JOHNSON CONTROLS INC

Form 10-K

November 18, 2015

#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2015

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

For The Transition Period From To

Commission File Number 1-5097

JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Wisconsin 39-0380010

(State of Incorporation) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

5757 North Green Bay Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(414) 524-1200

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:

Title of Each Class Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock New York Stock Exchange

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act: None

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act 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 R 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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes R 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, or a non-accelerated filer. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer R Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company "

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

As of March 31, 2015, the aggregate market value of the registrant's Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$33.0 billion based on the closing sales price as reported on the New York Stock Exchange. As of October 31, 2015, 647,676,732 shares of the registrant's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, were outstanding.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to shareholders in connection with the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on January 27, 2016 are incorporated by reference into Part III.

# JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC.

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#### CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS FOR FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Unless otherwise indicated, references to "Johnson Controls," the "Company," "we," "our" and "us" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K refer to Johnson Controls, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

The Company has made statements in this document that are forward-looking and, therefore, are subject to risks and uncertainties. All statements in this document other than statements of historical fact are statements that are, or could be, deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In this document, statements regarding future financial position, sales, costs, earnings, cash flows, other measures of results of operations, capital expenditures or debt levels and plans, objectives, outlook, targets, guidance or goals are forward-looking statements. Words such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "believe," "should," "forecast," "project" or "plan" or terms of similar meaning are also generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Johnson Controls cautions that these statements are subject to numerous important risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors, some of which are beyond Johnson Controls' control, that could cause Johnson Controls' actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. A detailed discussion of risks is included in the section entitled "Risk Factors" (refer to Part I, Item 1A, of this Annual Report on Form 10-K). The forward-looking statements included in this document are only made as of the date of this document, unless otherwise specified, and Johnson Controls assumes no obligation, and disclaims any obligation, to update forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this document.

#### PART I

#### **ITEM 1 BUSINESS**

#### General

Johnson Controls is a global diversified technology and industrial leader serving customers in more than 150 countries. The Company creates quality products, services and solutions to optimize energy and operational efficiencies of buildings; lead-acid automotive batteries and advanced batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles; and seating and interior systems for automobiles.

Johnson Controls was originally incorporated in the state of Wisconsin in 1885 as Johnson Electric Service Company to manufacture, install and service automatic temperature regulation systems for buildings. The Company was renamed to Johnson Controls, Inc. in 1974. In 1978, the Company acquired Globe-Union, Inc., a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of automotive batteries for both the replacement and original equipment markets. The Company entered the automotive seating industry in 1985 with the acquisition of Michigan-based Hoover Universal, Inc. In 2005, the Company acquired York International, a global supplier of heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment and services. In 2014, the Company acquired Air Distribution Technologies, Inc. (ADT), one of the largest independent providers of air distribution and ventilation products in North America.

The Company is going through a multi-year portfolio transformation. Included in this transformation are several strategic transactions which occurred during fiscal 2015 including the divestiture of its Global Workplace Solutions (GWS) business and the contribution of its Automotive Experience Interiors business to the newly created joint venture with Yanfeng Automotive Trim Systems. Additionally, the Company intends to pursue the separation of its Automotive Experience business through a spin-off.

The Building Efficiency business is a global market leader in designing, producing, marketing and installing integrated heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, building management systems, controls, security and mechanical equipment. In addition, the Building Efficiency business provides technical services and energy

management consulting. The Company also provides residential air conditioning and heating systems and industrial refrigeration products.

The Automotive Experience business is one of the world's largest automotive suppliers, providing innovative seating and interior systems through our design and engineering expertise. The Company's technologies extend into virtually every area of the interior including seating, door systems, floor consoles and instrument panels. Customers include most of the world's major automakers.

The Power Solutions business is a leading global supplier of lead-acid automotive batteries for virtually every type of passenger car, light truck and utility vehicle. The Company serves both automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and the general vehicle battery aftermarket. The Company also supplies advanced battery technologies to power start-stop, hybrid and electric vehicles.

#### Financial Information About Business Segments

Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 280, "Segment Reporting," establishes the standards for reporting information about segments in financial statements. In applying the criteria set forth in ASC 280, the Company has determined that it has six reportable segments for financial reporting purposes. The Company's six reportable segments are presented in the context of its three primary businesses - Building Efficiency, Automotive Experience and Power Solutions.

Refer to Note 19, "Segment Information," of the notes to consolidated financial statements for financial information about business segments.

For the purpose of the following discussion of the Company's businesses, the three Building Efficiency reportable segments and the two Automotive Experience reportable segments are presented together due to their similar customers and the similar nature of their products, production processes and distribution channels.

Products/Systems and Services

#### **Building Efficiency**

Building Efficiency is a global leader in delivering integrated control systems, mechanical equipment, products and services designed to improve the comfort, safety and energy efficiency of non-residential buildings and residential properties with operations in 52 countries. Revenues come from technical services, and the replacement and upgrade of HVAC controls and mechanical equipment in the existing buildings market, where the Company's large base of current customers leads to repeat business, as well as with installing controls and equipment during the construction of new buildings. Customer relationships often span entire building lifecycles.

Building Efficiency sells its control systems, mechanical equipment and services primarily through the Company's extensive global network of sales and service offices. Some building controls, products and mechanical systems are sold to distributors of air-conditioning, refrigeration and commercial heating systems throughout the world. In fiscal 2015, approximately 65% of Building Efficiency's sales were derived from HVAC products and installed control systems for construction and retrofit markets, including 14% of total sales related to new commercial construction. Approximately 35% of its sales in fiscal 2015 originated from its service offerings. In fiscal 2015, Building Efficiency accounted for 28% of the Company's consolidated net sales.

