

AMERICAN SUPERCONDUCTOR CORP /DE/
Form 8-K
November 28, 2012

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 27, 2012

American Superconductor Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

0-19672
(Commission

File Number)

04-2959321
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

64 Jackson Road

Devens, Massachusetts
(Address of principal executive offices)

01434
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(978) 842-3000**

Not Applicable

(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)

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- “ 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 2.05. Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities.

On November 28, 2012, American Superconductor Corporation (the Company) informed affected employees of the Company's plan to reduce its global workforce by approximately 25 percent. These reductions are expected to represent a total reduction of the Company's annualized expenses of approximately \$10 million. In addition, the Company will be consolidating certain office locations. These workforce reductions and office consolidations are being made to lower operating costs and enhance liquidity in response to challenging conditions in the wind power market.

The workforce reduction takes effect immediately. The Company expects to incur restructuring charges of approximately \$3-\$4 million over the next two quarters relating to the workforce reduction and office consolidations. Of this total, the Company expects to pay approximately \$2 million in cash severance costs in the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2012.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(b) Timothy D. Poor. On November 27, 2012, as part of the Company's workforce reduction, Timothy D. Poor, Executive Vice President, Windtec Solutions, of the Company, was terminated without cause, effective as of December 31, 2012.

The Company and Mr. Poor are parties to an Amended and Restated Executive Severance Agreement, dated as of December 23, 2008 (the Poor Agreement). Under the Poor Agreement, Mr. Poor is entitled to receive \$305,000, which is equal to twelve (12) months of his current base salary, less all applicable taxes and withholdings, and certain other benefits in exchange for his execution of a legal release. The foregoing description of the terms of the severance agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Poor Agreement, which was filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed February 5, 2009, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Susan J. DiCecco. On November 27, 2012, as part of the Company's workforce reduction, Susan J. DiCecco, Senior Vice President, Corporate Administration, of the Company, was terminated without cause, effective as of December 31, 2012.

The Company and Ms. DiCecco are currently parties to an Executive Severance Agreement, dated as of September 8, 2009 (the DiCecco Agreement). Under the DiCecco Agreement, Ms. DiCecco is entitled to receive \$250,000, which is equal to twelve (12) months of her current base salary, less all applicable taxes and withholdings, and certain other benefits in exchange for her execution of a legal release. The foregoing description of the terms of the severance agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the DiCecco Agreement, which was filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed November 5, 2009, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On November 28, 2012, the Company issued a press release to update its guidance for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2012. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 hereto.

The information in this Item 7.01 (including Exhibit 99.1) shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

Exhibit

No.	Description
99.1	Press Release, dated November 28, 2012 (furnished, not filed, for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended).

