

# **Universal Stainless Reports Fourth Quarter Results**

BRIDGEVILLE, Pa., Jan. 22, 2003 -- Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc. (Nasdaq:USAP) today reported sales of \$15.9 million for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2002 and a net loss of \$82,000, or \$0.01 per diluted share. This compares with sales of \$21.8 million and net income of \$1.9 million, or \$0.31 per diluted share, in the year ago fourth quarter. The 2002 fourth quarter includes other income of \$310,000, or \$0.03 per diluted share, relating to the receipt of import duties in accordance with the "Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000" from the U.S. Customs Service. This act provides for payment of the duties collected by the U.S. Treasury to domestic companies injured by unfair foreign trade practices. Additionally, the annual effective income tax rate for 2002 was reduced in the fourth quarter from 33.0% to 30.8% resulting in a net income benefit of \$65,000, or \$0.01 per diluted share.

For the full year 2002, Universal Stainless had sales of \$70.9 million and net income of \$2.1 million, or \$0.34 per diluted share, compared with sales of \$90.7 million and net income of \$7.6 million, or \$1.25 per diluted share in 2001.

Commenting on these results, President and CEO Mac McAninch stated, "The Company's Bridgeville and Titusville facilities continued to operate profitably in the fourth quarter, a result we have achieved in every quarter since 1994. While our acquisition of Dunkirk Specialty Steel was completed on very favorable terms, difficult market conditions have prevented that operation from reaching its profitability threshold this year."

### Segment Review

The Company's Universal Stainless & Alloy Products segment, consisting of its Bridgeville and Titusville facilities, had sales of \$16.4 million and operating income of \$351,000 for the fourth quarter of 2002. This compares with sales of \$21.8 million and operating income of \$2.9 million in the same period of 2001.

The decrease reflects lower demand for power generation and aerospace products, partially offset by an increase in demand for tool steel products and for commodity reroller products, including shipments to the Dunkirk Specialty Steel segment. Sales of aerospace and power generation products were down 52% and 71%, respectively, from the fourth quarter of 2001. Sales of tool steel and commodity reroll products rose 84% and 49%, respectively, over the 2001 fourth quarter.

The Company's Dunkirk Specialty Steel segment, which was acquired February 14, 2002, reported 2002 fourth quarter sales of \$4.1 million and an operating loss of \$817,000. In the third quarter of 2002, Dunkirk's sales were \$4.0 million and the operating loss was \$291,000. The Dunkirk facility continues to move from its start-up phase toward an efficient operation. The increase in the operating loss in the fourth quarter over the third quarter is a result of the shipment of products that incurred high costs during the company's start-up period and the establishment of an inventory reserve arising from higher start-up manufacturing costs included in the year-end inventory balance.

Mr. McAninch continued, "Universal Stainless remained profitable and made important progress in 2002, despite depressed market conditions. The start-up of our Dunkirk operation was successful and we have made substantial progress in positioning Dunkirk to become profitable as market conditions normalize. We remain as confident as ever that Dunkirk will make significant contributions to the Company's future earnings growth. We were successful in reducing our selling and administrative expenses for the year by \$900,000, or 15%, before adding the direct expenses of the Dunkirk operation. In addition, we signed a new six-year labor agreement with our Bridgeville employees that provides the stability and flexibility to help us meet the challenges we expect through the first half of 2003."

#### **Business Outlook**

The following statements are based on the Company's current expectations. These statements are forward-looking, and actual results may differ materially.

The Company estimates that first quarter 2003 sales will range from \$11 to \$15 million and that it will incur a net loss per diluted share ranging from \$0.05 to \$0.10. In the first quarter of 2002, sales were \$17.6 million and diluted earnings per share were \$0.20. The following factors were considered in developing these estimates:

- -- The Company's total backlog approximated \$14 million on December
- 31, 2002, as compared to \$18 million at September 30, 2002.
- -- Demand for aerospace and power generation products is not expected to improve during the 2003 first quarter. -- Sales from Dunkirk are expected to approximate \$4 million in the
  - first quarter of 2003, below its projected break-even threshold of \$6 million per quarter.

The Company noted that if the 2003 first quarter loss exceeds \$0.05 per diluted share or if net income for the first six-month results does not reach \$0.08 per diluted share, it may be in technical violation of certain financial covenants with PNC Bank. The Company has initiated discussions with PNC Bank and expects to adjust the covenant restrictions in order to maintain compliance.