The Company's systems include York® chillers, industrial refrigeration products, air handlers and other HVAC mechanical equipment that provide heating and cooling in non-residential buildings. The Metasys® control system monitors and integrates HVAC equipment with other critical building systems to maximize comfort while reducing energy and operating costs. The Company also produces air conditioning and heating equipment and products, including Titus® and Ruskin® brands, for the residential market. As the largest global supplier of HVAC technical services, Building Efficiency staffs, optimizes and repairs building systems made by the Company and its competitors. The Company offers a wide range of solutions such as performance contracting under which guaranteed energy savings are used by the customer to fund project costs over a number of years.

#### Automotive Experience

Automotive Experience designs and manufactures interior products and systems for passenger cars and light trucks, including vans, pick-up trucks and sport/crossover utility vehicles. The business produces automotive interior systems for OEMs and operates approximately 230 wholly- and majority-owned manufacturing or assembly plants, with operations in 32 countries worldwide. Beginning in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2015, the Automotive Experience Interiors business is predominantly in an unconsolidated partially-owned affiliate. Additionally, the business has other

partially-owned affiliates in Asia, Europe, North America and South America.

Automotive Experience products and systems include complete seating systems and interior components, including instrument panels, floor consoles, and door systems. In fiscal 2015, Automotive Experience accounted for 54% of the Company's consolidated net sales.

The business operates assembly plants that supply automotive OEMs with complete seats on a "just-in-time/in-sequence" basis. Seats are assembled to specific order and delivered on a predetermined schedule directly to an automotive assembly line. Certain of the business's other automotive interior systems are also supplied on a "just-in-time/in-sequence" basis. Foam, metal and plastic seating components, seat covers, seat mechanisms and other components are shipped to these plants from the business's production facilities or outside suppliers.

#### **Power Solutions**

Power Solutions services both automotive OEMs and the battery aftermarket by providing energy storage technology, coupled with systems engineering, marketing and service expertise. The Company is the largest producer of lead-acid automotive batteries in the world, producing and distributing approximately 146 million lead-acid batteries annually in approximately 61 wholly- and majority-owned manufacturing or assembly plants, distribution centers and sales offices in 22 countries worldwide. Investments in new product and process technology have expanded product offerings to absorbent glass mat (AGM) and enhanced flooded battery (EFB) technologies that power start-stop vehicles, as well as lithium-ion battery technology for certain hybrid and electric vehicles. The business has also invested to develop sustainable lead and poly recycling operations in the North American and European markets. Approximately 74% of unit sales worldwide in fiscal 2015 were to the automotive replacement market, with the remaining sales to the OEM market.

Power Solutions accounted for 18% of the Company's fiscal 2015 consolidated net sales. Batteries and key components are manufactured at wholly- and majority-owned plants in North America, South America, Asia and Europe.

## Competition

#### **Building Efficiency**

The Building Efficiency business conducts its operations through thousands of individual contracts that are either negotiated or awarded on a competitive basis. Key factors in the award of contracts include system and service performance, quality, price, design, reputation, technology, application engineering capability and construction or project management expertise. Competitors for HVAC equipment and controls in the residential and non-residential marketplace include many regional, national and international providers; larger competitors include Honeywell International, Inc.; Siemens Building Technologies, an operating group of Siemens AG; Schneider Electric SA; Carrier Corporation, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation; Trane Incorporated, a subsidiary of Ingersoll-Rand Company Limited; Daikin Industries, Ltd.; Lennox International, Inc.; GC Midea Holding Co, Ltd.; Gree Electric Appliances, Inc. and Greenheck Fan Corporation. In addition to HVAC equipment, Building Efficiency competes in a highly fragmented HVAC services market, which is dominated by local providers. The loss of any individual contract would not have a material adverse effect on the Company.

#### Automotive Experience

The Automotive Experience business faces competition from other automotive suppliers and, with respect to certain products, from the automobile OEMs who produce or have the capability to produce certain products the business supplies. The automotive supply industry competes on the basis of technology, quality, reliability of supply and price. Design, engineering and product planning are increasingly important factors. Independent suppliers that represent the principal Automotive Experience Seating competitors include Lear Corporation, Faurecia SA and Magna International Inc. The Automotive Experience Interiors business primarily competes with Faurecia SA, Grupo Antolin - Irausa SA and International Automotive Components Group SA.

#### **Power Solutions**

Power Solutions is the principal supplier of batteries to many of the largest merchants in the battery aftermarket, including Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone, Robert Bosch GmbH, DAISA S.A., Costco, NAPA, O'Reilly/CSK, Interstate Battery System of America, Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Wal-Mart stores. Automotive batteries are sold throughout the world under private labels and under the Company's brand names (Optima®, Varta®, LTH® and Heliar®) to automotive replacement battery retailers and distributors and to automobile manufacturers as original

equipment. The Power Solutions business competes with a number of major domestic and international manufacturers and distributors of lead-acid batteries, as well as a large number of smaller, regional competitors. The Power Solutions business primarily competes in the battery market with Exide Technologies, GS Yuasa Corporation, Camel Group Company Limited, East Penn Manufacturing Company and Banner Batteries GB Limited. The North American, European and Asian lead-acid battery markets are highly competitive. The manufacturers in these markets compete on price, quality, technical innovation, service and warranty.

#### **Backlog**

The Company's backlog relating to the Building Efficiency business is applicable to its sales of systems and services. At September 30, 2015, the backlog was \$4.5 billion, the majority of which relates to fiscal 2016. The backlog as of September 30, 2014 was \$4.8 billion. The decline in backlog year over year was primarily due to declines in the Other and North America Systems and Service segments. The backlog amount outstanding at any given time is not necessarily indicative of the amount of revenue to be earned in the upcoming fiscal year.

