SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 FORM 8-K **CURRENT REPORT** Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 Date of Report: December 17, 2003 (Date of earliest event reported) HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES INTERNATIONAL, INC. (Exact name of registrant as specified in the charter) Delaware 000-25837 36-2681268 (IRS Employer Identification No.) (State or other jurisdiction (Commission File No.) of incorporation)

233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 4200 Chicago, Illinois 60606-6303 (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

312-496-1200 (Registrant's telephone number including area code)

n/a (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events

On December 17, 2003, Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc. issued a press release announcing that Kevin J. Smith, the Chief Financial Officer, will leave the company on March 31, 2004. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

Pescription

99.1

Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc.
Press Release Dated December 17, 2003

NOTE: The information in this report (including the exhibit) is furnished pursuant to Item 9 and shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section. The inclusion of the information contained herein will not be deemed an admission as to the materiality of any of this information.

SIGNATURE

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

HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

/s/ Fritz E. Freidinger

Fritz E. Freidinger, Secretary

Dated: December 17, 2003

HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES ANNOUNCES CFO KEVIN SMITH TO LEAVE THE FIRM

CHICAGO (December 17, 2003)—Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc. (Nasdaq: HSII), the world's premier executive search and leadership consulting firm, today announced that Kevin J. Smith, Chief Financial Officer, will leave the company on March 31, 2004.

"Kevin has made a number of important contributions to the firm, including a dramatic realignment of our cost structure" said Thomas J. Friel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "He has used his considerable talent and experience in restructuring situations to bring us through the downturn in the economy. With most of this work behind us, Kevin has expressed a desire to look for another opportunity outside the firm that will leverage his particular expertise."

Smith, who joined Heidrick & Struggles as CFO in January 2002, will remain with the company through the first quarter of 2004 to oversee the year-end closing and public reporting process. A search has been initiated for his successor.

About Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc.

Heidrick & Struggles International, Inc. is the world's premier provider of senior-level executive search, interim executive placement, and leadership services, including executive assessment and professional development. For 50 years, we have focused on quality service and built strong leadership teams through our relationships with clients and individuals worldwide. Today, Heidrick & Struggles leadership experts operate from principal business centers in North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia Pacific. For more information about Heidrick & Struggles, visit www.heidrick.com.

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