

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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SCHEDULE 13G  
Rule 13d-102

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )(1)

MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

577128101

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 1998

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(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which  
this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1 (b)

Rule 13d-1 (c)

Rule 13d-1 (d)

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(1) The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting  
person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of  
securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which  
would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be  
deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange  
Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act  
but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the  
Notes).

CUSIP No. 577128101                      13G                      Page 2 of 4 Pages

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(1) Name of Reporting Persons

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons. (entities only)

Lord, Abbett & Co.  
13-5620131

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(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a group (see instructions) (a)  
(b)

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(3) SEC use only.

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(4) Citizenship or place of organization.

NEW YORK

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Number of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person with:

(5) Sole voting power:  
739,365

(6) Shared voting power:  
0

(7) Sole dispositive power:  
739,365

(8) Shared dispositive power:  
0

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(9) Aggregate amount beneficially owned by each reporting person.

739,365  
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(10) Check if the aggregate amount in Row (9) excludes certain shares   
(see instructions).

N/A  
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(11) Percent of class represented by amount in Row 9.

5.63%  
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(12) Type of reporting person (see instructions).

IA:PN  
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Item 1.

- (a) See Front Cover Page
- (b) Two Northshore Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Item 2.

- (a) Lord, Abbett & Co.
- (b) 767 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10153
- (c) New York
- (d) See Front Cover Page
- (e) See Front Cover Page

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b),  
check whether the person filing is a:

- (e) Investment Advisor registered under section 203 of the Investment  
Company Act of 1940

Item 4. Ownership

- (a) See No. 9
- (b) See No. 11
- (c)
  - (i) See No. 5
  - (ii) See No. 6
  - (iii) See No. 7
  - (iv) See No. 8

Item 5. Owner of Five Percent or Less of a Class

N/A

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

N/A

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company

N/A

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

N/A

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Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

N/A

Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 12, 1999

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Date

/s/ Paul A. Hilstad

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Signature

Paul A. Hilstad  
General Counsel  
Name/Title

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