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INTERTAPE POLYMER GROUP INC

Form 6-K

August 13, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of August, 2004

Commission File Number 1-10928

INTERTAPE POLYMER GROUP INC.

110E Montee de Liesse, St. Laurent, Quebec, Canada, H4T 1N4

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports
under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as
permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): _____

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as
permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): _____

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this
Form, the registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the
Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant
in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-_____

The Information contained in this Report is incorporated by reference into
Registration Statement No. 333-109944

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the
registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the
undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

INTERTAPE POLYMER GROUP INC.

Date: August 5, 2004

By: /s/Andrew M. Archibald
Andrew M. Archibald, C.A., CFO,
Secretary, Vice President
Administration

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NYSE SYMBOL: ITP

TSX SYMBOL: ITP

Intertape Polymer Group Inc. Announces Strong Second Quarter Sales and Earnings Growth

- Sales up 14.4% year-over-year
- Earnings up 44.8% year-over-year
- Completed major debt refinancing

Montreal, Quebec and Bradenton, Florida - August 12, 2004 - Intertape Polymer Group Inc. (NYSE, TSX: ITP) today released results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2004. "Sales for the second quarter were up over 14% from last year and 6% sequentially," said Intertape Polymer Group Inc. (IPG) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne F. Yull. "This sales increase combined with the Company's ability to recoup first quarter raw material cost increases through increased selling prices and operational improvements resulted in a 45% increase in profits over the prior year." Mr. Yull also commented: "Just following the end of the quarter, we completed the restructuring of our balance sheet resulting in lower interest costs, improved covenants and new financial capacity for growth. The Company is now positioned for the future including expansion in both the European and Asian markets.

Second Quarter 2004

Second quarter net income was \$5.7 million, or \$0.14 per share (basic and diluted), compared to \$3.9 million or \$0.12 per share (basic and diluted) for the second quarter of 2003, primarily due to higher sales. Second quarter net income was also up compared to first quarter net income of \$2.3 million, or \$0.06 per share (basic and diluted), because of higher sales and an improved gross margin.

Sales for the second quarter were \$171.9 million, up 14.4% compared to the corresponding quarter last year. The increase included revenues associated with the February 2004 acquisition of certain operations of tesa tape, inc. and the incremental sales associated with acquiring the remaining 50% interest in the Company's Portuguese joint venture ("Fibope") in late June 2003. Selling prices in the second quarter of 2004 were also higher than the second quarter of 2003. Sales were also up by 6.1% compared to first quarter 2004.

Gross margin for the second quarter was 22.0%. Although sales price increases for the second quarter of 2004 exceeded new raw material cost increases for the second quarter, the sales price increases only partially offset earlier raw material cost increases. Consequently, the gross margin for the second quarter of 2004 was higher than the 19.8% experienced in the first quarter of 2004, but lower than the 22.7% gross margin experienced in the second quarter of 2003. The second quarter gross margin was also aided by improvements in the integration of the tesa tape, inc. operations.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$22.8 million in the second quarter of 2004, compared to \$20.8 million for the second quarter of 2003. The increase in expense reflects the effects of the Fibope and tesa tape acquisitions. "SG&A was up primarily because of acquisitions, however, these cost increases were partially offset by cost reductions in other areas," noted IPG's Chief Financial Officer, Andrew M. Archibald, C.A. "This is more evident when we look at SG&A expenses as a percent of sales, which was 13.3% this past quarter compared to 13.9% for the same quarter last year."

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Financial expenses in the second quarter were \$7.2 million, compared to \$7.8 million for the second quarter last year. The lower financial expenses reflect primarily the impact of debt reduction since the end of the second quarter of 2003 and a reduction in the Company's Facility A interest rate of 100 basis points obtained late last year. Financial expenses were up compared to the first quarter of 2004 due to increased borrowings and foreign exchange losses during the quarter of \$0.4 million primarily related to a US dollar denominated loan in Canada. This loan was repaid as part of the refinancing.

