

THORATEC CORP  
Form 8-K  
February 29, 2008

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 26, 2008**

**THORATEC CORPORATION**

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

**California**

**000-49798**

**94-2340464**

*(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)*

*(Commission  
File Number)*

*(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)*

**6035 Stoneridge Drive  
Pleasanton, California 94588**

(Address of principal executive offices including zip code)

**(925) 847-8600**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(e)

On February 26, 2008, the Compensation and Option Committee of Thoratec Corporation (the Company), approved the Thoratec Corporation Corporate Executive Incentive Plan FY2008 (the 2008 Corporate Plan) and the International Technidyne Corporation Executive Incentive Plan FY2008 (the 2008 ITC Plan, and collectively the Plans), pursuant to which certain members of management, including the current executive officers, may receive bonuses for 2008.

Gerhard F. Burbach, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, David V. Smith, the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and David A. Lehman, the Company's Senior Vice President and General Counsel, are participants in the 2008 Corporate Plan and Lawrence Cohen, the President of International Technidyne Corporation, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, is a participant in the 2008 ITC Plan. The bonuses under each Plan are based on a specified target bonus percentage of a participant's 2008 base salary and are payable based on the achievement of two Company-oriented financial goals and the achievement of personal performance objectives individually specified for each participant. The Company-oriented financial goals vary depending on the specific Plan and are based on Thoratec's 2008 revenue and pre-bonus non-GAAP income before tax for the 2008 Corporate Plan and ITC 2008 revenue and non-GAAP pre-bonus income from operations for the 2008 ITC Plan. The management business objectives are personalized for each participant. In addition to the target bonus, a participant may earn an additional bonus amount if the Company or ITC exceeds their target non-GAAP income before tax /non-GAAP income from operations goal, as applicable. Assuming each of the Company-oriented financial goals is fully achieved in 2008, the target earnings/income goals are not exceeded, and each of the executive officers achieves all of their personal performance objectives, the maximum dollar amounts of target bonuses that would be paid to the executive officers are set forth in the table below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>2008 Target Bonus</b>
Gerhard F. Burbach	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director	\$425,000
David V. Smith	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$263,925
Lawrence Cohen	President of International Technidyne Corporation	\$220,500
David A. Lehman	Senior Vice President and General Counsel	\$156,060

**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 hereunto duly authorized.

Dated as of February 28, 2008

**THORATEC CORPORATION**

By: /s/ Gerhard F. Burbach  
Gerhard F. Burbach  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*