#### Raw Materials

Raw materials used by the businesses in connection with their operations, including lead, steel, tin, aluminum, urethane chemicals, copper, sulfuric acid and polypropylene, were readily available during fiscal 2015, and the Company expects such availability to continue. In fiscal 2016, commodity prices could fluctuate throughout the year and could significantly affect the results of operations.

#### **Intellectual Property**

Generally, the Company seeks statutory protection for strategic or financially important intellectual property developed in connection with its business. Certain intellectual property, where appropriate, is protected by contracts, licenses, confidentiality or other agreements.

The Company owns numerous U.S. and non-U.S. patents (and their respective counterparts), the more important of which cover those technologies and inventions embodied in current products or which are used in the manufacture of those products. While the Company believes patents are important to its business operations and in the aggregate constitute a valuable asset, no single patent, or group of patents, is critical to the success of the business. The Company, from time to time, grants licenses under its patents and technology and receives licenses under patents and technology of others.

The Company's trademarks, certain of which are material to its business, are registered or otherwise legally protected in the U.S. and many non-U.S. countries where products and services of the Company are sold. The Company, from time to time, becomes involved in trademark licensing transactions.

Most works of authorship produced for the Company, such as computer programs, catalogs and sales literature, carry appropriate notices indicating the Company's claim to copyright protection under U.S. law and appropriate international treaties.

#### Environmental, Health and Safety Matters

Laws addressing the protection of the environment (environmental laws) and workers' safety and health (worker safety laws) govern the Company's ongoing global operations. They generally provide for civil and criminal penalties, as well as injunctive and remedial relief, for noncompliance or require remediation of sites where Company-related materials have been released into the environment.

The Company has expended substantial resources globally, both financial and managerial, to comply with environmental laws and worker safety laws and maintains procedures designed to foster and ensure compliance. Certain of the Company's businesses are, or have been, engaged in the handling or use of substances that may impact workplace health and safety or the environment. The Company is committed to protecting its workers and the environment against the risks associated with these substances.

The Company's operations and facilities have been, and in the future may become, the subject of formal or informal enforcement actions or proceedings for noncompliance with environmental laws and worker safety laws or for the remediation of Company-related substances released into the environment. Such matters typically are resolved with regulatory authorities through commitments to compliance, abatement or remediation programs and, in some cases, payment of penalties. Historically, neither such commitments nor such penalties have been material. (See Item 3, "Legal Proceedings," of this report for a discussion of the Company's potential environmental liabilities.)

## **Environmental Capital Expenditures**

The Company's ongoing environmental compliance program often results in capital expenditures. Environmental considerations are a part of all significant capital expenditure decisions; however, expenditures in fiscal 2015 related solely to environmental compliance were not material. It is management's opinion that the amount of any future capital expenditures related solely to environmental compliance will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial results or competitive position in any one year.

## **Employees**

As of September 30, 2015, the Company employed approximately 139,000 employees, of whom approximately 91,000 were hourly and 48,000 were salaried.

#### Seasonal Factors

Certain of Building Efficiency's sales are seasonal as the demand for residential air conditioning equipment generally increases in the summer months. This seasonality is mitigated by the other products and services provided by the Building Efficiency business that have no material seasonal effect.

Sales of automotive seating and interior systems and of batteries to automobile OEMs for use as original equipment are dependent upon the demand for new automobiles. Management believes that demand for new automobiles generally reflects sensitivity to overall economic conditions with no material seasonal effect.

The automotive replacement battery market is affected by weather patterns because batteries are more likely to fail when extremely low temperatures place substantial additional power requirements upon a vehicle's electrical system. Also, battery life is shortened by extremely high temperatures, which accelerate corrosion rates. Therefore, either mild winter or moderate summer temperatures may adversely affect automotive replacement battery sales.

Financial Information About Geographic Areas

Refer to Note 19, "Segment Information," of the notes to consolidated financial statements for financial information about geographic areas.

Research and Development Expenditures

Refer to Note 1, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies," of the notes to consolidated financial statements for research and development expenditures.

#### **Available Information**

The Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, definitive proxy statements on Schedule 14A, current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are made available free of charge through the Investor Relations section of the Company's Internet website at http://www.johnsoncontrols.com as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the SEC. Copies of any materials the Company files with the SEC can also be obtained free of charge through the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, or by calling the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy at 1-800-732-0330. The Company also makes available, free of charge, its Ethics Policy, Corporate Governance Guidelines, Board of Directors committee charters and other information related to the Company on the Company's Internet website or in printed form upon request. The Company is not including the information contained on the Company's website as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

#### ITEM 1ARISK FACTORS

Risks Relating to the Proposed Separation of the Automotive Experience Business by Spin-Off

The proposed separation of our Automotive Experience business is contingent upon the satisfaction of a number of conditions, may require significant time and attention of our management, and may have a material adverse effect on us whether or not it is completed.

On July 24, 2015, we announced our intent to pursue a separation of our Automotive Experience business through a spin-off to our shareholders. The proposed spin-off is subject to various conditions, is complex in nature, and may be

affected by unanticipated developments, credit and equity markets, or changes in market conditions. As independent, publicly traded companies, each business will be smaller and less diversified with a narrower business focus and may be more vulnerable to changing market conditions. Completion of the proposed spin-off will be contingent upon customary closing conditions, including final approval from our Board of Directors.

We will incur significant expenses in connection with the proposed spin-off. In addition, completion of the proposed spin-off will require significant amounts of management's time and effort which may divert management's attention from other aspects of our business operations and other initiatives. We may experience negative reactions from the financial markets if we do not complete the proposed spin-off in a reasonable time period.

Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or the price of our common stock.

We may be unable to achieve some or all of the benefits that we expect to achieve from the spin-off.

Although we believe that separating our Automotive Experience business from our Building Efficiency and Power Solutions businesses by means of the spin-off will provide financial, operational, managerial and other benefits to us and our shareholders, the spin-off may not provide such results on the scope or scale we anticipate, and we may not realize any or all of the intended benefits. In addition, we will incur one-time costs and ongoing costs in connection with, or as a result of, the spin-off, including costs of operating as independent, publicly-traded companies that the two businesses will no longer be able to share. Those costs may exceed our estimates or could negate some of the benefits we expect to realize. If we do not realize the intended benefits of the spin-off or if our costs exceed our estimates, the Company or the business that is spun off could suffer a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

#### General Risks

General economic, credit and capital market conditions could adversely affect our financial performance, our ability to grow or sustain our businesses and our ability to access the capital markets.

We compete around the world in various geographic regions and product markets. Global economic conditions affect each of our primary businesses. As we discuss in greater detail in the specific risk factors for each of our businesses that appear below, any future financial distress in the industries and/or markets where we compete could negatively affect our revenues and financial performance in future periods, result in future restructuring charges, and adversely impact our ability to grow or sustain our businesses.

The capital and credit markets provide us with liquidity to operate and grow our businesses beyond the liquidity that operating cash flows provide. A worldwide economic downturn and/or disruption of the credit markets could reduce our access to capital necessary for our operations and executing our strategic plan. If our access to capital were to become significantly constrained, or if costs of capital increased significantly due to lowered credit ratings, prevailing industry conditions, the volatility of the capital markets or other factors; then our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Risks associated with our non-U.S. operations could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We have significant operations in a number of countries outside the U.S., some of which are located in emerging markets. Long-term economic uncertainty in some of the regions of the world in which we operate, such as Asia, South America, the Middle East, Central Europe and other emerging markets, could result in the disruption of markets and negatively affect cash flows from our operations to cover our capital needs and debt service requirements.

In addition, as a result of our global presence, a significant portion of our revenues and expenses is denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. We are therefore subject to foreign currency risks and foreign exchange exposure. While we employ financial instruments to hedge some of our transactional foreign exchange exposure, these activities do not insulate us completely from those exposures. Exchange rates can be volatile and could adversely impact our financial results and the comparability of results from period to period.

There are other risks that are inherent in our non-U.S. operations, including the potential for changes in socio-economic conditions, laws and regulations, including import, export, labor and environmental laws, and monetary and fiscal policies; protectionist measures that may prohibit acquisitions or joint ventures, or impact trade

volumes; unsettled political conditions; government-imposed plant or other operational shutdowns; backlash from foreign labor organizations related to our restructuring actions; corruption; natural and man-made disasters, hazards and losses; violence, civil and labor unrest, and possible terrorist attacks.

These and other factors may have a material adverse effect on our non-U.S. operations and therefore on our business and results of operations.

The regulation of our international operations could adversely affect our business, results of operations and reputation.

Due to our global operations, we are subject to many laws governing international relations, including those that prohibit improper payments to government officials and commercial customers, and restrict where we can do business, what information or products we can supply to certain countries and what information we can provide to a non-U.S. government, including but not limited to

the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), U.K. Bribery Act and the U.S. Export Administration Act. Violations of these laws, which are complex, may result in criminal penalties, sanctions and/or fines that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and reputation.

Global climate change could negatively affect our business.

Increased public awareness and concern regarding global climate change may result in more regional and/or federal requirements to reduce or mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. There continues to be a lack of consistent climate legislation, which creates economic and regulatory uncertainty. Such regulatory uncertainty extends to future incentives for energy efficient buildings and vehicles and costs of compliance, which may impact the demand for our products, obsolescence of our products and our results of operations.

There is a growing consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are linked to global climate changes. Climate changes, such as extreme weather conditions, create financial risk to our business. For example, the demand for our products and services, such as residential air conditioning equipment and automotive replacement batteries, may be affected by unseasonable weather conditions. Climate changes could also disrupt our operations by impacting the availability and cost of materials needed for manufacturing and could increase insurance and other operating costs. These factors may impact our decisions to construct new facilities or maintain existing facilities in areas most prone to physical climate risks. The Company could also face indirect financial risks passed through the supply chain, and process disruptions due to physical climate changes could result in price modifications for our products and the resources needed to produce them.

We are subject to requirements relating to environmental regulation and environmental remediation matters, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Because of uncertainties associated with environmental regulation and environmental remediation activities at sites where we may be liable, future expenses that we may incur to remediate identified sites could be considerably higher than the current accrued liability on our consolidated statements of financial position, which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Risks related to our defined benefit retirement plans may adversely impact our results of operations and cash flow.

Significant changes in actual investment return on defined benefit plan assets, discount rates, mortality assumptions and other factors could adversely affect our results of operations and the amounts of contributions we must make to our defined benefit plans in future periods. Because we mark-to-market our defined benefit plan assets and liabilities on an annual basis, large non-cash gains or losses could be recorded in the fourth quarter of each fiscal year. Generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. require that we calculate income or expense for the plans using actuarial valuations. These valuations reflect assumptions about financial markets and interest rates, which may change based on economic conditions. Funding requirements for our defined benefit plans are dependent upon, among other factors, interest rates, underlying asset returns and the impact of legislative or regulatory changes related to defined benefit funding obligations. For a discussion regarding the significant assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost, refer to "Critical Accounting Estimates and Policies" included in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

We may be unable to realize the expected benefits of our restructuring actions, which could adversely affect our profitability and operations.

