

Alberto-Culver CO
Form DEFM14A
November 12, 2010
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Alberto-Culver Company

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

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Table of Contents

ALBERTO CULVER COMPANY

2525 Armitage Avenue

Melrose Park, Illinois 60160

Dear Stockholder,

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting of stockholders of Alberto Culver Company (Alberto Culver) to be held on December 13, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. central time at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160.

At the special meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal to adopt the merger agreement pursuant to which Alberto Culver would be acquired by Unilever. We entered into this merger agreement on September 27, 2010. If the merger is completed, you, as a holder of Alberto Culver common stock, will be entitled to receive \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes, for each share of Alberto Culver common stock you owned immediately prior to the consummation of the merger, as more fully described in the accompanying proxy statement.

After careful consideration, our board of directors has unanimously determined that the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are advisable and in the best interests of Alberto Culver and our stockholders and that the consideration to be paid in the merger is fair to our stockholders who are entitled to receive such consideration and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the adoption of the merger agreement.

Your vote is very important, regardless of the number of shares of common stock you own. We cannot consummate the merger unless the merger agreement is adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding as of November 8, 2010, the record date for the special meeting. **Therefore, the failure of any stockholder to vote will have the same effect as a vote by that stockholder against the adoption of the merger agreement. Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting in person, we request that you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or over the Internet prior to the special meeting to ensure that your shares will be voted at the special meeting.**

The accompanying proxy statement provides you with detailed information about the special meeting, the merger agreement and the merger. A copy of the merger agreement is attached as Annex A to the accompanying proxy statement. We encourage you to read the accompanying proxy statement and the merger agreement carefully and in their entirety. You may also obtain more information about Alberto Culver from documents we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Bernick

Executive Chairman

This proxy statement is dated November 11, 2010, and is first being mailed to stockholders on or about November 12, 2010.

Table of Contents

ALBERTO CULVER COMPANY

2525 Armitage Avenue

Melrose Park, Illinois 60160

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To the Stockholders of Alberto Culver Company:

Notice is hereby given of a special meeting of stockholders of Alberto Culver Company, a Delaware corporation (Alberto Culver), to be held on December 13, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. central time at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and vote on a proposal to adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 27, 2010, among Alberto Culver, Unilever PLC, a company incorporated under the laws of and registered in England, Unilever, N.V., a Netherlands corporation, Conopco, Inc., a New York corporation (Unilever USA) and ACE Merger Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA (Merger Sub), as it may be amended from time to time, which provides for, among other things, the merger of Merger Sub with and into Alberto Culver, with Alberto Culver continuing as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA and the conversion of each share of common stock of Alberto Culver outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger (other than shares owned by Unilever USA, Merger Sub or Alberto Culver or with respect to which appraisal rights have been properly exercised) into the right to receive \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less applicable withholding taxes.
2. To consider and vote on a proposal to adjourn the special meeting to a later date or time, if necessary or appropriate, for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies in the event there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to adopt the merger agreement.
3. To consider and vote on such other business as may properly come before the special meeting by or at the direction of the Alberto Culver Board of Directors or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on November 8, 2010, the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the special meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. Each stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share of Alberto Culver common stock held by it of record as of the close of business on the record date.

THE ALBERTO CULVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT AND FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING, IF NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLICITING ADDITIONAL PROXIES.

Under Delaware law, Alberto Culver stockholders who do not vote in favor of the merger agreement and the merger will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery if the merger is completed, but only if they submit a written demand for such an appraisal prior to the vote on the merger agreement and the merger and comply with the other Delaware law procedures explained in the accompanying proxy statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Gary P. Schmidt

Secretary

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the special meeting in person, we request that you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or over the Internet prior to the special meeting to ensure that your shares will be voted at the special meeting. If you have Internet access, we encourage you to record your vote via the Internet. Properly executed proxy cards

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with no instructions indicated on the proxy card will be voted **FOR** the adoption of the merger agreement and **FOR** the adjournment of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies. If you attend the special meeting, you may revoke your proxy and vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously returned your proxy card. Your prompt attention is greatly appreciated.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>SUMMARY TERM SHEET</u>	i
<u>The Merger</u>	i
<u>The Special Meeting</u>	i
<u>The Companies</u>	i
<u>Consideration to be Received in the Merger</u>	ii
<u>Treatment of Outstanding Options, Restricted Stock, Performance Units and Stock Units in the Merger</u>	ii
<u>Guaranty by Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V.</u>	iii
<u>Reasons for the Merger</u>	iii
<u>Recommendation of Alberto Culver Board of Directors</u>	iii
<u>Stockholder Agreement</u>	iii
<u>Common Stock Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers</u>	iii
<u>Opinion of Credit Suisse</u>	iii
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger</u>	iv
<u>Interests of Alberto Culver's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger</u>	iv
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	iv
<u>Conditions to the Merger</u>	v
<u>No Solicitation</u>	vi
<u>Termination of the Merger Agreement; Termination Fee</u>	vi
<u>Regulatory Approvals</u>	vi
<u>Current Market Price of Common Stock</u>	vii
<u>Delisting and Deregistration of Alberto Culver Common Stock</u>	vii
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND THE MERGER</u>	1
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION</u>	5
<u>THE COMPANIES</u>	7
<u>Alberto Culver Company</u>	7
<u>Unilever</u>	7
<u>ACE Merger, Inc.</u>	7
<u>THE SPECIAL MEETING</u>	8
<u>Date, Time, Place and Purpose of the Special Meeting</u>	8
<u>Record Date and Quorum</u>	8
<u>Vote Required for Approval</u>	8
<u>Proxies and Revocation</u>	9
<u>Adjournments and Postponements</u>	10
<u>Appraisal Rights</u>	10
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	11
<u>Questions and Additional Information</u>	11
<u>Availability of Documents</u>	11
<u>THE MERGER</u>	12
<u>Background of the Merger</u>	12
<u>Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of Alberto Culver's Board of Directors</u>	18
<u>Opinion of Credit Suisse</u>	20
<u>Financial Projections</u>	26
<u>Interests of Alberto Culver's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger</u>	29
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger</u>	37
<u>Regulatory Approvals</u>	38
<u>Litigation Related to the Merger</u>	38
<u>Delisting and Deregistration of Alberto Culver Common Stock</u>	39
<u>APPRAISAL RIGHTS</u>	40

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>THE MERGER AGREEMENT</u>	44
<u>The Merger</u>	44
<u>Effective Time; Closing</u>	44
<u>Directors and Officers</u>	45
<u>The Merger Consideration</u>	45
<u>Payment Procedures</u>	45
<u>Treatment of Options, Restricted Stock and Other Equity Awards</u>	46
<u>Representations and Warranties</u>	46
<u>Covenants Regarding Conduct of Business by Alberto Culver Prior to the Merger</u>	49
<u>No Solicitation</u>	51
<u>Recommendation of Alberto Culver's Board</u>	52
<u>Stockholders Meeting</u>	53
<u>Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters</u>	53
<u>Guaranty of Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V.</u>	55
<u>Conditions to the Merger</u>	55
<u>Termination of the Merger Agreement</u>	56
<u>Transaction Fees and Expenses; Termination Fee</u>	58
<u>Indemnification and Insurance</u>	59
<u>Employee Matters</u>	59
<u>Other Covenants and Agreements</u>	60
<u>Extension, Waiver and Amendment of the Merger Agreement</u>	60
<u>THE STOCKHOLDER AGREEMENT</u>	61
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	63
<u>SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	63
<u>HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY STATEMENT</u>	63
<u>DIVIDEND INFORMATION AND MARKET PRICE OF COMMON STOCK</u>	64
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	65
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	67

- Annex A: Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 27, 2010, by and among Unilever PLC, Unilever N.V., Conopco, Inc., ACE Merger, Inc. and Alberto Culver Company.
- Annex B: Stockholder Agreement, dated as of September 27, 2010, by and among Conopco, Inc. and the Stockholders listed on the signature pages thereto.
- Annex C: Opinion of Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC.
- Annex D: Section 262 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY TERM SHEET

The following summary highlights information in this proxy statement and may not contain all the information that is important to you. Accordingly, we encourage you to read carefully this entire proxy statement, its annexes and the documents referred to or incorporated by reference in this proxy statement. In this proxy statement the terms Alberto Culver, the Company, we, our or us refer to Alberto Culver Company, and where appropriate, its subsidiaries. Each item in this summary includes a page reference directing you to a more complete description of the item in this proxy statement.

The Merger (Page 12)

The Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 27, 2010, which we refer to as the merger agreement, among Alberto Culver, Unilever PLC, Unilever N.V., Conopco, Inc., which we refer to as Unilever USA, and ACE Merger, Inc., which we refer to as Merger Sub, provides that Merger Sub, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA, will merge with and into Alberto Culver. As a result of the merger, Alberto Culver will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA. Upon completion of the proposed merger, shares of Alberto Culver common stock will no longer be listed on any stock exchange or quotation system. At the completion of the merger, each outstanding share of Alberto Culver common stock (other than shares of Alberto Culver common stock owned directly or indirectly by Unilever USA, Merger Sub or Alberto Culver or with respect to which appraisal rights have been properly demanded) will be converted into the right to receive \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less applicable withholding taxes.

The Special Meeting (Page 8)

Date, Time and Place. The special meeting will be held on December 13, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. central time at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160.

Purpose. You will be asked to consider and vote upon (1) the adoption of the merger agreement, (2) the adjournment of the special meeting to a later date, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies if there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to adopt the merger agreement and (3) such other business as may properly come before the special meeting by or at the direction of our board of directors or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

Record Date and Quorum. You are entitled to vote at the special meeting if you were the record owner of shares of Alberto Culver common stock at the close of business on November 8, 2010, the record date for the special meeting. Stockholders of record of Alberto Culver common stock as of the close of business on the record date will have one vote for each share of Alberto Culver common stock owned of record on the record date. As of November 8, 2010, there were 99,068,634 shares of Alberto Culver common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote. A majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting constitutes a quorum for the purpose of the special meeting. In the event that a quorum is not present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting, the meeting may be adjourned or postponed to solicit additional proxies.

Vote Required. The adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock entitled to vote thereon. If a quorum is present, approval of any proposal to adjourn the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote on the matter.

The Companies (Page 7)

Alberto Culver Company. Alberto Culver Company develops, manufactures, distributes and markets beauty care products as well as food and household products in the United States and more than 100 other countries. The

Table of Contents

Company is organized into two reportable business segments United States and International. The Company's principal executive offices are located at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, and its phone number is (708) 450-3000.

Unilever. The Unilever Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of consumer goods in more than 100 countries. Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V., together with their group companies, operate effectively as a single economic entity. Unilever USA is one of the group companies of Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. in the United States. Unilever N.V.'s principal executive offices are located at Weena 455, 3013 AL, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and its phone number is +31 (0)10 217 4000. Unilever PLC's principal executive offices are located at 100 Victoria Embankment, London, England EC4Y 0DY and its phone number is +44 (0)20 7822 5252. Unilever USA's principal executive offices are located at 800 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 and its phone number is (201) 894-4996.

We refer to Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. together as the Unilever Parents. We refer to the Unilever Parents collectively with all of the group companies of the Unilever Parents, including Unilever USA and Merger Sub, as the Unilever Group or Unilever.

ACE Merger, Inc. Merger Sub, a Delaware corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA, was formed solely for the purpose of facilitating Unilever USA's acquisition of Alberto Culver. Unilever USA has informed us that Merger Sub has not carried on any activities to date, except for activities incidental to its formation and activities undertaken in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Upon consummation of the proposed merger, Merger Sub will merge with and into Alberto Culver and will cease to exist. Merger Sub's principal executive offices are located at 800 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 07632, and its telephone number is (201) 894-4996.

Consideration to be Received in the Merger (Page 45)

If the merger is completed, each share of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger (other than shares owned directly or indirectly by Unilever USA, Merger Sub or Alberto Culver and shares with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded) will be converted into the right to receive \$37.50 in cash, which we refer to as the merger consideration, without interest and less applicable withholding taxes.

Treatment of Outstanding Options, Restricted Stock, Performance Units and Stock Units in the Merger (Page 46)

If the merger is completed,

each outstanding option to purchase Alberto Culver common stock, whether vested or unvested, will be cancelled at the effective time of the merger in consideration for the fully vested right to receive a cash payment equal to the excess, if any, of \$37.50 over the per share exercise price of the option multiplied by the number of shares of Alberto Culver common stock subject to such option;

each outstanding share of Alberto Culver common stock subject to vesting or forfeiture restrictions, which we refer to as restricted stock, will be converted into a fully vested right to receive \$37.50;

each outstanding performance unit for a performance period not yet completed will be converted into an amount of cash equal to \$1,000 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months during the applicable performance period that have elapsed prior to the merger or, if at least six full calendar months of any fiscal year within the performance period have elapsed prior to the merger, then all calendar months during such fiscal year will be treated as having elapsed, and the denominator of which is the total number of months during the applicable performance period; and

Table of Contents

all Alberto Culver common stock units credited to the account of each participant in the Alberto Culver Deferred Compensation Plans for Non-Employee Directors will be converted into the right to receive a cash payment in an amount equal to the product of (i) the number of such common stock units credited to the account and (ii) \$37.50, and such payment will be made in accordance with the terms of such plans.

Guaranty by Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. (Page 55)

Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. jointly and severally, irrevocably, absolutely and unconditionally guarantee to us the prompt and complete performance of the obligations of Unilever USA described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters," and all monetary obligations of Unilever USA and Merger Sub under the merger agreement.

Reasons for the Merger (Page 18)

In reaching its decision to approve and declare advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, the Alberto Culver board of directors consulted with Alberto Culver's senior management, as well as its financial and legal advisors, and considered a number of factors that the board members believed supported their decision.

Recommendation of Alberto Culver Board of Directors (Page 18)

The Alberto Culver board of directors has unanimously determined that the entry into the merger agreement and the consummation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are in the best interests of Alberto Culver and its stockholders, unanimously approved and declared advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby and unanimously determined that the merger consideration is fair to the stockholders of Alberto Culver entitled to receive the merger consideration. The Alberto Culver board of directors unanimously recommends that Alberto Culver stockholders vote **FOR** the adoption of the merger agreement and **FOR** the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies.

Stockholder Agreement (Page 61)

In connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, Leonard H. Lavin and Carol L. Bernick, our chairman emeritus and executive chairman, respectively, certain trusts for the benefit of Mr. Lavin and/or his descendants, including Ms. Bernick, and a partnership whose partners are trusts for the benefit of one or more of such individuals, which we refer to collectively as the Lavin family stockholders, entered into a stockholder agreement with Unilever USA pursuant to which they agreed, among other things, to vote certain shares of Alberto Culver common stock owned by them in favor of the merger, subject to certain exceptions. Those shares represent approximately 12% of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock.

Common Stock Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers (Page 65)

As of November 8, 2010, the record date for the special meeting, the directors and executive officers of Alberto Culver, including the directors and executive officers party to the stockholder agreement, beneficially owned in the aggregate approximately 13,466,311 shares of Alberto Culver common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting (excluding options and other rights to acquire common stock), representing approximately 13.59% of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock.

Opinion of Credit Suisse (Page 20)

On September 26, 2010, Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, which we refer to as Credit Suisse, rendered its oral opinion to our board of directors (which was subsequently confirmed in writing by delivery of Credit

Table of Contents

Suisse's written opinion dated the same date) to the effect that, as of September 26, 2010, and based upon and subject to the assumptions and qualifications stated in its opinion, the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders.

Credit Suisse's opinion was directed to our board of directors and only addressed the fairness from a financial point of view of the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger and did not address any other aspect or implication of the merger, or the stockholder agreement or any other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with the merger or otherwise. The summary of Credit Suisse's opinion in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of its written opinion, which is included as Annex C to this proxy statement and sets forth the procedures followed, assumptions made, qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken and other matters considered by Credit Suisse in preparing its opinion. However, neither Credit Suisse's written opinion nor the summary of its opinion and the related analyses set forth in this proxy statement are intended to be, and do not constitute, advice or a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should act or vote with respect to the merger.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger (Page 37)

The receipt of cash for shares of Alberto Culver common stock pursuant to the merger will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a holder of Alberto Culver common stock will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the amount of cash received in the merger and (2) the holder's adjusted tax basis in the shares. Stockholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the particular tax consequences to them (including the application and effect of any state, local or foreign and other tax laws) of the merger.

Interests of Alberto Culver's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger (Page 29)

In considering the recommendation of the Alberto Culver board of directors to adopt the merger agreement you should be aware that Alberto Culver's directors and executive officers have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as Alberto Culver stockholders. The Alberto Culver board of directors was aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in reaching its decision to approve and declare advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated the merger agreement. All of Alberto Culver's executive officers are parties to change in control severance agreements with Alberto Culver, each of which provides severance and other benefits in the case of qualifying separations from service in connection with a change in control of Alberto Culver, including the consummation of the merger. Alberto Culver's executive officers and directors participate in certain other plans and arrangements that provide for payments upon the acceleration of vesting and other payments upon a change in control of Alberto Culver, including the consummation of the merger. Executive officers and directors of Alberto Culver have rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses and directors' and officers' liability insurance that will survive consummation of the merger.

Appraisal Rights (Page 40)

Under Delaware law, Alberto Culver stockholders who do not vote for the adoption of the merger agreement will have the right to seek appraisal of the fair value of their shares as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery if the merger is completed, but only if they submit a written demand for such an appraisal prior to the vote on the merger agreement and the merger and comply with the other Delaware law procedures explained in this proxy statement.

Table of Contents

Conditions to the Merger (Page 55)

Conditions to Each Party's Obligations. Our, Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's obligations to effect the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders;

the expiration or termination of (i) any waiting period applicable to the merger required under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, which we refer to as the HSR Act, and (ii) any agreement with any governmental entity not to consummate the merger;

the receipt, expiration or termination, as applicable, of all waivers, consents, approvals and waiting periods under any competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or regulation in each jurisdiction agreed to by the parties and as may be necessary in any other jurisdiction; and

no temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other judgment or order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition is in effect that would, and there is no pending or threatened suit, action or proceeding by any governmental entity that would reasonably be expected to, prevent, make illegal or prohibit the consummation of the merger.

Conditions to Alberto Culver's Obligations. Our obligations to effect the merger are subject to the further satisfaction by Unilever USA and/or Merger Sub or waiver by us of the following conditions:

Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's representations and warranties (i) with respect to their corporate power and authority to execute and deliver the merger agreement and consummate the merger and state takeover laws are true and correct in all material respects and (ii) contained in the remainder of the merger agreement, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or Parent Material Adverse Effect (as such term is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement Representations and Warranties"), shall be true and correct, except where the failure to be so true and correct individually or in the aggregate has not had and would not reasonably be expected to have a Parent Material Adverse Effect, in each case as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the date of the closing of the merger as though made on the date of the closing of the merger (unless such representations and warranties speak as of a specified date, in which case as of such specified date), and we have received a certificate to that effect; and

Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's performance, in all material respects, of all obligations required to be performed by them under the merger agreement at or prior to the closing date of the merger, and we have received a certificate to that effect.

Conditions to Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's Obligations. Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's obligations to effect the merger are further subject to the satisfaction by us or waiver by them of the following conditions:

our representations and warranties (i) with respect to the absence of any material adverse effect on us and our subsidiaries from September 30, 2009 to the date of the merger agreement shall be true and correct; (ii) with respect to our subsidiaries, our outstanding options, our indebtedness, our corporate power and authority to execute the merger agreement and consummate the merger, the required vote of our stockholders, state takeover laws and brokers and financial advisers, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or material adverse effect, shall be true and correct in all material respects and (iii) contained in the

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remainder of the merger agreement, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or material adverse effect, shall be true and correct, except where the failure to be so true and correct individually or in the aggregate has not had and would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, in each case as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the date of the

v

Table of Contents

closing of the merger as though made on the date of the closing of the merger (unless such representations and warranties speak as of a specified date, in which case as of such specified date), and Unilever USA has received a certificate to that effect;

our performance, in all material respects, of all obligations required to be performed by us under the merger agreement at or prior to the closing date, and Unilever USA has received a certificate to that effect; and

no temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other judgment or order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition is in effect, and there is no pending or threatened suit, action or proceeding by any governmental entity, that would reasonably be expected to result in a substantial detriment.

The concept of a material adverse effect with respect to us and our subsidiaries is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Representations and Warranties." The concept of substantial detriment is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters."

No Solicitation (Page 51)

The merger agreement provides that we and our subsidiaries may not solicit or negotiate takeover proposals (as that term is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - No Solicitation"). However, under certain circumstances the merger agreement permits us to respond to certain written takeover proposals we receive and, subject to payment of a termination fee, terminate the merger agreement to enter into a definitive agreement to effect a superior proposal (as that term is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - No Solicitation").

Termination of the Merger Agreement (Page 56); Termination Fee (Page 58)

Unilever USA and Alberto Culver may terminate the merger agreement at any time upon mutual written consent of the parties. Other circumstances under which Unilever USA or Alberto Culver may terminate the merger agreement are described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Termination of the Merger Agreement".

We are required to pay Unilever USA a termination fee of \$125,000,000 if the merger agreement is terminated following our board of directors change of its recommendation in favor of the merger or our acceptance of a superior proposal (as such term is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - No Solicitation") from another party or under certain other circumstances, all as described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Transaction Fees and Expenses; Termination Fee".

Unilever USA is required to pay us a termination fee of \$125,000,000 under certain circumstances relating to a failure to obtain antitrust approvals. See the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Transaction Fees and Expenses; Termination Fee".

Regulatory Approvals (Page 38)

Under the provisions of the HSR Act, the merger may not be completed until notification and report forms have been filed with the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice, which we refer to as the Antitrust Division, and the Federal Trade Commission, which we refer to as the FTC, by Alberto Culver and Unilever and the applicable waiting period has expired or been terminated. Unilever and Alberto Culver filed the

Table of Contents

required notification and report forms with the FTC and the Antitrust Division, which we refer to individually and collectively as the U.S. Antitrust Authorities, on October 14, 2010. Unilever has informed us that it has notified the U.S. Antitrust Authorities of its intention to withdraw its original filing effective November 15, 2010 and refile its notification effective on or before November 17, 2010, initiating a new 30-day review period. The withdrawal of Unilever's original filing will terminate the running of the initial 30-day review period, which would have otherwise expired on November 15, 2010, absent the issuance of a request for additional information by the U.S. Antitrust Authorities. The re-filing is a procedural measure which will allow the U.S. Antitrust Authorities to continue their informal discussions with Unilever for an additional 30 days without having to issue a formal statutory request for additional information.

We are also required to obtain competition and antitrust approvals in Canada, Argentina, Mexico, the Republic of South Africa, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras. We and Unilever have been preparing required antitrust and competition law filings with respect to the foregoing jurisdictions. Approvals may also be required in certain other jurisdictions.

While we expect to obtain all required competition and antitrust approvals, we cannot assure you that these competition and antitrust approvals will be obtained or that the granting of these competition and antitrust approvals will not involve the imposition of additional conditions on the completion of the merger or require changes to the terms of the merger agreement. For a discussion of the parties' obligations to use certain efforts to obtain regulatory approvals for the merger, see the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters."

