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## **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

## **FORM 8-K**

## **CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT** TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE **SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): February 1, 2006

# **CABOT CORPORATION**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

#### DELAWARE

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

04-2271897

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

TWO SEAPORT LANE, SUITE 1300, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210-2019

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

1-5667

(Commission File Number)

(617) 345-0100

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

(Zip Code)

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## Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On February 1, 2006 Cabot Corporation issued a press release announcing its operating results for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2005. A copy of the press release, together with supplemental business information for the first fiscal quarter 2006, are furnished herewith as Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2.

### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

- 99.1 Press release issued by Cabot Corporation on February 1, 2006
- 99.2 First Quarter Fiscal Year 2006 Supplemental Business Information

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

## CABOT CORPORATION

By: /s/ Jonathan P. Mason

Name: Jonathan P. Mason Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 1, 2006

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit <u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
99.1	Press release issued by Cabot Corporation dated February 1, 2006
99.2	First Quarter Fiscal Year 2006 Supplemental Business Information

Contact:

Susannah R. Robinson Director, Investor Relations (617) 342-6129

#### CABOT ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER OPERATING RESULTS

**BOSTON, MA** (February 1, 2006) — Cabot Corporation (CBT/NYSE) today announced net income of \$24 million (\$0.35 per diluted common share) for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 ended December 31, 2005, compared with \$35 million (\$0.51 per diluted common share) for the year ago quarter. The first fiscal quarter 2006 results included \$1 million (\$0.02 per diluted common share) of after tax charges from certain items and \$2 million (\$0.04 per diluted common share) of pre-tax charges and \$4 million (\$0.04 per diluted common share) of tax benefit for certain items and discontinued operations for the same quarter of fiscal year 2005. Further details concerning certain items and discontinued operations are included in Exhibit I of the press release.

In commenting on the results, Kennett F. Burnes, Cabot's Chairman and CEO, said, "As expected, our results for the quarter were negatively impacted by the continued rise in raw material costs in rubber blacks and performance products and by higher ore costs in the tantalum business. We continue to actively work to optimize our cost position to lessen the impact of raw material pressures. The Supermetals Business had a strong quarter of volume growth and we remain confident in the volume strength of all of our core businesses. We were pleased during the quarter with the strong performance of

both inkjet colorants and Specialty Fluids and remain encouraged with the evolution of our new businesses."

The Carbon Black Business reported operating profits of \$21 million compared with \$30 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 and a loss of \$4 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. When compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2005, rubber blacks reported flat profitability and performance products reported a decrease in operating profits of \$9 million. An otherwise flat quarter on a volume basis was helped by the acquisition of Showa Cabot, which increased volumes in rubber blacks by 5%. Compared to the September quarter, rubber blacks reported an increase in operating profits of \$21 million and performance products reported a \$5 million increase in operating profitability. Seasonal volume softness and rising feedstock costs were only partially offset by higher prices. The inkjet colorants product line had a strong quarter with volume increases of 39% year over year and 10% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005.

The Metal Oxides Business reported operating profits of \$2 million compared with \$6 million for the first quarter of fiscal 2005 and \$1 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. When compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2005, the fumed metal oxides product line reported a \$4 million decrease in profitability driven by lower volumes in traditional silicones and electronics markets, as well as higher costs due to a significant equipment failure at a supplier's hydrogen gas facility co-located at our plant in Tuscola, Illinois. "This extended disruption in hydrogen supply is affecting both our production capacity and our costs. Nonetheless, we are currently meeting all customer needs," said Burnes. Sequentially, the product line increased operating profits by \$1 million.

The Supermetals Business reported \$11 million in operating profits compared to \$16 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 and \$7 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. Strong increases in market volumes and lower costs, resulting from our efforts to reposition the cost structure of this business during fiscal 2005, benefited the business sequentially. These were more than offset by the continued transition from fixed price and fixed volume contracts to market based pricing and by higher ore costs for the year compared to the first quarter of fiscal 2005. "We are encouraged by stronger demand for our tantalum products." Burnes commented, "While we remain in arbitration with the Sons of Gwalia regarding ore price, we continue to believe we will resolve this matter through a commercial settlement. As we said last quarter, the resolution of this matter will likely result in higher ore costs than last year. Our results reflect our current best estimate for ore costs for the full fiscal year. This estimate resulted in higher costs in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 due to our LIFO accounting methodology."

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, the Specialty Fluids Business reported operating profits of \$4 million compared to \$2 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 driven by strong rental revenues based on an increase in the volume of fluid being used. Sequentially, this business reported a decline in operating profits of \$3 million due principally to a decrease in barrel rental days when compared to a particularly strong fourth quarter in fiscal 2005.