To align our resources with our growth strategies, operate more efficiently and control costs, we periodically announce restructuring plans, which may include workforce reductions, global plant closures and consolidations, asset impairments and other cost reduction initiatives. We may undertake additional restructuring actions and workforce

reductions in the future. As these plans and actions are complex, unforeseen factors could result in expected savings and benefits to be delayed or not realized to the full extent planned, and our operations and business may be disrupted.

Negative or unexpected tax consequences could adversely affect our results of operations.

Adverse changes in the underlying profitability and financial outlook of our operations in several jurisdictions could lead to additional changes in our valuation allowances against deferred tax assets and other tax reserves on our statement of financial position, and the future sale of certain businesses could potentially result in the repatriation of accumulated foreign earnings that could materially and adversely affect our results of operations. Additionally, changes in tax laws in the U.S. or in other countries where we have significant operations could materially affect deferred tax assets and liabilities on our consolidated statements of financial position and income tax provision on our consolidated statements of income.

We are also subject to tax audits by governmental authorities in the U.S. and in non-U.S. jurisdictions. Negative unexpected results from one or more such tax audits could adversely affect our results of operations.

Legal proceedings in which we are, or may be, a party may adversely affect us.

We are currently and may in the future become subject to legal proceedings and commercial or contractual disputes. These are typically claims that arise in the normal course of business including, without limitation, commercial or contractual disputes with our suppliers, intellectual property matters, third party liability, including product liability claims and employment claims. There exists the possibility that such claims may have an adverse impact on our results of operations that is greater than we anticipate and/or negatively affect our reputation.

A downgrade in the ratings of our debt could restrict our ability to access the debt capital markets and increase our interest costs.

Unfavorable changes in the ratings that rating agencies assign to our debt may ultimately negatively impact our access to the debt capital markets and increase the costs we incur to borrow funds. If ratings for our debt fall below investment grade, our access to the debt capital markets would become restricted. Future tightening in the credit markets and a reduced level of liquidity in many financial markets due to turmoil in the financial and banking industries could affect our access to the debt capital markets or the price we pay to issue debt. Historically, we have relied on our ability to issue commercial paper rather than to draw on our credit facility to support our daily operations, which means that a downgrade in our ratings or volatility in the financial markets causing limitations to the debt capital markets could have an adverse effect on our business or our ability to meet our liquidity needs.

Additionally, several of our credit agreements generally include an increase in interest rates if the ratings for our debt are downgraded. Further, an increase in the level of our indebtedness may increase our vulnerability to adverse general economic and industry conditions and may affect our ability to obtain additional financing.

The potential insolvency or financial distress of third parties could adversely impact our business and results of operations.

We are exposed to the risk that third parties to various arrangements who owe us money or goods and services, or who purchase goods and services from us, will not be able to perform their obligations or continue to place orders due to insolvency or financial distress. If third parties fail to perform their obligations under arrangements with us, we may be forced to replace the underlying commitment at current or above market prices or on other terms that are less favorable to us. In such events, we may incur losses, or our results of operations, financial condition or liquidity could otherwise be adversely affected.

We may be unable to complete or integrate acquisitions or joint ventures effectively, which may adversely affect our growth, profitability and results of operations.

We expect acquisitions of businesses and assets, as well as joint ventures (or other strategic arrangements), to play a role in our future growth. We cannot be certain that we will be able to identify attractive acquisition or joint venture targets, obtain financing for acquisitions on satisfactory terms, successfully acquire identified targets or form joint ventures, or manage the timing of acquisitions with capital obligations across our businesses. Additionally, we may not be successful in integrating acquired businesses or joint ventures into our existing operations and achieving projected synergies. Competition for acquisition opportunities in the various industries in which we operate may rise, thereby increasing our costs of making acquisitions or causing us to refrain from making further acquisitions. If we were to use equity securities to finance a future acquisition, our then-current shareholders would experience dilution. We are also subject to applicable antitrust laws and must avoid anticompetitive behavior. These and other factors

related to acquisitions and joint ventures may negatively and adversely impact our growth, profitability and results of operations.

Risks associated with joint venture investments may adversely affect our business and financial results.

We have entered into several joint ventures and we may enter into additional joint ventures in the future. Our joint venture partners may at any time have economic, business or legal interests or goals that are inconsistent with our goals or with the goals of the joint venture. In addition, we may compete against our joint venture partners in certain of our other markets. Disagreements with our business partners may impede our ability to maximize the benefits of our partnerships. Our joint venture arrangements may require us, among other matters, to pay certain costs or to make certain capital investments or to seek our joint venture partner's consent to take certain actions. In addition, our joint venture partners may be unable or unwilling to meet their economic or other obligations under the operative documents, and we may be required to either fulfill those obligations alone to ensure the ongoing

success of a joint venture or to dissolve and liquidate a joint venture. These risks could result in a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

We are subject to business continuity risks associated with centralization of certain administrative functions.

We have been regionally centralizing certain administrative functions, primarily in North America, Europe and Asia, to improve efficiency and reduce costs. To the extent that these central locations are disrupted or disabled, key business processes, such as invoicing, payments and general management operations, could be interrupted, which could have an adverse impact on our business.

A failure of our information technology (IT) and data security infrastructure could adversely impact our business and operations.

We rely upon the capacity, reliability and security of our IT and data security infrastructure and our ability to expand and continually update this infrastructure in response to the changing needs of our business. As we implement new systems, they may not perform as expected. We also face the challenge of supporting our older systems and implementing necessary upgrades. If we experience a problem with the functioning of an important IT system or a security breach of our IT systems, including during system upgrades and/or new system implementations, the resulting disruptions could have an adverse effect on our business.