Current Market Price of Common Stock (Page 64)

Alberto Culver common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange, which we refer to as the NYSE, under the ticker symbol "ACV." The closing sale price of Alberto Culver common stock on the NYSE on September 24, 2010, the last full trading day prior to date of the public announcement of merger agreement, was \$31.48. On November 10, 2010, the last full trading day prior to the date of this proxy statement, the closing price of Alberto Culver common stock on the NYSE was \$37.20. You are encouraged to obtain current market quotations for Alberto Culver common stock in connection with voting your shares.

Delisting and Deregistration of Alberto Culver Common Stock (Page 39)

If the merger is completed, shares of Alberto Culver common stock will no longer be traded on the NYSE and will be deregistered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SPECIAL MEETING AND THE MERGER

The following questions and answers are intended to address briefly some questions you may have regarding the special meeting and the proposed merger. These questions and answers may not address all questions that may be important to you as a stockholder. Please refer to the more detailed information contained elsewhere in this proxy statement, as well as the additional documents to which it refers or which it incorporates by reference, including the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A.

Q: Why am I receiving this document?

A: You are receiving this proxy statement because our board of directors is soliciting proxies for use at the special meeting being held to consider and vote upon the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, among other proposals.

Q: When do you expect the merger to be completed?

A: We are working toward completing the merger as quickly as possible. However, the merger cannot be completed until the merger agreement is adopted by our stockholders, and Unilever and we obtain various antitrust and competition law approvals in various jurisdictions. We are working with Unilever to obtain those approvals in an expeditious manner and, as of the date hereof, are uncertain when they will all be received.

Q: Who can vote and attend the special meeting?

A: Holders of record of outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock as of the close of business on November 8, 2010, the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote or be represented by proxy at the special meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. Each share of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding as of the close of business on the record date is entitled to one vote on each matter properly brought before the special meeting.

Q: What vote of our stockholders is required to adopt the merger agreement or to approve an adjournment of the special meeting?

A: The affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock entitled to vote thereon is required to adopt the merger agreement. If a quorum is present, approval of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting to solicit additional proxies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock present in person or by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote on the matter.

If a quorum is not present at the special meeting, the special meeting may be adjourned by the chairman of the meeting or the vote of a majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock entitled to vote at the special meeting and present in person or by proxy.

Q: What will happen if I abstain from voting or fail to vote?

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- A: With respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, if you abstain from voting on the proposal, fail to cast your vote in person or by proxy or if your shares are held by your broker, bank or other nominee (i.e. in street name) and fail to give voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares, it will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to adopt the merger agreement.

With respect to the proposal to approve any adjournments of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies, if you fail to cast your vote in person or by proxy or, if you hold your shares in street name and fail to give voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares, it will not have any effect on the outcome of the vote on that proposal. If you vote to abstain from the proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote against the adjournment proposal.

Table of Contents

Q: How does the Alberto Culver board of directors recommend that I vote?

A: The Alberto Culver board of directors unanimously recommends that our stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and **FOR** the proposal to approve any adjournments of the special meeting.

Q: How do I cast my vote?

A: If you are a holder of record of Alberto Culver common stock as of the close of business on the record date, you may authorize a proxy to vote your shares at the special meeting or you may vote your shares in person at the special meeting. You can authorize your proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the accompanying pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope, or, if you prefer, by telephone or via the Internet by following the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. Proxies submitted by the Internet or telephone must be received by 1:00 a.m., Central Time, on December 13, 2010.

Q: How do I cast my vote if my shares of common stock are held of record in street name ?

A: If you hold your shares of common stock in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, your broker, bank or nominee will not vote your shares unless you provide instructions on how to vote. You should receive a voting instruction form from the broker, bank or other nominee that is the record holder of your shares. You must follow the directions on the voting instruction form to provide your broker, bank or other nominee with instructions on how to vote your shares. The inability of your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and will have no effect on the proposal to approve any adjournments of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies. If your shares are held in street name, please refer to the voting instruction form used by your broker, bank or other nominee, or contact them directly, to see if you may submit voting instructions using the Internet or telephone.

Q: How will proxy holders vote my shares of common stock?

A: If you properly authorize a proxy prior to the special meeting, your shares of common stock will be voted as you direct. If you authorize a proxy but no direction is otherwise made, your shares of common stock will be voted **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and **FOR** the proposal to approve any adjournments of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies. The proxy holders will vote in their discretion upon such other matters as may properly come before the special meeting by or at the direction of our board of directors or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Q: What happens if I sell my shares of common stock before the special meeting?

A: If you held your shares of Alberto Culver common stock as of the close of business on the record date but transfer them prior to the effective time of the merger, you will retain your right to vote at the special meeting, but not the right to receive the merger consideration for the shares. The right to receive such consideration when the merger becomes effective will pass to the person who owns the shares you previously owned.

Q: Can I change my vote after I have mailed my proxy card?

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- A: Yes. If you own shares of common stock as a record holder as of the close of business on the record date, you may revoke a previously authorized proxy at any time prior to its exercise by delivering a properly executed, later-dated proxy card, by authorizing your proxy by telephone or Internet at a later date than your previously authorized proxy, by filing a written revocation of your proxy with our Secretary or by voting in person at the special meeting. Attendance at the meeting will not, in itself, constitute revocation of a previously authorized proxy. If you own shares of common stock in street name, you may revoke or change previously granted voting instructions by following the instructions provided by the broker, bank or other nominee that is the registered owner of the shares.

Table of Contents

Q: Should I send in my certificates representing shares of common stock now?

A: No. Shortly after the merger is completed, you will receive a letter of transmittal with instructions informing you how to send your share certificates to the paying agent in order to receive the merger consideration. You should use the letter of transmittal to exchange shares of common stock for the merger consideration to which you are entitled as a result of the merger. **DO NOT SEND ANY SHARES WITH YOUR PROXY.**

Q: What will happen to the common stock that I currently own after completion of the merger?

A: Following the completion of the merger, your shares of common stock will be cancelled and will represent only the right to receive your portion of the merger consideration. Trading in Alberto Culver common stock on the NYSE will cease and price quotations for Alberto Culver common stock will no longer be available.

Q: Where can I find more information about the company?

A: We file certain information with the Securities and Exchange Commissions, which we refer to as the SEC. You may read and copy this information at the SEC's public reference facilities. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about these facilities. This information is also available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and on our website at www.alberto.com. Information contained on our website is not part of, or incorporated in, this proxy statement. You can also request copies of these documents from us. See the section of this proxy statement titled "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 67.

Q: Who will solicit and pay the cost of soliciting proxies?

A: We will bear the cost of soliciting proxies for the special meeting. The Alberto Culver board of directors is soliciting your proxy on our behalf. Our directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies by telephone and facsimile, by mail, on the Internet or in person. They will not be paid any additional amounts for soliciting proxies. We have retained Innisfree M&A Incorporated to assist us in the solicitation of proxies. We expect to pay Innisfree M&A Incorporated a fee not to exceed \$75,000 for its services. We will also pay additional fees to Innisfree M&A Incorporated depending upon the extent of additional services requested by us and reimburse Innisfree M&A Incorporated for expenses it incurs in connection with its engagement by us. We also will request that banking institutions, brokerage firms, custodians, trustees, nominees, fiduciaries and other like record holders forward the solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of common stock held of record by such person, and we will, upon request of such record holders, reimburse forwarding charges and out-of-pocket expenses.

Q: Who can help answer my other questions?

A: If you have more questions about the special meeting or the merger, you should contact our proxy solicitation agent, Innisfree M&A Incorporated, as follows:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated
501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10022

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Stockholders Call Toll-Free: (877) 750-9501

Banks and Brokers May Call Collect: (212) 750-5833

If you hold your shares through a broker, bank or other nominee, you also should call your broker, bank or other nominee for additional information.

Table of Contents

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Special Meeting of Stockholders to be held on December 13, 2010

The Notice of Special Meeting of Stockholders and this proxy statement for the special meeting of stockholders to be held on December 13, 2010 are available at www.edocumentview.com/acv.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This proxy statement, and the documents to which we refer you in this proxy statement, include forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements contain words such as believes, estimates, anticipates, continues, predicts, potential, contemplates, expects, may, will, likely, could, should or would or other similar words or phrases. These statements are based on our management's current expectations and assessments of risks and uncertainties and reflect various assumptions concerning anticipated results, which may or may not prove to be correct. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from estimates or projections contained in such forward-looking statements include:

the effect of the announcement of the merger on our business relationships, operating results and business generally;

the ability to retain certain of our key employees;

the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the merger agreement;

the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders or other conditions to the completion of the transaction not being satisfied, or the regulatory approvals required for the transaction not being obtained on the terms expected or on the anticipated schedule;

the amount of the costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the merger;

Unilever's ability to meet expectations regarding the timing and completion of the merger;

the pattern of brand sales;

competition within the relevant product markets;

loss of one or more key customers;

inability of efficiency initiatives to improve our margins;

loss of one or more key suppliers or contract packers;

inability to protect our intellectual property;

the disruption of normal business activities due to our implementation of a new worldwide ERP system;

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manufacturing and supply chain disruptions;

adverse changes in currency exchange rates;

special demands by key customers;

risks inherent in acquisitions, divestitures and strategic alliances, including, without limitation, undisclosed liabilities and obligations for which we may have limited or no recourse;

risks inherent in expanding in existing geographic locations and entering new geographic locations;

the risk that the expected cost savings related to reorganizations and restructurings may not be realized;

the effects of a prolonged United States or global economic downturn or recession;

health epidemics;

unavailability of raw materials or finished products;

increases in costs of raw materials and inflation rates;

Table of Contents

events that negatively affect the intended tax free nature of the distribution of our shares in connection with the separation of Alberto Culver and Sally Beauty Holdings, Inc. involving Clayton, Dubilier & Rice in 2006, which we refer to as the spinoff;

changes in costs;

the unanticipated costs and effects of legal or administrative proceedings;

adverse weather conditions; and

variations in political, economic or other factors such as interest rates, availability of credit, tax changes, legal and regulatory changes or other external factors over which we have no control.

These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this proxy statement, or in the case of forward-looking statements contained in documents incorporated in this proxy statement by reference, the date of such documents, and there is no undertaking to update or revise them as more information becomes available except as required by law. Additional factors that could cause our results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in our 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on November 24, 2009 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended December 31, 2009, March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010, filed with the SEC on February 4, 2010, May 7, 2010 and August 5, 2010, respectively.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANIES

Alberto Culver Company

Alberto Culver Company develops, manufactures, distributes and markets beauty care products as well as food and household products in the United States and more than 100 other countries. Our beauty care products marketed in the United States include the TRESemmé, Alberto VO5, Nexxus and Consort lines of hair care products, the St. Ives and Noxzema lines of skin care products, FDS feminine deodorant sprays and the Motions, Soft & Beautiful, Just For Me, TCB and Comb-Thru lines of multicultural hair care products. Food and household products sold in the United States include Mrs. Dash salt-free seasoning blends, Static Guard anti-static spray, Molly McButter butter flavored sprinkles, SugarTwin sugar substitute and Kleen Guard furniture polish. In the United Kingdom and Europe, we sell products which include the TRESemmé, Alberto VO5, Alberto Balsam and Andrew Collinge lines of hair care products and the Simple and St. Ives lines of skin care products. In Canada, we sell most of the products marketed in the United States along with the Alberto European line of hair care products. Our products marketed in Latin America include the TRESemmé, Alberto VO5, Folicure and Antiall lines of hair care products, the St. Ives line of skin care products, Veritas soap and deodorant body powder products and Farmaco soap products. Our principal markets in Latin America are Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Argentina and Chile. Our beauty care products, including TRESemmé, Alberto VO5, St. Ives and the various multicultural hair care brands, are also sold in Australia and New Zealand and portions of Asia and Africa. We also perform custom label manufacturing of other companies' beauty care products in the United States. Our principal executive offices are located at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, and our phone number is (708) 450-3000.

Unilever

The Unilever Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of consumer goods in more than 100 countries. Consumers use the Unilever Group's products approximately two billion times every day. The Unilever Group's portfolio includes eleven billion brands, and global leadership in many categories in which it operates. The portfolio features iconic brands such as Dove, TIGI, Lux, Axe/Lynx, Omo/Persil/Ala/Skip, Domestos/Glorix, Knorr, Hellmann's, and Lipton. The Unilever Group has around 163,000 employees and generated annual sales of \$40 billion in 2009.

Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V., together with their group companies, operate effectively as a single economic entity. Unilever USA is one of the group companies of Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. in the United States. Unilever N.V.'s principal executive offices are located at Weena 455, 3013 AL, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and its phone number is +31 (0)10 217 4000. Unilever PLC's principal executive offices are located at 100 Victoria Embankment, London, England EC4Y 0DY and its phone number is +44 (0)20 7822 5252. Unilever USA's principal executive offices are located at 800 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632, and its phone number is (201) 894-4996.

ACE Merger, Inc.

Merger Sub, a Delaware corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA, and was formed solely for the purpose of facilitating Unilever USA's acquisition of Alberto Culver. Unilever USA has informed us that Merger Sub has not carried on any activities to date, except for activities incidental to its formation and activities undertaken in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. Upon consummation of the proposed merger, Merger Sub will merge with and into Alberto Culver and will cease to exist. Merger Sub's principal executive offices are located at 800 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632, and its telephone number is (201) 894-4996.

Table of Contents

THE SPECIAL MEETING

Date, Time, Place and Purpose of the Special Meeting

This proxy statement is being furnished to Alberto Culver's stockholders as part of the solicitation of proxies by the Alberto Culver board of directors for use at the special meeting to be held on December 13, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. central time, at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, or at any postponement or adjournment thereof. The purpose of the special meeting is for Alberto Culver's stockholders to consider and vote on:

a proposal to adopt the merger agreement, which provides for, among other things, the merger of Merger Sub with and into Alberto Culver, with Alberto Culver continuing as the surviving corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA and the conversion of each share of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger (other than shares owned by Unilever USA, Merger Sub or Alberto Culver or with respect to which appraisal rights have been properly demanded) into the right to receive \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less applicable withholding taxes;

a proposal to adjourn the special meeting to a later date or time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in the event there are insufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to adopt the merger agreement; and

such other business as may properly come before the special meeting by or at the direction of our board of directors or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

We do not expect a vote to be taken on any other matters at the special meeting. If any other matters are properly presented at the special meeting for consideration, the holders of proxies, if properly authorized, will have discretion to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment.

Record Date and Quorum

We have fixed the close of business on November 8, 2010 as the record date for the special meeting, and only holders of record of Alberto Culver common stock at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. As of the record date, there were 99,068,634 shares of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Each holder of record of Alberto Culver common stock on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share owned of record as of the close of business on the record date.

A majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting constitutes a quorum for the purpose of considering the proposals. Shares of Alberto Culver common stock present in person or represented at the special meeting but not voted, including shares of Alberto Culver common stock for which proxies have been received but for which stockholders have abstained, will be treated as present at the special meeting for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of all business. In the event that a quorum is not present at the special meeting, the special meeting may be adjourned by the chairman of the meeting or a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote at the special meeting.

Vote Required for Approval

Adoption of the merger agreement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock entitled to vote thereon. **Therefore, if you abstain or fail to vote, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the adoption of the merger agreement.** In addition, if your shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee, your broker, bank or other nominee will not be entitled to vote your shares on the proposal to adopt the merger agreement in the absence of specific instructions from you. **These non-voted shares will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the adoption of the merger agreement.**

Table of Contents

The adoption of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting to a later time, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon. **Therefore, if you abstain, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the adoption of the proposal to adjourn the special meeting and if you fail to vote, it will have no effect on the outcome of the proposal. If you fail to provide your broker with instructions on the proposal, your shares will not be counted as shares present and entitled to vote on the proposal to adjourn the special meeting and will have no effect on the vote to adjourn the special meeting.**

As of the record date, Alberto Culver's directors and executive officers held and are entitled to vote, in the aggregate, approximately 13,466,311 shares of Alberto Culver common stock (excluding options and other rights to acquire common stock), representing approximately 13.59% of Alberto Culver's outstanding common stock. Our directors and executive officers have informed us that they intend to vote the shares of Alberto Culver common stock **FOR** the proposal to adopt the merger agreement and **FOR** the proposal to approve any adjournments of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies. Pursuant to a stockholder agreement entered into with Unilever USA, Leonard H. Lavin and Carol L. Bernick, our chairman emeritus and executive chairman, respectively, and certain Lavin family stockholders have agreed, among other things, to vote certain shares of Alberto Culver common stock owned by them in favor of the merger, subject to certain exceptions. Those 11,842,778 shares (excluding options and other rights to acquire common stock) represent approximately 11.95% of the 99,068,634 outstanding shares of Alberto Culver common stock as of the record date, and 11,815,028 of those shares are included in the shares referenced above as to which directors and executive officers are entitled to vote.

Votes will be tabulated by the inspector of elections of the special meeting, who will separately tabulate affirmative and negative votes and abstentions.

Proxies and Revocation

Stockholders of record as of the close of business on the record date may vote their shares of Alberto Culver common stock by:

submitting their proxy by telephone by following the instructions on the enclosed proxy card;

submitting their proxy via the Internet by following the instructions on the enclosed proxy card;

signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the accompanying pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope; or

appearing and voting in person at the special meeting.

Whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting in person, we request that you complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card or submit your proxy by telephone or over the Internet prior to the special meeting to ensure that your shares will be voted at the special meeting. If you properly authorize a proxy but no direction is given on how to vote your shares, your shares will be voted **FOR** the adoption of the merger agreement and **FOR** the adjournment of the special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies, and in accordance with the discretion of the proxies on any other matters properly brought before the special meeting, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

If your shares of Alberto Culver common stock are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee, you will receive a voting instruction form from your broker, bank or other nominee with instructions that you must follow in order to have your shares voted. If you have not received such voting instructions or require further information regarding such voting instructions, contact your broker, bank or other nominee. Brokers who hold shares of Alberto Culver common stock in street name for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on routine proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, such brokers will not have such discretion with respect to the

Table of Contents

proposals contained in this proxy statement as such proposals are not considered routine proposals. Therefore, if you do not provide voting direction to your broker in accordance with the instructions provided by such broker, your shares held in street name will not be voted. Accordingly, such uninstructed shares will have the effect of votes **AGAINST** the adoption of the merger agreement, but will have no effect on the proposal to adjourn the special meeting.

Proxies received by Alberto Culver at any time before the vote being taken at the special meeting, which have not been revoked or changed before being voted, will be voted at the special meeting. If you are a stockholder of record of shares of Alberto Culver common stock, you have the right to change or revoke your proxy at any time, unless noted below, before the vote is taken at the special meeting:

by delivering to Alberto Culver's principal executives offices at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, Attn: Secretary, a signed written notice of revocation bearing a date later than the date of the proxy, stating that the proxy is revoked;

by attending the special meeting and voting in person (your attendance at the meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy; you must vote in person at the meeting);

by signing and delivering a new proxy, relating to the same shares of Alberto Culver common stock and bearing a later date; or

by submitting a new proxy by telephone or via the Internet on a later date but prior to the date of the special meeting.

If you are a street name holder of Alberto Culver common stock, you may change or revoke your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your brokerage firm, bank or other nominee. You must contact your nominee to obtain instructions as to how to change or revoke your proxy.

Questions with respect to the authorization or revocation of any proxies should be directed to:

Innisfree M&A Incorporated

501 Madison Avenue, 20th Floor

New York, New York 10022

Stockholders Call Toll-Free: (877) 750-9501

Banks and Brokers May Call Collect: (212) 750-5833

Adjournments and Postponements

Although it is not currently expected, the special meeting may be adjourned or postponed for any reason. Alberto Culver's amended and restated bylaws provide that any adjournment may be made without notice if announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken and that no new record date need be fixed for the adjourned meeting if the adjournment is to a date that is not greater than 30 days after the original date fixed for the special meeting. If no quorum exists, the chairman of the meeting or the holders of a majority of Alberto Culver shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the special meeting may adjourn the special meeting. If a quorum is present, approval of the proposal to adjourn the meeting will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Alberto Culver common stock present in person or by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote on the matter. Abstentions will have the same effect on the proposal to adjourn the meeting as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal. Any adjournment of the special meeting for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies will allow Alberto Culver's stockholders who have already sent in their proxies to revoke them at any time prior to their use at the special meeting as adjourned or postponed.

Appraisal Rights

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Under Delaware law, stockholders of record who do not vote in favor of adopting the merger agreement will have the right to have the fair value of their shares of Alberto Culver common stock determined by the Court

Table of Contents

of Chancery of the State of Delaware and to receive payment based on that valuation in lieu of receiving the merger consideration, but only if they properly demand an appraisal of their shares and otherwise comply with all applicable requirements of Delaware law, which are summarized in the section of this proxy statement titled **Appraisal Rights** on page 40. The ultimate amount that dissenting stockholders receive in an appraisal proceeding may be more than, less than, or the same as, the amount that such stockholders would have received under the merger agreement. If a stockholder intends to exercise appraisal rights, among other things, the stockholder must:

send a written demand to us for appraisal in compliance with Delaware law before the vote on adopting the merger agreement at the special meeting;

not vote for the proposal to adopt the merger agreement; and

continuously hold its shares of Alberto Culver common stock from the date such stockholder makes the demand for appraisal through the effective date of the merger.

If a stockholder votes for the proposal to adopt the merger agreement, it will waive its rights to seek appraisal of its shares of Alberto Culver common stock under Delaware law. Also, merely voting against or abstaining with respect to the proposal to adopt the merger agreement will not protect a stockholder's rights to an appraisal. Failure to follow exactly the procedures specified under Delaware law will result in the loss of your appraisal rights as described in the section of this proxy statement titled **Appraisal Rights** on page 40. Delaware law requirements for exercising appraisal rights are described in further detail in this proxy statement and the relevant section of Delaware law regarding appraisal rights is reproduced and attached as Annex D to this proxy statement.

Solicitation of Proxies

We have retained Innisfree M&A Incorporated to assist in the solicitation of proxies for the special meeting. We expect to pay Innisfree M&A Incorporated a fee not to exceed \$75,000 for its services. We will also pay additional fees to Innisfree M&A Incorporated depending upon the extent of additional services requested by us and reimburse Innisfree M&A Incorporated for expenses it incurs in connection with its engagement by us. Our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies by personal interview, mail, e-mail, telephone, facsimile or other means of communication. These persons will not be paid additional remuneration for their efforts. We will also request brokers and other fiduciaries to forward proxy solicitation material to the beneficial owners of shares of Alberto Culver common stock that the brokers and other fiduciaries hold of record. Upon request, we will reimburse them for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Questions and Additional Information

If you have questions about the merger or how to submit your proxy, or if you need additional copies of this proxy statement or the enclosed proxy card or voting instructions, please call our proxy solicitor, Innisfree M&A Incorporated, toll-free at (877) 750-9501 or collect at (212) 750-5833.

