

CREE INC
Form S-8
January 29, 2008

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 29, 2008
Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CREE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

North Carolina
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

56-1572719
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

4600 Silicon Drive
Durham, North Carolina
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

27703
(Zip Code)

CREE, INC.
2004 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN
(AS AMENDED)
(Full title of the plan)

John T. Kurtzweil
Executive Vice President – Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Cree, Inc.
4600 Silicon Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27703
(919) 313-5300
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:
Adam H. Broome, Esq.
Cree, Inc.
4600 Silicon Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27703

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered | Proposed maximum offering price per share | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price | Amount of registration fee |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.00125 par value | 3,537,989 (1) | \$25.55 (2) | \$90,395,618.95 (2) | \$3,552.55 (2) |

(1) Includes (a) 2,000,000 additional shares that are authorized for issuance under the Registrant's 2004 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan, as amended, and approved by the Registrant's shareholders at the annual meeting of shareholders held on November 1, 2007 (the "Plan") and (b) 1,537,989 shares carried forward from the Registrant's Amended and Restated Equity Compensation Plan (the "Predecessor Plan"), which were subject to options that expired, were cancelled or otherwise terminated unexercised for any reason since the Predecessor Plan was terminated as to future grants on November 4, 2004. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this Registration Statement also covers such additional shares of Common Stock as may be issued to prevent dilution of the shares of Common Stock covered hereby resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering pursuant to Rule 457(h) on the basis of the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on January 22, 2008.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE 10(a) PROSPECTUS

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is being filed by Cree, Inc. (the “Registrant”) to register an additional 3,537,989 shares of the Common Stock of the Registrant, \$0.00125 par value, issuable under the Plan. As permitted by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”), this Registration Statement omits the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 and consists of only those items required by General Instruction E to Form S-8. The document containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the Plan as required by Rule 428(b) under the Securities Act. This document is not being filed with the Commission as part of this Registration Statement or a prospectus or prospectus supplement pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8, the prior Registration Statements relating to the Plan, Registration Nos. 333-122073 and 333-136903 filed with the Commission on January 14, 2005 and August 25, 2006, remain effective, and the contents of such Registration Statements are incorporated in this Registration Statement by this reference.

Item¹ Incorporation
of Documents
3. by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Commission are hereby incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

- (a) The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 24, 2007;
- (b) The Registrant’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended September 23, 2007 and December 30, 2007;
- (c) The Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on June 29, 2007 and the Registrant’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on August 7, 2007, August 24, 2007, October 18, 2007, November 7, 2007, January 3, 2008 and January 22, 2008;
- (d) The description of the Registrant’s Common Stock contained in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on January 29, 1993, and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- (e) The description of the rights attached to the Registrant’s Common Stock contained in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on May 30, 2002, and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

In addition, all documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. However, any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that

are not deemed “filed” with the Commission, including without limitation any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K, shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

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Any statement in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Interests of
Item Named
5. Experts and
Counsel.

The validity of the securities being registered by this Registration Statement will be passed upon for the Registrant by Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P., Raleigh, North Carolina. As of the date of this Registration Statement, certain current individual attorneys with Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. beneficially own an aggregate of 3,450 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock.

Item Exhibits.
8.

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|--|
| 5.1 | Opinion of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. |
| 23.1 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm |
| 23.2 | Consent of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. (Contained in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (Contained on signature page) |

Item Undertakings.
9.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the

Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Durham, State of North Carolina, on this 29th day of January, 2008.

CREE, INC.

By: */s/ Charles M. Swoboda*
Charles M. Swoboda
Chairman, Chief Executive
Officer and President

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each individual whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Charles M. Swoboda and John T. Kurtzweil, and each of them, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Name | Title | Date |
|--|---|------------------|
| <i>/s/ Charles M. Swoboda</i> Charles M. Swoboda | Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer) | January 29, 2008 |
| <i>/s/ John T. Kurtzweil</i> John T. Kurtzweil | Executive Vice President – Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) | January 29, 2008 |
| James E. Dykes | Director | January __, 2008 |
| <i>/s/ Clyde R. Hosein</i> Clyde R. Hosein | Director | January 28, 2008 |
| <i>/s/ John W. Palmour</i> John W. Palmour, Ph.D. | Director | January 29, 2008 |
| <i>/s/ Franco Plastina</i> | | |

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|--|----------|------------------|
| Franco Plastina | Director | January 29, 2008 |
| /s/ Dolph W. von Arx Dolph W. von Arx | Director | January 29, 2008 |
| /s/ Harvey A. Wagner Harvey A. Wagner | Director | January 28, 2008 |
| /s/ Thomas H. Werner Thomas H. Werner | Director | January 29, 2008 |

EXHIBIT INDEX

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