

LINCOLN ELECTRIC HOLDINGS INC

Form 8-K

March 20, 2006

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**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): March 20, 2006**

**LINCOLN ELECTRIC HOLDINGS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

0-1402

(Commission File Number)

**Ohio**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**34-1860551**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**22801 St. Clair Avenue**

**Cleveland, Ohio 44117**

(Address of principal executive offices, with zip code)

**(216) 481-8100**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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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EX-99.1 Press Release Dated March 20, 2006

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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On March 20, 2006, Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc. (the Company ) issued a press release announcing that employees of its U.S. company hired on or after January 1, 2006 will be covered under a newly enhanced 401(k) defined contribution plan. Current employees of the U.S. company can choose to remain in the Company s existing retirement program or switch to a new program offering enhanced defined contribution benefits, improved vacation and a reduced defined benefit. A copy of the Company s press release issued on March 20, 2006 is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference and also is available through the Company s website at [www.lincolnelectric.com](http://www.lincolnelectric.com).

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

**(d) Exhibits.**

99.1 Press Release of Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc. dated March 20, 2006.

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**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.

**LINCOLN ELECTRIC HOLDINGS, INC.**

Date: March 20, 2006

By: /s/ Frederick G. Stueber  
**Frederick G. Stueber**  
**Senior Vice President, General**  
**Counsel and Secretary**

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| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 99.1                  | Press release dated March 20, 2006. |