Availability of Documents

Documents incorporated by reference (excluding exhibits to those documents unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into those documents) will be provided by first class mail without charge to each person to whom this proxy statement is delivered upon written or oral request of such person. In addition, our list of stockholders entitled to vote at the special meeting will be available for inspection at our principal executive offices at least 10 days prior to the date of the special meeting and continuing through the special meeting for any purpose germane to the meeting; the list will also be available at the meeting for inspection by any stockholder present at the meeting. See the section of this proxy statement titled **Where You Can Find More Information** for more information regarding where you can request any of the documents incorporated by reference in this proxy statement or other information concerning Alberto Culver.

Table of Contents

THE MERGER

This discussion of the merger is qualified in its entirety by reference to the merger agreement, which is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A and which is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement. You should read the entire merger agreement carefully as it is the legal document that governs the merger.

Background of the Merger

Alberto Culver and its board of directors regularly consider strategic alternatives in order to enhance stockholder value, including, from time to time, a possible sale of the Company.

On April 20 and 21, 2010, our board of directors met to review with management the Company's long-range strategic business plan. While our board of directors and management shared the view that continued growth of the Company's businesses at historic rates was achievable, our directors recognized that it would require greater levels of investment, which in turn would affect the Company's risk profile.

On or about April 28, 2010, an investment banker purporting to represent another company involved in our industry, which we refer to as Company A, contacted Carol Bernick, the executive chairman of our board of directors, to discuss whether Ms. Bernick would be interested in meeting with a senior officer of Company A. In subsequent phone calls with Ms. Bernick and Gary Schmidt, a senior vice president and the general counsel and secretary of the Company, the investment banker confirmed that the purpose of the meeting would be to discuss a possible acquisition of the Company.

On May 5, 2010, our board of directors spoke via teleconference to discuss the inquiry by the investment banker. Representatives of our legal counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, which we refer to as Sidley, also participated. Representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our directors and other legal matters. After discussion of the contact by the investment banker purportedly on behalf of Company A, our directors agreed that Ms. Bernick should meet with the officer of Company A if the officer was interested in doing so. At this meeting, Ms. Bernick also informed our directors that, with the advance knowledge and approval of Company counsel, the Lavin family previously had engaged BDT & Company, LLC, which we refer to as BDT, effective as of March 1, 2010, to provide advice regarding the family's holdings in the Company. (Prior to entering into the engagement with BDT, Ms. Bernick had discussed the possibility of the Lavin family's entering into the engagement with various other directors, including two members of our audit committee, and with Company counsel.) The senior principal of BDT, Byron Trott, was known to our directors because he had previously advised the Company in connection with its 2006 transaction involving Sally Beauty Holdings, Inc. and certain other strategic matters in late 2007 and early 2008 when he was a senior investment banker at Goldman Sachs & Co.

Following the meeting of our board of directors, Mr. Schmidt conveyed to the investment banker purportedly representing Company A Ms. Bernick's willingness to have a meeting with Company A and directed him to advise the officer of Company A to contact her if he was interested in such a meeting. Although there were several generalized communications over the next several weeks with the investment banker, the officer of Company A never contacted Ms. Bernick.

On June 9, 2010, our board of directors spoke via teleconference. Representatives of Sidley also participated. Our directors discussed the communications with the investment banker regarding Company A and concluded that the investment banker had been operating without Company A's authorization. Ms. Bernick then indicated that representatives of BDT were available to join the meeting. Our directors were advised that BDT had recently provided an analysis for the Lavin family regarding the family's ownership interest in the Company and had reached several preliminary conclusions with respect to the Company based on its review of publicly available information regarding the Company and the personal care industry. Representatives of BDT then joined the teleconference and delivered a presentation based upon the analysis it had provided to the Lavin family. The representatives of BDT noted that, based on its review of publicly available information regarding other participants in the personal care industry, the Unilever Group might be potentially interested in a possible transaction, due to its publicly articulated strategy, its relative position in the personal care category as a regulatory matter and its financial capacity. Representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our

Table of Contents

directors and other legal matters. Our directors engaged in an extensive discussion with representatives of BDT. Based on discussions among directors prior to the teleconference regarding the possible retention of BDT or other financial advisors and with the intention of utilizing the services of BDT on behalf of our board of directors, our directors requested that BDT review non-public information about the Company and prepare a detailed analysis of a possible transaction on behalf of our board of directors for consideration at its next meeting. Our board of directors authorized our management team to enter into a confidentiality agreement with BDT to facilitate the exchange of confidential information for such purpose.

On June 11, 2010, at the direction of our board of directors and after reaching tentative understanding with BDT on the principal terms under which BDT might be engaged by us as a financial advisor, we executed a confidentiality agreement with BDT and members of our management team met with representatives of BDT to discuss the Company's long-range strategic business plan. Subsequently, BDT conducted further due diligence with respect to the Company in order to prepare its analysis for our board of directors.

On June 21, 2010, BDT and the Lavin family terminated BDT's engagement by the Lavin family and acknowledged that the periodic retainer payments that had been made by the Lavin family to BDT through such date would satisfy the fees owed under such engagement.

On June 22, 2010, our board of directors met in person. Representatives of Sidley were also present. Our board of directors was informed that the Lavin family's engagement of BDT had been terminated. Our board of directors authorized the retention of BDT as a financial advisor in order to assist the Company in an analysis and consideration of strategic alternatives, including the possible sale of the Company. Our board of directors also recognized that, if it determined to pursue a sale of the Company, it would retain an additional investment banking firm to render an opinion as to fairness, as it was BDT's policy not to deliver such opinions. Our board of directors determined to engage BDT based upon, among other factors, BDT's qualifications, experience and reputation, including Mr. Trott's experience and reputation as an investment banker generally and in the consumer goods industry in particular, BDT's familiarity with the Company given Mr. Trott's prior work on the Company's behalf, and the understanding that the aggregate fees payable to BDT and any additional investment banking firm engaged to render an opinion as to fairness would total an amount that would be customary for transactions of this nature for the engagement of a single investment banking firm to provide both advisory services and an opinion as to fairness. Our board of directors took into consideration the work that BDT had performed for the Lavin family but did not view that work as compromising its ability to act as a financial advisor on behalf of the Company. Representatives of BDT delivered a presentation regarding its analysis of the Company and its strategic alternatives, including a review of several other participants in the personal care industry that the Company might consider approaching to discuss a potential acquisition of the Company, and indicated that, based on the factors outlined by BDT in the June 9 teleconference, the Unilever Group would be the party most likely to be interested in a possible acquisition of the Company. Representatives of BDT suggested that the Unilever Group would be likely to offer a higher price for the Company if it were offered an opportunity to reach a negotiated transaction as opposed to participating in a sale process involving multiple parties in which Unilever might not engage as actively with the Company and might ultimately offer a lower value in light of bidding dynamics. Following discussion, our board of directors unanimously authorized BDT to approach the Unilever Group to determine whether and at what value level it might be interested in acquiring the Company. Our board of directors made clear that, in seeking such information, it had not determined to sell the Company but desired to obtain information that would permit it to evaluate better whether it was in the best interests of the Company's stockholders for the Company to pursue, as an independent company, the long-range business plan discussed at the April 20-21 board meetings. Following the board meeting, we entered into an engagement letter with BDT which included a customary fee for financial advisory services (not including a fairness opinion fee) for transactions of this nature, a portion of which was to be paid as a periodic retainer, a portion of which was to be paid upon the execution of a definitive agreement with respect to a transaction, including a sale of the Company, and the remainder of which was to be paid upon the consummation of such transaction.

On June 28, 2010, a representative of BDT spoke with Paul Polman, the chief executive officer of the Unilever Group, to discuss whether it had any interest in discussing with the Company a potential combination.

Table of Contents

The representative conveyed to Mr. Polman that our board of directors had not reached a determination to sell the Company, but that it was seeking information as to whether and at what value level the Unilever Group would be interested in acquiring the Company to allow it to better evaluate its strategic alternatives. Mr. Polman indicated that he was familiar with the Company and that he would contact BDT in one to two weeks to discuss the matter further after reviewing publicly available information about the Company.

On July 12, 2010, Mr. Polman contacted a representative of BDT and conveyed that the Unilever Group might be interested in considering an acquisition of the Company. They agreed to schedule a meeting among the Unilever Group, the Company and certain of their respective representatives on July 20, 2010.

On July 20, 2010, Mr. Polman met with Ms. Bernick, V. James Marino, the president and chief executive officer of the Company, and representatives of BDT to discuss a possible transaction. In the meeting, Mr. Polman expressed a preliminary interest in the Unilever Group possibly acquiring the Company in an all-cash transaction and indicated that the Unilever Group would be in a position to propose a preliminary valuation range after conducting a further review of the Company and its financial performance based on publicly available information.

On July 21, 2010, our board of directors met in person at a regularly scheduled meeting. Representatives of BDT and Sidley were also present. Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and representatives of BDT reported on the recent communications and meeting with the Unilever Group. Our board of directors discussed a possible transaction with the Unilever Group, and representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our directors and, together with representatives of BDT, reviewed certain timing, transaction structure and other considerations.

On July 27, 2010, representatives of BDT spoke with representatives of the Unilever Group's financial advisor, Morgan Stanley & Co., which we refer to as Morgan Stanley, to discuss certain assumptions that Morgan Stanley planned to incorporate in its financial models for purposes of valuing the Company.

On August 12, 2010, Morgan Stanley called BDT and indicated that the Unilever Group would be interested in exploring the possibility of acquiring the Company at a price per share between \$33.00 and \$38.00 in cash, but that it was more likely to be at the lower end of that range based on the limited information regarding the Company available to the Unilever Group as of that date.

On August 12, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley also participated. Representatives of BDT reported to our board of directors regarding its recent communications with Morgan Stanley and the terms of the indication of interest received that morning. Our board of directors discussed the proposed \$33.00 to \$38.00 per share valuation range, and expressed disappointment that the Unilever Group was likely to focus on the lower end of the valuation range. Our board of directors directed BDT to continue its discussions with the Unilever Group regarding the proposed valuation range.

On August 15, 2010, a representative of BDT called Mr. Polman to discuss the Unilever Group's proposed valuation range. The BDT representative informed Mr. Polman that the Company board of directors was disappointed with the breadth and level of the proposed valuation range and the particular focus on the lower half of it. Mr. Polman indicated that the proposed range was preliminary and that non-public information would be required before the Unilever Group would confirm a more specific valuation level.

On August 16, 2010, Mr. Polman called Ms. Bernick to discuss the proposed valuation range, and the need for non-public information in order to be willing to offer a price that approached or exceeded the higher end of the range.

On August 17, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley also participated. Ms. Bernick and the representatives of BDT reported on their conversations with Mr. Polman and Morgan Stanley. Representatives of BDT reviewed certain preliminary valuation information with our board of

Table of Contents

directors, and representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of the directors and other legal matters. Our board of directors discussed potential responses to the indication of interest. Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and representatives of BDT suggested that our board of directors respond with a valuation range of between \$37.00 and \$41.00 per share. Our board of directors also considered whether to contact other potential buyers if a price above \$37.00 per share could not be reached with the Unilever Group, but after discussing other potential buyers and considering advice from representatives of BDT, among other things, concluded that financial bidders would not be able to offer as much as strategic buyers, and that involving additional strategic buyers in a sale process would be undesirable because it would require sharing confidential information with more competitors and potentially be disruptive to the business and to the negotiations with the Unilever Group, without a reasonable likelihood of another party being able to offer a higher price than the Unilever Group. Following the discussion, our board of directors directed BDT to communicate to the Unilever Group a proposed price range of \$37.00 to \$41.00 per share as the basis on which the Company would be prepared to allow the Unilever Group to conduct additional due diligence.

On August 18, 2010, a representative of BDT contacted Mr. Polman and informed him of the \$37.00 to \$41.00 per share valuation range. Mr. Polman indicated that the Unilever Group would need to conduct due diligence of non-public information in order to determine whether it was prepared to offer a price in that range.

On August 21, 2010, we entered into a confidentiality agreement with Unilever United States, Inc. to facilitate the exchange of confidential information.

On August 23, 2010, members of our senior management team made presentations to the Unilever Group's management team and representatives of Morgan Stanley regarding the Company's business. During this meeting, certain financial projections that had been previously prepared by the Company's management team were shared with the Unilever Group's management team. See the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections." At the conclusion of the meetings, Mr. Polman informed Ms. Bernick that the Unilever Group would continue its due diligence review and that he would revert to the board of directors of Unilever N.V. and Unilever PLC for authorization to submit a revised per share valuation.

On August 30, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley also participated. Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and representatives of BDT reported on communications with the Unilever Group since the August 17 board meeting, including a review of the August 23 meeting and the status of the Unilever Group's due diligence review. Representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our directors and other legal matters. Our board of directors discussed timing and transaction structure considerations, as well as possible next steps upon receipt of a revised indication of price from the Unilever Group.

On September 6, 2010, representatives of Morgan Stanley called representatives of BDT and informed them that the Unilever Group would be willing to acquire the Company at a price per share of \$35.00.

On September 7, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley participated. Ms. Bernick reported on recent developments and the receipt of the revised price proposal from the Unilever Group. Our directors expressed disappointment with the \$35.00 per share offer price and discussed a possible response.

Later on September 7, 2010, Mr. Polman called Ms. Bernick to follow up on the discussion between representatives of Morgan Stanley and BDT. Ms. Bernick conveyed disappointment with the \$35.00 per share offer price and that our board of directors had been expecting a price at the higher end of the price range previously communicated to Mr. Polman. Mr. Polman indicated that he could not offer \$40.00 or \$39.00 per share but that he had some flexibility above \$35.00 or \$36.00 per share, if such a valuation were consistent with the ongoing due diligence review. In addition, Mr. Polman explained that he would need to understand what price level would likely be acceptable to our board of directors. Ms. Bernick indicated that she would be prepared to recommend to our board of directors that a price of \$38.00 per share be accepted, but that she could not assure Mr. Polman that our board of directors would be willing to accept such a price.

Table of Contents

Later on September 7, 2010, Ms. Bernick spoke to several directors to determine whether they would be supportive of a price of \$38.00 per share.

Later on September 7, 2010, Ms. Bernick called Mr. Polman and indicated that she had spoken with certain other members of our board of directors and that our board of directors might be willing to support a transaction at a price of \$38.00 per share.

Between September 7, 2010 and September 10, 2010, the Unilever Group received and analyzed further non-public information with respect to the Company.

On September 8, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley also participated. Ms. Bernick reported on her conversations with Mr. Polman. Our board of directors directed Ms. Bernick to communicate a willingness to accept a price of \$38.00 per share. Our directors also discussed the retention of a second financial advisor for purposes of rendering an opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by our stockholders in the possible transaction with the Unilever Group and authorized our management team to contact Credit Suisse to discuss their potential engagement. Our board of directors selected Credit Suisse based upon, among other factors, Credit Suisse's qualifications, experience and reputation, and its familiarity with the Company and its business, including as a result of having acted within the past two years as a financial advisor to the Company in connection with its acquisition of Simple Health & Beauty Limited and in connection with the Company's sale of Cederroth International AB.

On September 10, 2010, Ms. Bernick and Mr. Polman spoke telephonically, and Mr. Polman indicated that the Unilever Group would be willing to acquire the Company at a price of \$37.50 per share, subject to the Unilever Group's completion to its satisfaction of its due diligence review. Ms. Bernick agreed to recommend that price to our board of directors if the Unilever Group would be prepared to complete its due diligence review and negotiate a definitive agreement within a reasonably expeditious timeframe. Ms. Bernick also contacted Credit Suisse on September 10, 2010 to discuss their potential engagement by the Company.

On September 10, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT and Sidley also participated. Ms. Bernick communicated the Unilever Group's proposed price of \$37.50 per share. Our directors discussed with representatives of BDT the proposed per share consideration, and discussed with representatives of Sidley certain anticipated provisions of a merger agreement, including those that would permit the Company to accept a higher bid, if one were made after the entry into a definitive agreement. After discussion, our directors unanimously supported the continuation of discussions with the Unilever Group regarding a transaction at \$37.50 per share. Our board of directors also discussed the possible retention of Credit Suisse to advise our board of directors with respect to the fairness from a financial point of view of the proposed price per share. Our directors authorized management to negotiate an engagement letter with Credit Suisse.

On September 10, 2010, representatives of Sidley and representatives of the Unilever Group's legal counsel, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, which we refer to as Cravath, discussed potential structures for the proposed transaction.

Between September 10, 2010 and September 27, 2010, the Unilever Group, Cravath, Morgan Stanley and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an additional advisor to the Unilever Group, continued their due diligence review of the Company.

Between September 11, 2010 and September 26, 2010, our management team provided non-public information about the Company, including certain financial projections, to Credit Suisse to facilitate their review of the proposed transaction. See the section of this proxy statement titled Financial Projections.

On September 17, 2010, Cravath distributed an initial draft of the merger agreement to Sidley and an initial draft of the stockholder agreement to the Lavin family's legal counsel, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP, which we refer to as Neal Gerber.

Table of Contents

Also on September 17, 2010, we requested that Credit Suisse prepare a preliminary financial analysis of the proposed transaction in anticipation of being engaged by our board of directors at its next meeting.

On September 20, 2010, our board of directors met in person. Representatives of BDT and Sidley were also present. Representatives of Sidley reviewed the terms of the Credit Suisse engagement letter, which included a customary fee for rendering an opinion as to fairness in transactions of this nature (payable upon the rendering of such opinion, regardless of the conclusion reached therein) and which our board of directors unanimously approved, at which time representatives of Credit Suisse joined the meeting and the engagement letter was executed with an effective date of September 17, 2010. Representatives of BDT reported on events since the September 10 teleconference and the status of the Unilever Group's due diligence review. Representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our directors, reviewed with our directors the terms of the draft merger agreement and possible negotiating responses, and outlined antitrust considerations associated with the proposed transaction. Representatives of Credit Suisse and representatives of BDT then presented their respective preliminary financial analyses of the proposed transaction.

Between September 20, 2010 and September 27, 2010, Cravath, Sidley and representatives of the Unilever Group and the Company negotiated the terms of the merger agreement. The key transaction terms discussed by the Unilever Group, the Company and their respective counsel included the circumstances under which termination fees would be payable by either party and the amounts of such termination fees, covenants by Unilever USA and the Unilever Group to take certain actions in seeking the receipt of antitrust approvals, the scope of the representations and warranties to be made by the Company and the treatment of the Company's non-executive officer employees during the pendency of the transaction and following the consummation of the merger.

Between September 21, 2010 and September 27, 2010, representatives of the Unilever Group, the stockholders party to the stockholder agreement (principally trusts for the benefit of members of the Lavin family), Cravath and Neal Gerber negotiated the terms of the stockholder agreement.

On September 22, 2010, our board of directors met telephonically. Representatives of BDT, Credit Suisse and Sidley also participated. Representatives of BDT reported on discussions with Morgan Stanley since the September 20 board meeting, management reported on the status of the Unilever Group's due diligence review and representatives of Sidley reported on the status of merger agreement negotiations.

On September 26, 2010, our board of directors met in person to consider approval of the merger agreement. Representatives of BDT, Credit Suisse and Sidley were also present. Representatives of Sidley discussed the fiduciary duties of our directors and reviewed with the directors the terms of the draft merger agreement and related documentation, and the terms of the draft stockholder agreement. BDT presented its comments on the proposed merger and reiterated its belief that the Unilever Group was the most logical buyer of all potential strategic buyers because of its publicly articulated strategy, its relative position as a regulatory matter and its financial capacity. Also at this meeting, Credit Suisse reviewed with our board of directors certain financial analyses, as described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Opinion of Credit Suisse," and rendered its oral opinion to our board of directors (which was subsequently confirmed in writing by delivery of Credit Suisse's written opinion), that, as of September 26, 2010, and based upon and subject to the assumptions and qualifications stated in its opinion, the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders. After discussion and considering the factors described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Reasons for the Merger," our board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Subsequent to the September 26 board meeting, the stockholders party to the stockholder agreement completed the negotiation of the terms of that agreement through their counsel, Neal Gerber.

Table of Contents

Early in the morning on September 27, 2010, the Company, Unilever USA, Merger Sub, Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. executed the merger agreement and Unilever USA and the other parties to the stockholder agreement executed the stockholder agreement.

On September 27, 2010, prior to the opening of trading on the London Stock Exchange, the Unilever Group issued a press release announcing the execution of the merger agreement. Prior to the opening of trading on the NYSE, the Company issued a press release announcing the execution of the merger agreement.

Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of Alberto Culver's Board of Directors

Our board of directors has unanimously (i) determined that the entry into the merger agreement and the consummation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are in the best interests of Alberto Culver and its stockholders, (ii) approved, and declared advisable, the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, (iii) determined that the merger consideration is fair to the stockholders of Alberto Culver entitled to receive the merger consideration; and (iv) recommended that our stockholders vote in favor of adoption of the merger agreement.

Over the course of several meetings of our board of directors beginning in May of 2010, its members, in consultation with our senior management team and outside legal and financial advisors, considered a variety of factors, including:

The current and historical financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

The Company's financial projections and the risks associated with its ability to meet such projections if it were to continue to operate as a standalone company.

The fact that continued growth of the Company's businesses at historic rates would require greater levels of investment, which in turn would affect the Company's risk profile.

Increasing competition faced by the Company, with many of the Company's competitors being substantially larger and more diversified and having significantly greater financial resources.

Continuing challenges posed by extensive regulation world-wide with respect to the Company's products.

The possibility that the effects of a soft economy in many of the Company's key geographic areas might persist for an extended period.

Other possible strategic alternatives to the merger and the feasibility, risks and uncertainties associated with each alternative.

The likelihood that the merger will be completed given Unilever's financial condition, the parties' respective covenants to take certain actions in connection with any opposition to the merger from antitrust regulators and the limited closing conditions.

The opinion of Credit Suisse, dated September 26, 2010, to the Company's board of directors as to the fairness, from a financial point of view as of the date of the opinion, of the consideration to be received by the holders of the Company's common stock in the merger, as more fully described below in the section of this proxy statement titled "Opinion of Credit Suisse", as well as the respective financial analyses presented to the Company's board of directors by Credit Suisse and BDT on September 26, 2010.

The fact that the \$37.50 per share price to be paid in the merger represents a premium of more than 33% to the Company's 12-month volume weighted average share price (for the 12-month period ended September 24, 2010) and an 18% premium to the Company's all-time high share price (after taking into account the spinoff in 2006).

The terms of the merger agreement that, subject to certain limitations, allow the Company to provide confidential information and engage in discussions with respect to unsolicited takeover proposals.

Table of Contents

The belief that it is unlikely that a third party would be interested in acquiring the Company on terms more favorable than those offered by Unilever. This belief was based upon (i) the statements of the Company's financial advisors that the \$37.50 per share price is beyond the reach of financial buyers and (ii) BDT's statements at the time of the initiation of the discussions with Unilever (reconfirmed on the date of the approval meeting) that Unilever is the most logical buyer of all potential strategic buyers because of its publicly articulated strategy, its relative position in the personal care category as a regulatory matter and its financial capacity. The board of directors of the Company considered these statements (as well as concerns about sharing competitive information with multiple potential strategic bidders and potential disruption to the Company's ongoing business) in determining to proceed only with Unilever in the pre-signing period.

The fact that the \$37.50 per share price in the merger agreement was the result of several price increases made by Unilever during the negotiation process.

The fact that the consideration to be received by the Company's stockholders in the merger will consist entirely of cash, which will provide liquidity and certainty of value.

