

THORATEC CORP  
Form S-8  
April 30, 2008

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission  
on April 30, 2008

Registration No. 333-

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
THORATEC CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**California** **94-2340464**  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. employer identification No.)  
incorporation or organization)

**6035 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, California 94588**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**2002 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**  
(Full title of the Plan)

**Gerhard F. Burbach  
Thoratec Corporation  
6035 Stoneridge Drive  
Pleasanton, California 94588**

(Name and address of agent for service)  
**(925) 847-8600**

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of securities to be registered</b>	<b>Amount to be registered (1)</b>	<b>Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)</b>	<b>Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)</b>	<b>Amount of registration fee</b>
2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Common Stock, no par value	250,000	\$15.93	\$3,982,500	\$157

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a), this Registration Statement shall also cover any

additional  
Common Stock  
that may be  
offered or  
issued in  
connection with  
any stock split,  
stock dividend  
or similar  
transaction  
effected without  
the receipt of  
consideration,  
which results in  
an increase in  
the number of  
the outstanding  
shares of  
Common Stock.

- (2) Estimated solely  
for the purpose  
of computing  
the amount of  
the registration  
fee pursuant to  
Rule 457(c)  
under the  
Securities Act  
of 1933, as  
amended, the  
price per share  
and aggregate  
offering price  
are based upon  
the average of  
the high and low  
prices per share  
of Common  
Stock of  
Thoratec  
Corporation on  
April 24, 2008  
as reported on  
the NASDAQ  
Global Select  
Market.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE  
PURSUANT TO GENERAL INSTRUCTION E OF FORM S-8**

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is filed by Thoratec Corporation, a California corporation ( Thoratec ), relating to 250,000 shares of its common stock, no par value per share (the Common Stock ), issuable to eligible employees and consultants of Thoratec and its affiliates under the 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Stock Purchase Plan ). On June 19, 2002 and June 15, 2006, Thoratec filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission ) Registration Statements on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-90768 and No. 333-135047, respectively) and on July 1, 2002 Thoratec filed with the Commission Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement No. 333-90768 (together, the Prior Registration Statements ) relating to shares of Common Stock issuable to eligible employees and consultants of Thoratec and its affiliates under the Stock Purchase Plan. The Prior Registration Statements are currently effective. This Registration Statement relates to securities of the same class as those to which the Prior Registration Statements relate and is submitted in accordance with Section E of the General Instructions to Form S-8 regarding Registration of Additional Securities.

**ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The following documents filed with the Commission by Thoratec are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

- (a) Thoratec s Registration Statement on Form S-8, as amended on Form S-8 POS (Registration No. 333-90768), filed with the Commission on June 19, 2002 and July 1, 2002, respectively;
- (b) Thoratec s Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-135047), filed with the Commission on June 15, 2006;
- (c) Thoratec s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2007, including all material incorporated by reference therein;
- (d) The description of Thoratec s common stock contained in Thoratec s registration statement on Form 8-A, filed May 18, 1981, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ( Exchange Act ), including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating that description; and
- (e) The description of Thoratec s Rights Agreement and Preferred Stock Purchase Rights contained in Thoratec s registration statement on Form 8-A, filed May 3, 2002, under the Exchange Act, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating that description.

All documents subsequently filed by Thoratec pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be part thereof from the date of filing of such documents; provided, however, that Thoratec is not incorporating any information furnished in any Current Report on Form 8-K.

Any document, and any statement contained in a document, incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein, or in any other subsequently filed document that also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such document or statement. Any such document or statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement. Subject to the foregoing, all information appearing in this Registration Statement is qualified in its entirety by the information appearing in the documents incorporated by reference herein.

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**ITEM 8. EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
5.1	Opinion of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
23.2	Consent of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP (contained in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature pages to this Registration Statement on Form S-8)
99.1	2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (1)

(1) Filed as an Exhibit to Thoratec's Form S-8 POS filed with the SEC on July 1, 2002 (Registration No. 333-90768) and incorporated herein by reference.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form S-8 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Pleasanton, State of California, on this 30th day of April, 2008.

THORATEC CORPORATION

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

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KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Gerhard F. Burbach and David A. Lehman, and each of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to act for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-8 and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing which they, or any of them, may deem necessary or advisable to be done in connection with this Registration Statement on Form S-8 as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or any substitute or substitutes for any or all of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

In accordance with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of Thoratec Corporation and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ Gerhard F. Burbach Gerhard F. Burbach	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director	April 30, 2008
/s/ David V. Smith David V. Smith	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	April 30, 2008
/s/ Neil F. Dimick Neil F. Dimick	Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors	April 30, 2008
/s/ J. Donald Hill J. Donald Hill	Director and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors	April 30, 2008
/s/ Howard E. Chase Howard E. Chase	Director	April 30, 2008
/s/ J. Daniel Cole J. Daniel Cole	Director	April 30, 2008
/s/ Steven H. Collis Steven H. Collis	Director	April 30, 2008
/s/ Elisha W. Finney Elisha W. Finney	Director	April 30, 2008

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/s/ D. Keith Grossman

Director

April 30, 2008

D. Keith Grossman

/s/ Daniel M. Mulvena

Director

April 30, 2008

Daniel M. Mulvena

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