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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-K

(MARK ONE)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____ COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 0-20225

ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MASSACHUSETTS
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

269 MILL ROAD, CHELMSFORD,
MASSACHUSETTS

(Address of principal executive offices)

04-2711626
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

01824
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (978) 421-9655

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

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value
Stock Purchase Rights

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

None
(Title of class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 30, 2008 was \$569,214,990 based on a closing sales price of \$27.47 (the closing price on March 28, 2008) per share as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (for this computation, the registrant has excluded the market value of all shares of Common Stock reported as beneficially owned by directors and executive officers of the registrant, but includes certain shares beneficially owned by persons known to the registrant to beneficially own more than 10% of the registrant's Common Stock.)

The number of shares of the registrant's single class of common stock outstanding, as of December 1, 2008 was 21,061,255.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement to be dated on or about December 19, 2008 to be delivered to shareholders in connection with the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be on held January 20, 2009 are incorporated by reference into Part III of the Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION
Annual Report on Form 10-K
For the Year Ended September 28, 2008

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PART I

Except for historical information, the matters discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The Company makes such forward-looking statements under the provision of the “Safe Harbor” section of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual future results may vary materially from those projected, anticipated, or indicated in any forward-looking statements as a result of certain risk factors. Readers should pay particular attention to the considerations described in Part I, Item 1A. of this report entitled “Risk Factors.” Readers should also carefully review the risk factors described in the other documents that the Company files from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the words “anticipates,” “believes,” “expects,” “intends,” “future,” “could,” and similar words or expressions (as well as other words or expressions referencing future events, conditions or circumstances) identify forward-looking statements. The Company assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements or update the reasons actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from those provided in the forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

Item 1. Business.

Overview

ZOLL Medical Corporation (ZOLL or the Company), a Massachusetts corporation incorporated in 1980, develops technologies and software that help clinicians, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and lay rescuers advance the practice of resuscitation.

To understand resuscitation, it is important to first provide background information about:

- The anatomy of the heart;
- Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and how rapid, life-saving interventions can help SCA patients;
- The different arrhythmias that can lead to SCA;
- The issue of traumatic injury and its effects that can also lead to SCA;
- Recent developments and new research in the areas of emergency cardiovascular care and the performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and
- A definition of the resuscitation technology market.

Anatomy of the Human Heart

The normal human heart has four chambers, and expands and contracts more than 100,000 times each day. The two smaller, upper chambers are the atria, and the two larger, lower chambers are the ventricles. The walls of the atria and the ventricles are made up of cardiac muscle, which contracts rhythmically when stimulated by an electrical current. Normally, the heartbeat starts in the right atrium when a specialized group of cells sends an electrical signal. This signal spreads through the atria and then moves to the ventricles. As a result, the atria contract a fraction of a second before the ventricles. This exact pattern must be followed to ensure that the heart beats properly. This contraction and relaxation of the four chambers pumps blood to the lungs and the rest of the body.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac death results from the sudden, abrupt loss or disruption of heart function. This abrupt loss of function, also known as sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), causes lack of blood flow to vital organs. SCA results in a loss of blood pressure, pulse, and consciousness. Commonly, SCA is caused by an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, which occurs when the heart beats too rapidly and/or chaotically, or not at all (cardiac standstill from other non-fibrillation dysrhythmias such as pulseless electrical activity).

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are an estimated 460,000 deaths from SCA annually in the United States, and approximately 1,000 people die of SCA every day. SCA strikes without warning and can kill its victims within minutes; most victims have no prior symptoms. Many of these deaths are from ventricular fibrillation. For SCA victims, time is the most critical element for survival. For every minute of delay in the restoration of effective cardiac function provided by defibrillation—the process of delivering electrical current to the heart to stop the fibrillation and permit the return of coordinated cardiac contractions—survival decreases by as much as 10%. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), more than 95% of SCA victims in the U.S. die, in many cases because life-saving defibrillators arrive too late, if at all.

Different Arrhythmias that can Lead to SCA

Arrhythmias are abnormal rhythms of the heart caused by insufficient circulation of oxygenated blood, drugs, electrical shock, mechanical injury, disease, or other causes. The three types of major arrhythmias are ventricular fibrillation and tachycardia; atrial fibrillation and flutter; and symptomatic bradycardia. It is possible for a patient to experience more than one type of arrhythmia during SCA. In these situations, it is important for trained rescuers to have equipment that has defibrillation and pacing capabilities, as well as technology that can assist with CPR performance.

Ventricular Fibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation is a condition in which disorganized electrical activity causes the ventricles to contract in a rapid, unsynchronized, and uncoordinated fashion. When this occurs, an insufficient amount of blood is pumped from the heart. Ventricular fibrillation is the most common arrhythmia thought to cause SCA. The onset of ventricular fibrillation often occurs without warning and causes the heart to cease pumping blood effectively. This sudden stopping of the heart is known as cardiac arrest, which is the cause of sudden cardiac death.

The only accepted treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation. In emergency situations, external defibrillation was conventionally administered through hand-held paddles placed on the patient’s chest. However, external defibrillation is now more likely to be administered through disposable adhesive electrodes, which are believed to be safer and easier to use than paddles.

According to the AHA, early defibrillation of ventricular fibrillation is the single most effective intervention in the rescue of a victim of SCA. Each minute of delay in returning the heart to its normal pattern of beating decreases the chance of survival by 7% to 10%. Furthermore, there is an increasing body of evidence that other actions, in addition to defibrillation, must occur to maximize the chance of a successful resuscitation. These actions comprise a “Chain of Survival” consisting of early access, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care.

Atrial Fibrillation. The AHA estimates that close to 2 million Americans suffer from atrial fibrillation. Atrial fibrillation is a condition in which disordered electrical activity causes the atria to contract in a rapid, unsynchronized and uncoordinated fashion. This inefficient contraction results in a smaller amount of blood entering the ventricles, which in turn results in an insufficient level of circulation. Since blood is not pumped completely out of the atria, the blood can pool and clot. While not immediately life threatening, atrial fibrillation can lead to significant health threats, such as stroke. Over time, poorly functioning atria can also cause the ventricles to work harder, wear out sooner, and eventually lead to cardiac arrest.

Common forms of treatment for atrial fibrillation include cardioversion and drug therapies. During cardioversion, a defibrillator delivers electrical current that is synchronized with a patient’s heartbeat to return the atria to a normal rhythm. Cardioversion is usually an elective therapy, scheduled and performed in a controlled environment. All of ZOLL’s manual defibrillators include cardioversion capability.

Bradycardia. Bradycardia is a condition in which the heart beats too slowly. The principal therapies for the emergency treatment of bradycardia are drugs and temporary cardiac pacing, either or both of which may be used

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

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Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

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Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.