The fact that the Company's stockholders will be entitled to appraisal rights under Delaware law.

The recommendation of the Company's senior management team in favor of the transaction.

The proposed execution of a stockholder agreement by certain Lavin family stockholders, Ms. Bernick and Mr. Lavin in connection with the execution of the merger agreement, pursuant to which they would agree to vote certain shares of the Company's common stock owned by them in favor of adoption of the merger agreement, subject to certain conditions.

The terms and conditions of the merger agreement, and the course of negotiation thereof, including:

the \$125 million termination fee;

the \$125 million reverse termination fee;

the conditions to Unilever USA's obligation to complete the merger, including the absence of a financing condition and the absence of a need for a vote of the Unilever Parents' stockholders;

the conditions to each party's obligation to complete the merger, including the condition that the merger is subject to the adoption of the merger agreement by the Company's stockholders;

Unilever's commitment to take certain actions in connection with any opposition to the merger from antitrust regulators, including the size of the divestitures that Unilever USA or its affiliates would be required to make to obtain antitrust clearance;

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the structure of the transaction as a merger, which will result in detailed public disclosure and a substantial period of time prior to consummation of the merger during which any unsolicited superior proposal can be considered; and

the Company's right, in the exercise of the board's fiduciary duties, to terminate the merger agreement in order to accept a superior proposal, subject to certain conditions (including Unilever USA's rights to match competing bids) and the payment of a termination fee of \$125 million.

Our board of directors also considered certain risks and other potentially negative factors concerning the merger, including:

The fact that, following the merger, the Company's stockholders will cease to participate in any future earnings growth of the Company or benefit from any future increase in its value.

The possibility that if the merger were not consummated, the Company would have incurred significant transaction and opportunity costs.

For United States federal income tax purposes, the receipt of the cash merger consideration will be a taxable transaction.

Table of Contents

The restrictions that the merger agreement places on the Company's ability to solicit competing proposals.

The requirement that the Company pay a termination fee of \$125 million if it terminates the merger agreement under certain circumstances and Unilever USA's rights to match competing bids, which could act as possible deterrents to other potential bidders.

The possible disruption to the Company's business that might result from the announcement of the merger, including the resulting distraction of the attention of the Company's senior management, and the impact on our employees and our relationships with existing and prospective customers, suppliers, business partners and other third parties.

The restrictions on the conduct of the Company's business prior to completion of the merger which could delay or prevent the Company from undertaking business opportunities that might arise pending completion of the merger.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by our board of directors is not intended to be exhaustive but, we believe, includes all material factors considered by our board of directors. Our board of directors also considered certain interests our directors and executive officers have in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of our stockholders, which are described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Interests of Alberto Culver's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger" on page 29. Based on the factors outlined above, the board of directors determined that the entry into the merger agreement and the consummation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are in the best interests of Alberto Culver and its stockholders, and that the merger consideration is fair to the stockholders of the Company entitled to receive the merger consideration.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MERGER AGREEMENT, THE MERGER AND THE OTHER TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THE MERGER AGREEMENT AND UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT OUR STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT.

Opinion of Credit Suisse

We retained Credit Suisse in connection with the merger to advise us with respect to the fairness of the merger consideration. We requested that Credit Suisse evaluate the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger. On September 26, 2010, our board of directors met to review the proposed merger and the terms of the proposed merger agreement. During this meeting, Credit Suisse reviewed with the board of directors certain financial analyses, as described below, and rendered its oral opinion to the board of directors (which was subsequently confirmed in writing by delivery of Credit Suisse's written opinion) that, as of September 26, 2010, and based upon and subject to the assumptions and qualifications stated in its opinion, the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders.

The full text of Credit Suisse's opinion, dated September 26, 2010, which sets forth, among other things, the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the scope of the review undertaken by Credit Suisse in connection with its opinion, is attached as Annex C of the proxy statement and is incorporated into this proxy statement by reference in its entirety. Holders of our common stock are encouraged to read this opinion carefully in its entirety. Credit Suisse's opinion was provided to our board of directors in connection with its evaluation of the consideration to be received by the holders of our common stock in the merger and Credit Suisse's opinion does not constitute advice or a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger. Credit Suisse's opinion addresses only the fairness to the holders of our common stock, from a financial point of view, of the consideration and does not address any other aspect or implication of the merger or the stockholder agreement or any other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with the merger or otherwise. The following is a summary of the Credit Suisse opinion and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion attached as Annex C, which you are encouraged to read in its entirety.

Table of Contents

In arriving at its opinion, Credit Suisse, among other things:

reviewed drafts of the merger agreement and certain related agreements, dated September 25, 2010;

reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to the Company;

reviewed certain other information relating to the Company, including financial forecasts, provided to or discussed with Credit Suisse by the Company;

met with the Company's management to discuss the business and prospects of the Company;

considered certain financial and stock market data of the Company, and compared that data with similar data for other publicly held companies in businesses Credit Suisse deemed similar to that of the Company;

considered, to the extent publicly available, the financial terms of certain other business combinations and other transactions which have recently been effected or announced; and

considered such other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and financial, economic and market criteria which Credit Suisse deemed relevant.

In connection with its review, Credit Suisse did not independently verify any of the foregoing information and assumed and relied on such information being complete and accurate in all material respects. With respect to the financial forecasts for the Company, the management of the Company advised Credit Suisse, and Credit Suisse assumed, that such forecasts were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the Company's management as to the future financial performance of the Company. Credit Suisse also assumed, with the Company's consent, that, in the course of obtaining any regulatory or third party consents, approvals or agreements in connection with the merger, no delay, limitation, restriction or condition would be imposed that would have an adverse effect on the Company and that the merger would be consummated in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement thereof. Credit Suisse also assumed, with the Company's consent, that the executed merger agreement and related agreements would be in substantially the same form as the drafts reviewed by Credit Suisse. In addition, Credit Suisse was not requested to make, and did not make, an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of the Company, and was not furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals.

Credit Suisse's opinion addressed only the fairness, from a financial point of view and as of the date of its opinion, to the holders of the Company's common stock of the consideration to be received in the merger and did not address any other aspect or implication of the merger or the stockholder agreement or any other agreement, arrangement or understanding entered into in connection with the merger or otherwise including, without limitation, the fairness of the amount or nature of or any other aspect relating to, any compensation to any officers, directors or employees of any party to the merger, or class of such persons, relative to the consideration or otherwise. The issuance of Credit Suisse's opinion was approved by its authorized internal committee.

Credit Suisse's opinion was necessarily based upon information made available to it as of the date of the opinion and financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed and could be evaluated on such date. Credit Suisse's opinion did not address the merits of the merger as compared to alternative transactions or strategies that may be available to the Company nor did it address the Company's underlying decision to proceed with the merger. Credit Suisse was not requested to, and did not, solicit third party indications of interest in acquiring all or any part of the Company.

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In preparing its opinion to the Company's board of directors, Credit Suisse performed a variety of analyses, including those described below. The summary of Credit Suisse's analyses described below is not a complete description of the analyses underlying Credit Suisse's opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving various quantitative and qualitative judgments and determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial, comparative and other analyses and the adaptation and application of these

Table of Contents

methods to the unique facts and circumstances presented. As a consequence, neither a fairness opinion nor its underlying analyses are readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Credit Suisse arrived at its opinion based on the results of all analyses undertaken by it and assessed as a whole and did not draw, in isolation, conclusions from or with regard to any individual analysis, analytic method or factor. Accordingly, Credit Suisse believes that the totality of its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses, analytic methods and factors or focusing on information presented in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the narrative description of the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the processes underlying its analyses and opinion.

In performing its analyses, Credit Suisse considered financial information regarding the Company as of September 24, 2010 and business, economic, industry and market conditions, and other matters as they existed on, and could be evaluated as of, the date of the written opinion. No company, transaction or business used in Credit Suisse's analyses for comparative purposes is identical to the Company or the proposed merger. An evaluation of the results of Credit Suisse's analyses is not entirely mathematical. Rather, Credit Suisse's analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the acquisition, public trading or other values of the companies or transactions analyzed. The results of each analysis were taken into account in reaching its overall conclusion with respect to fairness and Credit Suisse did not make separate or quantifiable judgments regarding individual analyses. The estimates contained in Credit Suisse's analyses and the implied reference ranges indicated by Credit Suisse's analyses are illustrative and are not necessarily indicative of actual values or predictive of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by the analyses. In addition, any analyses relating to the value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which businesses or securities actually may be sold, which may depend on a variety of factors, many of which are beyond the control of the Company and the control of Credit Suisse. Accordingly, the estimates used in, and the results derived from, Credit Suisse's analyses are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

Credit Suisse was not requested to, and it did not, recommend the specific consideration payable in the merger, which consideration was determined by the Company and Unilever, and the decision to enter into the merger was solely that of the Company's board of directors. Credit Suisse's opinion and financial analyses were provided to the Company's board of directors in connection with its consideration of the proposed merger and were among many factors considered by the board of directors of the Company in evaluating the proposed merger. Neither Credit Suisse's opinion nor its financial analyses were determinative of the consideration or of the views of the Company's board of directors or the Company's management with respect to the Merger.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses performed by Credit Suisse for the Company's board of directors in connection with the preparation of Credit Suisse's opinion and reviewed with the Company's board of directors at a meeting held on September 26, 2010. **The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. In order to fully understand Credit Suisse's financial analyses, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the data in the tables below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies underlying and the assumptions, qualifications and limitations affecting each analysis, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Credit Suisse's financial analyses.**

For purposes of its analyses, Credit Suisse reviewed a number of financial metrics including:

Enterprise Value generally the value as of a specified date of the relevant company's outstanding equity securities (taking into account its options, warrants and other convertible securities) plus the value of its net debt (the value of its outstanding indebtedness and capital lease obligations less the amount of cash and cash equivalents on its balance sheet), preferred stock and minority interests as of that date.

EBITDA generally the amount of the relevant company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for a specified time period.

Table of Contents

EPS generally the relevant company's earnings per share of common stock.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, enterprise and per share equity values used in the selected companies analysis described below were calculated using the closing price of the Company's common stock and the common stock of the selected companies listed below as of September 24, 2010, and the enterprise value and per share equity values for the target companies used in the selected transactions analysis described below were calculated as of the announcement date of the relevant transaction based on the purchase prices paid in the selected transactions.

Selected Companies Analysis

Credit Suisse reviewed certain financial data, multiples and ratios for the following seventeen publicly traded companies in the home, health and personal care industry, referred to as HHPC.

	Procter & Gamble Co.
	Unilever PLC
	L'Oréal SA
	Colgate-Palmolive Company
	Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC
	Kimberly-Clark Corporation
HHPC Large Cap Companies	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA
	Avon Products Inc.
	Kao Corporation
	Clorox Corporation
	Estee Lauder Companies Inc.
	Beiersdorf AG
	Shiseido Company Limited
	Energizer Holdings Inc.
HHPC Mid Cap Companies	Church & Dwight Co. Inc.
	Revlon Inc.
	Elizabeth Arden Inc.

Although none of the selected companies are directly comparable to the Company, the selected companies were chosen because they are publicly traded companies that operate in a similar industry as the Company and have lines of business and financial and operating characteristics similar to the Company. Credit Suisse determined, using its professional judgment, that these selected companies were the most

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appropriate for purposes of this analysis and, while there may have been other companies that operate in similar industries to the Company or have similar principal lines of business or financial or operating characteristics to the Company, Credit Suisse did not specifically identify any other companies for this purpose. Credit Suisse calculated the multiples and ratios for the selected companies using closing stock prices as of September 24, 2010 and information it obtained from public filings, publicly available research analyst estimates and other publicly available information. With respect to the selected companies, Credit Suisse compared, among other things, enterprise values as a multiple of calendar years 2010 and 2011 estimated EBITDA and stock price as a multiple of calendar year 2010 and 2011 estimated EPS. Credit Suisse then applied reference ranges of selected multiples for the selected companies to corresponding financial data of the Company, using calendar year 2010 and 2011 EBITDA and net income estimates derived from EBITDA and net income estimates provided by the Company's management as described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections" on page 26. This analysis indicated the following implied per share equity reference range for the Company's common stock, as compared to the consideration per share payable in the merger:

Implied Per Share Equity Reference Range for	Consideration
Alberto Culver Company	Per Share
\$26.77 - \$32.35	\$37.50

Table of Contents

While none of the companies (other than the Company) that participated in the selected transactions are directly comparable to the Company, the companies that participated in the selected transactions are companies with operations that, for the purposes of this analysis, may be considered similar to certain operations of the Company.

For the selected transactions, based on publicly available financial information with respect to the target companies and the selected transactions, Credit Suisse calculated enterprise value as a multiple of the target company's EBITDA over the last 12 months preceding the announcement of the transaction, which we refer to as LTM. Credit Suisse then applied a reference range of selected multiples for the selected transactions to corresponding financial data of the Company using LTM EBITDA estimates as of September 30, 2010, giving pro forma effect to the Company's acquisition of Simple Health & Beauty Limited, which closed on December 18, 2009, which we refer to as the Simple acquisition, on a pro forma basis for the full fiscal year, as described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections" on page 26. This analysis indicated the following implied per share equity reference range for the Company's common stock as compared to the consideration per share payable in the merger:

Implied Per Share Equity Reference Range for	Consideration
Alberto Culver Company	Per Share
\$33.75 \$41.19	\$37.50

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

Credit Suisse performed a discounted cash flow analysis of the Company in order to calculate the estimated present value of the unlevered, after tax free cash flows for the Company for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 through September 30, 2015, based on estimates provided to Credit Suisse by the Company's management as described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections" on page 26. Credit Suisse calculated estimated terminal values of the Company in 2015 by applying a range of multiples from 9.0x to 11.0x to the 2015 estimated EBITDA of the Company. The range of multiples was selected based on a review of the Company's and other companies' current and historical trading multiples reviewed in connection with the companies identified under the caption "Selected Companies Analysis". The present value of the cash flows and terminal values were then calculated using discount rates ranging from 7.0% to 8.5% based on the Company's weighted average cost of capital. This analysis indicated the following implied per share reference range for the Company's common stock as compared to the equity consideration per share payable in the merger:

Implied Per Share Equity Reference Range for	Consideration
Alberto Culver Company	Per Share
\$34.66 \$42.21	\$37.50

Confirmation of Opinion

As described in greater detail in the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections" on page 26, on October 11, 2010, subsequent to the execution of the merger agreement, Credit Suisse was provided certain updated financial forecasts that the Company had provided to Unilever on September 19, 2010 and certain additional updated financial forecasts derived from the updated financial forecasts provided to Unilever. These updated financial forecasts were not reflected in the financial analysis performed by Credit Suisse and presented to the Company's board of directors on September 26, 2010 or in the preparation of Credit Suisse's opinion dated as of September 26, 2010. At a meeting of the Company's board of directors held on October 13, 2010, at the Company's request, Credit Suisse confirmed, after consultation with its internal committee, that if Credit Suisse had been provided the updated financial forecasts set forth in the section of this proxy statement titled "Financial Projections" on page 26 prior to September 26, 2010, its opinion that as of September 26, 2010 the consideration to be received by the holders of the Company's common stock in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to such stockholders would not have changed.

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous

The Company engaged Credit Suisse based on Credit Suisse's qualifications, experience and reputation, and its familiarity with the Company and its business. Credit Suisse is an internationally recognized investment banking firm and is regularly engaged in the valuation of businesses and securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, negotiated underwritings, competitive biddings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for corporate and other purposes. Pursuant to the Company's engagement letter with Credit Suisse for its financial advisory services in connection with the merger, the Company agreed to pay Credit Suisse a fee customary for transactions of this nature. Such fee was paid upon the rendering of Credit Suisse's opinion; no portion of the fee paid or payable to Credit Suisse was contingent upon the conclusions in its opinion or is contingent upon the consummation of the merger. In addition, the Company has agreed to reimburse Credit Suisse for its reasonable expenses, including fees and expenses of legal counsel, and to indemnify Credit Suisse and related parties against certain liabilities and other items, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, arising out of its engagement.

Credit Suisse and its affiliates have in the past provided, and in the future may provide, investment banking and other financial services to the Company and its affiliates for which Credit Suisse and its affiliates have received, and would expect to receive, compensation. During the past two years, these services have included acting as a financial advisor to the Company in connection with the Simple acquisition and in connection with the Company's sale of Cederroth International AB. Credit Suisse may in the future provide financial advice and services to the Company, Unilever PLC, Unilever N.V. or Unilever USA and their respective affiliates for which Credit Suisse would expect to receive compensation. Credit Suisse is a full service securities firm engaged in securities trading and brokerage activities as well as providing investment banking and other financial services. In the ordinary course of business, Credit Suisse and its affiliates may acquire, hold or sell, for its and its affiliates' own accounts and the accounts of customers, equity, debt and other securities and financial instruments (including bank loans and other obligations) of the Company and Unilever and any other company that may be involved in the merger, as well as provide investment banking and other financial services to such companies.

Financial Projections

The Company does not as a matter of course publicly disclose long-term projections as to future revenues, earnings or other results due to, among other reasons, the uncertainty of the underlying assumptions and estimates. However, the Company is including in this proxy statement certain financial forecasts that were shared with Unilever and its advisors in the course of due diligence and with the Company's advisors. These financial forecasts were not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, which we refer to as GAAP, or with published guidelines of the SEC or the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for preparation and presentation of prospective financial information.

Neither the Company's independent auditors, nor any other independent auditors, have compiled, examined or performed any procedures with respect to the prospective financial information contained in the financial forecasts, nor have they expressed any opinion or given any form of assurance on the financial forecasts or their achievability. The auditors' reports incorporated by reference into this proxy statement relate to the Company's historical financial information. The auditors' reports do not extend to prospective financial information and should not be read to do so. In addition, the Company's financial advisors did not prepare, and assume no responsibility for, the Company's financial forecasts.

Furthermore, the financial forecasts included in this proxy statement:

necessarily make numerous assumptions, many of which are beyond the control of the Company or Unilever and may not prove to be accurate;

Table of Contents

do not necessarily reflect revised prospects for the Company's businesses, changes in general business or economic conditions, or any other transaction or event that has occurred or that may occur and that was not anticipated at the time the forecasts were prepared;

are not necessarily indicative of current values or future performance, which may be significantly more favorable or less favorable than as set forth below; and

should not be regarded as a representation that the financial forecasts will be achieved.

The following is a summary of forecasts the Company provided to Unilever and its advisors and to Credit Suisse:

	Fiscal Years Ending September 30, (US\$ in millions, except per share data)			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Net Sales	\$ 1,586	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,837	\$ 1,953
Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 360
Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT)	\$ 228(1)	\$ 256	\$ 289	\$ 325
Net Income	\$ 155(1)(2)	N/A	N/A	\$ 219
Diluted Earnings Per Share	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 2.17
Depreciation and Amortization (D&A)	\$ 30	N/A	N/A	\$ 34
Increases in Working Capital	\$ 25	N/A	N/A	\$ 0
Capital Expenditures	\$ 40	N/A	N/A	\$ 45
Deferred Taxes/Stock Option Expense	\$ 13	N/A	N/A	\$ 13

- (1) Excludes restructuring expenses, earnings from the settlement of a dispute with a supplier, expenses related to the voluntary withdrawal of select products in the Company's relaxer kit business and transaction expenses related to the Simple acquisition.
- (2) Excludes a tax benefit resulting from an intercompany dividend payment and other non-recurring discrete tax items.

In addition to the forecasts described above, the Company provided the following forecasts to Credit Suisse:

	Fiscal Years Ending September 30, (US\$ in millions, except per share data)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Net Sales	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 2,075	\$ 2,206
EBITDA	\$ 258(1)	\$ 288	\$ 322	N/A	\$ 388	\$ 417
EBIT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 351	\$ 379
Net Income	N/A	\$ 172	\$ 194	N/A	\$ 237	\$ 255
D&A	N/A	\$ 31	\$ 33	N/A	\$ 37	\$ 39
Increases in Working Capital	N/A	\$ 8	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	\$ 0
Capital Expenditures	N/A	\$ 45	\$ 45	N/A	\$ 40	\$ 40
Deferred Taxes/Stock Option Expense	N/A	\$ 13	\$ 13	N/A	\$ 7	\$ 3

- (1) Excludes restructuring expenses, earnings from the settlement of a dispute with a supplier, expenses related to the voluntary withdrawal of select products in the Company's relaxer kit business and transaction expenses related to the Simple acquisition.

Table of Contents

With the Company's consent and management's guidance, Credit Suisse used the Company's projections to calculate the following forecast giving effect to the Simple acquisition on a pro forma basis for the full fiscal year ending September 30, 2010:

	Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2010 (US\$ in millions)	
Pro Forma Net Sales	\$	1,598
Pro Forma EBITDA	\$	271(1)
Pro Forma EBIT	\$	241(1)
Pro Forma Net Income	\$	164(1)(2)

- (1) Excludes restructuring expenses, earnings from the settlement of a dispute with a supplier, expenses related to the voluntary withdrawal of select products in the Company's relaxer kit business and transaction expenses related to the Simple acquisition.
- (2) Excludes a tax benefit resulting from an intercompany dividend payment and other non-recurring discrete tax items.

The Company's projections of EBIT, D&A, increases in working capital, capital expenditures and deferred taxes/stock option expense for the fiscal years 2011 through 2015 were used to calculate the projected unlevered free cash flows for the Company set forth in the table below, using an assumed effective tax rate of approximately 31.5 percent. Credit Suisse, with the Company's consent and management's guidance, performed these calculations of projected unlevered free cash flows for use in Credit Suisse's discounted cash flow analysis described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Opinion of Credit Suisse."

	Fiscal Years Ending September 30, (US\$ in millions, except per share data)				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unlevered free cash flows	\$ 167	\$ 199	\$ 225	\$ 244	\$ 261

On September 19, 2010, in connection with Unilever's due diligence investigation, the Company provided to Unilever an updated forecast for its fiscal year 2010 results and projections for the first two quarters of fiscal year 2011 as follows:

	Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2010	Fiscal Quarter Ending		
		September 30, 2010	December 30, 2010	March 31, 2011
		(US\$ in millions, except per share data)		
Net Sales	\$ 1,589	N/A	\$ 410.7	\$ 412.3
EBIT	\$ 234(1)	N/A	\$ 79.5	\$ 55.9
Diluted Earnings Per Share	N/A	\$ 0.39(2)	N/A	N/A

- (1) Excludes restructuring expenses, earnings from the settlement of a dispute with a supplier, expenses related to the voluntary withdrawal of select products in the Company's relaxer kit business and transaction expenses related to the Simple acquisition.
- (2) Excludes restructuring expenses and a tax benefit resulting from an intercompany dividend payment and other non-recurring discrete tax items.

These projections of net sales and EBIT for the first and second quarter of fiscal year 2011 were consistent with, and did not cause the Company to raise, the Company's projections for the full fiscal year ending September 30, 2011 or later years that had previously been provided to Unilever and Credit Suisse.