With respect to the future, Burnes said, "On balance, we are seeing an improved outlook over the remainder of the year. Demand is either solid or improving in all of our businesses and relationships with key customers remain strong. While carbon black feedstock prices appear to have stabilized, high European natural gas prices will

adversely affect our profitability going forward. We are making progress in reaching a negotiated settlement with the Sons of Gwalia and we remain confident with the market development efforts in our emerging businesses as they continue to demonstrate improved profitability and the achievement of important milestones."

For those interested in more detailed information regarding Cabot's first quarter fiscal year 2006 results, please see the Supplemental Business Information available on the Company's website in the Investor Relations section: <u>http:// investor.cabot-corp.com</u>.

Included above are forward-looking statements relating to management's expectations regarding demand for Cabot's products, future business performance and overall prospects; tantalum ore costs in the Supermetals Business; growth in inkjet colorants and the Specialty Fluids Business; and carbon black feedstock and natural gas prices. The following are some of the factors that could cause Cabot's actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements: a continuing rise in feedstock costs and a higher than expected increase in natural gas prices; Cabot's ability to generate cost savings and implement restructuring initiatives; lower than expected demand for our products; the outcome of our settlement negotiations with Sons of Gwalia; the Company's ability to maintain and grow its position in the small office, home office printing market and to participate in the growth in emerging inkjet applications for black colorants and to develop and commercialize colored pigments (which may be disrupted or delayed by technical difficulties, market acceptance, competitors' new products or difficulties in moving from the experimental stage to the manufacturing stage); the success of the Specialty Fluids Business in gaining wider acceptance by the energy industry of cesium formate as a drilling fluid and to penetrate new markets (including development of the required logistics to reach remote markets); and the timely completion and start-up of capacity expansion projects. Other factors and risks are discussed in the Company's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Cabot Corporation is a global specialty chemicals and materials company headquartered in Boston, MA. Cabot's major products are carbon black, fumed silica, inkjet colorants, capacitor materials, and cesium formate drilling fluids.

## CABOT CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

Periods ended December 31 Dollars in millions, except per share amounts (unaudited)	5	Three 2005		
		.005		2004
Net sales and other operating revenues	\$	587	\$	495
Cost of sales		481		378
Gross profit	\$	106	\$	117
Selling and administrative expenses		58		54
Research and technical expenses		13		15
Income from operations	\$	35	\$	48
Other income and expense				
Interest and dividend income		2		2
Interest expense		(6)		(8)
Other income (expense)		(4)		3
Total other income and expense		(8)		(3)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes		27	<u> </u>	45
Provision for income taxes		(4)		(9)
Equity in net income of affiliated companies, net of tax		3		2
Minority interest in net income, net of tax	<u> </u>	(4)		(3)
Income from continuing operations		22		35
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax		2		_
Net income		24		35
Dividends on preferred stock		(1)		(1)
Income available to common shares	\$	23	\$	34
Diluted earnings per share of common stock				
Income from continuing operations	\$	0.31	\$	0.51
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax	\$	0.04	\$	
Net income	\$	0.35	\$	0.51
Weighted average common shares outstanding				
Diluted		68		69

## CABOT CORPORATION SUMMARY RESULTS BY SEGMENTS

Periods ended December 31 Dollars in millions, except per share amounts (unaudited)	200	Three Months 5	2004
		-	
SALES			
Carbon Black Business		419 \$	
Rubber blacks		298	225
Performance products		109	110
Inkjet colorants		11	9
Superior MicroPowders		1	1
Metal Oxides Business		57	60
Fumed metal oxides		57	60
Aerogels			
Supermetals Business		93	77
Specialty Fluids Business		10	7
Segment sales (A)		579	489
Unallocated and other (B)		8	6
Net sales and other operating revenues	\$	<u>587</u> \$	495
SEGMENT PROFIT			
Carbon Black Business	\$	21 \$	30
Metal Oxides Business		2	6
Supermetals Business		11	16
Specialty Fluids Business		4	2
Total Segment Profit (C)		38	54
Interest expense		(6)	(8)
General unallocated income (expense) (D)		(2)	1
Less: Equity in net income of affiliated companies, net of tax		(3)	(2)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes		27	45
Provision for income taxes		(4)	(9)
Equity in net income of affiliated companies, net of tax		3	2
Minority interest in net income, net of tax		(4)	(3)
Income from continuing operations		22	35
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax (E)		2	
Net income		24	35
Dividends on preferred stock		(1)	(1)
Income available to common shares	\$	23 \$	
Diluted earnings per share of common stock			
Income from continuing operations	\$ 0	).31 \$	0.51
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax (E)		0.04 \$	
Net income		).35 \$	0.51
Weighted average common shares outstanding	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	0101
Diluted		68	69

(A) Segment sales for certain operating segments within the Carbon Black Business include 100% of sales of one equity affiliate and transfers of materials at cost and at market-based prices.
 (B) Unallocated and other reflects an elimination for sales of one equity affiliate offset by royalties paid by equity affiliates, external shipping and handling fees and certain corporate items and eliminations that are not allocated to the operating segments.

