File pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) Registration No. 333-109171

Prospectus Supplement (to Prospectus dated October 21, 2003)

GRIFFON CORPORATION 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SENIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023

This Prospectus Supplement supplements the Prospectus dated October 21, 2003 relating to \$130,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 4.0% Contingent Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes Due 2023 and the shares of our common stock into which those Notes are convertible.

The following are the Selling Securityholders at the date of this Prospectus Supplement. We obtained the information about Notes beneficially owned and that may be offered by the Prospectus, and about shares of Common stock beneficially owned, from the individual Selling Securityholders. We have not attempted to verify that information.

Name of Selling Securityholder (1)	Principal Amount of Notes Beneficially Owned Prior to this Offering		Principal Amount of Notes Offered by This Prospectus		Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to this Offering(2)	Con	Number of Shares of Common Stock Offered by This Prospectus(2)	
Alpine Associates	\$	3,100,000	\$	3,100,000	128,470		128,470	
Alpine Partners, L.P.	\$	400,000	\$	400,000	16,576		16,576	
Black Diamond Convertible Offshore LC	\$	1,089,000	\$	1,089,000	45,130		45,130	
Black Diamond Offshore Ltd.	\$	607,000	\$	607,000	25,155		25,155	
Double Black Diamond Offshore LDC	\$	3,188,000	\$	3,188,000	132,117		132,117	
Durango Investments L.P.	\$	5,000,000	\$	5,000,000	207,210		207,210	
Grace Convertible Arbitrage Fund, Ltd.	\$	3,000,000	\$	3,000,000	124,326		124,326	
Polaris Vega Fund L.P.	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	41,442		41,442	
DBAG London	\$	66,900,000	\$	66,900,000	2,772,482		2,772,482	
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	2,072		2,072	
Any other holders of notes or shares of common stock issued on conversion of notes and future transferees, pledgees,								
donees and successors thereof (3)	\$	45,666,000	\$	45,666,000	\$ 1,892,504	\$	1,892,504	
			_					
Total	\$	130,000,000	\$	130,000,000	5,387,484(4)		5,387,484	

(1) Information concerning the selling securityholders may change from time to time. Any such changed information will be set forth in amendments or supplements to this prospectus, if and when required.

- (2) Unless otherwise indicated, includes all shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes and assumes a conversion price of \$24.13 per share and a cash payment in lieu of any fractional share. However, this conversion price will be subject to adjustment as described under "Description of the Notes—Conversion Rights—Conversion Rate Adjustments." As a result, the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned prior to this offering and the number of shares of common stock offered hereby may increase or decrease in the future. Also assumes that the notes are convertible immediately. As described above under "Description of the Notes—Conversion Rights," the notes are convertible only in specified circumstances.
- (3) Information concerning other selling securityholders will be set forth in amendments or supplements to this prospectus, if required.
- (4) Assumes that any other holders of notes or shares of common stock issuable on conversion of notes and their respective transferees, pledgees, donees and successors do not beneficially own any common stock other than the common stock issued or issuable upon conversion of the notes.

November 4, 2003

QuickLinks

GRIFFON CORPORATION 4.0% CONTINGENT CONVERTIBLE SENIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES DUE 2023