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The updated forecast for fiscal year 2010 results and projections for the first two quarters of fiscal year 2011 provided to Unilever on September 19, 2010, inadvertently were not provided to Credit Suisse prior to September 26, 2010, and, therefore, were not considered by Credit Suisse for use in connection with its financial

Table of Contents

analysis or opinion delivered on September 26, 2010. On October 11, 2010, in connection with Credit Suisse's preparation of the confirmation described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Opinion of Credit Suisse Confirmation of Opinion" on page 25, Credit Suisse was provided such forecast and projections. In addition, management gave Credit Suisse forecasts of EBITDA and net income, excluding certain items set forth in the footnotes to the table below, for fiscal year 2010 of \$264 million and \$159 million, respectively, that were derived from the updated forecasts provided to Unilever. With the Company's consent and management's guidance, Credit Suisse used the Company's projections to calculate the following forecast giving effect to the Simple acquisition on a pro forma basis for the full fiscal year ending September 30, 2010:

	Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2010	
	(US\$ in millions)	
Pro Forma Net Sales	\$	1,614
Pro Forma EBITDA	\$	277(1)
Pro Forma EBIT	\$	247(1)
Pro Forma Net Income	\$	168(1)(2)

(1) Excludes restructuring expenses, earnings from the settlement of a dispute with a supplier, expenses related to the voluntary withdrawal of select products in the Company's relaxer kit business and transaction expenses related to the Simple acquisition.

(2) Excludes a tax benefit resulting from an intercompany dividend payment and other non-recurring discrete tax items.

The financial forecasts included in this proxy statement are not a guarantee of future performance. The Company does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of the financial forecasts included in this proxy statement. Financial forecasts involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. The future financial results of the Company and, if the merger is completed, the combined company, may materially differ from those expressed in the financial forecasts due to factors that are beyond the Company's ability to control or predict. The Company cannot assure you that the financial forecasts will be realized or that its future financial results will not materially vary from the financial forecasts. The financial forecasts cover multiple years and such information by its nature becomes subject to greater uncertainty with each successive year. The financial forecasts do not take into account any circumstances or events occurring after the date they were prepared. **THE COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE ANY OBLIGATION TO UPDATE OR OTHERWISE REVISE THE FINANCIAL FORECASTS INCLUDED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT TO REFLECT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTING AFTER THEIR PREPARATION OR TO REFLECT THE OCCURRENCE OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, EVEN IN THE EVENT THAT ANY OR ALL OF THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING SUCH FINANCIAL FORECASTS ARE NO LONGER APPROPRIATE.**

The financial forecasts included in this proxy statement are forward-looking statements. For more information on factors which may cause the Company's future financial results to materially vary from those projected in the financial forecasts, see the section of this proxy statement titled "Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Information" beginning on page 5. The Company's management has prepared its financial forecasts using accounting policies consistent with its annual and interim financial statements. The financial forecasts do not reflect the effect of any proposed or other changes in GAAP that may become effective or may be made in the future. Any such changes could have a material impact to the information shown below.

Interests of Alberto Culver's Directors and Executive Officers in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the Alberto Culver board of directors that you vote to adopt the merger agreement, you should be aware that Alberto Culver's executive officers and directors have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, those of Alberto Culver's stockholders generally. The Alberto Culver board of directors was aware of and considered these interests, among other matters, in reaching its decision to unanimously approve and declare advisable the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated the merger agreement and unanimously determine that the merger consideration is fair to the stockholders of the Company entitled to receive the merger consideration.

Table of Contents**Treatment of Stock Options**

Each outstanding option to purchase Alberto Culver common stock, whether vested or unvested, will be cancelled at the effective time of the merger in consideration for the fully vested right to receive a cash payment equal to (i) the excess, if any, of \$37.50 over the per share exercise price of the option multiplied by (ii) the number of shares of Alberto Culver common stock subject to such option.

The table below shows information on the aggregate number of vested and unvested Alberto Culver stock options held by our directors and executive officers as of November 3, 2010 that will be cancelled in the merger and become fully vested rights to receive the cash payment described in the preceding paragraph (assuming the merger was consummated on such date).

Name	Aggregate Number of Shares Subject to Unvested Options	Cash Payment to be Received for Unvested Options	Aggregate Number of Shares Subject to Vested Options	Cash Payment to be Received for Vested Options	Total Cash Payment to be Received for All Options
Non-Employee Directors					
James G. Brocksmith, Jr.	1,625	\$ 23,400	60,201	\$ 1,264,886	\$ 1,288,286
Thomas A. Dattilo	3,700	\$ 63,622	11,100	\$ 190,865	\$ 254,487
Jim Edgar	1,625	\$ 23,400	60,201	\$ 1,264,886	\$ 1,288,286
George L. Fotiades	3,700	\$ 63,622	11,100	\$ 190,865	\$ 254,487
King Harris	1,625	\$ 23,400	69,422	\$ 1,520,535	\$ 1,543,935
Leonard H. Lavin		\$		\$	\$
Robert H. Rock	1,625	\$ 23,400	50,980	\$ 1,049,420	\$ 1,072,820
Sam J. Susser	1,625	\$ 23,400	50,980	\$ 1,049,420	\$ 1,072,820
Executive Officers					
Carol L. Bernick	103,650	\$ 1,142,124	1,385,903	\$ 28,374,134	\$ 29,516,258
V. James Marino	373,450	\$ 3,628,456	715,133	\$ 11,079,505	\$ 14,707,961
Gina R. Boswell	123,150	\$ 1,189,214	69,650	\$ 721,089	\$ 1,910,303
Richard J. Hynes	64,800	\$ 634,902	100,600	\$ 1,448,693	\$ 2,083,595
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	89,100	\$ 831,950	35,000	\$ 358,575	\$ 1,190,525
Ralph J. Nicoletti	107,675	\$ 1,161,820	126,225	\$ 1,674,656	\$ 2,836,476
Mary A. Oleksiuk	41,550	\$ 422,979	24,150	\$ 270,729	\$ 693,708
Gary P. Schmidt	63,700	\$ 625,277	62,950	\$ 801,301	\$ 1,426,578
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons)	982,600	\$ 9,880,966	2,833,595	\$ 51,259,559	\$ 61,140,525

Ms. Bernick and Mr. Hynes have met the definition of retirement under the Employee Stock Option Plan of 2006 and, accordingly, no longer have any risk of forfeiture on their unvested options if their employment was terminated prior to the vesting dates of the unvested stock options. Messrs. Marino and Schmidt will meet the definition of retirement in June 2011 and November 2011, respectively, and, accordingly, would no longer have any risk of forfeiture on their unvested stock options if their employment was terminated after those dates.

Table of Contents*Treatment of Restricted Stock*

Each outstanding share of Alberto Culver common stock subject to vesting or other forfeiture restrictions will be converted in the merger into a fully vested right to receive a cash payment of \$37.50.

The table below shows information on the aggregate number of shares of restricted stock held by our directors and executive officers as of November 3, 2010 that will become vested and be converted into the right to receive a cash payment of \$37.50 (assuming the merger was consummated on such date).

Name	Aggregate Number of Shares of Restricted Stock Subject to Vesting	Cash Payment to be Received for Shares of Restricted Stock
Non-Employee Directors		
James G. Brocksmith, Jr.	7,400	\$ 277,500
Thomas A. Dattilo	7,400	\$ 277,500
Jim Edgar	7,400	\$ 277,500
George L. Fotiades	7,400	\$ 277,500
King Harris	7,400	\$ 277,500
Leonard H. Lavin		\$
Robert H. Rock	7,400	\$ 277,500
Sam J. Susser	7,400	\$ 277,500
Executive Officers		
Carol L. Bernick	2,600	\$ 97,500
V. James Marino	58,650	\$ 2,199,375
Gina R. Boswell	26,450	\$ 991,875
Richard J. Hynes	7,400	\$ 277,500
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	20,000	\$ 750,000
Ralph J. Nicoletti	30,100	\$ 1,128,750
Mary A. Oleksiuk	13,550	\$ 508,125
Gary P. Schmidt	7,800	\$ 292,500
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons)	218,350	\$ 8,188,125

All non-employee directors, Ms. Bernick and Mr. Hynes have met the definitions of retirement under the 2006 Restricted Stock Plan and, accordingly, no longer have any risk of forfeiture on their restricted shares if their service on our board of directors or employment was terminated prior to the vesting dates of the restricted shares. Messrs. Marino and Schmidt will meet the definition of retirement in June 2011 and November 2011, respectively, and, accordingly, would no longer have any risk of forfeiture on their restricted shares if their employment was terminated after those dates.

Table of Contents***Treatment of Shareholder Value Incentive Plan Performance Units***

Under the merger agreement, each outstanding Shareholder Value Incentive Plan performance unit for a performance period not yet completed will be converted into an amount of cash equal to \$1,000 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months during the applicable performance period that have elapsed prior to the merger or, if at least six full calendar months of any fiscal year within the performance period have elapsed prior to the merger, then all calendar months during such fiscal year shall be treated as having elapsed, and the denominator of which is the total number of months during the applicable performance period.

The table below shows information for the number of performance units held by our executive officers as of November 3, 2010 that will be converted into an amount of cash in the merger (assuming the merger was consummated on such date).

Name	Performance Period Ending September 30, 2011		Performance Period Ending September 30, 2012		Total Cash Payment to be Received for All Performance Units
	Aggregate Number of Performance Units	Cash Payment to be Received for Performance Units	Aggregate Number of Performance Units	Cash Payment to be Received for Performance Units	
Carol L. Bernick	340	\$ 237,056	340	\$ 123,722	\$ 360,778
V. James Marino	555	\$ 386,958	555	\$ 201,958	\$ 588,916
Gina R. Boswell	150	\$ 104,583	150	\$ 54,583	\$ 159,166
Richard J. Hynes	115	\$ 80,181	115	\$ 41,847	\$ 122,028
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	150	\$ 104,583	150	\$ 54,583	\$ 159,166
Ralph J. Nicoletti	150	\$ 104,583	150	\$ 54,583	\$ 159,166
Mary A. Oleksiuk	60	\$ 41,833	60	\$ 21,833	\$ 63,666
Gary P. Schmidt	100	\$ 69,722	100	\$ 36,389	\$ 106,111
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons, including the above)	1,620	\$ 1,129,499	1,620	\$ 589,498	\$ 1,718,997

Management Incentive Plan

The Alberto Culver Management Incentive Plan provides that upon a change in control, each of the executive officers will receive an award calculated by multiplying:

the bonus award percentage obtained by (i) taking the financial performance of Alberto Culver from the start of the fiscal year that includes the change in control through the date of the change in control (or, if the date of the change in control is not the last day of a month, to the end of the month immediately preceding the date of the change in control) and comparing it to the performance of Alberto Culver during the same period in the preceding fiscal year and assuming that the rate of financial performance continues for the full fiscal year, and (ii) assuming the executive officer's individual business objectives, if any, for the year that includes the date of the change in control were achieved at 100% of the target objectives; by

the base salary of the officer earned up to and including the date of the change in control.

The consummation of the merger would constitute a change in control under the Management Incentive Plan. The amount to be paid to each executive officer for the performance period beginning October 1, 2010 depends on the date of the closing of the merger and the performance of Alberto Culver through such closing date. Such amounts to be paid cannot be determined at this time.

Severance Agreements

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Each of our executive officers is party to a severance agreement with us pursuant to which the officer is entitled to certain payments and benefits if the officer's employment is terminated other than for cause (as such

Table of Contents

term is defined in the officer's agreement) or if the officer resigns for "good reason" (as such term is defined in the officer's agreement) within two years following a change in control of us. The merger will constitute a change in control under the severance agreements. Specifically, the severance agreements provide for each executive officer to receive:

a lump sum payment equal to (i) 2.99 times the executive officer's base amount (as such term is defined in Section 280G(b)(3) of the Code and meaning generally the average of the executive's taxable compensation over the previous five calendar years ending prior to the date of the change in control) for Messrs. Marino and Schmidt and Ms. Bernick and (ii) 1.99 times the executive officer's base amount for Messrs. Hynes, Keller and Nicoletti and Ms. Boswell and Ms. Oleksiuk, in each case, as long as such amount, when added to the other payments the executive is entitled to receive and that are subject to the limitations set forth in Section 280G of the Code, does not exceed 2.99 times the base amount (using applicable valuation assumptions under Section 280G of the Code); and

continuation of the executive's medical, accident, disability and life insurance benefits at the rate offered to similarly situated active employees for (i) up to three years in the case of Messrs. Marino and Schmidt and Ms. Bernick and (ii) up to two years in the case of Messrs. Hynes, Keller and Nicoletti and Ms. Boswell and Ms. Oleksiuk.

Cause is defined under the severance agreements as:

a material breach by the executive of those duties and responsibilities (other than as a result of incapacity due to physical or mental illness) which do not differ in any material respect from the executive's duties and responsibilities during the six-month period immediately prior to the change in control, which breach is demonstrably willful and deliberate, committed in bad faith or without a reasonable belief such breach is in the best interest of the Company and not remedied in a reasonable period of time after written notice; or

the commission by the executive of a felony involving moral turpitude.

The severance agreements define "good reason" as:

the assignment to the executive of any duties inconsistent in any material respect with the executive's positions, duties, responsibilities or status with Alberto Culver immediately prior to the change in control;

changes in the executive's reporting responsibilities, titles or offices as in effect immediately prior to the change in control;

any removal or involuntary termination of the executive from Alberto Culver otherwise than as expressly permitted by the severance agreement or any failure to reelect the executive to any position within Alberto Culver held by the executive immediately prior to the change in control;

a reduction in the executive's annual base salary, or the failure by Alberto Culver after the change in control to increase the executive's base salary each year by an amount that at least equals, on a percentage basis, the average annual percentage increase in the base salary for the executive during the two full fiscal years of Alberto Culver immediately preceding the change in control;

any requirement that the executive be based anywhere other than at the facility where the executive is located at the time of the change in control or a substantial increase in the travel obligations of the executive compared to those obligations immediately prior to the change in control;

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the failure of Alberto Culver to continue in effect any employee benefit plan or compensation plan in which the executive is participating immediately prior to the change in control, unless the executive is permitted to participate in other plans providing substantially comparable benefits, or the taking of any action by Alberto Culver that would adversely affect the executive's participation in or materially reduce the executive's benefits under any such plan;

Table of Contents

the failure of Alberto Culver to (i) provide welfare benefits including, without limitation, medical, prescription, dental, disability, salary continuance, employee life, group life, accidental death and travel accident insurance plans and programs; (ii) provide fringe benefits; (iii) provide paid vacation; (iv) provide office, office furnishings and secretarial assistance; or (v) reimburse the executive promptly for all reasonable employment expenses, in accordance with, in each case, the most favorable plans, practices, programs and policies of Alberto Culver and its affiliates in effect for the executive immediately prior to the change in control or, if more favorable to the executive, as in effect generally at any time after the change in control with respect to other peer executives of Alberto Culver and its affiliates; or

the failure of the Company to obtain an assumption agreement from any successor company.

In addition to the above, the severance agreements also provide for certain payments in accordance with our plans and policies and as required by law, such as the payment of accrued, but unpaid salary and vacation pay and payments under the Management Incentive Plan, the Shareholder Value Incentive Plan and our equity-based compensation plans, as described above.

Assuming that the merger had occurred on November 3, 2010 and each executive officer's employment had been terminated immediately thereafter without cause or by the executive officer for good reason, the table below sets forth the estimated maximum cash payments to which each of the executive officers would have been entitled under the severance agreements (not taking into account provisions in the agreements that reduce the payment, if necessary, so that the payment, when added to other payments or benefits the executive is entitled to receive under other plans and policies and that are subject to the limitations set forth in Section 280G of the Code, does not exceed 2.99 times the base amount (using applicable valuation assumptions under Section 280G of the Code)) and the value of the continuation of welfare benefits to which such executive officer would have been entitled.

Name	Lump Sum Cash Payment(1)	Continuation of Benefits	Total
Carol L. Bernick	\$ 5,046,591	\$ 21,294	\$ 5,067,885
V. James Marino	\$ 7,634,200	\$ 49,134	\$ 7,683,334
Gina R. Boswell	\$ 1,933,043	\$ 3,122	\$ 1,936,165
Richard J. Hynes	\$ 2,745,916	\$ 31,604	\$ 2,777,520
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	\$ 1,571,869	\$ 32,158	\$ 1,604,027
Ralph J. Nicoletti	\$ 2,000,034	\$ 32,098	\$ 2,032,132
Mary A. Oleksiuk	\$ 1,022,974	\$ 1,891	\$ 1,024,865
Gary P. Schmidt	\$ 4,276,780	\$ 32,342	\$ 4,309,122
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons, including the above)	\$ 26,231,407	\$ 203,643	\$ 26,435,050

- (1) We have estimated that the payments to Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and Mr. Schmidt shown in this table would be reduced by approximately \$350,000, \$1,005,000 and \$222,000, respectively, in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code. It is not expected that payments to any other executive officer will be reduced in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code.

The amount of the cash severance benefit payable under each of the agreements is a multiple of the executive officer's base amount, which generally means the average of the executive's annual taxable compensation over the period of five calendar years (or such shorter period during which the executive was employed by us) ending prior to the date of the change in control. If the merger is consummated in calendar year 2011, then each executive officer's base amount will take into account his or her calendar year 2010 taxable compensation, which is not yet known but which would include the in-the-money value of any vested stock options that are exercised in calendar year 2010. The table below sets forth estimates of the maximum cash severance payments that would be payable to executive officers under the severance agreements if the merger were consummated on January 1, 2011 and each executive officer's employment is terminated immediately

Table of Contents

thereafter without cause or by the executive officer for good reason (not taking into account provisions in the agreements that reduce the payment, if necessary, so that the payment, when added to other payments or benefits the executive is entitled to receive under other plans and policies and that are subject to the limitations set forth in Section 280G of the Code, does not exceed 2.99 times the base amount (using applicable valuation assumptions under Section 280G of the Code)) under two different assumptions regarding the executive officers' 2010 taxable compensation: (i) the executive officers do not exercise any vested stock options between November 3, 2010 and December 31, 2010 or (ii) the executive officers exercise all of their vested stock options between November 3, 2010 and December 31, 2010 (and the per share value of our common stock was \$37.50 on the date the stock options were exercised).

Name	Lump Sum Cash Payment if No Options are Exercised After October 1, 2010(1)	Lump Sum Cash Payment if All Vested Options are Exercised by December 31, 2010(2)
Carol L. Bernick	\$ 6,094,995	\$ 23,062,727
V. James Marino	\$ 8,873,622	\$ 15,750,457
Gina R. Boswell	\$ 2,260,419	\$ 2,816,373
Richard J. Hynes	\$ 2,460,454	\$ 3,067,332
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	\$ 1,797,536	\$ 2,113,892
Ralph J. Nicoletti	\$ 2,368,709	\$ 3,251,693
Mary A. Oleksiuk	\$ 1,173,036	\$ 1,364,315
Gary P. Schmidt	\$ 3,685,980	\$ 4,209,242
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons, including the above)	\$ 28,714,751	\$ 55,636,030

- (1) We have estimated that the payments to Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and Mr. Schmidt shown in this table would be reduced by approximately \$406,000, \$925,000 and \$214,000, respectively, in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code. It is not expected that payments to any other executive officer will be reduced in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code.
- (2) We have estimated that the payments to Ms. Bernick, Mr. Marino and Mr. Schmidt shown in this table would be reduced by approximately \$371,000, \$911,000 and \$213,000, respectively, in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code. It is not expected that payments to any other executive officer will be reduced in order to avoid payments that exceed the limitations under Section 280G of the Code.

Deferred Compensation

Upon the consummation of the merger, (i) each of our executive officers will become entitled to receive a distribution of his or her account balance under our Executive Deferred Compensation Plans, and (ii) each of our non-employee directors will become entitled to receive a distribution of his account balance under our Deferred Compensation Plans for Non-Employee Directors, including an amount equal to \$37.50 for each Company common stock unit credited under his account in such plans.

Table of Contents

The table below sets forth as of November 3, 2010 the aggregate cash payment each executive officer and non-employee director would be entitled to receive under our deferred compensation plans as a result of the merger (assuming the merger was consummated on such date):

Name	Lump Sum Cash Payment
Non-Employee Directors	
James G. Brocksmith, Jr.	\$
Thomas A. Dattilo	\$ 357,865
Jim Edgar	\$ 687,156
George L. Fotiades	\$ 464,989
King Harris	\$
Leonard H. Lavin	\$
Robert H. Rock	\$
Sam J. Susser	\$ 296,376
Executive Officers	
Carol L. Bernick	\$ 1,915,261
V. James Marino	\$ 1,053,355
Gina R. Boswell	\$ 42,532
Richard J. Hynes	\$ 507,194
Kenneth C. Keller, Jr.	\$ 16,360
Ralph J. Nicoletti	\$ 307,024
Mary A. Oleksiuk	\$ 23,294
Gary P. Schmidt	\$ 428,534
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons)	\$ 6,099,940

Under the Deferred Compensation Plans for Non-Employee Directors, directors are fully vested in their deferred balances at all times (which only represent their own contributions). Under the Executive Deferred Compensation Plans, executive officers are fully vested in the portion of their deferred balance related to their own contributions while the remaining deferred balances representing company contributions are subject to five-year, cliff vesting. As of November 3, 2010, the deferred balances for Mr. Keller, Ms. Boswell and Ms. Oleksiuk were unvested and will become fully vested upon consummation of the merger. As of November 3, 2010, Mr. Nicoletti was vested in \$170,050 of his deferred balance (representing his own contribution which will be paid to Mr. Nicoletti in November 2011 under the terms of his original deferral) and the remainder will become fully vested upon consummation of the merger. Deferred balances for all other executive officers were fully vested as of November 3, 2010.

Other

The merger agreement provides that the surviving corporation will assume the obligations with respect to all rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses and exculpation from liabilities for acts or omissions occurring at or prior to the effective time of the merger existing in favor of Alberto Culver's current or former directors or officers as provided in Alberto Culver's certificate of incorporation and bylaws.

The merger agreement also provides that, prior to the effective time of the merger, Alberto Culver shall, at a cost up to \$2,500,000, obtain a six-year extension of its current directors' and officers' liability insurance policies, which we refer to as the existing D&O policies. If Alberto Culver fails to do so, Unilever USA or one of its affiliates will be required to maintain the existing D&O policies, or substitute them with Unilever USA's or one of its affiliates' policies or coverage through a tail insurance policy, for six years from the effective date of the merger. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Unilever USA or its affiliate will not be required to expend on such insurance more than an amount per year equal to 150% of the annual premiums currently paid by Alberto Culver on the existing D&O policies.

Table of Contents

In addition to the foregoing arrangements, Alberto Culver's obligations under existing agreements with certain members or affiliates of the Lavin family, which include an employment agreement with Mr. Lavin, an executive deferred compensation agreement with Ms. Bernick pursuant to which Ms. Bernick will receive \$200,000 per year for 15 years upon termination of her employment, a split dollar life insurance agreement and a lease for approximately 1,200 square feet of office space in Alberto Culver's headquarters, will continue in effect following the merger. Under an agreement that we have with The Ayco Company, L.P., Messrs. Hynes, Keller and Nicoletti will continue to receive financial counseling services for the remainder of the calendar year in which the merger occurs and the following calendar year, at an annual cost to us of approximately \$13,000 for each such executive officer.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

The following discussion is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to U.S. holders (as defined below) of Alberto Culver common stock whose shares are exchanged for cash in the merger. This summary is based on the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial authorities and administrative rulings, all as in effect as of the date of the proxy statement and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Any such change could affect the accuracy of the statements and conclusions set forth in this proxy statement.