(C) Segment profit is a measure used by Cabot's operating decision-makers to measure consolidated operating results and assess segment performance. Segment profit includes equity in net income of affiliated companies and excludes royalties paid by equity affiliates and allocated corporate costs.

(D) General unallocated income (expense) includes foreign currency transaction gains (losses), interest income, dividend income, and the certain items listed in Exhibit I.

(E) Cumulative benefit of accounting change for implementation of FAS 123R, net of tax.

## CABOT CORPORATION CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

In millions	December 31 2005 (unaudited)	, September 30, 2005
Current assets	\$ 1,23	<b>5 \$</b> 1,248
Net property, plant and equipment	88	832
Other non-current assets	30	L 294
Total assets	\$ 2,42	\$ 2,374
Current liabilities	\$ 462	<b>2 \$</b> 433
Non-current liabilities	855	<b>5</b> 842
Stockholders' equity	1,10	<b>B</b> 1,099
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,42	\$ 2,374
Working capital	<u>\$ 774</u>	\$ 815

## **CABOT CORPORATION**

			Fiscal 2005					Fiscal 2006		
In millions, except per share amounts (unaudited)	Dec. Q.	Mar. Q.	June Q.	Sept. Q.	FY	Dec. Q.	Mar. Q.	June Q.	Sept. Q.	FY
except per share amounts (unauticu)	Dee, Q.	Mail Q.	June Q.	<i>эср</i> г. <b>Q</b> .		<u>Dttt. Q</u> .	with Q.	June Q.	<i>эср</i> г. <b>Q</b> .	<u> </u>
Sales										
Carbon Black Business	\$ 345	\$ 369	\$ 387	\$ 389	\$1,490	\$ 419				\$ 419
Rubber blacks	225	235	251	265	976	298				298
Performance products	110	123	123 11	113	469	109				109
Inkjet colorants Superior MicroPowders	9 1	9 2	2	10 1	39 6	11 1				11 1
Metal Oxides Business	60	58	57	56	231	57				57
Fumed metal oxides	60	58	57	56	231	57				57
Aerogels	_	_	_	_		_				_
Supermetals Business	77	86	93	90	346	93				93
Specialty Fluids Business	7	8	11	14	40	10				10
Segment Sales (A)	489	521	548	549	2,107	579				579
Unallocated and other <sup>(B)</sup>	6	6	(3)	9	18	8				8
Net sales and other operating										
revenues	\$ 495	\$ 527	\$ 545	\$ 558	\$2,125	\$ 587				\$ 587
Segment Profit (Loss)			+							
Carbon Black Business	\$ 30	\$ 41	\$ 26	\$ (4)	\$ 93	\$ 21				\$ 21
Metal Oxides Business	6	5	4	1	16	2				2
Supermetals Business Specialty Fluids Business	16 2	16 4	13 5	7 7	52 18	11 4				11 4
Total segment profit (C)	54	66	48	11	179	38				38
Total segment profit (C)	54	00	48	11	1/9	38				38
Income (Loss) Available to										
Common Shares										
Interest expense	(8)	(8)	(8)	(5)	(29)	(6)				(6)
General unallocated income										
(expense) <sup>(D)</sup>	1	(91)	(2)	(139)	(231)	(2)				(2)
Less: Equity in net income of					(10)					
affiliated companies, net of tax	(2)	(2)	(2)	(6)	(12)	(3)				(3)
Income (Loss) from Continuing	45	(25)	20	(120)	(02)	77				77
Operations before income taxes (Provision) benefit for income	45	(35)	36	(139)	(93)	27				27
taxes	(9)	(13)	(9)	76	45	(4)				(4)
Equity in net income of affiliated	(3)	(15)	(3)	70	-15	(+)				(-)
companies, net of tax	2	2	2	6	12	3				3
Minority interest in net income, net										
of tax	(3)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(12)	(4)				(4)
Income (Loss) from Continuing										
Operations	35	(50)	26	(59)	(48)	22				22
Cumulative effect of accounting						n				n
change, net of taxes (E) Net income (loss)	35	(50)		(50)	(40)	2 24				2
Dividends on preferred stock	(1)	(50)	26 (1)	(59) (1)	(48)	(1)				(1)
Dividends on preferred stock	(1)		(1)	(1)	(3)	(1)				(1)
Income (loss) available to										
common shares	\$ 34	\$ (50)	\$ 25	\$ (60)	\$ (51)	\$ 23				\$ 23
				<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>						
Income (Loss) per common										
share										
Income (loss) from Continuing										
Operations	\$ 0.51	\$ (0.84)	\$ 0.39	\$ (1.02)	\$ (0.84)	\$ 0.31				\$ 0.31
Cumulative Effects of Accounting						0.01				0.01
Change, net of tax (E)	¢ 0 = 1	¢ (0.0.4)	¢ 0 20	¢ (1.02)	¢ (0.04)	0.04				0.04 ¢ 0.35
Net income (loss)	\$ 0.51	\$ (0.84)	\$ 0.39	\$ (1.02)	\$ (0.84)	\$ 0.35				\$ 0.35
Weighted average common shares outstanding										
Diluted (F)	69	60	69	59	60	68				68
	05	00	05		00	0				00