We and certain of our third-party vendors receive and store personal information in connection with our human resources operations and other aspects of our business. Despite our implementation of security measures, our IT systems, like those of other companies, are vulnerable to damages from computer viruses, natural disasters, unauthorized access, cyber attack and other similar disruptions. Any system failure, accident or security breach could result in disruptions to our operations. A material network breach in the security of our IT systems could include the theft of our intellectual property, trade secrets, customer information, human resources information or other confidential matter. To the extent that any disruptions or security breach results in a loss or damage to our data, or an inappropriate disclosure of confidential, proprietary or customer information, it could cause significant damage to our reputation, affect our relationships with our customers, lead to claims against the Company and ultimately harm our business. In addition, we may be required to incur significant costs to protect against damage caused by these disruptions or security breaches in the future.

Our business success depends on attracting and retaining qualified personnel.

Our ability to sustain and grow our business requires us to hire, retain and develop a highly skilled and diverse management team and workforce. Failure to ensure that we have the leadership capacity with the necessary skill set and experience could impede our ability to deliver our growth objectives and execute our strategic plan. Organizational and reporting changes as a result of any future leadership transition, corporate initiatives and our proposed separation into two publicly-traded companies could result in increased turnover. Additionally, any unplanned turnover or inability to attract and retain key employees could have a negative effect on our results of operations.

Regulations related to conflict minerals could adversely impact our business.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act contains provisions to improve transparency and accountability concerning the supply of certain minerals, known as conflict minerals, originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries. As a result, in August 2012, the SEC adopted annual disclosure and reporting requirements for those companies who use conflict minerals in their products. Accordingly, we began our reasonable country of origin inquiries in fiscal 2013, with our initial disclosure relating to conflict minerals occurring in May 2014 and a subsequent disclosure in May 2015. There are costs associated with complying with these

disclosure requirements, including for diligence to determine the sources of conflict minerals used in our products and other potential changes to products, processes or sources of supply as a consequence of such verification activities. Our continued compliance with these disclosure rules could adversely affect the sourcing, supply and pricing of materials used in our products. As there may be only a limited number of suppliers offering "conflict free" conflict minerals, we cannot be sure that we will be able to obtain necessary conflict minerals from such suppliers in sufficient quantities or at competitive prices, or that we will be able to satisfy customers who require our products to be conflict free. Also, we may face reputational challenges if we determine that certain of our products contain minerals not determined to be conflict free or if we are unable to sufficiently verify the origins for all conflict minerals used in our products through the procedures we may implement.

## **Building Efficiency Risks**

Failure to comply with regulations due to our contracts with U.S. government entities could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our Building Efficiency business contracts with government entities and is subject to specific rules, regulations and approvals applicable to government contractors. We are subject to routine audits by the Defense Contract Audit Agency to assure our compliance with these requirements. Our failure to comply with these or other laws and regulations could result in contract terminations, suspension or debarment from contracting with the U.S. federal government, civil fines and damages and criminal prosecution. In addition, changes in procurement policies, budget considerations, unexpected U.S. developments, such as terrorist attacks, or similar political developments or events abroad that may change the U.S. federal government's national security defense posture may adversely affect sales to government entities.

Volatility in commodity prices may adversely affect our results of operations.

Increases in commodity costs negatively impact the profitability of orders in backlog as prices on those orders are fixed; therefore, in the short-term we cannot adjust for changes in commodity prices. If we are not able to recover commodity cost increases through price increases to our customers on new orders, then such increases will have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Additionally, unfavorability in our hedging programs during a period of declining commodity prices could result in lower margins as we reduce prices to match the market on a fixed commodity cost level.

Conditions in the commercial and residential new construction markets may adversely affect our results of operations.

HVAC equipment sales in the commercial and residential new construction markets correlate to the number of new buildings and homes that are built. The strength of the commercial and residential markets depends in part on the availability of commercial and consumer financing for our customers, along with inventory and pricing of existing buildings and homes. If economic and credit market conditions decline, it may result in a decline in the construction of new commercial buildings and residential housing construction market. Such conditions could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and result in potential liabilities or additional costs, including impairment charges.

A variety of other factors could adversely affect the results of operations of our Building Efficiency business.

Any of the following could materially and adversely impact the results of operations of our Building Efficiency business: loss of, changes in, or failure to perform under guaranteed performance contracts with our major customers; cancellation of, or significant delays in, projects in our backlog; delays or difficulties in new product development; the potential introduction of similar or superior technologies; financial instability or market declines of our major component suppliers; the unavailability of raw materials (primarily steel, copper and electronic components) necessary for production of HVAC equipment; price increases of limited-source components, products and services that we are unable to pass on to the market; unseasonable weather conditions in various parts of the world; changes in energy costs or governmental regulations that would decrease the incentive for customers to update or improve their building control systems; revisions to energy efficiency or refrigerant legislation; and natural or man-made disasters or losses that impact our ability to deliver products and services to our customers.

## Automotive Experience Risks

Unfavorable changes in the condition of the global automotive industry may adversely affect our results of operations.

Our financial performance depends, in part, on conditions in the automotive industry. In fiscal 2015, our largest customers globally were automobile manufacturers Ford Motor Company (Ford), Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. (Chrysler), General Motors Corporation (GM), Daimler AG and Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota). If automakers experience a decline in the number of new vehicle sales, we may experience reductions in orders from these customers, incur write-offs of accounts receivable, incur impairment charges or require additional restructuring actions beyond our current restructuring plans, particularly if any of the automakers cannot adequately fund their operations or experience financial distress. In addition, such adverse changes could have a negative impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We are subject to pricing pressure from our automotive customers.