For purposes of this discussion, the term U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of shares of Alberto Culver common stock that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (including any entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

a trust if (i) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) it has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person; or

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares of Alberto Culver common stock, the tax treatment of a partner in such entity will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding shares of Alberto Culver common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

This discussion assumes that a U.S. holder holds the shares of Alberto Culver common stock as a capital asset within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, property held for investment). The following does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income tax that might be relevant to U.S. holders in light of their particular circumstances, or U.S. holders that may be subject to special rules (including, for example, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect mark-to-market treatment, financial institutions, insurance companies, mutual funds, tax-exempt organizations, holders liable for the alternative minimum tax, partnerships or other flow-through entities and their partners or members, U.S. expatriates, holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, holders who hold Alberto Culver common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale or conversion transaction or other integrated investment, holders who acquired Alberto Culver common stock pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation, or holders who exercise statutory appraisal rights). In addition, the discussion does not address any aspect of foreign, state, local, estate, gift or other tax law that may be applicable to a U.S. holder.

Table of Contents

Holders should consult their tax advisors to determine the particular tax consequences to them (including the application and effect of any state, local or foreign and other tax laws) of the receipt of cash in exchange for Alberto Culver common stock pursuant to the merger.

The receipt of cash in exchange for shares of Alberto Culver common stock in the merger will be a taxable transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, a U.S. holder who receives cash in exchange for shares of Alberto Culver common stock pursuant to the merger will recognize a capital gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between (1) the amount of cash received and (2) the holder's adjusted tax basis in such shares. Such gain or loss will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the holder's holding period for such shares exceeds one year as of the date of the merger. For tax years beginning on or before December 31, 2010, the maximum U.S. federal income tax rate on long-term capital gains for individuals is 15%. Barring congressional action, the maximum U.S. federal income tax rate on long-term capital gains for individuals for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010 will be 20%. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. If a U.S. holder acquired different blocks of Alberto Culver common stock at different times or different prices, such U.S. holder must determine its tax basis and holding period separately with respect to each block of Alberto Culver common stock.

Payments of cash made to a U.S. holder may, under certain circumstances, be subject to information reporting and backup withholding at the applicable rate, unless such holder properly establishes an exemption or provides a correct taxpayer identification number, and otherwise complies with the backup withholding rules. For tax years beginning on or before December 31, 2010, the applicable rate is 28%. Barring congressional action, the applicable rate for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010 will be 31%. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or a credited against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Regulatory Approvals

Under the provisions of the HSR Act, the merger may not be completed until notification and report forms have been filed with the Antitrust Division and the FTC by Alberto Culver and Unilever and the applicable waiting period has expired or been terminated. Unilever and Alberto Culver filed the required notification and report forms with the U.S. Antitrust Authorities on October 14, 2010. Unilever has informed us that it has notified the U.S. Antitrust Authorities of its intention to withdraw its original filing effective November 15, 2010 and refile its notification effective on or before November 17, 2010, initiating a new 30-day review period. The withdrawal of Unilever's original filing will terminate the running of the initial 30-day review period, which would have otherwise expired on November 15, 2010, absent the issuance of a request for additional information by the U.S. Antitrust Authorities. The re-filing is a procedural measure which will allow the U.S. Antitrust Authorities to continue their informal discussions with Unilever for an additional 30 days without having to issue a formal statutory request for additional information.

We are also required to obtain competition and antitrust approvals in Canada, Argentina, Mexico, the Republic of South Africa, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras. We and Unilever have been preparing the required antitrust and competition law filings with respect to the foregoing jurisdictions. Approvals may also be required in certain other jurisdictions.

While we expect to obtain all required competition and antitrust approvals, we cannot assure you that these competition and antitrust approvals will be obtained or that the granting of these competition and antitrust approvals will not involve the imposition of additional conditions on the completion of the merger or require changes to the terms of the merger agreement.

Litigation Related to the Merger

On or about October 5, 2010, Laborers Local 235 Benefit Funds, an Alberto Culver stockholder, filed a purported class action complaint on behalf of itself and all other similarly situated stockholders of Alberto Culver in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, captioned *Laborers Local 235 Benefit Funds v. Leonard H.*

Table of Contents

Lavin, et al., Case No. 5873. The lawsuit names as defendants Alberto Culver, Alberto Culver's directors (which, together with Alberto Culver, we refer to as the Alberto Culver defendants), Unilever N.V. and certain other Unilever entities (which, together with Unilever N.V., we refer to as the Unilever defendants). Shortly thereafter, four more Alberto Culver stockholders filed complaints in the Delaware Court of Chancery on behalf of the same purported class of Alberto Culver stockholders and against the same defendants as the first case, under the following captions: *City of Riviera Beach General Employees Retirement System v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.*, Case No. 5876 (filed on October 6, 2010); *Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.*, Case No. 5879 (filed on October 7, 2010); *KBC Asset Management NV v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.*, Case No. 5898 (filed on October 13, 2010); and *Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority v. Carol Lavin Bernick, et al.*, Case No. 5905 (filed on October 15, 2010). (We refer to these five cases together as the Delaware Actions).

On or about October 13, 2010, Dolores Joyce, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Alberto Culver stockholders, filed a sixth purported class action complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, County Department, Chancery Division against the same defendants as the first case, captioned *Dolores Joyce v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.*, Case No. 10CH44626. On or about October 18, 2010, Inter-Local Pension Fund of the Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, filed a seventh purported class action on behalf of the same class, in the same court and against the same defendants as in the sixth case, captioned *Inter-Local Pension Fund of the Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Leonard H. Lavin et al.*, Case No. 10CH5419. (We refer to the *Joyce* and *Inter-Local* cases together as the Illinois Actions). The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois consolidated the Illinois Actions by order of the court on October 27, 2010. On October 29, 2010, the Defendants filed a motion to dismiss the Illinois Actions. Before the court ruled on the Defendants' motion, it granted plaintiffs' leave to voluntarily dismiss the Illinois Actions on November 3, 2010. On or about October 22, 2010, David Jaroslawicz, on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated stockholders of Alberto Culver, filed an eighth purported class action in the District Court of the Northern District of Illinois, captioned *David Jaroslawicz v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.*, Case No. 1:10-CV-6815. On or about November 8, 2010, Dolores Joyce filed a ninth purported class action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated Alberto Culver stockholders in the District Court of the Northern District of Illinois, captioned *Dolores Joyce v. Leonard H. Lavin, et al.* (We refer to this case, together with the *Jaroslawicz* case, as the Federal Court Actions).

All nine lawsuits allege, among other things, that Alberto Culver's directors breached their fiduciary duties in connection with the negotiation, consideration and approval of the merger agreement by, among other things, agreeing to sell Alberto Culver for inadequate consideration and on otherwise inappropriate terms. The complaints allege that the Unilever defendants aided and abetted, and the complaints filed in the Illinois Actions also allege that Alberto Culver aided and abetted, the alleged breaches of fiduciary duty by the Alberto Culver directors. The complaint in the *Joyce* Federal Court Action also alleges that the preliminary proxy statement contains material misrepresentations or omissions in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act. Based on these allegations, the lawsuits, among other relief, seek certain injunctive relief, including enjoining of the merger, and damages. They also purport to seek recovery of the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys fees. Based on the facts known to date, the Alberto Culver defendants believe that the claims asserted in the lawsuits are without merit, and they intend to defend themselves vigorously.

On or about October 11, 2010, the plaintiffs in the *Laborers Local*, *City of Riviera Beach* and *Oklahoma Firefighters* cases jointly served Alberto Culver's directors with discovery requests. On October 27, 2010, plaintiffs in the Delaware Actions filed a motion to consolidate and to appoint lead plaintiffs. On that same day, the plaintiffs in the Delaware Actions served joint discovery requests upon the Unilever defendants. The Delaware Court of Chancery, by order dated October 29, 2010 set an agreed schedule for expedited discovery and scheduled a preliminary injunction hearing for November 30, 2010.

Delisting and Deregistration of Alberto Culver Common Stock

If the merger is completed, our common stock will be delisted from and will no longer be traded on the NYSE and will be deregistered under the Exchange Act. Following the closing of the merger, we will no longer be an independent public company.

Table of Contents

APPRAISAL RIGHTS

Under Delaware law, you have the right to dissent from the merger and to receive payment in cash for the fair value of your shares of Alberto Culver common stock as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, together with interest, if any, on the amount determined to be the fair value, in lieu of the consideration you would otherwise be entitled to pursuant to the merger agreement. These rights are known as appraisal rights. Stockholders electing to exercise appraisal rights must comply with the provisions of Section 262 of Delaware law, which we refer to as Section 262, in order to perfect their rights. We will require strict compliance with the statutory procedures.

The following is intended as a brief summary of the material provisions of the Delaware statutory procedures required to be followed by a stockholder in order to dissent from the merger and perfect appraisal rights. This summary, however, is not a complete statement of all applicable requirements and is qualified in its entirety by reference to Section 262, the full text of which appears in Annex D to this proxy statement. Failure to precisely follow any of the statutory procedures set forth in Section 262 may result in a termination or waiver of your appraisal rights. All references in this summary to a stockholder are to the record holder of shares of Alberto Culver common stock unless otherwise indicated.

Section 262 requires that stockholders for whom appraisal rights are available be notified not less than 20 days before the stockholders meeting to vote on the merger that appraisal rights will be available. A copy of Section 262 must be included with such notice. This proxy statement constitutes our notice to Alberto Culver's stockholders of the availability of appraisal rights in connection with the merger in compliance with the requirements of Section 262. If you wish to consider exercising your appraisal rights, you should carefully review the text of Section 262 contained in Annex D to this proxy statement since failure to timely and properly comply with the requirements of Section 262 will result in the loss of your appraisal rights under Delaware law.

If you elect to demand appraisal of your shares, you must satisfy each of the following conditions:

You must deliver to us a written demand for appraisal of your shares before the vote with respect to the merger is taken. This written demand for appraisal must be in addition to and separate from any proxy or vote abstaining from or voting against the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. Voting against or failing to vote for the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger by itself does not constitute a demand for appraisal within the meaning of Section 262.

You must not vote in favor of, or consent in writing to, the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. A vote in favor of the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and merger, by proxy, over the Internet, by telephone or in person, will constitute a waiver of your appraisal rights in respect of the shares so voted and will nullify any previously filed written demands for appraisal. A proxy which does not contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of the adoption and approval of the merger agreement and the merger. Therefore, a stockholder who votes by proxy and who wishes to exercise appraisal rights must vote against the merger agreement and the merger or abstain from voting on the merger agreement and the merger.

You must continue to hold your shares of Alberto Culver common stock through the effective date of the merger. Therefore, a stockholder who is the record holder of shares of Alberto Culver common stock on the date the written demand for appraisal is made but who thereafter transfers the shares prior to the effective date of the merger will lose any right to appraisal with respect to such shares.

If you fail to comply with any of these conditions and the merger is completed, you will be entitled to receive the merger consideration, but you will have no appraisal rights with respect to your shares of Alberto Culver common stock.

All demands for appraisal should be addressed to Alberto Culver's principal office located at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, Attn: Secretary, and must be delivered before the vote on

Table of Contents

the merger agreement is taken at the special meeting and should be executed by, or on behalf of, the record holder of the shares of common stock. The demand must reasonably inform us of the identity of the stockholder and the intention of the stockholder to demand appraisal of his, her or its shares.

To be effective, a demand for appraisal by a holder of common stock must be made by, or in the name of, such registered stockholder, fully and correctly, as the stockholder's name appears on his or her stock certificate(s) or, if no certificates were issued, on the Company's records. Beneficial owners who do not also hold the shares of record may not directly make appraisal demands to us. The beneficial holder must, in such cases, have the registered owner, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, submit the required demand in respect of those shares. If shares are owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a trustee, guardian or custodian, execution of a demand for appraisal must be made by or for the fiduciary; and if the shares are owned of record by more than one person, as in a joint tenancy or tenancy in common, the demand must be executed by or for all joint owners. An authorized agent, including an authorized agent for two or more joint owners, may execute the demand for appraisal for a stockholder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner or owners and expressly disclose the fact that, in executing the demand, he or she is acting as agent for the record owner. A record owner, such as a broker, who holds shares as a nominee for others, may exercise his or her right of appraisal with respect to the shares held for one or more beneficial owners, while not exercising this right for other beneficial owners. In that case, the written demand must state the number of shares as to which appraisal is sought. Where no number of shares is expressly mentioned, the demand will be presumed to cover all shares held in the name of the record owner.

If you hold your shares of common stock in a brokerage account or in other nominee form and you wish to exercise appraisal rights, you should consult with your broker or the other nominee to determine the appropriate procedures for the making of a demand for appraisal by the nominee.

Within 10 days after the effective time of the merger, the surviving corporation must give written notice that the merger has become effective to each stockholder who has properly delivered a written demand for appraisal and who did not vote in favor of the merger agreement and the merger. At any time within 60 days after the effective time, any stockholder who has demanded an appraisal, and who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party, has the right to withdraw the demand by delivering to the surviving corporation a written withdrawal of the demand and to accept the cash payment specified by the merger agreement for his or her shares of common stock; after this period, the stockholder may withdraw such demand for appraisal only with the consent of the surviving corporation. Within 120 days after the effective date of the merger, any stockholder who has complied with Section 262 will, upon written request to the surviving corporation, be entitled to receive a written statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares not voted in favor of the merger agreement and the merger and with respect to which demands for appraisal rights have been received and the aggregate number of holders of such shares. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares of common stock held in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, request from the corporation the statement described in the previous sentence. Such written statement will be mailed to the requesting stockholder within 10 days after such written request is received by the surviving corporation or within 10 days after expiration of the period for delivery of demands for appraisal, whichever is later. Within 120 days after the effective time, either the surviving corporation or any stockholder who has complied with the requirements of Section 262 and who is otherwise entitled to appraisal rights may file a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery demanding a determination of the fair value of the shares held by all stockholders entitled to appraisal. A person who is the beneficial owner of shares of Alberto Culver common stock held in a voting trust or by a nominee on behalf of such person may, in such person's own name, file the petition described in the previous sentence. Upon the filing of the petition by a stockholder, service of a copy of such petition shall be made upon Alberto Culver, as the surviving corporation. The surviving corporation has no obligation to file such a petition in the event there are dissenting stockholders. Accordingly, the failure of a stockholder to file such a petition within the period specified could nullify the stockholder's previously written demand for appraisal. There is no present intent on the part of Alberto Culver to file an appraisal petition, and stockholders seeking to exercise appraisal rights should not assume that Alberto Culver will file such a petition.

Table of Contents

or that Alberto Culver will initiate any negotiations with respect to the fair value of such shares. Accordingly, stockholders who desire to have their shares appraised should initiate any petitions necessary for the perfection of their appraisal rights within the time periods and in the manner prescribed in Section 262.

If a petition for appraisal is duly filed by a stockholder and a copy of the petition is delivered to the surviving corporation, the surviving corporation will then be obligated, within 20 days after receiving service of a copy of the petition, to file with the Delaware Register in Chancery a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all stockholders who have demanded an appraisal of their shares and with whom agreements as to the value of their shares have not been reached by the surviving corporation. After notice to dissenting stockholders who demanded appraisal of their shares, the Delaware Court of Chancery is empowered to conduct a hearing upon the petition, and to determine those stockholders who have complied with Section 262 and who have become entitled to the appraisal rights provided thereby. The Delaware Court of Chancery may require the stockholders who have demanded appraisal for their shares to submit their stock certificates to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceedings; and if any stockholder fails to comply with that direction, the Delaware Court of Chancery may dismiss the proceedings as to that stockholder.

After the Delaware Court of Chancery determines the stockholders entitled to appraisal of their shares of common stock, the appraisal proceeding shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Delaware Court of Chancery, including any rules specifically governing appraisal proceedings. Through such proceeding, the Delaware Court of Chancery will appraise the shares, determining their fair value exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with interest, if any, on the amount determined to be the fair value. Unless the Delaware Court of Chancery in its discretion determines otherwise for good cause shown, interest from the effective date of the merger through the date of payment of the judgment shall be compounded quarterly and shall accrue at 5% over the Federal Reserve discount rate (including any surcharge) as established from time to time during the period between the effective date of the merger and the date of payment of the judgment. When the value is determined, the Delaware Court of Chancery will direct the payment of such value, together with interest, if any, to the stockholders entitled to receive the same, upon surrender by such holders of the certificates representing those shares or, in the case of holders of uncertificated shares, forthwith.

In determining fair value, and, if applicable, interest, the Delaware Court of Chancery is required to take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court discussed the factors that could be considered in determining fair value in an appraisal proceeding, stating that proof of value by any techniques or methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered, and that fair price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company.

Section 262 provides that fair value is to be exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that such exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but which rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Delaware Supreme Court construed Section 262 to mean that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered.

You should be aware that the fair value of your shares as determined under Section 262 could be more than, the same as, or less than the value that you are entitled to receive under the terms of the merger agreement.

Costs of the appraisal proceeding may be imposed upon the surviving corporation and the stockholders participating in the appraisal proceeding by the Delaware Court of Chancery as the Court deems equitable in the circumstances. Upon the application of a stockholder, the Delaware Court of Chancery may order all or a portion of the expenses incurred by any stockholder in connection with the appraisal proceeding, including, without

Table of Contents

limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts, to be charged pro rata against the value of all shares entitled to appraisal. Any stockholder who had demanded appraisal will not, after the effective time of the merger, be entitled to vote shares subject to that demand for any purpose or to receive payments of dividends or any other distribution with respect to those shares, other than with respect to payment as of a record date prior to the effective time; however, if no petition for appraisal is filed within 120 days after the effective time of the merger, or if the stockholder delivers a written withdrawal of his or her demand for appraisal and an acceptance of the terms of the merger within 60 days after the effective time of the merger or thereafter with the written approval of the surviving corporation, then the right of that stockholder to appraisal will cease and that stockholder will be entitled to receive the cash payment for shares of his, her or its shares of common stock pursuant to the merger agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no appraisal proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery will be dismissed as to any stockholder without the prior approval of the Court, and such approval may be conditioned upon such terms as the Delaware Court of Chancery deems just; provided, however, that any stockholder who has not commenced an appraisal proceeding or joined that proceeding as a named party will maintain the right to withdraw its demand for appraisal and to accept the cash that such holder would have received pursuant to the merger agreement within 60 days after the effective date of the merger.

In view of the complexity of Section 262, stockholders who may wish to dissent from the merger and pursue appraisal rights should consult their legal advisors.

Table of Contents

THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The summary of the material provisions of the merger agreement below and elsewhere in this proxy statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the merger agreement, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Annex A and which we incorporate by reference into this proxy statement. This summary does not purport to be complete and may not contain all of the information about the merger agreement that is important to you. We encourage you to read carefully the merger agreement in its entirety.

The merger agreement is described in this proxy statement and included as Annex A only to provide you with information regarding its terms and conditions, and not to provide any other factual information regarding Alberto Culver or Unilever or their respective businesses. Such information can be found elsewhere in this document and in the public filings that Alberto Culver and the Unilever Parents make with the SEC, which are available without charge through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

The representations and warranties described below and included in the merger agreement were made for the purposes of the merger agreement by Alberto Culver and Unilever to each other as of specific dates. The assertions embodied in those representations and warranties were made solely for purposes of the merger agreement and may be subject to important qualifications and limitations agreed to by Alberto Culver and Unilever in connection with negotiating the terms of that agreement. Moreover, the representations and warranties may be subject to a contractual standard of materiality that may be different from what may be viewed as material to stockholders, or may have been made for the purpose of allocating risk between Alberto Culver and Unilever rather than establishing the matters addressed by such representations and warranties as facts.

The Merger

The merger agreement provides that, subject to the terms and conditions of the merger agreement, and in accordance with Delaware law, at the effective time of the merger, Merger Sub will be merged with and into Alberto Culver and, as a result of the merger, the separate corporate existence of Merger Sub will cease and Alberto Culver will continue as the surviving corporation and become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever USA.

Effective Time; Closing

The merger will become effective upon the filing of a certificate of merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware or at such later time as is agreed upon by Alberto Culver and Unilever USA and specified in the certificate of merger. The filing of the certificate of merger will occur as soon as practicable on the date of closing, which will take place on a date to be specified by Unilever USA, Merger Sub and Alberto Culver and which will be no later than the second business day after satisfaction or waiver of the conditions to the closing of the merger set forth in the merger agreement and described in this proxy statement, or at such other time as is agreed upon by Unilever USA and us. The parties to the merger agreement will make all other filings and recordings required under the Delaware General Corporation Law as soon as practicable on or after the closing date. Although we expect to complete the merger as soon as possible following the special meeting of our stockholders (if our stockholders adopt the merger agreement), we cannot specify when or assure that we and Unilever USA will satisfy or waive all of the conditions to the closing of the merger. See the section of this proxy statement titled "Conditions to the Merger" beginning on page 55.

At the effective time of the merger, the certificate of incorporation of the surviving corporation will be amended and restated as set forth in the form attached to the merger agreement, and the bylaws of the surviving corporation will be those of Merger Sub as in effect immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, except that references to the name of Merger Sub will be replaced by the name of the surviving corporation.

Table of Contents

Directors and Officers

The merger agreement provides that Merger Sub's directors and Alberto Culver's officers immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be the directors and officers, respectively, of the surviving corporation until the earlier of their resignation or removal or until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified, as the case may be.

The Merger Consideration

By virtue of the merger, each share of Alberto Culver common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be automatically converted into the right to receive \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes, and cancelled, other than the following shares:

shares of Alberto Culver common stock owned by Unilever USA, Merger Sub or Alberto Culver immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, which will be cancelled and no payment made with respect thereto; and

shares of Alberto Culver common stock with respect to which appraisal rights are properly demanded, the holders of which will be entitled to the right to receive the fair value of such shares in accordance with appraisal procedures described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Appraisal Rights" (provided, however, that if any such holder fails to perfect or otherwise waives, withdraws or loses the right to appraisal, then such holder's shares will be deemed to have been converted at the effective time into the right to receive \$37.50 per share, in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes).

Each share of common stock of Merger Sub outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be converted into and become one share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the surviving corporation.

Payment Procedures

Prior to the effective time of the merger, Unilever USA will designate a paying agent and, on or prior to the effective time of the merger and from time to time after the effective time of the merger, Unilever USA or the surviving corporation will deposit with the paying agent funds in amounts as necessary for the payment of the merger consideration.

As soon as reasonably practicable, but within three business days, after the effective time of the merger, the paying agent will mail to each person who was a holder of record of Alberto Culver common stock immediately prior to the effective time of the merger a letter of transmittal containing instructions for exchanging such shares of Alberto Culver common stock. After the effective time of the merger, each holder of record of such shares of Alberto Culver common stock will, upon delivery of the required documents, be entitled to receive the merger consideration of \$37.50 in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes, for each share of our common stock owned by such holder.