(A) Segment sales for certain operating segments within the Chemical Business include 100% of sales of one equity affiliate and transfers of materials at cost and at market-based prices.

(B) Unallocated and other reflects an elimination for sales for one equity affiliate offset by royalties paid by equity affiliates, external shipping and handling fee and certain corporate items and eliminations that are not allocated to the operating segments

(C) Segment profit is a measure used by Cabot's operating decision-makers to measure consolidated operating results and assess segment performance. Segment profit includes equity in net income of affiliated companies and excludes royalties paid by equity affiliates, minority interest and allocated corporate costs.

(D) General unallocated income (expense) includes foreign currency transaction gains (losses), interest income, dividend income and certain items listed in Exhibit I. These amounts also include \$90 million of goodwill impairment charges in the Supermetals Business recorded in the second quarter of 2005 and \$121 million of long-lived asset impairment charges in the Supermetals Business recorded in the fourth quarter of 2005.

(E) Amounts in Q1 2006 relate to the cumulative benefit of the accounting change for FAS 123R, net of tax.

(F) The weighted average common shares outstanding for the quarter ending March 31, 2005 and the quarter and year ending September 30, 2005 reflects the exclusion of those shares that would be antidilutive due to the Company's net loss position in these periods. The shares excluded totalled approximately 9 million shares for the quarter ending March 31, 2005 and approximately 9 million and 8 million shares, respectively, for the quarter and year ending September 30, 2005.

## CABOT CORPORATION CERTAIN ITEMS - Exhibit I

Periods ended December 31				Three 1	Months		
Dollars in millions, except per share amounts (unaudited)	2005 \$		2005 per share(A)		2004 \$		2004 share(A)
<u>Certain items before income taxes</u>							
Restructuring initiatives	\$	(1)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(4)	\$ (0.04)
Cost reduction initiatives		(1)		(0.01)			
Total certain items		(2)		(0.02)		(4)	(0.04)
Cumulative effect of accounting change (B)		4		0.04			
Total certain items and cumulative effect of accounting change		2		0.02		(4)	(0.04)
Tax impact of certain items and cumulative effect of accounting							
change (B)		(1)				4	0.04
Total certain items and cumulative effect of accounting change, after tax	\$	1	\$	0.02	\$	_	\$ 

Periods ended December 31	Three Mont	hs
Dollars in millions, except per share amounts (unaudited)	2005	2004
Statement of Operations Line Item		
Cost of sales	\$ —	\$ 4
Selling and administrative expenses	2	—
Total certain items	<u>\$2</u>	\$4

(A) Per share amounts are calculated after tax.

(B) Cumulative benefit of accounting change from implementation of FAS 123R, net of tax.

(C) Represents tax impact of certain items and cumulative effect of accounting change.

(\$0.16)/sh

#### CABOT CORPORATION **FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2006** SUPPLEMENTAL BUSINESS INFORMATION

#### I. Q1'06 vs. Q1'05 (Quarter over Quarter) Major Changes:

**NOTE:** Each \$0.01 per diluted share is approximately \$1 million profit before tax.

Changes in EPS, excluding certain items, are calculated using the diluted weighted average common shares outstanding, which was approximately 68 million for the first guarter of fiscal 2006 and 69 million for the fourth guarter of fiscal 2005.