For the second quarter the Company recorded income tax expense of \$0.7 million, for an effective tax rate of 10.4%, compared to income tax expense of \$0.4 million and effective tax rate of 10.1% in the second quarter of 2003.

Cash used in operating activities was \$0.6 million for the second quarter 2004, compared to cash generated by operating activities of \$10.9 million for the second quarter 2003, mainly as a result of changes in working capital, partly offset by improved earnings. A substantial portion of the cash flow generated in the second quarter of 2004 was used to pay down payables to vendors, which had grown substantially in the first quarter of 2004. Trade receivables also had a negative impact as they increased because of higher sales.

Cash used for investing activities was \$4.6 million for the second quarter 2004, compared to \$1.3 million for the second quarter 2003, the difference being attributable primarily to increased capital spending.

Cash used in operating and investing activities totaled \$5.2 million in the quarter. This cash requirement was funded by the combination of a net increase in debt of \$13.4 million and \$1.4 million of equity during the quarter. At the end of the quarter the Company had \$9.5 million of cash on its balance sheet.

First Half 2004

Net income for the first six months of the year was \$7.9 million, or \$0.19 per share (basic and diluted), compared to \$6.8 million or \$0.20 per share (basic and diluted) for the six months of 2003, primarily due to increased sales.

Sales for the first six months were \$334.0 million, up 9.9% compared to the corresponding period last year. Gross margin for the first six months decreased to 20.9% from 22.3% in the corresponding period last year. The margin decline in the first half of 2004 as compared to the first half of 2003 was due to several factors including raw material cost increases in both the first and second quarters of 2004, and in the first quarter of 2004 production interruptions at the Truro, Nova Scotia manufacturing facility, unanticipated integration costs at the Columbia facility related to the acquired duct and masking tape operations of tesa tape, inc., and changes in product mix.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$45.1 million, or 13.5% of sales, in the first six months of 2004, compared to \$42.8 million, or 14.1% of sales, for the first six months of 2003.

Financial expenses in the first six months were \$14.0 million, compared to \$15.5 million for the first six months last year. The lower financial expenses reflect primarily the impact of debt reduction and a lower interest rate.

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For the first six months the Company recorded income tax expense of \$0.4 million, for an effective tax rate of 4.4%, compared to income tax expense of \$0.8 million and effective tax rate of 10.1% in the first six months of 2003. In the first quarter of 2004, the Company booked a net tax recovery of \$0.3 million.

Cash flows from operating activities were \$5.8 million for the first six months of 2004, compared to \$11.1 million for the first six months of 2003, due primarily to changes in working capital.

Cash used for investing activities was \$16.5 million for the first six months of 2004, compared to \$5.7 million for the first six months of 2003, the difference being attributable primarily to the acquisition of assets from, and finalization of the supply agreements with, tesa tape, inc. and higher capital spending.

Cash used in investing activities exceeded cash from operating activities by \$10.7 million in the first six months. This cash requirement was funded by the combination of a net increase in debt of \$19.2 million and \$2.4 million of equity during the period.

Balance Sheet

Just following the end of the second quarter, the Company undertook a complete refinancing of the debt portion of its capital structure. Virtually all of its previously existing debt has been replaced with a combination of \$125.0 million in senior subordinated notes due 2014 and a \$200.0 million 7 year term loan. Following the repayment of the previously existing debt, associated premiums, accrued interest and transaction fees, there was approximately \$20.0 million in cash remaining. At the same time, the Company has entered into an agreement for a 5 year \$75.0 million revolving credit facility.

"There are a number of benefits to the Company as a result of these financing arrangements," commented Mr. Archibald. "For one, the Company expects to realize substantial interest cost savings. Based on current interest rates and the existing level of debt at the end of the second quarter, the expected savings would be about \$9.0 million a year. However, given that the outstanding debt has been increased since then, in part to pay the transaction costs, the net savings will likely be closer to \$7.0 million per year. In addition, due to new repayment terms, the Company's repayment obligations over the next eighteen months have been significantly reduced from \$84.0 million to \$2.0 million plus a pre-defined partial cash sweep, freeing up additional cash resources in the near term. The new financing arrangements also represent an important source of funds. With the cash remaining following the debt repayments and the revolving credit facility, which has not yet been drawn, we will have about \$95.0 million of available liquidity to support future growth. The Company will also have increased flexibility because of improved covenants." Mr. Archibald also added: "With these changes to our debt capital and the equity issue we completed in the third quarter last year, we feel our balance sheet is sound and positioned for growth."

