

OFFICEMAX INC  
Form 425  
February 20, 2013

Filed by Office Depot, Inc.

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under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: OfficeMax Incorporated

Commission File No. 1-05057

Date: February 20, 2013

## **MERGER**

### **CEO Video Message**

Earlier this morning, we announced an agreement to merge with OfficeMax bringing together two of our industry's leading brands to create a stronger, more efficient global provider of office products, services and solutions.

I wanted to share with you my excitement about the transaction as well as provide some additional context around today's announcement.

I believe I speak for both our Board of Directors and our Executive Committee when I say that for Office Depot and OfficeMax, this is the right opportunity at the right time.

Most of you have seen firsthand the changes that are impacting our industry and what that means for our business.

We are confident that this merger will serve as a foundation for delivering value to all stakeholders, as we strive to build a more competitive and efficient enterprise in a fragmented and rapidly changing industry.

We believe that as a combined company we will be even better positioned to meet the evolving needs of consumers and business customers of all sizes and types as well as offer new opportunities for our associates become a more attractive partner to our vendors and increase shareholder value.

Office Depot and OfficeMax are an excellent strategic fit.

We share a similar vision and culture, and we will greatly benefit from drawing on the industry's most talented people combining our best practices and realizing significant savings by operating as one company.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2013 and, during that time, a number of important decisions will be made.

The Boards of both companies will initiate a search for a CEO of the combined company. That search will include external candidates as well as candidates from within both companies.

The rest of the management team will also be appointed, including experienced leaders from both companies.

The combined company's name, marketing brands and corporate headquarters location are expected to be determined following the appointment of key management positions.

I will remain CEO of Office Depot until the transaction closes and a CEO is named for the combined company.

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Co-leaders from each respective company have been appointed to lead the integration process.

Together, the team will develop an integration plan designed to utilize the strengths and scale of the two companies and ensure a smooth and productive transition.

Until the transaction is completed, both Office Depot and OfficeMax will operate as separate companies.

Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to execute our strategic and operating plans and not lose focus on taking care of both our internal and external customers.

We understand that going through a change like this can be difficult. And we are committed to keeping you updated as we move forward throughout this process.

Your senior leadership team will be meeting with you regularly to provide information, answer questions, and gather feedback.

This merger represents a new beginning for our two companies as it will allow us to build a more competitive enterprise for the long term.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to Office Depot.

#### **NO OFFER OR SOLICITATION**

This communication is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy or an invitation to purchase or subscribe for any securities or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction in connection with the transaction or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. No offer of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

#### **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC**

Office Depot, Inc. ( Office Depot ) will file with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include the Joint Proxy Statement of Office Depot and OfficeMax Incorporated ( OfficeMax ) that also constitutes a prospectus of Office Depot. Office Depot and OfficeMax plan to mail the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus to their respective shareholders in connection with the transaction. **INVESTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OFFICE DEPOT, OFFICEMAX, THE TRANSACTION AND RELATED MATTERS.** Investors and shareholders will be able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC by Office Depot and OfficeMax through the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, investors and shareholders will be able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed by Office Depot with the SEC by contacting Office Depot Investor Relations at 6600 North Military Trail, Boca Raton, FL 33496 or by calling 561-438-3657, and will be able to obtain free copies of the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus and other documents filed by OfficeMax by contacting OfficeMax Investor Relations at 263 Shuman Blvd., Naperville, Illinois 60563 or by calling 630-864-6800.

#### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION**

Office Depot and OfficeMax and their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the respective shareholders of Office Depot

and OfficeMax in respect of the transaction described the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of the respective shareholders of Office Depot and OfficeMax in connection with the proposed transaction, including a description of their direct or indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be set forth in the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus when it is filed with the SEC. Information regarding Office Depot's directors and executive officers is contained in Office Depot's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 29, 2012 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated March 15, 2012, which are filed with the SEC. Information regarding OfficeMax's directors and executive officers is contained in OfficeMax's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated March 20, 2012, which are filed with the SEC.

#### **OFFICE DEPOT SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT**

This communication may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 concerning Office Depot, the merger and other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, Office Depot's long-term credit rating and its revenues and operating earnings. These statements or disclosures may discuss goals, intentions and expectations as to future trends, plans, events, results of operations or financial condition, or state other information relating to Office Depot, based on current beliefs of management as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management. Forward-looking statements generally will be accompanied by words such as anticipate, believe, plan, could, estimate, expect, forecast, guidance, intend, may, possible, potential, similar words, phrases or expressions. These forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are outside of Office Depot's control. Therefore, investors and shareholders should not place undue reliance on such statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include adverse regulatory decisions; failure to satisfy other closing conditions with respect to the merger; the risks that the new businesses will not be integrated successfully or that Office Depot will not realize estimated cost savings and synergies; Office Depot's ability to maintain its current long-term credit rating; unanticipated changes in the markets for its business segments; unanticipated downturns in business relationships with customers or their purchases from Office Depot; competitive pressures on Office Depot's sales and pricing; increases in the cost of material, energy and other production costs, or unexpected costs that cannot be recouped in product pricing; the introduction of competing technologies; unexpected technical or marketing difficulties; unexpected claims, charges, litigation or dispute resolutions; new laws and governmental regulations. The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive. Investors and shareholders should carefully consider the foregoing factors and the other risks and uncertainties that affect Office Depot's business described in its Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other documents filed from time to time with the SEC. Office Depot does not assume any obligation to update these forward-looking statements.