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): November 8, 2023



Ascent Industries Co.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

0-19687

587 57-0426694 File Number) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1400 16th Street, Suite 270, Oak Brook, Illinois

(Address of principal executive offices)

Delaware

60523

(Zip Code)

(630) 884-9181 (Registrant's telephone number, including

area code)

Inapplicable

(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):

□ 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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol	Name of exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share	ACNT	NASDAQ Global Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company \Box

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On November 8, 2023, Ascent Industries Co ("the Company") issued a press release announcing financial information for its third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K and is furnished to, but not filed with, the Commission.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
<u>99.1</u>	Ascent Industries Co. Press Release dated November 8, 2023
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

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

Dated: November 8, 2023

Ascent Industries Co

By: /s/ William S. Steckel

William S. Steckel Chief Financial Officer



Ascent Industries Reports Third Quarter 2023 Results

Oak Brook, Illinois, November 8, 2023 – Ascent Industries Co. (Nasdaq: ACNT) ("Ascent" or the "Company"), an industrials company focused on the production and distribution of industrial tubular products and specialty chemicals, is reporting its results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023.

Third Quarter 2023 Summary - Continuing Operations¹

(in millions, except per share and margin)	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	Change
Net Sales	\$56.1	\$78.2	-28.3%
Gross Profit	\$6.0	\$14.1	-57.3%
Gross Profit Margin	10.7%	18.0%	-730bps
Net Income (Loss)	\$(12.8)	\$3.1	-511.2%
Diluted Earnings (Loss) per Share	\$(1.26)	\$0.30	-520.0%
Adjusted EBITDA	\$0.9	\$8.2	-88.5%
Adjusted EBITDA Margin	1.7%	10.5%	-880bps

¹On June 2, 2023, the Board of Directors of Ascent made the decision to permanently cease operations at the Company's welded pipe and tube facility located in Munhall, PA ("Munhall") effective on August 31, 2023. As a result, financial results from Munhall have been categorized into discontinued operations.

Management Commentary

"After a challenging first half of the year, we were pleased to begin seeing signs of improvement within our operations during the third quarter," said Chris Hutter, president and CEO of Ascent. "Challenging macro-economic volatility continues to play a factor in overall end market demand, which impacted sales volumes in both our segments during the quarter. Despite this, our sales teams remained diligent in their efforts to uncover demand, and we believe we are building a healthier backlog across the board. We were also proud to appoint Bryan Kitchen as the new president of Ascent Chemicals. In the few weeks that Bryan has been onboard, he has already made significant contributions to our chemicals segment, and we look forward to the success we believe he will bring.

"While there is still much work to be done to return to acceptable levels of profitability, we do believe that we have turned the corner operationally and are continuing to make progress stabilizing the business. We remain determined to hit our long-term strategic goals and believe the operational moves we made in 2023 were necessary to achieve those goals. Although broader economic uncertainty continues to hamper sales volumes in both our segments, we believe that we have the right leadership in place to capitalize on our market position heading into 2024."

Third Quarter 2023 Financial Results

Net sales from continuing operations were \$56.1 million compared to \$78.2 million in the prior year period. The decrease is primarily due to continued lower overall sales volumes and lower average selling prices within both the tubular products and specialty chemicals segments.

Gross profit from continuing operations was \$6.0 million, or 10.7% of net sales, compared to \$14.1 million, or 18.0% of net sales, in the third quarter of 2022. The decrease is primarily attributable to the decline in net sales in addition to lower product margin.

Net loss from continuing operations was \$12.8 million, or \$(1.26) diluted loss per share, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$3.1 million, or \$0.30 diluted earnings per share, in the third quarter of 2022. The decrease is primarily attributable to the \$11.4 million goodwill impairment within the specialty chemicals segment, along with the aforementioned decline in gross profit.



Adjusted EBITDA was \$0.9 million compared to \$8.2 million in the third quarter of 2022. Adjusted EBITDA margin was 1.7% compared to 10.5% in the prior year period. The decrease is primarily attributable to the Company's aforementioned decline in net sales.

Segment Results

Ascent Tubular – net sales from continuing operations in the third quarter of 2023 were \$36.1 million compared to \$50.6 million in the third quarter of 2022. Operating income from continuing operations in the third quarter was \$1.7 million compared to operating income from continuing operations of \$7.6 million in the prior year period. Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations in the third quarter was \$2.6 million compared to \$8.9 million in the prior year period. As a percentage of segment net sales, adjusted EBITDA was 7.3% compared to 17.6% in the third quarter of 2022.

Ascent Chemicals – net sales in the third quarter of 2023 were \$20.1 million compared to \$27.3 million in the third quarter of 2022. Operating loss in the third quarter was \$(11.5) million compared to operating income of \$1.1 million in the prior year period. Adjusted EBITDA in the third quarter was \$1.0 million compared to \$2.7 million in the prior year period. As a percentage of segment net sales, adjusted EBITDA was 5.2% compared to 10.0% in the third quarter of 2022.