In the third quarter of 2004, the Company will record a one-time pretax charge of approximately \$31.0 million associated with the refinancing transactions.

Outlook

In connection with ongoing cost reduction efforts, the Company is

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reviewing the effectiveness of its manufacturing facilities and expects to announce a plant consolidation during the second half of the year. Should the consolidation occur, it is anticipated that the Company would record a related one-time pretax charge not to exceed \$4.0 million.

"Our sales growth year-to-date is 9.9%, which is well in line with our full year target of 10%," said Mr. Yull. "Looking forward to the remainder of the year, we still feel confident about our sales objective. However, the uncertainty surrounding the direction of raw material costs and the ability of our markets to absorb further price increases causes us to be more cautious about our expectations for the trajectory of our bottom line growth. We have already experienced further cost increases since the end of the second quarter for key raw materials such as polypropylene and polyethylene, and have announced sales price increases for the third quarter that will hopefully recover these cost increases."

(All figures in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise stated; June 30, 2004, exchange rate: Cdn \$1.3460 =U.S.\$1.00)

Conference Call

A conference call to discuss IPG's second quarter results will be held Friday, August 13, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. Participants may dial 1-888-428-4478 (U.S. and Canada) and 1-651-291-5254 (International). The conference call will also be simultaneously webcast on the Company's website at <http://www.intertapepolymer.com>.

You may access a replay of the call by dialing 1-800-475-6701 (U.S. and Canada); 1-320-365-3844 (International) and entering the passcode 41743. The recording will be available from Friday, August 13, 2004 at 5:00 P.M. until Friday, August 20, 2004 at 11:59 P.M., Eastern Standard Time.

About Intertape Polymer Group Inc.

Intertape Polymer Group is a recognized leader in the development and manufacture of specialized polyolefin plastic and paper based packaging products and complementary packaging systems for industrial and retail use. Headquartered in Montreal, Quebec and Sarasota/Bradenton, Florida, the Company employs approximately 2600 employees with operations in 16 locations, including 12 manufacturing facilities in North America and one in Europe.

Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements and information included in this release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Federal Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. Additional discussion of factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from management's projections, estimates and expectations is contained in the Company's SEC filings. The Company undertakes no duty to update its forward-looking statements, including its earnings outlook.

Selected Financial Information

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Intertape Polymer Group Inc.
 Consolidated Earnings
 Period ended June 30,
 (In thousands of US dollars, except per share amounts)
 (Unaudited)

	Three months		Six months	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sales	171,934	150,249	334,034	303,841
Cost of sales	134,097	116,166	264,083	235,959
Gross profit	37,837	34,083	69,951	67,882
Selling, general and administrative expenses	22,793	20,830	45,100	42,812
Stock-based compensation expense	351		421	
Research and development	1,153	1,086	2,115	1,980
Financial expenses	7,235	7,825	14,003	15,525
	31,532	29,741	61,639	60,317
Earnings before income taxes	6,305	4,342	8,312	7,565
Income taxes	654	439	370	761
Net earnings	5,651	3,903	7,942	6,804
Earnings per share				
Basic	0.14	0.12	0.19	0.20
Diluted	0.14	0.12	0.19	0.20

Consolidated Retained Earnings
 Periods ended June 30,
 (In thousands of US dollars)
 (Unaudited)

	Three months		Six months	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of period	70,582	53,015	68,291	50,114

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Net earnings	5,651	3,903	7,942	6,804
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Balance, end of period	76,233	56,918	76,233	56,918
	-----	-----	-----	-----