Until surrendered as described above, at any time after the effective time of the merger, each certificate or uncertificated share representing Alberto Culver common stock will be deemed to represent only the right to receive upon its proper surrender the merger consideration. No interest will be paid or will accrue on the cash payable upon surrender of any such certificate or uncertificated share. The cash paid upon surrender of any such certificate or uncertificated share will be deemed to have been paid in full satisfaction of all rights pertaining to the shares of Alberto Culver common stock formerly represented by such certificate or uncertificated share.

Table of Contents

Treatment of Options, Restricted Stock and Other Equity Awards

Stock Options

At the effective time of the merger, each outstanding option to purchase Alberto Culver common stock, whether vested or unvested, will be cancelled and will be converted into a fully vested right of the holder thereof to receive an amount in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes, equal to the product of:

the number of shares of Alberto Culver common stock that are subject to such option immediately prior to the effective time, and

the excess, if any, of the merger consideration of \$37.50 per share over the exercise price per share of Alberto Culver common stock subject to such option.

Restricted Stock

At the effective time of the merger, each share of Alberto Culver common stock that is subject to vesting or other forfeiture restrictions outstanding immediately prior to the effective time will vest and be converted into a fully vested right to receive \$37.50, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes.

Shareholder Value Incentive Plan Performance Units

At the effective time of the merger, each outstanding Shareholder Value Incentive Plan performance unit for a performance period not yet completed will be converted into the right to receive an amount in cash, less any applicable withholding taxes, equal to the product of:

\$1,000; and

a fraction,

the numerator of which is the number of months during the applicable performance period that have elapsed prior to the effective time of the merger (provided that if at least six full calendar months in any fiscal year have elapsed, then all calendar months during such fiscal year will be deemed to have elapsed); and

the denominator of which is the total number of months during the applicable performance period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the above payments will be reduced to the extent that they, when combined with any other payments, benefits or other economic entitlements to the recipient, would exceed 2.99 times the recipient's base amount (using applicable valuation assumptions under Section 280G of the Code).

Deferred Compensation Plans for Non-Employee Directors

At the effective time of the merger, all Company common stock units credited to the account of each participant in either of the Company's Deferred Compensation Plans for Non-Employee Directors will be converted into the right to receive a cash payment in an amount equal to the product of (i) the number of such common stock units credited to such account and (ii) \$37.50, and such payment will be made in accordance with the terms of such plans.

Representations and Warranties

We have made a number of representations and warranties to Unilever USA and Merger Sub in the merger agreement regarding aspects of our business and other matters pertinent to the merger. The topics covered by these representations and warranties include the following:

organization, good standing and qualification and similar corporate matters;

ownership of our subsidiaries and other investments;

Table of Contents

capital structure;

our corporate power and authority to execute and deliver the merger agreement, to consummate the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and to comply with the terms of the merger agreement, subject to the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders;

the enforceability of the merger agreement against us;

the absence of any violation of our and our subsidiaries' organizational documents, certain contracts or laws or judgments to which we are subject as a result of our execution and delivery of the merger agreement, our compliance with the terms of the merger agreement and our consummation of the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

the consents, approvals, notices and other similar actions with respect to governmental entities required as a result of our execution and delivery of the merger agreement, our compliance with the terms of the merger agreement and our consummation of the merger;

the furnishing or filing of required reports and other documents by us with the SEC, the material compliance of such reports and documents with the applicable requirements of the federal securities laws, rules and regulations, the material compliance of our financial statements included in such reports and documents with applicable accounting requirements and the rules and regulations of the SEC and the absence of certain types of undisclosed liabilities;

compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002;

the maintenance by us of internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures designed to ensure timely and adequate reporting;

the information supplied by us in connection with this proxy statement;

the absence since September 30, 2009 of any material adverse effect on us and our subsidiaries;

the conduct of our and our subsidiaries' respective businesses in the ordinary course of business consistent, in all material respects, with past practice and with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and treaties and certain other specified provisions of the merger agreement, in each case, from September 30, 2009 to the date of the merger agreement;

litigation;

certain specified contracts;

compliance with all applicable laws and judgments;

possession of all permits necessary to operate our business;

environmental matters;

labor and employee benefit matters;

tax matters;

real and personal property;

intellectual property;

the required vote of our stockholders;

takeover laws;

brokers and financial advisors;

our receipt of a fairness opinion from Credit Suisse;

Table of Contents

insurance policies;

our relationships with our largest customers and suppliers;

product recalls or withdrawals; and

exhibits to agreements provided to Unilever USA.

Some of our representations and warranties are qualified by the concept of a material adverse effect. The merger agreement provides, as a general matter, that a material adverse effect is any change, event, occurrence, fact, circumstance or development that:

has a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition, properties, assets, liabilities (contingent or otherwise) or results of operations of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole; or

would prevent or materially delay the consummation by us of the merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

The merger agreement provides that any effect, to the extent it results from any of the following, will be excluded from the determination of whether a material adverse effect has occurred under the first bullet point above:

any change relating to the United States economy or securities markets in general (provided that such exclusion only applies to the extent such effect does not disproportionately affect us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, in relation to other companies in the industries in which we operate);

any change or condition generally affecting the industries in which we and our subsidiaries operate (provided that such exclusion applies only to the extent such effect does not disproportionately affect us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to others in such industries);

any failure, in and of itself, by us to meet any internal or published projections, forecasts or revenue or earnings predictions for any period ending on or after the date of the merger agreement (provided that the underlying facts or occurrences giving rise to or contributing to such failure may be taken into account in determining whether there has been or would reasonably be expected to be a material adverse effect);

changes in GAAP or in the accounting rules and regulations of the SEC (provided that such exclusion only applies to the extent such changes do not disproportionately affect us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, relative to others in the industries in which we and our subsidiaries operate); and

acts of war, terrorism or armed hostilities.

Unilever USA and Merger Sub have made a number of representations and warranties to us regarding various matters pertinent to the merger. The topics covered by these representations and warranties include the following:

their organization and good standing;

their corporate power and authority to execute and deliver the merger agreement and consummate the merger;

the enforceability of the merger agreement against them;

the absence of any violation of Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's organizational documents, certain contracts or laws and judgments applicable to Unilever USA or Merger Sub as a result of Unilever USA's or Merger Sub's execution and delivery of the merger agreement and the consummation of the merger;

the accuracy of information supplied by Unilever USA and Merger Sub for inclusion in this proxy statement;

Table of Contents

Merger Sub's lack of other operating activity;

having sufficient funds for payments under the merger agreement;

that neither Unilever USA nor Merger Sub is an interested stockholder under Delaware's takeover statute; and

litigation.

Some of the representations and warranties of Unilever USA and Merger Sub are qualified by a Parent Material Adverse Effect standard. Parent Material Adverse Effect means any event or condition that prevents or materially delays the consummation by Unilever USA or Merger Sub of the merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

The representations and warranties of each of the parties to the merger agreement will expire upon the consummation of the merger.

Covenants Regarding Conduct of Business by Alberto Culver Prior to the Merger

In the merger agreement, we have agreed that before the effective time of the merger, subject to certain exceptions, we will carry on our, and we will cause each of our subsidiaries to carry on its, business in all material respects in the ordinary course of business, consistent with past practice and in compliance in all material respects with all applicable laws and, to the extent consistent therewith, use reasonable best efforts to preserve intact our current business organizations, to keep available the services of current officers, employees and consultants and to maintain relationships with customers, suppliers and others having business dealings with us.

In addition, we have agreed, with specified exceptions, to various restrictions, including restrictions on our and our subsidiaries' ability to:

declare, set aside or pay any dividends on, or make any other distributions in respect of, our capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests, except for, among other things, regular quarterly cash dividends on shares of our common stock not exceeding \$0.085 per share;

split, combine or reclassify our capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests, or issue any other securities in respect of, in lieu of or in substitution for, our capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests;

purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any of our capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests or any other of our securities, or any rights, warrants, calls or options to acquire any such capital stock or other securities, except in connection with the forfeiture, exercise or vesting of any options, performance units or restricted stock;

issue, deliver, sell, grant, pledge or otherwise encumber or subject to any lien (i) any capital stock, voting securities or equity interests of us or our subsidiaries, (ii) securities convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for, any capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of us or our subsidiaries, (iii) any options, warrants, calls or other rights to acquire from us or our subsidiaries, any stock, voting securities or equity interests, or (iv) any rights issued by, or other obligations of, us or any of our subsidiaries that are linked to (A) the price of any shares of our capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of us or our subsidiaries, (B) our value or the value of our subsidiaries or (C) any dividends or other distributions declared or paid by us or our subsidiaries, other than the issuance of shares of our common stock (1) upon the exercise of stock options or the settlement of performance units or common stock units or (2) under our Management Bonus Plan with respect to our 2010 fiscal year;

Table of Contents

amend our or our subsidiaries' organizational documents;

acquire (i) by merger, consolidation or purchase of all or a substantial portion of the assets of any entity, division or business or all or a substantial portion of the capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of any entity or (ii) any assets, in the case of (i) and (ii), having a purchase price greater than \$500,000, individually, or greater than \$5,000,000, in the aggregate, other than (A) capital expenditures and (B) purchases of components, raw materials and supplies in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

sell, lease, license or encumber or subject to any lien any of our properties or other assets, subject to certain exceptions for actions in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

enter into, modify or amend any lease of real property;

incur any indebtedness for borrowed money, guarantee any indebtedness of another person, or issue or sell rights to acquire any debt securities;

make any loans, advances or capital contributions to, or investments in, any person, other than us or any of our wholly owned subsidiaries;

repay, redeem, repurchase or otherwise retire or make any payment in respect of any indebtedness for borrowed money or any debt securities or any rights, warrants, calls or options to acquire any debt securities;

make any capital expenditures that are in excess of \$1,500,000 or not in accordance with our fiscal 2011 budget for capital expenditures;

pay, discharge, settle or satisfy any material claims (including any claims of stockholders), liabilities, obligations or litigation, other than the payment, discharge, settlement or satisfaction in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or in accordance with their terms, of claims, liabilities or obligations reserved against in our most recent consolidated balance sheet contained in a document filed with the SEC prior to the date of the merger agreement or incurred after the date of such consolidated balance sheet in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

(i) cancel any indebtedness, (ii) waive, transfer, grant or release any claims or right of material value, (iii) waive, modify, fail to enforce or consent to any material matter with respect to confidentiality, standstill or similar contracts to which we or our subsidiaries are a party or of which we or our subsidiaries are beneficiaries or (iv) commence any litigation other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

enter into, modify or amend in any material respect or outside the ordinary course of business, or terminate certain specified contracts or waive, release or assign any material rights or claims under such contracts;

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enter into, modify, amend or terminate any contract the result of which will adversely affect in any material respect us or our subsidiaries, as a whole, impair in any material respect our ability to perform our obligations under the merger agreement or prevent or materially delay the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereunder;

enter into any contract to the extent that consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement would reasonably be expected to conflict with or result in a violation or breach of, default under, or give rise to a right to terminate, cancel or accelerate any obligation or any obligation to purchase or redeem indebtedness or capital stock, or require Unilever USA to license or transfer its intellectual property or other material assets;

subject to certain specified exceptions, (i) adopt, establish, enter into, terminate, amend or modify any collective bargaining, works council, other labor union agreement, benefit plan or benefit agreement; (ii) increase the compensation, bonus opportunities or benefits of, or grant or pay any type of compensation or benefits to, any director or employee who was not previously receiving or entitled to receive such compensation or benefits, except for normal increases in cash compensation for

Table of Contents

employees (other than directors and officers) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; (iii) pay or provide any amount or benefit not required under any current benefit plan or arrangement, other than base compensation and other amounts or benefits that are not material, in each case that are paid or provided in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice; (iv) grant or pay to any director or employee any severance, termination, change in control, retention or similar compensation or benefits, or increase the amount of or grant the right to receive such compensation or benefits; (v) grant any awards under any bonus, incentive, performance or other compensation plan or arrangement; (vi) amend or modify any stock option, restricted stock or performance unit, (vii) take any action to fund or secure the payment of compensation or benefits under any employee plan, agreement or arrangement; (viii) accelerate the vesting or payment of any compensation or benefit under an employee benefit plan or agreement or (ix) change any actuarial or other assumption used to calculate pension funding obligations or change the manner in which pension contributions are made or the basis on which such contributions are determined; provided that the restrictions in clauses (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) do not generally apply to newly hired or promoted employees who are not directors or officers;

change our fiscal year, or, except as required by GAAP or applicable tax laws, accounting methods, principles or practices;

adopt any plan of complete or partial liquidation, dissolution, restructuring, recapitalization or other reorganization; or

authorize, commit, resolve, propose or agree to take any of the foregoing actions.

No Solicitation

We have agreed in the merger agreement that we and our subsidiaries will not, and will not authorize or permit any of our directors, officers or employees or any of our investment bankers, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants or other advisors, agents or representatives, which are collectively referred to as representatives, to, directly or indirectly:

solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage, induce or facilitate any takeover proposal or any inquiry or proposal that could reasonably be expected to lead to a takeover proposal; or

enter into, continue or otherwise participate in any discussions or negotiations regarding, or furnish to any person any information with respect to, or otherwise cooperate with, any takeover proposal or any inquiry or proposal that could reasonably be expected to lead to a takeover proposal.

Notwithstanding the foregoing prohibitions, at any time prior to the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders, in response to a bona fide written takeover proposal, we may:

furnish information to the person (and its representatives) making such takeover proposal pursuant to a confidentiality agreement which contains terms that are no less restrictive than those contained in the confidentiality agreement between us and Unilever USA, provided that all such information has been provided, or is concurrently provided, to Unilever USA; and

participate in discussions or negotiations regarding the terms of such takeover proposal with, and only with, the person (and its representatives) making such takeover proposal.

We may only take these actions if:

our board of directors determines in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation) that such takeover proposal is, or is reasonably likely to lead to, a superior proposal (as defined in the merger agreement and described below);

the takeover proposal was not solicited after the date of the merger agreement and was made after the date of the merger agreement and did not otherwise result from a breach of the non-solicitation provisions of the merger agreement; and

Table of Contents

our board of directors determines in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel) that the failure to take the actions described above would be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties under applicable law.

A **takeover proposal** is defined in the merger agreement to mean any inquiry, proposal or offer (whether or not in writing) from any person with respect to any:

merger, consolidation, share exchange, other business combination or similar transaction involving Alberto Culver Company,

sale, lease, contribution or other disposition, directly or indirectly (including by way of merger, consolidation, share exchange, other business combination, partnership, joint venture, sale of shares of capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of any of our subsidiaries or otherwise) of any business or assets of ours or our subsidiaries representing 15% or more of the consolidated revenues, net income or assets of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole,

issuance, sale or other disposition, directly or indirectly, to any person or the stockholders of any person or group of shares of capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests (or options, rights or warrants to purchase, or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, such shares of capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests) representing 15% or more of the voting power of Alberto Culver Company,

transaction in which any person or the stockholders of any person acquires beneficial ownership, or the right to acquire beneficial ownership, or formation of any group which beneficially owns or has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our common stock, or

any combination of the foregoing.

A **superior proposal** is defined in the merger agreement to mean any legally binding bona fide written offer of a third party (or, in a parent-to-parent merger involving such third party, the stockholders of such third party) or group pursuant to which such third party or group would acquire, directly or indirectly, all or substantially all of the shares of our common stock or substantially all of our and our subsidiaries assets, taken as a whole:

on terms which our board of directors determines in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation) to be superior from a financial point of view to the holders of our common stock than the merger (taking into account all of the terms and conditions of such proposal and the merger agreement, including any changes to the merger agreement proposed by Unilever USA); and

that is fully financed or reasonably capable of being fully financed, reasonably likely to receive all governmental approvals on a timely basis and otherwise reasonably capable of being completed on the terms and conditions proposed.

Recommendation of Alberto Culver's Board

The merger agreement provides that neither our board of directors nor any committee of our board of directors will:

withdraw (or modify in a manner adverse to Unilever USA), or publicly propose to withdraw (or modify in a manner adverse to Unilever USA), the approval, recommendation or declaration of advisability by our board of directors or any committee of our board of the merger agreement, the merger or other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, or approve, recommend, declare

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advisable or propose publicly to approve, recommend or declare advisable, any takeover proposal (any such action being referred to as an adverse recommendation change); or

approve, recommend or declare as advisable, propose to do the foregoing, or allow us or any of our affiliates to enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, agreement in principle,

Table of Contents

acquisition agreement, merger agreement, option agreement, joint venture agreement, partnership agreement or other agreement or arrangement (i) constituting or related to, or that is intended to or is reasonably likely to lead to, any takeover proposal, (ii) that requires or is reasonably expected to cause us to abandon, terminate, delay or fail to consummate, or otherwise impede, interfere with or be inconsistent with the merger or any other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, or (iii) that requires or is reasonably expected to cause us to fail to comply with the merger agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, subject to the conditions described below, our board of directors may, at any time prior to the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders, effect an adverse recommendation change if:

our board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with its outside legal counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation, that the failure to do so would be inconsistent with the fiduciary duties of our board of directors under applicable law;

we provide prior written notice to Unilever USA that our board of directors intends to effect an adverse recommendation change (a notice of adverse recommendation), specifying the reasons for it and, in the case of a superior proposal, the material terms and conditions of such proposal (including the identity of the third party or group making the superior proposal) and attach a copy of the most current draft of any written agreement related to the superior proposal;

we have negotiated in good faith with Unilever USA with respect to any changes to the merger agreement proposed by Unilever USA for at least five business days following Unilever USA's receipt of the notice of adverse recommendation (provided that any amendment to any material term of a superior proposal will require a new notice and an additional three-business day period from the date of such notice); and

taking into account any changes made to the merger agreement proposed by Unilever USA, our board of directors has determined in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation) that the failure by it to make an adverse recommendation change would be inconsistent with its fiduciary duties under applicable law and, in the case of a superior proposal, such proposal continues to meet the definition of the term superior proposal .

Stockholders Meeting

We have agreed to convene and hold a stockholders meeting, as soon as practicable following the execution of the merger agreement, for the purpose of the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may delay the mailing of proxy materials if we determine in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel) that such delay would be advisable in light of any unresolved comments of the SEC with respect to the proxy statement.

Unless the merger agreement has been terminated in accordance with its terms:

we are required to hold the stockholders meeting regardless of whether, prior to the date of such meeting, our board of directors or any committee thereof withdraws or modifies its approval or recommendation of the merger agreement, the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; and

our obligation to hold the stockholders meeting will not be affected by the commencement, public proposal, public disclosure or communication to us of any takeover proposal.

Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters

We, Unilever USA and Merger Sub have each agreed to use reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions, and to do, or cause to be done, and to assist and cooperate with the other parties in doing, all

Table of Contents

things that are necessary, proper or advisable to consummate and make effective the merger in the most expeditious manner practicable and in any event no later than June 27, 2011 (or, upon a regulatory extension (as such term is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "The Merger Agreement - Termination of the Merger Agreement"), September 27, 2011), including using reasonable best efforts to accomplish the following:

obtaining all necessary actions or non-actions, waivers, consents and approvals from governmental entities as may be necessary or advisable (including antitrust or competition law filings);

making and progressing of all registrations, declarations, notices and filings as may be necessary or advisable (including antitrust or competition law filings);

taking of all reasonable steps as may be necessary to obtain an approval or waiver from, or to avoid an action or proceeding by, any governmental entity;

obtaining all necessary consents, approvals or waivers from any third party;

defending any lawsuits or other legal proceedings challenging the merger agreement or the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; and

executing and delivering additional instruments necessary to consummate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and to fully carry out the purposes thereof.

In addition, we and Unilever USA have agreed to, and Unilever USA has agreed to cause Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. to:

duly and promptly file a notification and report form pursuant to the HSR Act and in other jurisdictions where necessary or advisable the appropriate registration, declaration, notice or filing;

promptly provide any supplemental information requested by a governmental entity;

cooperate and assist the other party in the preparation of its HSR Act filings;

cooperate with the other party to determine whether any filings are required to be made with or any consents, waivers or approvals are required to be obtained from, any governmental entity or other third parties;

use reasonable best efforts to furnish to the other party all assistance, cooperation and information required for any registration, declaration, notice or filing described in this paragraph;

give the other party reasonable prior notice of any registration, declaration, notice or filing or communication with any governmental entity regarding the merger and permit the other party to review and discuss in advance, and consider in good faith the views of, and use reasonable best efforts to secure the participation of, the other party in connection with such registration, declaration, notice,

filing or communication, and

subject to certain limitations, give the other party prior notice of meetings or conversations with any governmental entity with respect to the merger, allow the other party to participate in such meetings or conversations, keep the other party reasonably apprised with respect thereto, cooperate in the filing of substantive memoranda, white papers or other written communications with any governmental entity and furnish the other party with correspondence, filings and communications with any governmental entity with respect to the merger agreement and the merger.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Unilever USA and its affiliates are not required to, and, without Unilever USA's consent, we and our affiliates are not permitted to take any action that would reasonably be expected to result in a substantial detriment. However, pursuant to the merger agreement, the obligations of Unilever USA to use reasonable best efforts to consummate the merger does include the obligation to agree to requirements to dispose of or hold separate brands of Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or any of their respective affiliates and assets primarily related to such brands that do not constitute a substantial detriment.

Table of Contents

The merger agreement defines substantial detriment as (i) any prohibition or limitation on the ownership or operation by Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or any of their respective affiliates of any portion of the business, properties or assets of Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or their respective affiliates, (ii) Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or any of their respective affiliates being compelled to dispose of or hold separate any portion of the business, properties or assets of Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or their respective affiliates, in each case as a result of the merger, (iii) any prohibition or limitation on the ability of Unilever USA or any of its affiliates to acquire or hold, or exercise full right of ownership of, any shares of the capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of Alberto Culver and its subsidiaries, including the right to vote or (iv) any prohibition or limitation on Unilever USA or any of its affiliates effectively controlling the business or operations of Alberto Culver and its subsidiaries, except, in each case, for any requirements to dispose of or hold separate brands of Alberto Culver, Unilever USA or any of their respective affiliates and assets primarily related to such brands that collectively had revenues in the applicable party's 2009 fiscal year in the aggregate of \$125,000,000 or less.

Guaranty of Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V.

Unilever N.V. and Unilever PLC, the ultimate parent of Unilever USA, entered into an unconditional, absolute and irrevocable joint and several guarantee in our favor of the prompt and complete performance when and as due of the obligations of Unilever USA described in the section of this proxy statement titled Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters, and all monetary obligations of Unilever USA and Merger Sub under the merger agreement.

Conditions to the Merger

Our, Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's obligations to effect the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following conditions:

the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders;

the expiration or termination of (i) any waiting period applicable to the merger required under the HSR Act, and (ii) any agreement with any governmental entity not to consummate the merger;

the receipt, expiration or termination, as applicable, of all waivers, consents, approvals and waiting periods under any competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or regulation in each jurisdiction agreed to by the parties and as may be necessary in any other jurisdiction; and

no temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other judgment or order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition is in effect that would, and there is no pending or threatened suit, action or proceeding by any governmental entity that would reasonably be expected to, prevent, make illegal or prohibit the consummation of the merger.

Our obligations to effect the merger are subject to the further satisfaction by Unilever USA and/or Merger Sub or waiver by us of the following conditions:

Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's representations and warranties (i) with respect to their corporate power and authority to execute and deliver the merger agreement and consummate the merger and state takeover laws are true and correct in all material respects and (ii) contained in the remainder of the merger agreement, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or Parent Material Adverse Effect, shall be true and correct, except where the failure to be so true and correct individually or in the aggregate has not had and would not reasonably be expected to have a Parent Material Adverse Effect, in each case as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the date of the closing of the merger as though made on the date of the closing of the merger (unless such representations and warranties speak as of a specified date, in which case as of such specified date), and we have received a

certificate to that effect; and

Table of Contents

Unilever USA's and Merger Subs performance, in all material respects, of all obligations required to be performed by them under the merger agreement at or prior to the closing date of the merger, and we have received a certificate to that effect.

Unilever USA's and Merger Subs obligations to effect the merger are further subject to the satisfaction by us or waiver by them of the following conditions:

our representations and warranties (i) with respect to the absence of any material adverse effect on us and our subsidiaries from September 30, 2009 to the date of the merger agreement shall be true and correct; (ii) with respect to our subsidiaries, our outstanding options, our indebtedness, our corporate power and authority to execute the merger agreement and consummate the merger, the required vote of our stockholders, state takeover laws and brokers and financial advisers, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or material adverse effect, shall be true and correct in all material respects and (iii) contained in the remainder of the merger agreement, in each case disregarding any exception as to materiality or material adverse effect, shall be true and correct, except where the failure to be so true and correct individually or in the aggregate has not had and would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, in each case as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the date of the closing of the merger as though made on the date of the closing of the merger (unless such representations and warranties speak as of a specified date, in which case as of such specified date), and Unilever USA has received a certificate to that effect;

our performance, in all material respects, of all obligations required to be performed by us under the merger agreement at or prior to the closing date, and Unilever USA has received a certificate to that effect; and

no temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other judgment or order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition is in effect, and there is no pending or threatened suit, action or proceeding by any governmental entity, that would reasonably be expected to result in a substantial detriment.

The concept of a material adverse effect with respect to us and our subsidiaries and the term Parent Material Adverse Effect are described in the section of this proxy statement titled *Representations and Warranties*. The concept of substantial detriment is described in the section of this proxy statement titled *Efforts to Consummate the Merger; Regulatory Matters*.

Termination of the Merger Agreement

Mutual Termination Rights

The merger agreement may be terminated by our and Unilever USA's mutual written consent.

Joint Termination Rights

In addition, the merger agreement may be terminated by either Unilever USA or us if:

the merger is not consummated on or before June 27, 2011, but this right to terminate the merger agreement will not be available to any party if the failure of the merger to occur on or before such date is the result of such party having breached or failed to perform any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement;

any order, injunction or other judgment issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition having the permanent effect of preventing, making illegal or prohibiting the consummation of the merger shall have become final and nonappealable; or

our stockholders do not adopt the merger agreement at the stockholders meeting (or at any adjournment or postponement thereof) that we have called and held for such purpose.

Table of Contents

The deadline of June 27, 2011 referenced in this section and in the section of this proxy statement titled "Transaction Fees and Expenses; Termination Fee" may be extended, which we refer to as a regulatory extension, by either Unilever USA or us to September 27, 2011 under certain circumstances.

Alberto Culver Termination Rights

In addition, we may terminate the merger agreement:

if Unilever USA breaches or fails to perform any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements contained in the merger agreement and such breach or failure (i) would give rise to a failure of our closing conditions with respect to the accuracy of Unilever USA's representations and warranties or the performance by Unilever USA of its covenants and (ii) cannot be cured or is not cured by Unilever USA or Merger Sub within 30 calendar days after the receipt of the notice of such breach or failure to perform (provided that we have not breached or failed to perform any of our representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement such that Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's closing conditions with respect to the accuracy of our representations and warranties or the performance by us of our covenants could not then be satisfied); or

to enter into a definitive agreement with respect to a superior proposal received prior to our stockholders adopting the merger agreement, if our board of directors has determined in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation) that the failure to do so would be inconsistent with the fiduciary duties of our board of directors under applicable law, provided that we cannot terminate the merger agreement under this provision unless (i) we have not breached or failed to perform any of our representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement such that Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's conditions to closing with respect to the accuracy of our representations and warranties and performance of our covenants could not then be satisfied, (ii) concurrently with the termination we pay the applicable termination fee, (iii) we have provided Unilever USA with the notice and negotiation rights described in the section of this proxy statement titled "Recommendation of Alberto Culver's Board" and (iv) taking into account any changes to the terms of the merger agreement proposed by Unilever USA to us, our board of directors has determined in good faith (after consultation with outside counsel and a financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation) that such superior proposal continues to meet the definition of superior proposal and the failure to terminate the merger agreement to enter into the definitive agreement with respect to such superior proposal would be inconsistent with the fiduciary duties of our board of directors under applicable law.

Unilever USA Termination Rights

In addition, Unilever USA may terminate the merger agreement if:

we breach or fail to perform any of our representations, warranties, covenants or agreements contained in the merger agreement and such breach or failure (i) would give rise to a failure of Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's closing condition with respect to the accuracy of our representations and warranties or the performance by us of our covenants and (ii) cannot be cured by us within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice of such breach or failure to perform (provided that Unilever USA or Merger Sub has not breached or failed to perform any of their representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement such that our closing conditions with respect to the accuracy of Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's representations and warranties or the performance by Unilever USA and Merger Sub of its covenants could not then be satisfied);

any order, injunction or other judgment issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition having the permanent effect of resulting in a substantial detriment shall have become final and nonappealable;

Table of Contents

our board of directors effects an adverse recommendation change or fails to publicly reaffirm its recommendation of the merger agreement, the merger or the other transactions contemplated thereunder within 10 business days of receipt of a written request by Unilever USA to do so following a publicly known takeover proposal; or

we have entered into a definitive agreement with respect to a superior proposal.

Transaction Fees and Expenses; Termination Fee

Each party will generally pay its own fees and expenses in connection with the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, whether or not the merger is consummated.

We will be required to pay a termination fee of \$125,000,000 to Unilever USA if:

Unilever USA terminates the merger agreement because our board effected an adverse recommendation change or failed to publicly reaffirm its recommendation of the merger agreement and the merger upon Unilever USA's request and pursuant to the merger agreement, or because we have entered into a definitive agreement to effect a superior proposal;

we terminate the merger agreement to enter into a definitive agreement to effect a superior proposal; or

on or after the date of the merger agreement and prior to our stockholders adopting the merger agreement, a takeover proposal from a third person has been made to us or directly to our stockholders generally or a third person has publicly announced its intention to make a takeover proposal and thereafter:

the merger agreement is terminated (i) by either us or Unilever USA because the merger has not been consummated by June 27, 2011 (but only if a vote to obtain our stockholders' adoption of the merger agreement or our stockholders meeting has not been held) or because our stockholders did not adopt the merger agreement at the stockholders meeting (or at any adjournment or postponement thereof) that we have called and held for such purpose or (ii) by Unilever USA because we have breached or failed to perform any of our representations, warranties or covenants in the merger agreement and such breach or failure gives rise to a failure of Unilever USA's and Merger Sub's closing condition with respect to the accuracy of our representations and warranties or the performance by us of our covenants that is not curable within 30 calendar days; and

within 15 months after such termination of the merger agreement, we enter into a contract to consummate, or consummate, any takeover proposal (solely for purposes of this provision, all references to 15% in the definition of "takeover proposal", which is described in the section of this proxy statement titled "No Solicitation", are deemed to be references to 50%).

Unilever USA will be required to pay us a termination fee of \$125,000,000 if:

we or Unilever USA terminate the merger agreement because (i) the merger has not been consummated by June 27, 2011 (or, upon a regulatory extension, September 27, 2011) and the failure of the merger to occur on or before such date is not due to the terminating party having breached or failed to perform any of its representations, warranties, covenants or agreements in the merger agreement or (ii) any order, injunction or other judgment issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition arising under any competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or regulation being in effect and having the permanent effect of preventing, making illegal or prohibiting the consummation of the merger has become final and nonappealable;

we terminate the merger agreement because Unilever USA or Merger Sub has breached or failed to perform any of its representations, warranties or covenants in the merger agreement and such breach or failure (i) would give rise to a failure of our

closing condition with respect to the accuracy of Unilever

Table of Contents

USA's and Merger Sub's representations and warranties or the performance by Unilever USA or Merger Sub of their respective covenants and (ii) cannot be cured or is not cured within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of such breach or failure to perform; or

Unilever USA terminates the merger agreement because any order, injunction or other judgment issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition having the permanent effect of resulting in a substantial detriment has become final and nonappealable;

and, as of the date of termination, any of the closing conditions described in the second, third or fourth bullet point in the section of this proxy statement titled "Conditions to the Merger" has not been satisfied (in the case of the fourth bullet, as a result of any court order, injunction or judgment or other statute, law, rule, legal restraint or prohibition or any pending or threatened suit, action or proceeding by any governmental entity arising under any competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or regulation) and all other conditions to closing have been satisfied or waived (or, in the case of conditions that by their nature are not to be satisfied at the closing, are capable of being satisfied on such date).

Indemnification and Insurance

The surviving corporation will assume the obligations with respect to all rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses and exculpation from liabilities for acts or omissions occurring at or prior to the effective time of the merger existing in favor of our current or former directors or officers as provided in our certificates of incorporation and bylaws.

In the event the surviving corporation consolidates with or merges into another entity and is not the continuing or surviving entity of such consolidation or merger or transfers all or substantially all of its properties and assets to another entity, Unilever USA will cause proper provision to be made so that the successors and assigns of the surviving corporation will expressly assume the obligations described in the preceding paragraph.

Prior to the effective time of the merger, we will obtain and fully pay the premium for the six-year extension of our current directors' and officers' liability insurance policies in respect of acts or omissions occurring at or prior to such time (we refer to these as existing D&O policies) on terms and amounts no less favorable than the existing D&O policies, provided that we do not pay more than \$2,500,000 to obtain such coverage. If we fail to obtain such extension of the existing D&O policies, Unilever USA or one of its affiliates will maintain the existing D&O policies for six years from the effective time of the merger, provided that Unilever USA or one of its affiliates may substitute the existing D&O policies for policies of Unilever USA or one of its affiliates or obtain such coverage through "tail" insurance policies, in each case, containing terms with respect to coverage and amounts no less favorable to such directors and officers from an insurance carrier with the same or better credit rating as that of the existing D&O policies as of the date of the merger agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Unilever USA and its affiliates will not be obligated to pay annual premiums for insurance which in the aggregate exceed 150% of the aggregate premiums paid by us for the existing D&O policies during the calendar year 2009. However, in that event, Unilever USA and its affiliates will be obligated to provide the maximum available coverage as may be obtained for such 150% amount from an insurance carrier with the same or better credit rating than the carrier of the existing D&O policies as of the date of the merger agreement.

Employee Matters

The merger agreement provides that, for a period of 12 months following the effective time of the merger, each of our or our subsidiaries employees who remains in the employment of the surviving corporation, Unilever USA or any of their affiliates (excluding any employee covered by any applicable collective bargaining agreement), whom we refer to as a continuing employee, will receive (i) base compensation that is not less than

Table of Contents

the base compensation paid to him or her immediately prior to the effective time of the merger, (ii) bonus and equity compensation opportunities under annual, long-term and other bonus and incentive plans that are, in the aggregate, no less favorable than those provided to similarly situated employees of Unilever USA and (iii) employee benefits (other than bonus and equity compensation opportunities) that are no less favorable in the aggregate than those provided to him or her immediately prior to the effective time. Notwithstanding the foregoing (except with respect clause (ii)), Unilever USA, its affiliates and the surviving corporation and its subsidiaries will not be obligated to issue or adopt any plans providing for the issuance of shares of capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests of any entity, or any warrants, options, rights or other securities in respect of, convertible or exchangeable into such capital stock, voting securities or other equity interests.

Unilever USA will and will cause the surviving corporation and affiliates of Unilever USA and the surviving corporation to recognize the service of each continuing employee for all purposes, including eligibility, participation, vesting and benefit accrual (other than under a defined benefit pension plan), under each employee benefit plan or program of Unilever USA, the surviving corporation or their affiliates, solely to the extent that Unilever USA, the surviving corporation or their affiliates make such plan or program available to such continuing employee of the surviving corporation and not in any case where credit would result in duplication of benefits for the same period of service.

Unilever USA and its affiliates will, or Unilever USA will cause the surviving corporation to, use reasonable best efforts to waive all preexisting condition limitations and exclusions with respect to participation and coverage requirements and to provide each continuing employee with credit for any co-payments and deductibles paid prior to the effective time, subject to certain limitations.

Unilever USA and its affiliates will provide to our and our subsidiaries employees who are primarily employed outside the United States employee benefits in accordance with applicable law.

Our and our subsidiaries employees who are covered by collective bargaining agreements will be provided with employee benefits in accordance therewith.

Unilever USA and the surviving corporation and their affiliates will honor all employee benefit plans and employee benefit arrangements existing on the date of the merger agreement. Certain bonus payments will be made within 10 days following the effective time of the merger by Unilever USA or the surviving corporation pursuant to our existing annual bonus plans.

Other Covenants and Agreements

The merger agreement contains other covenants and agreements, including covenants and agreements relating to cooperation between Unilever USA and us in the preparation of public announcements regarding the merger, efforts to render state takeover laws inapplicable, sharing of notifications from governmental entities in connection with the merger, steps reasonably necessary to cause dispositions of our equity securities to be exempt under Section 16 of the Exchange Act, certain tax matters and providing access to our information and personnel.

Extension, Waiver and Amendment of the Merger Agreement

We, Unilever USA and Merger Sub may amend the merger agreement at any time prior to the closing of the merger. However, after the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders, no amendment can be made that by law requires approval by our stockholders without obtaining such approval.

We, Unilever USA or Merger Sub may extend the time for performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other parties under the merger agreement, waive any inaccuracies in another party's representations and warranties and waive compliance with any of the agreements or conditions contained in the merger agreement; provided that, after the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders, no party can waive compliance if such waiver requires approval by our stockholders without obtaining such approval.

Table of Contents

THE STOCKHOLDER AGREEMENT

As a condition to Unilever USA entering into the merger agreement, Leonard H. Lavin and Carol L. Bernick, our chairman emeritus and executive chairman, respectively, and certain Lavin family stockholders have entered into a Stockholder Agreement, which we refer to as the stockholder agreement, with Unilever USA, dated as of September 27, 2010, pursuant to which each of such stockholders has agreed, among other things, to vote certain shares of our common stock of which such stockholder is the record or beneficial owner in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement. The shares covered by the stockholder agreement are referred to as such stockholder's subject shares. As of the record date for the special meeting, the stockholders' subject shares (excluding options and other rights to acquire common stock) in the aggregate represented approximately 11.95% of the issued and outstanding shares of our common stock. In connection with the execution and delivery of the stockholder agreement, Unilever USA did not pay these stockholders any consideration in addition to the consideration they may receive pursuant to the merger agreement in respect of their shares. A copy of the stockholder agreement is attached as Annex B to this proxy statement.

In addition, each such stockholder has agreed, from the date of the stockholder agreement, to vote all of such stockholder's subject shares against (i) any other merger agreement or merger, consolidation, combination, sale of substantial assets, reorganization, recapitalization, dissolution, liquidation or winding up of or by Alberto Culver or any other similar transaction; (ii) any other takeover proposal or any action which is a component of a takeover proposal; or (iii) any amendment of Alberto Culver's certificate of incorporation or bylaws or any other proposal or transaction involving us or any of our subsidiaries, which amendment or other proposal or transaction would in any manner impede, frustrate, prevent or nullify any provision of the merger agreement or any of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement or change in any manner the voting rights of any class of our common stock. Pursuant to the stockholder agreement, such stockholder cannot commit or agree to take any action inconsistent with the foregoing.

Each such stockholder has granted Unilever USA and Merger Sub and any of their designees a proxy to vote such stockholder's subject shares in favor of adoption of the merger agreement and otherwise in accordance with the stockholder agreement. Such proxy is coupled with an interest and may not be revoked under any circumstances, except that such proxy is automatically revoked and terminated upon termination of the stockholder agreement.

Each such stockholder has also agreed not to, prior to the adoption of the merger agreement by our stockholders:

sell, transfer, pledge, assign or otherwise dispose of, hedge or utilize a derivative to transfer the economic interest in any of such stockholder's subject shares to any person or enter into any contract, option or other arrangement or understanding with respect to the foregoing, other than pursuant to the merger agreement or unless such person is or becomes (by way of joinder) a party to the stockholder agreement;

enter into any voting arrangement, whether by proxy, voting agreement or otherwise, with respect to the stockholder's subject shares;

take any other action that would make any representation or warranty of such stockholder contained in the stockholder agreement untrue or incorrect or would in any way restrict, limit or interfere with the performance of such stockholder's obligations thereunder;
or

commit or agree to take any of the foregoing actions.

Each such stockholder has agreed not to (and not permit its directors, officers or other representatives, acting on such stockholder's behalf, to) directly or indirectly through another person, (i) solicit, initiate or knowingly encourage, induce or facilitate any takeover proposal or any inquiry or proposal that could reasonably be expected to lead to a takeover proposal or (ii) enter into, continue or otherwise participate in any discussions

Table of Contents

or negotiations regarding, or furnish any information with respect to, or otherwise cooperate in any way with, any takeover proposal or any inquiry or proposal that could reasonably be expected to lead to a takeover proposal. Each such shareholder also agreed to (and to cause its representatives to) cease and cause to be terminated all existing discussions or negotiations on such stockholder's behalf with respect to any takeover proposal or any inquiry or proposal that could reasonably be expected to lead to a takeover proposal.

Each such stockholder has agreed to waive any appraisal rights in connection with the merger. In addition, each stockholder has agreed that, subject to certain exceptions, any additional shares of capital stock or other equity interests or voting securities of Alberto Culver that such stockholder acquires in the event of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization, purchase of capital stock or other equity interests or voting securities, or any additional right to vote or share in the voting of any shares of capital stock or other equity interests or voting securities of Alberto Culver shall constitute subject shares under the stockholder agreement as if owned on the date of the stockholder agreement. Each stockholder has also agreed to consult with Unilever USA and give Unilever USA the opportunity to comment before issuing any press release or other public statements related to the merger agreement, the merger or the stockholder agreement, provided that such obligation of the stockholder is subject to applicable laws, court process and the rules and regulations of national securities exchanges and quotation systems.

Other than with respect to the liability of any party for breach of the stockholder agreement prior to such termination, the stockholder agreement:

automatically terminates upon the earlier of (i) the effective time of the merger and (ii) the termination of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms; and

may be terminated by the stockholders' representative within ten days of the date of any modification, waiver or amendment of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms that decreases the merger consideration set forth therein.

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

We do not expect a vote to be taken at the special meeting on any matters other than as described in this proxy statement. If any other matters are properly presented at the special meeting for consideration, the holders of proxies, if properly authorized, will have discretion to vote on those matters in accordance within their best judgment.

SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

If the merger is consummated, we will not have public stockholders, and there will be no public participation in any future meetings of stockholders. However, if the merger is not consummated, stockholders will continue to be entitled to attend and participate in our stockholders meetings.

If our fiscal year 2010 annual meeting of stockholders is held, stockholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement by submitting their proposal in writing to our Secretary at Alberto Culver's principal office located at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, Attn: Secretary, and otherwise complying with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act. The deadline for submission of stockholder proposals intended to be included in the Company's fiscal year 2010 proxy materials was August 16, 2010. The deadline for stockholder proposals intended to be presented at our fiscal year 2010 annual meeting of stockholders (which are not otherwise submitted for inclusion in the proxy statement in accordance with Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act) is October 30, 2010.

HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY STATEMENT

As permitted by the Exchange Act, only one copy of this proxy statement is being delivered to stockholders residing at the same address, unless our stockholders have notified us of their desire to receive multiple copies of the proxy statement. This is known as householding. We will promptly deliver, upon oral or written request, a separate copy of this proxy statement to any stockholder residing at a shared address to which only one copy was mailed. Requests for additional copies of this proxy statement, or requests to receive multiple or single copies of proxy statements at a shared address in the future, should be directed to Alberto Culver's principal office located at 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160, Attn: Secretary, telephone number: (708) 450-3000.

Table of Contents**DIVIDEND INFORMATION AND MARKET PRICE OF COMMON STOCK**

The cash dividends per share of common stock in each quarter of fiscal years 2010, 2009 and 2008 are as follows:

	Cash Dividends Per Share		
	2010	2009	2008
First Quarter	\$ 0.075	\$ 0.065	\$ 0.055
Second Quarter	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.075	\$ 0.065
Third Quarter	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.075	\$ 0.065
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.085	\$ 0.075	\$ 0.065

Alberto Culver common stock is traded on the NYSE under the symbol ACV. The following table sets forth the high and low sale prices for our common stock as reported by the NYSE for each quarter of fiscal years 2010, 2009 and 2008:

	Common Stock Price	
	High	Low
Fiscal 2010		
First Quarter	\$ 30.04	\$ 24.76
Second Quarter	\$ 29.94	\$ 25.78
Third Quarter	\$ 29.07	\$ 25.62
Fourth Quarter	\$ 37.93	\$ 26.68
Fiscal 2009		
First Quarter	\$ 28.35	\$ 19.32
Second Quarter	\$ 27.00	\$ 20.90
Third Quarter	\$ 25.76	\$ 20.47
Fourth Quarter	\$ 27.90	\$ 23.81
Fiscal 2008		
First Quarter	\$ 26.09	\$ 23.49
Second Quarter	\$ 28.42	\$ 22.55
Third Quarter	\$ 28.25	\$ 21.75
Fourth Quarter	\$ 29.40	\$ 23.66

The following table sets forth the closing price of our common stock, as reported on the NYSE on September 24, 2010, the last full trading day before we publicly announced the signed merger agreement with Unilever, and on November 10, 2010, the last completed trading day prior to the date of this proxy statement:

	Common Stock Price	
September 24, 2010	\$	31.48
November 10, 2010	\$	37.20

You are encouraged to obtain current market quotations for Alberto Culver common stock in connection with voting your shares. Following the merger, there will be no further market for our common stock.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The table below contains information as of November 8, 2010, except as otherwise indicated, concerning the number of shares of common stock of Alberto Culver beneficially owned by each director, each person named as an executive officer in the Summary Compensation Table of our most recent annual proxy statement, each person who is known to own 5% or more of our outstanding shares of common stock of the Company and by all directors and executive officers as a group. Except as specified below, the business address of the persons listed is the Company's headquarters, 2525 Armitage Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock (1)	Percent of Class
Carol L. Bernick	9,059,548(2)	9.02%
James G. Brocksmith, Jr.	68,301(3)	(4)
Thomas A. Dattilo	33,273(5)	(4)
Jim Edgar	78,979(6)	(4)
George L. Fotiades	40,157(7)	(4)
King Harris	85,022(8)	(4)
Leonard H. Lavin	5,309,573(9)	5.36%
V. James Marino	957,407(10)	(4)
Robert H. Rock	62,102(11)	(4)
Sam J. Susser	63,005(12)	(4)
Gina Boswell	114,945(13)	