<u>Liquidity</u>

As of September 30, 2023, total debt was \$53.0 million under the Company's revolving credit facility, compared to \$71.5 million in debt at December 31, 2022. As of September 30, 2023, the Company had \$41.8 million of remaining available borrowing capacity under its revolving credit facility, compared to \$37.6 million at December 31, 2022.

During the third quarter of 2023, the Company repurchased 44,799 shares at an average cost of \$8.87 per share for approximately \$0.4 million, bringing total year-to-date repurchases for 2023 to 95,955 shares. The Company currently has 584,024 shares remaining under its share repurchase authorization.

Conference Call

Ascent will conduct a conference call today at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time to discuss its results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023.

Ascent management will host the conference call, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 Time: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time Live Call Registration Link: <u>Here</u> Webcast Registration Link: <u>Here</u>

Please call the conference telephone number five minutes prior to the start time. An operator will register your name and organization. If you have any difficulty connecting with the conference call, please contact Gateway Group at 1-949-574-3860.

The conference call will also be broadcast live and available for replayhere. The webcast will be archived for one year in the investor relations section of the Company's website at <u>www.ascentco.com</u>.

About Ascent Industries Co.

Ascent Industries Co. (Nasdaq: ACNT) is a company that engages in a number of diverse business activities including the production of stainless steel, the master distribution of seamless carbon pipe and tube, and the production of specialty chemicals. For more information about Ascent, please visit its web site at <u>www.ascentco.com</u>.



Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may include "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and other applicable federal securities laws. All statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements can be identified through the use of words such as "estimate," "project," "intend," "expect," "believe," "should," "anticipate," "hope," "optimistic," "plan," "outlook," "should," "could," "may" and similar expressions. The forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results or those anticipated. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and to review the risks as set forth in more detail in Ascent Industries Co.'s Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which filings are available from the SEC or on our website. Ascent Industries Co. assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking information included in this release.

Non-GAAP Financial Information

Financial statement information included in this earnings release includes non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) measures and should be read along with the accompanying tables which provide a reconciliation of non-GAAP measures to GAAP measures.

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure that the Company believes is useful to investors in evaluating its results to determine the value of a company. An item is excluded in the measure if its periodic value is inconsistent and sufficiently material that not identifying the item would render period comparability less meaningful to the reader or if including the item provides a clearer representation of normalized periodic earnings. The Company excludes in Adjusted EBITDA two categories of items: 1) Base EBITDA components, including: interest expense (including change in fair value of interest rate swap), income taxes, depreciation and amortization, and 2) Material transaction costs including: goodwill impairment, asset impairment, gain on lease modification, stock-based compensation, non-cash lease cost, acquisition costs and other fees, proxy contest costs and recoveries, loss on extinguishment of debt, earn-out adjustments, realized and unrealized (gains) and losses on investments in equity securities and other investments, retention costs and restructuring & severance costs from net income.

Management believes that these non-GAAP measures are useful because they are key measures used by our management team to evaluate our operating performance, generate future operating plans and make strategic decisions as well as allow readers to compare the financial results between periods. Non-GAAP measures should not be considered as an alternative to any measure of performance or financial condition as promulgated under GAAP, and investors should consider the Company's performance and financial condition as reported under GAAP and all other relevant information when assessing the performance or financial condition of the Company. Non-GAAP measures have limitations as analytical tools, and investors should not consider them in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of the Company's results or financial condition as reported under GAAP.

Company Contact

Bill Steckel Chief Financial Officer 1-630-884-9181

Investor Relations

Cody Slach and Cody Cree Gateway Group, Inc. 1-949-574-3860 <u>ACNT@gateway-grp.com</u>



Ascent Industries Co. Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (in thousands, except par value and share data)