Mr. McAninch concluded, "The economic recovery has been slow, but the inquiries and orders received during the first few weeks of the new year and the weakened U.S. dollar indicate potential signs of improvement beyond the first quarter. Our Bridgeville, Titusville and Dunkirk teams are actively developing the manufacturing processes necessary to participate competitively in each new sales opportunity identified. We are also taking vigorous measures to address current market conditions and to maximize our control of costs. We are working on projects to improve the productivity of each operating unit to reduce the manufacturing cycle of our finished products. Finally, we are scheduling our operations to match market demand while maintaining our on-time deliveries. Our strong balance sheet provides us the opportunity to have semi-finished inventory available to respond quickly to our customers at this crucial time." A simultaneous Webcast of the Company's conference call discussing the 2002 fourth quarter and full year results and the first quarter outlook, scheduled at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern) today, will be available on the Company's website at <u>www.univstainless.com</u>, and thereafter archived on the website. A telephone replay of the conference call will be available beginning at 12:00 noon (Eastern) today, continuing through January 29th. It can be accessed by dialing 706-645-9291, passcode 7468256. This is a toll call.

About Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc.

Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc., headquartered in Bridgeville, Pa., manufactures and markets a broad line of semi-finished and finished specialty steels, including stainless steel, tool steel and certain other alloyed steels. The Company's products are sold to original equipment manufacturers, service centers, forgers, rerollers and wire redrawers.

#### Forward-Looking Information Safe Harbor

Except for historical information contained herein, the statements in this release are forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the "safe harbor" provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause the Company's actual results in future periods to differ materially from forecasted results. Those risks include, among others, risks associated with the limited operating history of Dunkirk Specialty Steel LLC, risks associated with the Company's ability to meet its current loan covenants, risks associated with the receipt, pricing and timing of future customer orders, risks related to the financial viability of customers, risks associated with the manufacturing process and production yields, and risks related to property, plant and equipment. Certain of these risks and other risks are described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) over the last 12 months, copies of which are available from the SEC or may be obtained upon request from the Company.

# UNIVERSAL STAINLESS & ALLOY PRODUCTS, INC. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (Dollars in thousands, except per share information) (Unaudited)

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	For the Quarter Ended December 31,			
		2001	2002	2001
Net sales Cost of products sold Selling and	\$ 15,940	\$ 21,822 17,395	\$ 70,877 61,971	\$ 90,658 71,915
administrative expenses		1,524	5,883	6,199
Operating income (loss) Interest expense Other income	(111) 356	2,903 (97) 20	(455) 457	(576) 57
Income (loss) before taxes Income taxes		2,826 937		4,386
Net income (loss)	\$ (82)	\$ 1,889 ======	\$2,092	\$7,639
Earnings (loss) per share - Basic		\$ 0.31		\$   1.26
Earnings (loss) per share - Diluted	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.31 ======	\$ 0.34	\$ 1.25 ======
Weighted average shares of Common Stock outstanding				
Basic		6,073,447 =======	6,203,800 ======	
Diluted	6,280,664	6,084,421 ======	6,235,848	6,097,424
Tons shipped		11,499 =======		
EBITDA	\$     712 ======	\$ 3,665	\$ 6,610	

#### BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

# CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (Dollars in thousands)

	December 31, 2002	December 31, 2001
Cash Accounts receivable, net Inventory Deferred taxes Other current assets	\$ 3,308 11,550 22,717 1,127 2,454	\$ 5,454 13,257 17,900 1,022 460
Current assets Property, plant & equipment, net Other assets	41,156 42,246 642	38,093 41,202 151
	\$ 84,044 ======	\$ 79,446 =======
Accounts payable Bank overdrafts Accrued employment costs Current portion of long-term debt Other current liabilities	\$ 4,190 275 1,019 1,971 163	\$ 4,597 857 1,562 1,832 590
Current liabilities Long-term debt Deferred taxes	7,618 7,502 8,123	9,438 6,490 7,146
Total liabilities	23,243	23,074
Stockholders' equity	60,801	56,372
	\$ 84,044 ======	\$ 79,446 ======

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW DATA For the Year Ended December 31,

	2002	2001
Cash flow from operating activities Cash flow due to investing activities Cash flow due to financing activities	\$ 3,824 (5,477) (493)	\$ 11,905 (5,253) (2,307)
Net cash flow	\$ (2,146)	\$ 4,345 =======

CONTACTS: Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, Inc. Richard M. Ubinger, Vice President of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (412) 257-7606

> Comm-Partners LLC June Filingeri (203) 972-0186