
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): December 17, 2003

STERIS CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Ohio
(State or Other
Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-14643
(Commission
File Number)

34-1482024
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

5960 Heisley Road, Mentor, Ohio
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

44060-1834
(Zip Code)

Registrants' telephone number, including area code: (440) 354-2600

Not Applicable
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Item 5. Other Events.

On December 17, 2003, STERIS Corporation (the "Company") announced that it has issued \$100 million of notes in a private placement to certain institutional investors in an offering exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933. Pursuant to Rule 135c of the Securities Act, the Company is filing with this Current Report on Form 8-K the press release attached hereto as Exhibit 99.

The Company issued \$100 million of notes to certain institutional investors in an offering exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933. The Company intends to use the proceeds to repay outstanding bank debt in order to enable the Company to continue to invest in technology and for possible acquisitions.

The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements. This statement shall not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy such notes and is issued pursuant to Rule 135c under the Securities Act of 1933.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c.) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99	Press Release, dated December 17, 2003

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.

STERIS Corporation

By: /s/ LAURIE BRLAS

Name: Laurie Brlas
Title: Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 17, 2003

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number

Description

99

Press Release, dated December 17, 2003



**STERIS CORPORATION
NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

STERIS COMPLETES \$100 MILLION PRIVATE DEBT PLACEMENT

Proceeds to be used to refinance existing bank debt

Mentor, Ohio (December 17, 2003)—STERIS Corporation (NYSE: STE) today announced that it has issued \$100 million of notes in a private placement to certain institutional investors. The Company intends to use the proceeds to repay outstanding bank debt in order to enable the Company to continue to invest in technology and for possible acquisitions.

The financing consists of senior unsecured notes that have various maturities and interest rates. Of the total, \$40 million matures in five years at an interest rate of 4.20%, \$40 million matures in ten years at a rate of 5.25% and the remaining \$20 million matures in 12 years at a rate of 5.38%.

The notes have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent the registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy such notes and is issued pursuant to Rule 135c under the Securities Act of 1933.

Contact: Aidan Gormley, Senior Director, Investor Relations, 440-392-7607.

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