Assets Current assets: Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable, net of allowance for credit losses of \$1,105 and \$762, respectively	\$			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$			
•	\$			
Accounts receivable net of allowance for credit losses of \$1,105 and \$762, respectively		730	\$	1,440
recounts receivable, net of anowance for create losses of \$1,105 and \$702, respectively		32,910		37,062
Inventories		83,044		85,572
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		8,775		7,802
Assets held for sale		8,956		380
Current assets of discontinued operations		620		38,120
Total current assets		135,035		170,376
Property, plant and equipment, net		31,981		37,045
Right-of-use assets, operating leases, net		28,170		29,198
Goodwill		—		11,389
Intangible assets, net		8,872		10,001
Deferred income taxes		9,217		1,353
Deferred charges, net		128		203
Other non-current assets, net		1,782		1,861
Long-term assets of discontinued operations		6		7,617
Total assets	\$	215,191	\$	269,043
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity				
Current liabilities:				
	\$	25,758	\$	19,623
Accounts payable	3	5,608	Ф	,
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities Current portion of note payable		630		6,039 387
Current portion of long-term debt		2,464		2,464
Current portion of operating lease liabilities		1,132		1,029
Current portion of finance lease liabilities		296		280
Current liabilities of discontinued operations		298 970		3,656
Total current liabilities	. <u> </u>	36,858		33,478
Long-term debt		50,543		69,085
Long-term debt		30,051		30,911
		1,378		1,242
Long-term portion of finance lease liabilities Other long-term liabilities		59		68
Total non-current liabilities		82,031		101,306
Total liabilities	\$	118,889	\$	134,784
Commitments and contingencies	\$	110,009	\$	154,784
Shareholders' equity:				
Common stock, par value \$1 per share; 24,000,000 shares authorized; 11,085,103 and 10,120,281 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	\$	11,085	\$	11,085
Capital in excess of par value		47,189		47,021
Retained earnings		47,379		85,146
		105,653		143,252
Less: cost of common stock in treasury - 964,822 and 924,504 shares, respectively		(9,351)		(8,993)
Total shareholders' equity		96,302		134,259
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$	215,191	\$	269,043

Note: The condensed consolidated balance sheets at December 31, 2022 have been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at that date.

4

Ascent Industries Co.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income (Loss) - Comparative Analysis (Unaudited)

(\$ in thousands, except per share data)

		Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
		2023		2022		2023		2022	
Net sales									
Tubular Products	\$	36,061	\$	50,606	\$	118,983	\$	162,059	
Specialty Chemicals		20,052		27,328		65,164		84,070	
All Other				287		50		401	
		56,113		78,221		184,197		246,530	
Operating income (loss) from continuing operations									
Tubular Products		1,705		7,640		3,264		34,761	
Specialty Chemicals		(11,481)		1,097		(10,935)		6,111	
All Other		(132)		(13)		(684)		(330)	
Corporate									
Unallocated corporate expenses		(2,859)		(3,890)		(9,314)		(10,241)	
Acquisition costs and other		_		(149)		(274)		(837	
Total Corporate		(2,859)		(4,039)		(9,588)		(11,078	
Operating income (loss)		(12,767)		4,685		(17,943)		29,464	
Interest expense		1,063		827		3,217		1,637	
Other, net		(97)		(118)		(344)		(176	
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes		(13,733)		3,976	_	(20,816)		28,003	
Income tax provision (benefit)		(964)		871		(2,350)		4,069	
Income (loss) from continuing operations		(12,769)		3,105		(18,466)		23,934	
Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax		(5,163)		(2,481)		(19,301)		(1,993)	
Net income (loss)	\$	(17,932)	\$	624	\$	(37,767)	\$	21,941	
Net income (loss) per common share from continuing operations									
Basic	\$	(1.26)	¢	0.30	¢	(1.82)	¢	2.34	
Diluted	\$	(1.26)		0.30		(1.82)		2.34	
	φ	(1.20)	φ	0.50	φ	(1.82)	φ	2.50	
Net loss per common share from discontinued operations									
Basic	\$	(0.51)	\$	(0.24)	\$	(1.90)	\$	(0.19)	
Diluted	\$	(0.51)	\$	(0.24)	\$	(1.90)	\$	(0.19)	
Net income (loss) per common share									
Basic	\$	(1.77)	\$	0.06	\$	(3.72)	\$	2.14	
Diluted	\$	(1.77)	\$	0.06	\$	(3.72)	\$	2.11	
Average shares outstanding									
Basic		10,135		10,253		10,151		10,235	
Diluted		10,135		10,465		10,151		10,407	
Other data:									
Adjusted EBITDA ¹	\$	944	\$	8,214	\$	778	\$	38,894	
				,					

¹The term Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure that the Company believes is useful to investors in evaluating its results to determine the value of a company. An item is excluded in the measure if its periodic value is inconsistent and sufficiently material that not identifying the item would render period comparability less meaningful to the reader or if including the item provides a clearer representation of normalized periodic earnings. The Company excludes in Adjusted EBITDA two categories of items: 1) Base EBITDA components, including: interest expense (including change in fair value of interest rate swap), income taxes, depreciation and amortization, and 2) Material transaction costs including: goodwill impairment, asset impairment, gain on lease modification, stock-based compensation, non-cash lease cost, acquisition costs and other fees, proxy contest costs and recoveries, loss on extinguishment of debt, earn-out adjustments, realized and unrealized (gains) and losses on investments in equity securities and other investments, retention costs and restructuring & severance costs from net income. For a reconciliation of this non-GAAP measure to the most comparable GAAP equivalent, refer to the Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) to Adjusted EBITDA.

5

	Nine Months Ended Sep	Nine Months Ended September 30,						
	2023	2022						
Operating activities								
Net income (loss)	\$ (37,767) \$	21,941						
Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax	(19,301)	(1,993)						
Net income (loss) from continuing operations	(18,466)	23,934						
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:								
Depreciation expense	4,833	4,950						
Amortization expense	1,128	2,440						
Amortization of debt issuance costs	75	75						
Goodwill impairment	11,389	—						
Deferred income taxes	(7,864)	(1,227)						
Payments of earn-out liabilities in excess of acquisition date fair value	—	(372)						
Provision for losses on accounts receivable	2,199	608						
Provision for losses on inventories	343	1,372						
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	182	31						
Non-cash lease expense	205	322						
Issuance of treasury stock for director fees	—	364						
Stock-based compensation expense	718	951						
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:								
Accounts receivable	3,809	(6,210)						
Inventories	526	(30,252)						
Other assets and liabilities	323	(515)						
Accounts payable	5,934	10,154						
Accrued expenses	(430)	(1,508)						
Accrued income taxes	(772)	555						
Net cash provided by operating activities - continuing operations	4,132	5,672						
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities - discontinued operations	17,395	(4,679)						
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,527	993						
Investing activities								
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(2,660)	(2,875)						
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		5						
Net cash used in investing activities - continuing operations	(2,660)	(2,870)						
Net cash used in investing activities - discontinued operations	(145)	(592)						
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,805)	(3,462)						
Financing activities	(2,003)	(5,102)						
Borrowings from long-term debt	201,588	352,513						
Proceeds from note payable	900	967						
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options	900	175						
Payments on long-term debt	(220,130)	(350,311)						
Payments on note payable	(657)	(350,511)						
Principal payments on finance lease obligations	(231)	(193)						
Payments on earn-out liabilities	(231)	(484)						
Repurchase of common stock	(903)	(492)						
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities - continuing operations	(19,433)	1,788						
	(19,455)							
Net cash used in financing activities - discontinued operations	(10.422)	(808) 980						
Net cash used in financing activities	(19,433)							
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(711)	(1,489)						
Less: Cash and cash equivalents of discontinued operations	1	4						
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	1,440	2,017						
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 730</u> <u>\$</u>	532						



Ascent Industries Co. Non-GAAP Financial Measures Reconciliation Reconciliation of Net Income (Loss) to Adjusted EBITDA (Unaudited) (\$ in thousands)

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
(\$ in thousands)	 2023		2022	2023			2022	
Consolidated								
Net income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ (12,769)	\$	3,105	\$	(18,466)	\$	23,934	
Adjustments:								
Interest expense	1,063		827		3,217		1,637	
Income taxes	(964)		871		(2,350)		4,069	
Depreciation	1,590		1,748		4,833		4,950	
Amortization	376		1,098		1,129		2,440	
EBITDA	(10,704)		7,649		(11,637)		37,030	
Acquisition costs and other	42		149		323		836	
Goodwill impairment	11,389		_		11,389			
Gain on lease modification	_		_		_		(2)	
Stock-based compensation	142		307		389		697	
Non-cash lease expense	69		109		205		323	
Retention expense	6		_		6			
Restructuring and severance costs	—		_		103		10	
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 944	\$	8,214	\$	778	\$	38,894	
% sales	1.7 %		10.5 %		0.4 %		15.8 %	
Tubular Products								
Net income from continuing operations	\$ 1,705	\$	7,640	\$	3,265	\$	34,760	
Adjustments:								
Depreciation expense	626		637		1,916		2,000	
Amortization expense	217		576		653		1,728	
EBITDA	2,548		8,853		5,834		38,488	
Acquisition costs and other	42		_		46		_	
Stock-based compensation	11		34		2		53	
Non-cash lease expense	36		_		109		(1)	
Restructuring and severance costs			_		97		_	
Tubular Products Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 2,637	\$	8,887	\$	6,088	\$	38,540	
% segment sales	7.3 %		17.6 %		5.1 %		23.8 %	
Specialty Chemicals								
Net income (loss)	\$ (11,498)	\$	1,088	\$	(10,974)	\$	6,083	
Adjustments:								
Interest expense	21		9		52		28	
Depreciation expense	942		1,097		2,850		2,897	
Amortization expense	159		520		475		712	
EBITDA	(10,376)		2,714		(7,597)		9,720	
Acquisition costs and other	_		_		2		_	
Goodwill impairment	11,389		_		11,389			
Stock-based compensation	3		12		(13)		29	
Non-cash lease expense	23		_		69		1	
Specialty Chemicals Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 1,039	\$	2,726	\$	3,850	\$	9,750	
% segment sales	5.2 %	_	10.0 %		5.9 %		11.6 %	

7