

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 4, 1999

MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania	0-9115 and 0-24494	25-0644320
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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Numbers)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

Two NorthShore Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	15212
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(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (412) 442-8200

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

On May 4, 1999, Matthews International Corporation ("Matthews") signed an agreement to purchase the assets of Caggiati S.p.A., which is based in Colorno (Parma), Italy, and its subsidiaries, Caggiati Espana S.A. in Valencia, Spain and Caggiati France S.a.r.l. in Lyon, France.

Caggiati S.p.A., with consolidated annual sales of approximately \$25 million (U.S.), is the leading supplier of bronze memorialization products in Europe. The purchase price is Lit. 34.6 billion (approximately \$19 million) cash plus the assumption of bank debt up to Lit. 10.2 billion (approximately \$6 million) and certain other trade liabilities. Matthews expects to finance a portion of the purchase through borrowings from an Italian bank. The expected closing date is early June 1999.

The combination of Matthews and Caggiati S.p.A. is an important part of the Matthews' strategy to enhance its position as the worldwide leader in the memorialization industry. This acquisition is designed to serve as a platform for Matthews to penetrate existing European markets, enter new markets in other areas of the world, and improve Matthews' ability to serve existing multi-national customers on a global basis. In addition, Caggiati products are manufactured via die cast, shell molding and lost wax technologies whereas the majority of Matthews' products are produced by sand cast technology. The combination of these manufacturing processes is expected to provide Matthews with opportunities for the introduction of new products to both existing and

new markets. Caggiati S.p.A. (which is celebrating its 40th year as a bronze memorial supplier) is considered to be the premier supplier in the markets they serve and has an excellent reputation for high quality products and outstanding customer service.

Any forward-looking statements contained herein are included pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause the Company's actual results in future periods to be materially different from management's expectations. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove correct. Factors that could cause the Company's results to differ materially from the results discussed in such forward-looking statements principally include economic, competitive and technological factors beyond the Company's control.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
(Registrant)

By Edward J. Boyle

Edward J. Boyle
Vice President, Accounting &
Finance, Treasurer and Secretary

Date: May 10, 1999