Forward-Looking Statements

Any statements in this current report about future expectations, plans and prospects for the Company, including without limitation our expectations regarding expense savings, restructuring charges, cash severance costs, the timing of the completion of the workforce reduction and office consolidations, future liquidity and other statements containing the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, will, and similar expressions, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements represent management's current expectations and are inherently uncertain. There are a number of important factors that could materially impact the value of our common stock or cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include: Our success in addressing the wind energy market is dependent on the manufacturers that license our designs; we may not realize all of the sales expected from our backlog of orders and contracts; our business and operations would be adversely impacted in the event of a failure or security breach of our information technology infrastructure; our success is dependent upon attracting and retaining qualified personnel and our inability to do so could significantly damage our business and prospects; we rely upon third-party suppliers for the components and subassemblies of many of our Wind and Grid products, making us vulnerable to supply shortages and price fluctuations, which could harm our business; many of our revenue opportunities are dependent upon subcontractors and other business collaborators; if we fail to implement our business strategy successfully, our financial performance could be harmed; problems with product quality or product performance may cause us to incur warranty expenses and may damage our market reputation and prevent us from achieving increased sales and market share; our contracts with the United States government are subject to audit, modification or termination by the United States government and include certain other provisions in favor of the government; the continued funding of such contracts remains subject to annual congressional appropriation which, if not approved, could reduce our revenue and lower or eliminate our profit; we may acquire additional complementary businesses or technologies, which may require us to incur substantial costs for which we may never realize the anticipated benefits; many of our customers outside of the United States are, either directly or indirectly, related to governmental entities, and we could be adversely affected by violations of the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar worldwide anti-bribery laws outside the United States; we have limited experience in marketing and selling our superconductor products and system-level solutions, and our failure to effectively market and sell our products and solutions could lower our revenue and cash flow; we have a history of operating losses, and we may incur additional losses in the future; our operating results may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter and may fall below expectations in any particular fiscal quarter; we may require additional funding in the future and may be unable to raise capital when needed; our new debt obligations include certain covenants and other events of default. Should we not comply with the covenants or incur an event of default, we may be required to repay our debt obligations in cash, which could have an adverse effect on our liquidity; we have recorded a liability for adverse purchase commitments with certain of our vendors; should we be required to settle these liabilities in cash, our liquidity could be adversely affected; if we fail to maintain proper and effective internal controls over financial reporting, our ability to produce accurate and timely financial statements could be impaired and may lead investors and other users to lose confidence in our financial data; we may be required to issue performance bonds or provide letters of credit, which restricts our ability to access any cash used as collateral for the bonds or letters of credit; changes in exchange rates could adversely affect our results from operations; growth of the wind energy market depends largely on the availability and size of government subsidies and economic incentives; we depend on sales to customers in China, and global conditions could negatively affect our operating results or limit our ability to expand our operations outside of China; changes in China's political, social, regulatory and economic environment may affect our financial performance; our products face intense competition, which could limit our ability to acquire or retain customers; our international operations are subject to risks that we do not face in the United States, which could have an adverse effect on our operating results; adverse changes in domestic and global economic conditions could adversely affect our operating results; we may be unable to adequately prevent disclosure of trade secrets and other proprietary information; our patents may not provide meaningful protection for our technology, which could result in us losing some or all of our market position; the commercial uses of superconductor products are limited today, and a widespread commercial market for our products may not develop; there are a number of technological challenges that must be successfully addressed before our superconductor products can gain widespread commercial acceptance, and our inability to address such technological challenges could adversely affect our ability to acquire customers for our products; we have not manufactured our Amperium wire in commercial quantities, and a failure to manufacture our Amperium wire in commercial quantities at acceptable cost and quality levels would substantially limit our future revenue and profit potential; third parties have or may acquire patents that cover the materials, processes and technologies we use or may use in the future to manufacture our Amperium products, and our success depends on our ability to license such patents or other proprietary rights; our technology and products could infringe intellectual property rights of others, which may require costly litigation and, if we are not successful, could cause us to pay substantial damages and disrupt our business; we have filed a demand for arbitration and other lawsuits against our former largest customer, Sinovel, regarding amounts we contend are overdue. We cannot be certain as to the outcome of these proceedings; we have been

named as a party to purported stockholder class actions and stockholder derivative complaints, and we may be named in additional litigation, all of which will require significant management time and attention, result in significant legal expenses and may result in an unfavorable outcome, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition; our 7% convertible note contains warrants and provisions that could limit our ability to repay the note in shares of common stock and should the note be repaid in stock, shareholders could experience significant dilution; our common stock has experienced, and may continue to experience, significant market price and volume fluctuations, which may prevent our stockholders from selling our common stock at a profit and could lead to costly litigation against us that could divert our management's attention; and new regulations related to conflict-free minerals may force us to incur additional expenses. These and the important factors discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" in Part II, Item 1A and Part I, Item 1A of our Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by forward-looking statements made herein and presented elsewhere by management from time to time. In addition, any forward-looking statements included in this current report represent the Company's expectations as of the date of this report. While the Company anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause the Company's views to change, the Company specifically disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing the Company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of this current report.

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.

AMERICAN SUPERCONDUCTOR CORPORATION

Date: November 28, 2012

By: /s/ David A. Henry
David A. Henry

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer