

Manitex International, Inc.  
Form S-3  
October 24, 2013  
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**AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 24, 2013**

**Registration No. 333-**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM S-3**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

***UNDER***

***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***

**MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Michigan**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**  
**incorporation or organization)**

**9725 Industrial Drive**

**42-1628978**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

**Bridgeview, Illinois 60455**

**(708) 430-7500**

**(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)**

**David J. Langevin**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Manitex International, Inc.**

**9725 Industrial Drive**

**Bridgeview, Illinois 60455**

**708-430-7500**

**(Address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)**

*Copies to:*

**Todd M. Kaye, Esq.**

**Bryan Cave LLP**

**211 North Broadway, Suite 3600**

**St. Louis, MO 63102**

**(314) 259-2000**

**Fax: (314) 259-2020**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public:** From time to time, after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  \_\_\_\_\_

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.  \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
 Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount registered(3)	Proposed maximum	
		aggregate offering price(4)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, no par value(1)(2)			
Preferred Stock, no par value			
Debt Securities			
Warrants			
Units			
Purchase Rights			

<i>Total</i>	<b>\$75,000,000(5)</b>	<b>\$9,660.00</b>
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- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act, this registration statement also covers such additional shares as may be issued as a result of a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, or similar transaction.
- (2) Each share of Common Stock issued also represents one Preferred Stock Purchase Right. Preferred Stock Purchase Rights currently cannot trade separately from the underlying Common Stock and, therefore, do not carry a separate price or necessitate an additional registration fee.
- (3) We are registering hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, units and purchase rights as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$75,000,000.
- (4) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (5) In no event will the aggregate offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement exceed \$75,000,000. The securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or with other securities registered hereunder.

**The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

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**THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. WE MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES NOR IS IT AN INVITATION FOR OFFERS TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE OR JURISDICTION WHERE NOT PERMITTED.**

**SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 24, 2013**

**PROSPECTUS**

**\$75,000,000**

**MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Warrants**

**Units**

**Purchase Rights**

From time to time, we may sell any of the securities listed above. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before making your investment decision. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on the NASDAQ Capital Market or any securities exchange or market of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell securities directly to you or through underwriters, dealers or agents. More information about the way we will distribute the securities is under the heading Plan of Distribution. Information about the underwriters, dealers or agents who will participate in any particular sale of securities will be in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of securities.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol MNTX.

**Investing in our securities involves significant risks, which we describe in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and in other documents that we subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and which we will describe in supplements to this prospectus. See also Risk Factors beginning at page 2 of this prospectus to read about certain factors you should consider before deciding whether to invest our securities.**

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

**The date of this prospectus is                      , 2013**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, units or purchase rights in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$75,000,000. The preferred stock, warrants and units may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock. In addition, a dividend distribution of one preferred share purchase right attaches to each outstanding share of our common stock. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell any securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of those securities.

This prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For a more complete understanding of our business and the offered securities, you should refer to the registration statement, including its exhibits. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under Where You Can Find More Information before buying securities in any offering.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to we, us, Manitex, the Company or similar references mean Manitex International, Inc. and our subsidiaries.

You should rely only on the information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any other offering material that we authorize. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making offers to sell the securities in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to

anyone to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The information contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement or amendment or any other offering material that we authorize, or incorporated herein or therein by reference, is accurate only as of the date of such documents, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or prospectus supplement or amendment or any other offering material that we authorize, as applicable, or of any sale of the securities.



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**ABOUT MANITEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

We are a leading provider of engineered lifting solutions, including cranes, reach stackers and associated container handling equipment, rough terrain forklifts, indoor electric forklifts, special mission oriented vehicles and specialized trailers and hauling systems, including parts support. We operate in two business segments: the Lifting Equipment segment and the Equipment Distribution segment. Our predecessor company was formed in 1993 and was purchased in 2003 by Veri-Tek International, Corp., which changed its name to Manitex International, Inc. in 2008. Our principal executive offices are located at 9725 Industrial Drive, Bridgeview, Illinois, and our telephone number is (708) 430-7500. We maintain a website at [www.manitexinternational.com](http://www.manitexinternational.com). The information contained on our website or that can be accessed through our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement we may use in connection herewith. Our executive officers are David J. Langevin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew M. Rooke, President and Chief Operating Officer, David H. Gransee, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary, and Lubomir T. Litchev, President of Manufacturing Operations.

Our Manitex subsidiary manufactures and markets a comprehensive line of boom trucks and sign cranes through a national and international dealership network. Our boom trucks and crane products are primarily used in industrial projects, energy exploration and infrastructure development, including roads, bridges, and commercial construction. Additionally, Badger Equipment Company, a subsidiary located in Winona, Minnesota, manufactures specialized rough terrain cranes and material handling products. Badger primarily serves the needs of the construction, municipality, and railroad industries. Our Italian subsidiary, CVS Ferrari, srl, designs and manufactures a range of reach stackers and associated lifting equipment for the global container handling market, which is sold through a broad dealer network. Our Manitex Liftking subsidiary is a provider of material handling equipment including the Noble straight-mast rough terrain forklift product line, Lowry high capacity cushion tired forklift and Schaeff electric indoor forklifts as well as specialized carriers, heavy material handling transporters and steel mill equipment. Manitex Liftking's rough terrain forklifts are used in both commercial and military applications. Our subsidiary, Manitex Load King located in Elk Point, South Dakota is a manufacturer of specialized engineered trailers and hauling systems, typically used for transporting heavy equipment. Manitex Sabre located in Knox, Indiana, is a manufacturer of specialized equipment for mobile, above ground, liquid storage and containment solutions.

Our Crane and Machinery division is a Chicago-based distributor of cranes including Terex truck and rough terrain cranes, and our own Manitex and Badger product lines. Crane and Machinery provides aftermarket service in its local market as well as being a leading distributor of OEM crane parts, supplying parts to customers throughout the United States and internationally. The division also provides a wide range of used lifting and construction equipment of various ages and conditions, and has the capability to refurbish the equipment to the customer's specifications.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them. This means that we can disclose important information to you in this prospectus by referring you to those documents. These incorporated documents contain important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information.

We incorporate by reference the following documents, which we have previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2013 and June 30, 2013;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 5, 2013, April 8, 2013, June 7, 2013, August 21, 2013, September 13, 2013, September 25, 2013, September 30, 2013 and October 18, 2013;

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on January 4, 2005 under the caption Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and

the description of our preferred share purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on October 21, 2008 and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description. We also incorporate by reference any future filings under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date hereof and prior to the termination of the offering, except for the filings, or portions thereof, that are furnished rather than filed with the SEC.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are incorporating by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Such written requests should be addressed to:

Manitex International, Inc.

9725 Industrial Drive

Bridgeview, Illinois 60455

Attention: Chief Financial Officer

You may direct telephone requests to David H. Gransee, our Chief Financial Officer, at (708) 430-7500.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly, and special reports and proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available on the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our web site at <http://www.manitexinternational.com>. We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this document.

**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks described under "Risk Factors" in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed for the period ending December 31, 2012 and any updates in our subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or Current Reports on Form 8-K, together with all other information appearing in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, in light of your particular investment objectives and financial circumstances. These risks could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment.

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**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement include and incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements contained in this prospectus, other than statements that are purely historical, are forward-looking statements and are based upon management's present expectations, objectives, anticipations, plans, hopes, beliefs, intentions or strategies regarding the future. We use words such as anticipate, estimate, plan, project, continuing, ongoing, expect, intend, may, will, should, could, and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated documents include, without limitation: (1) projections of revenue, earnings, capital structure and other financial items, (2) statements of our plans and objectives, (3) statements regarding the capabilities and capacities of our business operations, (4) statements of expected future economic conditions and the effect on us and on our customers, (5) expected benefits of our cost reduction measures, and (6) assumptions underlying statements regarding us or our business. Our actual results may differ from information contained in these forward looking-statements for many reasons, including those described below and in the section entitled Risk Factors :

- (1) a future substantial deterioration in economic conditions, especially in North America and Europe;
- (2) our customers' diminished liquidity and credit availability;
- (3) difficulties in implementing new systems, integrating acquired businesses, managing anticipated growth, and responding to technological change;
- (4) our ability to negotiate extensions of our credit agreements and to obtain additional debt or equity financing when needed.
- (5) the cyclical nature of the markets we operate in;
- (6) increases in interest rates;
- (7) government spending; fluctuations in the construction industry, and capital expenditures in the oil and gas industry;
- (8) the performance of our competitors;
- (9) shortages in supplies and raw materials or the increase in costs of materials;

- (10) our level of indebtedness and our ability to meet financial covenants required by our debt agreements;
- (11) product liability claims, intellectual property claims, and other liabilities;
- (12) the volatility of our stock price;
- (13) future sales of our common stock;
- (14) the willingness of our stockholders and directors to approve mergers, acquisitions, and other business transactions;
- (15) currency transactions (foreign exchange) risks and the risk related to forward currency contracts;
- (16) certain provisions of the Michigan Business Corporation Act and the Company's Articles of Incorporation, as amended, Amended and Restated Bylaws, and the Company's Preferred Stock Purchase Rights may discourage or prevent a change in control of the Company; and
- (17) a substantial portion of our revenues are attributed to limited number of customers which may decrease or cease purchasing any time.

Other factors include those discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" from time to time in our filings with the SEC. We undertake no duty to update these forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

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Unless indicated otherwise in any applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities for our operations and for other general corporate purposes, including acquisitions, repayment or refinancing of borrowings, working capital, capital expenditures and investments. Additional information on the use of net proceeds from the sale of securities that we may offer from time to time by this prospectus may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering.

Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges presented below should be read together with the consolidated financial statements and the notes accompanying them and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2013 and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, incorporated by reference into this prospectus. For purposes of the computation of the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of earnings from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense plus the interest component of lease rental expense.

		<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				<b>Six Months</b>
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Ended June 30, 2013</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.62x	1.67x	2.03x	2.31x	4.76x	4.19x

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**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

The following information describes our capital stock and provisions of our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and our Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended. This description is only a summary and does not purport to be complete. For information on how you can obtain those documents, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

**General**

As of the date of this prospectus, our authorized capital stock consists of 20,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value per share and 150,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. As of September 30, 2013, there were 13,760,474 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding. Our common stock currently trades on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **MNTX**.

**Common Stock**

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by shareholders. In accordance with Michigan law, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares cast at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the shareholders. The presence at the meeting, by person or by proxy, of the holders of record of a majority of shares issued and outstanding and entitled to vote will constitute a quorum for transacting business.

Shares of our common stock have no preemptive rights, no redemption or sinking fund provisions, and are not liable for further call or assessment. The holders of such common stock are entitled to receive dividends when and as declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends, subject to the prior rights or preferences applicable to any preferred stock then outstanding. The Company has not declared or paid any cash dividends on its common stock and the Company does not presently intend to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

If we are liquidated, our creditors and any holders of our preferred stock with preferential liquidation rights will be paid before any distribution to holders of common stock. The holders of common stock would be entitled to receive a pro rata distribution per share of any excess amount. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock which we may designate and issue in the future.

**Preferred Stock**

Our Articles of Incorporation empower our board of directors to issue up to 150,000 shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series. As of the date of this prospectus, there were no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

We may issue one or more series of preferred stock, with designations, powers, preferences and other rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions as may be approved by our board of directors, including:

the distinctive designation of each series and the number of shares that will constitute the series;

the voting rights, if any, of shares of the series and the terms and conditions of the voting rights;

the dividend rate on the shares of the series, the dates on which dividends are payable, any restriction, limitation or condition upon the payment of dividends, whether dividends will be cumulative, and the dates from and after which dividends shall accumulate;

the prices at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares of the series may be redeemed, if the shares are redeemable;



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the terms and conditions of a sinking or purchase fund for the purchase or redemption of shares of the series, if such a fund is provided;

any preferential amount payable upon the shares of the series in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of, or upon the distribution of any of our assets; and

the prices or rates of conversion or exchange at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares of the series may be converted or exchanged into other securities, if the shares are convertible or exchangeable.

The particular terms of any series of preferred stock, and the transfer agent and registrar for that series, will be described in a prospectus supplement. All preferred stock offered, when issued, will be fully paid and nonassessable. Any material United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations with respect to any preferred stock offered under this prospectus will also be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Preferred Share Purchase Rights**

For each share of our common stock, there is one preferred share purchase right (a **Right**). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from us one one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, no par value (**Preferred Shares**), at a price of \$35.00 per one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share, subject to adjustment (the **Purchase Price**). As long as the Rights are attached to the common stock, we will issue one Right for each share of common stock, so that all such shares will have attached Rights. We initially reserved 125,000 Preferred Shares for issuance upon exercise of the Rights. The description below is only a summary of the Rights Agreement, dated October 17, 2008 (the **Rights Agreement**) by and between us and the rights agent, and does not purport to be complete. For information on how you can obtain a complete copy of the Rights Agreement, see **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Until the earlier to occur of (i) the **Shares Acquisition Date**, which is the date 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (other than us, any of our subsidiaries or any of our employee benefit plans or certain holders of our common stock as of the date of the Rights Agreement) has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% (or, in the case of certain holders, 30%) or more of outstanding shares of common stock (such person, an **Acquiring Person**), or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of our board of directors prior to such time as any person becomes an **Acquiring Person**) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group (other than us, any of our subsidiaries or any of our employee benefit plans) of 15% (or, in the case of certain holders, 30%) or more of outstanding shares of common stock (the earlier of such dates being called the **Distribution Date**), the Rights will not be exercisable, will be evidenced by the certificates for shares of common stock, and are transferable only together with the shares of common stock. As soon as practicable following the **Distribution Date**, separate certificates evidencing the Rights (**Right Certificates**) will be mailed to holders of record of the shares of common stock as of the close of business on the **Distribution Date** and such separate Right Certificates alone will evidence the Rights.

The Rights will expire on October 17, 2018 (the **Final Expiration Date**), unless we redeem or exchange the Rights earlier, in each case as described below.

The **Purchase Price** payable, and the number of Preferred Shares or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Preferred Shares, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Preferred

Shares of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Shares at a price, or securities convertible into Preferred Shares with a conversion price, less than the then current market price of the Preferred Shares or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Preferred Shares of evidences of

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indebtedness or assets (excluding regular annual cash dividends or dividends payable in Preferred Shares) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding Rights and the number of one one-hundredths of a Preferred Share issuable upon exercise of each Right are also subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split of the common stock or a stock dividend on the common stock payable in common stock or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the common stock occurring, in any such case, prior to the Distribution Date.

Preferred Shares purchasable upon the exercise of Rights will not be redeemable. Each Preferred Share will be entitled to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of \$1.00 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate dividend of 100 times the dividend declared per share of common stock. In the event of liquidation, the holders of the Preferred Shares will be entitled to a minimum preferential liquidation payment of \$100 per share but will be entitled to an aggregate payment of 100 times the payment made per share of common stock. Each Preferred Share will have one vote per share, voting as a separate class on all matters submitted to holders of common stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which common stock are exchanged, each Preferred Share will be entitled to receive 100 times the amount received per share of common stock. These Rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions. Because of the nature of the Preferred Shares dividend and liquidation rights, the value of the one one-hundredth interest in a Preferred Share purchasable upon exercise of each Right should approximate the value of one share of our common stock.

In the event that any person becomes an Acquiring Person (a Flip In Event ), each holder of a Right (except as otherwise provided in the Rights Agreement) will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise that number of common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company or a reduction in the Purchase Price) having a market value of two times the then current Purchase Price. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, following the occurrence of a Flip In Event all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement) were, or subsequently become beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person, related persons and transferees will be null and void.

In the event that, at any time following the Shares Acquisition Date, (i) we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or (ii) 50% or more of our consolidated assets or earning power are sold (the events described in clauses (i) and (ii) are herein referred to as Flip-Over Events ), proper provision will be made so that each holder of a Right (except as otherwise provided in the Rights Agreement) will thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current Purchase Price, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of such transaction will have a market value of two times the then current Purchase Price.

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the Purchase Price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in such Purchase Price.

At any time after a person becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by such Acquiring Person of 50% or more of the outstanding common stock, our board of directors may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by any Acquiring Person which have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-hundredth of a Preferred Share (or of a share of a class or series of our preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per Right (subject to adjustment).

At any time prior to a person becoming an Acquiring Person, our board of directors may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.001 per Right (the Redemption Price ). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as our board of directors in its sole discretion may establish. Immediately upon any redemption of the Rights, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only

right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the Redemption Price.

Other than amendments that would change the Redemption Price, the Purchase Price or the Final Expiration Date of the Rights, the terms of the Rights may be amended by our board of directors without the consent of the

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holders of the Rights, including an amendment to lower the threshold for exercisability of the Rights from 15% to not less than 10%, with appropriate exceptions for any person then beneficially owning a percentage of the number of common stock then outstanding equal to or in excess of the new threshold, except that from and after such time as any person becomes an Acquiring Person no such amendment may adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Rights.

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a shareholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

The Rights have certain anti-takeover effects. The Rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire us without conditioning the offer on redemption of the Rights or on a substantial number of Rights being acquired. The Rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors since the board of directors may, at its option, at any time until a person becomes an Acquiring Person redeem all but not less than all of the then-outstanding Rights at \$.001 per Right.

## **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Provisions of our Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, Michigan law, and the Rights Agreement could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire the Company, even if doing so would be perceived to be beneficial to you. These provisions could discourage potential takeover attempts and could adversely affect the market price of our shares. Because of these provisions, you might not be able to receive a premium on your investment. These provisions:

authorize our board of directors, without requiring shareholder consent, to issue shares of preferred stock and to determine the relative rights, preferences, priorities, privileges, restrictions and limitations of such preferred stock, which could increase the number of outstanding shares and prevent a takeover attempt;

limit our shareholders' ability to call a special meeting of our shareholders;

limit our shareholders' ability to amend, alter or repeal our bylaws; and

restrict business combinations with certain shareholders.

The provisions described above could prevent, delay or defer a change in control of the Company or its management. See also Preferred Share Purchase Rights and Description of Purchase Rights for details regarding the purchase rights that attach to each share of our common stock and other purchase rights that may attach to our securities in the future.

## **DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

We may sell the securities being offered pursuant to this prospectus directly to purchasers, to or through underwriters, through dealers or agents, or through a combination of such methods. The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities being offered will set forth the terms of the offering of those securities, including the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, the purchase price, the net proceeds to us, any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, the initial public offering price, any discounts or concessions allowed

or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which such securities may be listed.

**General**

The debt securities that we may issue will constitute debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of Manitex, to be issued in one or more series, which may include senior debt securities,

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subordinated debt securities and senior subordinated debt securities. The particular terms of any series of debt securities we offer, including the extent to which the general terms set forth below may be applicable to a particular series, will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series.

Debt securities that we may issue will be issued under an indenture between us and a trustee qualified to act as such under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We have filed the form of the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. When we refer to the indenture in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which debt securities are issued as supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to such debt securities. We will provide the name of the trustee in any prospectus supplement related to the issuance of debt securities, and we will also provide certain other information related to the trustee, including describing any relationship we have with the trustee, in such prospectus supplement.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION IS A SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL PROVISIONS OF THE INDENTURE. IT DOES NOT RESTATE THE INDENTURE IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE INDENTURE IS GOVERNED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939. THE TERMS OF THE DEBT SECURITIES INCLUDE THOSE STATED IN THE INDENTURE AND THOSE MADE PART OF THE INDENTURE BY REFERENCE TO THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT. WE URGE YOU TO READ THE INDENTURE BECAUSE IT, AND NOT THIS DESCRIPTION, DEFINES YOUR RIGHTS AS A HOLDER OF THE DEBT SECURITIES.

### **Information You Will Find In The Prospectus Supplement**

The indenture provides that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series and that we may denominate the debt securities and make them payable in foreign currencies. The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that can be issued thereunder. The prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities will provide information relating to the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, which may include:

the title and denominations of the debt securities of the series;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, with respect to the debt securities of the series are payable or the method of determination thereof;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities of the series shall bear interest, if any, or the method of calculating and/or resetting such rate or rates of interest;

the dates from which such interest shall accrue or the method by which such dates shall be determined and the duration of the extensions and the basis upon which interest shall be calculated;

the interest payment dates for the series of debt securities or the method by which such dates will be determined, the terms of any deferral of interest and any right of ours to extend the interest payments periods;

the place or places where the principal and interest on the series of debt securities will be payable;

the terms and conditions upon which debt securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option or otherwise;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase, or repay debt securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or other specified event or at the option of the holders and the terms of any such redemption, purchase, or repayment;

the terms, if any, upon which the debt securities of the series may be convertible into or exchanged for other securities, including, among other things, the initial conversion or exchange price or rate and the conversion or exchange period;



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if the amount of principal, premium, if any, or interest with respect to the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index or formula, the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

if any payments on the debt securities of the series are to be made in a currency or currencies (or by reference to an index or formula) other than that in which such securities are denominated or designated to be payable, the currency or currencies (or index or formula) in which such payments are to be made and the terms and conditions of such payments;

any changes or additions to the provisions of the indenture dealing with defeasance, including any additional covenants that may be subject to our covenant defeasance option;

the currency or currencies in which payment of the principal and premium, if any, and interest with respect to debt securities of the series will be payable, or in which the debt securities of the series shall be denominated, and the particular provisions applicable thereto in accordance with the indenture;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities of the series which will be payable upon declaration of acceleration or provable in bankruptcy or the method by which such portion or amount shall be determined;

whether the debt securities of the series will be secured or guaranteed and, if so, on what terms;

any addition to or change in the events of default with respect to the debt securities of the series;

the identity of any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars;

the applicability of, and any addition to or change in, the covenants currently set forth in the indenture;

the subordination, ranking or priority, if any, of the debt securities of the series and terms of the subordination;

any other terms of the debt securities of the series which are not prohibited by the indenture; and

whether securities of the series shall be issuable as registered securities or bearer securities (with or without interest coupons), and any restrictions applicable to the offering, sale or delivery of such bearer securities and the terms upon which such bearer securities of a series may be exchanged for registered securities, and vice versa.

Holders of debt securities may present debt securities for exchange in the manner, at the places, and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities, the indenture, and the prospectus supplement. We will provide these

services without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indenture, any board resolution establishing such debt securities and any applicable indenture supplement. Debt securities in bearer form and the coupons, if any, appertaining thereto will be transferable by delivery.

### **Senior Debt**

We may issue senior debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior debt. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable indenture supplement and described in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally with all of our existing and future senior unsecured debt. The senior debt securities will be senior to all of our subordinated debt and junior to any secured debt we may incur as to the assets securing such debt.

### **Subordinated Debt**

We may issue subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of such subordinated debt. These subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the indenture and any applicable indenture supplement, to all of our senior indebtedness.

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If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of senior indebtedness outstanding as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter.

### **Senior Subordinated Debt**

We may issue senior subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior subordinated debt. These senior subordinated debt securities will be, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the applicable indenture supplement, subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness and senior to our other subordinated debt. See the discussions above under **Senior Debt** and **Subordinated Debt** for a more detailed explanation of our senior and subordinated indebtedness.

### **Interest Rate**

Debt securities that bear interest will do so at a fixed rate or a floating rate. We may sell, at a discount below the stated principal amount, any debt securities which bear no interest or which bear interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate. The relevant prospectus supplement will describe the special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to:

any discounted debt securities; and

any debt securities issued at par which are treated as having been issued at a discount for United States federal income tax purposes.

### **Registered Global Securities**

We may issue registered debt securities of a series in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. We will deposit the registered global security with a depository or with a nominee for a depository identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. The global security or global securities will represent and will be in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding registered debt securities of the series to be represented by the registered global security or securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred, except as a whole in three cases:

by the depository for the registered global security to a nominee of the depository;

by a nominee of the depository to the depository or another nominee of the depository; and

by the depository or any nominee to a successor of the depository or a nominee of the successor.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement concerning any portion of that series of debt securities to be represented by a registered global security. We anticipate that the following provisions will generally apply to all depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with the depository. These persons are referred to as participants. Any underwriters, agents or debtors participating in the distribution of debt securities represented by the registered global security will designate the accounts to be credited. Only participants or persons that hold interests through participants will be able to beneficially own interests in a registered global security. The depository for a global security will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a registered global security for participants. Participants or persons that hold through participants will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a global security for persons other than participants. These records will be the only means to transfer beneficial ownership in a registered global security.

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The laws of some states may require that specified purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may limit the ability of those persons to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global securities.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, the depository or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security:

may not have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names;

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities represented by a registered global security in definitive form; and

will not be considered the owners or holders of debt securities represented by a registered global security under the indenture.

Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for the registered global security and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture applicable to the registered global security.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders, or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the indenture, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take the action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through the participants to give or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

**Payment of Interest on and Principal of Registered Global Securities**

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee to the depository or its nominee as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of Manitex, the trustee, or any paying agent for debt securities represented by a registered global security will have any responsibility or liability for:

any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in such registered global security;

maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests;

the payments to beneficial owners of the global security of amounts paid to the depository or its nominee; or

any other matter relating to the actions and practices of the depository, its nominee or any of its participants. We expect that the depository, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest in respect of the global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the principal amount of a registered global security as shown on the depository's records. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices. This is currently the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name. Such payments will be the responsibility of participants.

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**Exchange of Registered Global Securities**

We may issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security if both of the following occur:

the depository for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act; an