Common shares

Average number of shares
outstanding

CDN GAAP - Basic	41,215,111	33,832,527	41,092,785	33,826,800
CDN GAAP - Diluted	41,396,403	33,912,232	41,429,232	33,885,377
U.S. GAAP - Basic	41,215,111	33,832,527	41,092,785	33,826,800
U.S. GAAP - Diluted	41,396,403	33,912,232	41,429,232	33,885,377

Intertape Polymer Group Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheets
As at
(In thousands of US dollars)

	June 30, 2004 (Unaudited)	June 30, 2003 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2003 (Audited)
	----- \$	----- \$	----- \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash	9,488		
Trade receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,037 (\$3,640 in June 2003, \$3,911 in December 2003)	101,201	91,514	89,297
Other receivables	11,353	10,357	11,852
Inventories	73,213	71,896	69,956
Parts and supplies	13,301	12,837	13,153
Prepaid expenses	5,761	6,139	7,924
Future income tax assets	2,682	2,397	2,682
	-----	-----	-----
	216,999	195,140	194,864
Property, plant and equipment	357,227	357,447	354,627
Other assets	13,181	14,014	12,886
Future income taxes	4,457		3,812
Goodwill	176,231	165,633	173,056
	-----	-----	-----
	768,095	732,234	739,245
	-----	-----	-----
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Bank indebtedness		25,391	13,944
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	91,834	83,799	95,270
Instalments on long-term debt	1,958	20,300	16,925
	-----	-----	-----
	93,792	129,490	126,139
Long-term debt	290,240	274,152	235,066

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Other liabilities	530	3,530	530
Future income taxes		5,164	
	<u>384,562</u>	<u>412,336</u>	<u>361,735</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Capital stock and share purchase warrants	289,219	246,362	286,841
Contributed surplus	3,701		3,150
Retained earnings	76,233	56,918	68,291
Accumulated currency translation adjustments	14,380	16,618	19,228
	<u>383,533</u>	<u>319,898</u>	<u>377,510</u>
	<u>768,095</u>	<u>732,234</u>	<u>739,245</u>

Intertape Polymer Group Inc.
Consolidated Cash Flows
Periods ended June 30,
(In thousands of US dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Three months		Six months	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net earnings	5,651	3,903	7,942	6,804
Non-cash items				
Depreciation and amortization	7,514	6,724	14,637	13,363
Stock-based compensation expense	351		421	
Future income taxes	310	439	(586)	760
Cash flows from operations before changes in non-cash working capital items	<u>13,826</u>	<u>11,066</u>	<u>22,414</u>	<u>20,927</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital items				
Trade receivables	(2,163)	3,649	(12,248)	(2,722)
Other receivables		334	487	116
Inventories	(3,366)	(4,300)	(3,878)	(8,147)
Parts and supplies	43	(224)	(148)	(124)
Prepaid expenses	1,039	698	2,140	1,845
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(9,935)	(286)	(2,997)	(808)
	<u>(14,382)</u>	<u>(129)</u>	<u>(16,644)</u>	<u>(9,840)</u>
Cash flows from operating activities	(556)	10,937	5,770	11,087

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INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Property, plant and equipment	(4,055)	(2,629)	(9,875)	(5,080)
Business acquisition			(5,500)	
Goodwill	(58)		(58)	
Other assets	(501)	1,345	(1,064)	(608)
Cash flows from investing activities	(4,614)	(1,284)	(16,497)	(5,688)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Net change in bank indebtedness	15,907	6,343	20,840	15,175
Issue of long-term debt			787	
Repayment of long-term debt	(2,477)	(15,852)	(2,477)	(21,117)
Issue of common shares	1,408		2,378	
Cash flows from financing activities	14,838	(9,509)	21,528	(5,942)
Net increase (decrease) in cash position	9,668	144	10,801	(543)
Effect of currency translation adjustments	(180)	(144)	(1,313)	543
Cash position, beginning of period				
Cash position, end of period	9,488		9,488	

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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