We face significant competitive pressures in our automotive business segments. Because of their purchasing size, our automotive customers can influence market participants to compete on price terms. If we are not able to offset pricing reductions resulting

from these pressures by improved operating efficiencies and reduced expenditures, those pricing reductions may have an adverse impact on our business and result of operations.

Financial distress of the automotive supply chain could harm our results of operations.

Automotive industry conditions could adversely affect the original equipment supplier base. Lower production levels for key customers, increases in certain raw material, commodity and energy costs and global credit market conditions could result in financial distress among many companies within the automotive supply base. Financial distress within the supplier base may lead to commercial disputes and possible supply chain interruptions, which in turn could disrupt our production. In addition, an adverse industry environment may require us to provide financial support to distressed suppliers or take other measures to ensure uninterrupted production, which could involve additional costs or risks. If any of these risks materialize, we are likely to incur losses, or our results of operations, financial position or liquidity could otherwise be adversely affected.

Changes in consumer demand may adversely affect our results of operations.

Increases in energy costs or other factors (e.g., climate change concerns) may shift consumer demand away from motor vehicles that typically have higher interior content that we supply, such as light trucks, crossover vehicles, minivans and sport utility vehicles, to smaller vehicles having less interior content. The loss of business with respect to, or a lack of commercial success of, one or more particular vehicle models for which we are a significant supplier could reduce our sales and harm our profitability, thereby adversely affecting our results of operations.

We may not be able to successfully negotiate pricing terms with our customers in the Automotive Experience business, which may adversely affect our results of operations.

We negotiate sales prices annually with our automotive customers. Cost-cutting initiatives that our customers have adopted generally result in increased downward pressure on pricing. In some cases our customer supply agreements require reductions in component pricing over the period of production. If we are unable to generate sufficient production cost savings in the future to offset price reductions, our results of operations may be adversely affected. In particular, large commercial settlements with our customers may adversely affect our results of operations or cause our financial results to vary on a quarterly basis.

Volatility in commodity prices may adversely affect our results of operations.

Commodity prices can be volatile from year to year. If commodity prices rise, and if we are not able to recover these cost increases from our customers, these increases will have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

The cyclicality of original equipment automobile production rates may adversely affect the results of operations in our Automotive Experience business.

The financial performance of our Automotive Experience business is directly related to automotive production by our customers. Automotive production and sales are highly cyclical and depend on general economic conditions and other factors, including consumer spending and preferences. An economic decline that results in a reduction in automotive production by our Automotive Experience customers could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations.

A variety of other factors could adversely affect the results of operations of our Automotive Experience business.

Any of the following could materially and adversely impact the results of operations of our Automotive Experience business: the loss of, or changes in, automobile supply contracts, sourcing strategies or customer claims with our

major customers or suppliers; start-up expenses associated with new vehicle programs or delays or cancellations of such programs; underutilization of our manufacturing facilities, which are generally located near, and devoted to, a particular customer's facility; inability to recover engineering and tooling costs; market and financial consequences of any recalls that may be required on products that we have supplied; delays or difficulties in new product development and integration; quantity and complexity of new program launches, which are subject to our customers' timing, performance, design and quality standards; interruption of supply of certain single-source components; the potential introduction of similar or superior technologies; changing nature and prevalence of our joint ventures and relationships with our strategic business partners; and global overcapacity and vehicle platform proliferation.

#### **Power Solutions Risks**

An inability to successfully respond to competition and pricing pressure from other companies in the Power Solutions business may adversely impact our business.

Our Power Solutions business competes with a number of major domestic and international manufacturers and distributors of lead-acid batteries, as well as a large number of smaller, regional competitors. The North American, European and Asian lead-acid battery markets are highly competitive. The manufacturers in these markets compete on price, quality, technical innovation, service and warranty. If we are unable to remain competitive and maintain market share in the regions and markets we serve, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

We are subject to requirements relating to environmental and safety regulations and environmental remediation matters, related to the manufacturing and recycling of lead-acid batteries, which could adversely affect our business, results of operation and reputation.

The Company is subject to numerous federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations governing, among other things, the solid and hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal, and remediation of releases of hazardous materials; as it pertains to lead, the primary material used in the manufacture of lead-acid batteries. Environmental laws and regulations may become more stringent in the future, which could increase costs of compliance or require the Company to manufacture with alternative technologies and materials. Because of uncertainties associated with environmental regulation and environmental remediation activities at sites where we may be liable, future expenses that we may incur to comply with such regulations or remediate identified sites could be considerably higher than the current or future accrued liability on our consolidated statements of financial position, which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations, and negatively impact our reputation.

Federal, state and local authorities also regulate a variety of matters, including, but not limited to, health, safety and permitting in addition to the environmental matters discussed above. New legislation and regulations may require the Company to make material changes to its operations, resulting in significant increases to the cost of production.

Volatility in commodity prices may adversely affect our results of operations.

Lead is a major component of our lead-acid batteries, and the price of lead may be highly volatile. We attempt to manage the impact of changing lead prices through the recycling of used batteries returned to us by our aftermarket customers, commercial terms and commodity hedging programs. Our ability to mitigate the impact of lead price changes can be impacted by many factors, including customer negotiations, inventory level fluctuations and sales volume/mix changes, any of which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Additionally, the prices of other commodities, primarily fuel, acid, resin and tin, may be volatile. If other commodity prices rise, and if we are not able to recover these cost increases through price increases to our customers, such increases will have an adverse effect on our results of operations. Moreover, the implementation of any price increases to our customers could negatively impact the demand for our products.

