
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 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): **May 17, 2007**

THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) | 1-9973 (Commission File Number) | 36-3352497 (IRS Employer Identification No.) |
|--|---|---|

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1400 Toastmaster Drive, Elgin, Illinois (Address of Principal Executive Offices) | 60120 (Zip Code) |
|--|----------------------------|

(847) 741-3300
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(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:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On May 17, 2007, The Middleby Corporation issued a press release, a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information furnished pursuant to this Current Report on Form 8-K (including the exhibit hereto) shall not be considered "filed" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be incorporated by reference into future filings by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, unless the Company expressly sets forth in such future filing that such information is to be considered "filed" or incorporated by reference therein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

| Exhibit No | Description |
|--------------|---|
| Exhibit 99.1 | Press release dated May 17, 2007 of The Middleby Corporation. |

SIGNATURES

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

THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

Dated: May 17, 2007

By: /s/ Timothy J. FitzGerald
Timothy J. FitzGerald
Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit Index

| <u>Exhibit No</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Exhibit 99.1 | Press release dated May 17, 2007 of The Middleby Corporation. |

Middleby Announces Expiration of Union Contract at Elgin, IL Facility

ELGIN, IL.--(BUSINESS WIRE)—May 17, 2007 -- The Middleby Corporation (NASDAQ:MIDD) today announced that the unionized workforce at its Elgin, Illinois manufacturing facility failed to ratify a final contract proposal following an extension of its expired collective bargaining agreement, resulting in a work stoppage.

The company manufactures its Middleby Marshall conveyor ovens at this facility. There are approximately 135 employees that participate in the union at the Elgin, Illinois facility. Net sales generated from this facility accounted for approximately 16% of the company's net sales in 2006.

The company expects there will be no disruption in service and support of existing conveyor ovens operating at restaurants worldwide. Additionally, the company believes it has a sufficient level of finished goods inventory to satisfy customer needs in the near term. While the company is hopeful to enter into a new employment contract with the union, it is taking immediate steps to minimize potential longer-term disruption by establishing alternative production capabilities.

Statements in this press release or otherwise attributable to the company regarding the company's business which are not historical fact are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The company cautions investors that such statements are estimates of future performance and are highly dependent upon a variety of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from such statements. Such factors include volatility in earnings resulting from goodwill impairment losses; variability in financing costs; quarterly variations in operating results; dependence on key customers; international exposure; foreign exchange and political risks affecting international sales; protection of trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property; changing market conditions; the impact of competitive products and pricing; the timely development and market acceptance of the company's products; the availability and cost of raw materials; and other risks detailed herein and from time-to-time in the company's SEC filings.

The Middleby Corporation is a global leader in the foodservice equipment industry. The company develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment used for commercial food cooking, preparation and processing. The company's leading equipment brands include Blodgett®, Blodgett Combi®, Blodgett Range®, CTX®, Houno®, Jade®, MagiKitch'n®, Middleby Marshall®, Pitco Frialator®, Southbend®, Nu-Vu®, Alkar®, RapidPak® and Toastmaster®. Middleby's international subsidiary, Middleby Worldwide, is a leading exporter and distributor of foodservice and the Middleby Philippines Corporation, is a leading supplier of specialty equipment in the Asian markets. In 2006 The Middleby Corporation was ranked #9 on the *Forbes* 200 Best Small Companies list.

For more information about The Middleby Corporation and the company brands, please visit www.middleby.com.

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Contact: Timothy Fitzgerald, Chief Financial Officer, (847) 429-7744