	Change in EPS	% Change in Volumes
Carbon Black Business	(\$0.09)/sh	
Rubber Blacks	\$0.00/sh	0% *
Performance Products	(\$0.10)/sh	(6%)
Inkjet Colorants	\$0.01/sh	39%
Superior Micro Powders	\$0.00/sh	N/A
Metal Oxides Business	(\$0.04)/sh	
Fumed Metal Oxides	(\$0.04)/sh	(6%)
Aerogels	\$0.00/sh	N/A
Supermetals Business	(\$0.06)/sh	9%
Specialty Fluids Business	<b>\$0.02/sh</b>	N/A
Foreign Exchange	\$0.00/sh	
Other unallocated and tax related items	(\$0.01)/sh	
Certain Items and Change in Accounting Principle	\$0.02/sh	

Total

\* does not include volumes associated with the acquisition of Cabot Japan

## II. Q1'06 vs. Q4'05 (Sequential Quarters) Major Changes:

NOTE: Each \$0.01 per diluted share is approximately \$1 million profit before tax.

Changes in EPS, excluding certain items, are calculated using the diluted weighted average common shares outstanding, which was approximately 68 million for both the first quarter of fiscal 2006 and the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005.

	Change in EPS	% Change in Volumes
Carbon Black Business	\$0.28/sh	
Rubber Blacks	\$0.24/sh	(5%) *
Performance Products	\$0.05/sh	(10%)
Inkjet Colorants	\$0.01/sh	10%
Superior Micro Powders	(\$0.02)/sh	N/A
Metal Oxides Business	\$0.01/sh	
Fumed Metal Oxides	\$0.01/sh	(1%)
Aerogels	\$0.00/sh	N/A
Supermetals Business	<b>\$0.04</b> /sh	3%
Specialty Fluids Business	(\$0.04)/sh	N/A
Foreign Exchange	\$0.01/sh	
Other unallocated and tax related items	(\$0.43)/sh	
Certain Items	<b>\$1.50/sh(1)</b>	
Total	<b>\$1.37/sh</b>	

#### Total

\* does not include volumes associated with the acquisition of Cabot Japan

(1) Due to the Company's net loss for the quarter ending September 30, 2005, common shares totaling 9 million were required to be excluded from the calculation of earnings per share, as including them would have had an antidilutive effect. However, in order to consistently present the change in earnings per share by business segment and product line from period to period, the September 30, 2005 per share amounts were calculated using the Company's fully diluted weighted average shares outstanding of 68 million. The impact of this change in the weighted average common shares outstanding was \$0.12 on both the business segment and product line results and certain items is reflected in this line.

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#### III. Q1'06 Business Segment Revenue & PBT

	Revenue	PBT
Carbon Black Business	419	21
Rubber Blacks	298	
Performance Products	109	
Inkjet Colorants	11	
Superior Micro Powders	1	
-		
Metal Oxides Business	57	2
Fumed Metal Oxides	57	
Aerogels		
Supermetals Business	93	11
Specialty Fluids Business	10	4
Total	579	38

#### IV. Rubber Blacks Regional Analysis

**North America** — Volumes were flat in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 compared to the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 and decreased 1% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005.

South America — Volumes decreased 9% in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 compared to the same quarter of fiscal year 2005 and decreased 12% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005.

**Europe** — Volumes decreased 1% in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 compared to the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 and decreased 4% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005.

Asia Pacific — Volumes were flat in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 compared to the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 and decreased 13% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005.

**China** — Volumes increased 16% in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 compared to the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 and decreased 4% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005.

#### V. Corporate and Business Initiatives

Selling and administrative costs increased \$4 million from \$54 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 to \$58 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The increase was primarily due to a bad debt write off in Europe and costs associated with Cabot's previously announced business process improvement initiative.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 there were no open market stock re-purchases. Approximately 2.7 million shares remain available for purchase under the current Board of Directors' authorization.

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Cabot invested approximately \$106 million in capital expenditures during the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, of which \$57 million is related to the acquisition of Cabot Japan. The fiscal year 2006 capital spending plan is approximately \$250 million.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, working capital increased by \$50 million on a constant dollar basis (approximately \$41 million at actual exchange rates) of which \$8 million relates to the acquisition of Cabot Japan.

The Company's tax provision for the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was \$4 million. The Company's effective tax rate for continuing operations was 16% for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, which included \$3.5 million related to a favorable international tax settlement.

At the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 the Company held \$120 million in cash and \$15 million in marketable securities. The Company's long-term and short-term debt outstanding at the end of the first quarter fiscal year 2006 was \$26 million and \$472 million, respectively.

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