Decreased demand from our customers in the automotive industry may adversely affect our results of operations.

Our financial performance in the Power Solutions business depends, in part, on conditions in the automotive industry. Sales to OEMs accounted for approximately 26% of the total sales of the Power Solutions business in fiscal 2015. Declines in the North American, European and Asian automotive production levels could reduce our sales and adversely affect our results of operations. In addition, if any OEMs reach a point where they cannot fund their operations, we may incur write-offs of accounts receivable, incur impairment charges or require additional

restructuring actions beyond our current restructuring plans, which, if significant, would have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

A variety of other factors could adversely affect the results of operations of our Power Solutions business.

Any of the following could materially and adversely impact the results of operations of our Power Solutions business: loss of, or changes in, automobile battery supply contracts with our large original equipment and aftermarket customers; the increasing quality and useful life of batteries or use of alternative battery technologies, both of which may adversely impact the lead-acid battery market, including replacement cycle; delays or cancellations of new vehicle programs; market and financial consequences of any recalls that may be required on our products; delays or difficulties in new product development, including lithium-ion technology; impact of potential increases in lithium-ion battery volumes on established lead-acid battery volumes as lithium-ion battery technology grows and costs become more competitive; financial instability or market declines of our customers or suppliers; slower

than projected market development in emerging markets; interruption of supply of certain single-source components; changing nature of our joint ventures and relationships with our strategic business partners; unseasonable weather conditions in various parts of the world; our ability to secure sufficient tolling capacity to recycle batteries; price and availability of battery cores used in recycling; and the lack of the development of a market for hybrid and electric vehicles.

#### ITEM 1B UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

The Company has no unresolved written comments regarding its periodic or current reports from the staff of the SEC.

#### **ITEM 2 PROPERTIES**

At September 30, 2015, the Company conducted its operations in 55 countries throughout the world, with its world headquarters located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Company's wholly- and majority-owned facilities, which are listed in the table on the following pages by business and location, totaled approximately 97 million square feet of floor space and are owned by the Company except as noted. The facilities primarily consisted of manufacturing, assembly and/or warehouse space. The Company considers its facilities to be suitable and adequate for their current uses. The majority of the facilities are operating at normal levels based on capacity. Building Efficiency

Alabama	Dothan (3)	Minnesota	Fridley (3)
	Geneva (3)		Plymouth (1),(4)
	Huntsville (2)	Mississippi	Hattiesburg (1)
Arizona	Tucson (3)		Olive Branch
California	Mira Loma (2),(3)	Missouri	Albany
	Sanger (1)		Grandview (4)
	San Jose (1)		St. Louis (1),(4)
	Simi Valley (1),(4)	New Jersey	Hainesport (1),(4)
Florida	Largo (1),(3)	North Carolina	Sanford
	Medley (1),(4)		Tarboro
	Miami (1),(4)	Ohio	Cincinnati (3)
	Tampa (1),(4)		Clayton
Georgia	Roswell (1),(4)		Dayton (4)
Idaho	Nampa	Oklahoma	Norman (3)
Illinois	Elmhurst (1),(4)		Ponca City (1)
	Mount Prospect (4)	Oregon	Portland (1),(4)
Indiana	Lebanon	Pennsylvania	Audubon (1),(4)
	Rochester (3)		East Greenville (1),(3)
Kansas	Lenexa (1),(4)		Waynesboro (3)
	Parson (3)		York (1)
	Wichita (2),(3)	Texas	Carrollton (1),(3)
Kentucky	Lexington (1),(3)		Coppell (1)
	Louisville (2),(3)		El Paso (2)
Maryland	Baltimore (1),(4)		Houston $(1)$ , $(3)$
	Capitol Heights (1),(4)		Irving (4)
	Rossville (1)		Plano (1),(4)
	Sparks (1),(4)		Richardson (1),(4)
Massachusetts	Lynnfield (4)		San Antonio
	Turners Falls (1)	Washington	Fife (1),(4)
Michigan	Grand Rapids (1),(4)	Wisconsin	Milwaukee (2),(4)
	Sterling Heights (1),(4)		

# Building Efficiency (continued)

Austria	Vienna (4)	Italy	Milan (1),(3)
Belgium	Diegem (1),(4)	Japan	Tokyo (1),(4)
Brazil	Curitiba (1),(4)	Macau	Macau (1),(4)
Canada	Ajax (1),(3)	Malaysia	Petaling Jaya (1),(4)
	Markham (2),(4)		Shah Alam
	Nobel (1)	Mexico	Apodaca (1),(3)
	Oakville (1),(4)		Cienega de Flores (1)
	Prescott (1)		Durango
China	Beijing (1),(4)		Juarez (2),(3)
	Qingyuan (2),(3)		Mexicali (1)
	Suzhou (1),(3)		Monterrey (1),(4)
	Wuxi (3)		Ojinaga (1)
Denmark	Hojbjerg (3)		Reynosa (3)
	Hornslet (2),(3)		Santa Catarina (1),(3)
	Viby (3)	Netherlands	Dordrecht (3)
France	Carquefou Cedex (2),(3)		Gorinchem (1),(3)
	Colombes (1),(3)	Russia	Moscow (1),(3)
Germany	Essen (1),(3)	South Africa	Isando (1),(4)
	Hamburg (1),(3)	Thailand	Amphur Kabinburi (1),(3)
	Mannheim (1),(3)		Samut Sakhon (1),(4)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong (1),(3)	Turkey	Manisa (1)
India	Bangalore (1)	United Arab Emirates	Dubai (1)
	Gurgaon (1),(3)	United Kingdom	Bridgnorth (3)
	Mumbai (1),(4)	_	Whitstable (3)

Automotive Experience