	10.49

Table of Contents**SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The table below presents selected consolidated financial data of Newport and our subsidiaries as of and for the years ended January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2003, 2002, 2001 and 2000. The consolidated balance sheet data as of January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2003, and the consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended January 1, 2005, December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included in this prospectus. The consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2002, 2001 and 2000 and the consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements not included in this prospectus.

The selected consolidated financial data set forth below should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	As of or for the Years Ended				
	January 1,		December 31,		
<i>(In thousands, except percentages)</i>	2005	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(1)(2)		(3)	(4)	(4)