BALLARD POWER SYSTEMS INC Form 40-F May 18, 2004

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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

Form 40-F

o Registration statement pursuant to section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

or

ý Annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003

Commission File Number 0-25270

Ballard Power Systems Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

CANADA

(Province or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

3261

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number (if applicable))

Not applicable

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number (if applicable))

4343 North Fraser Way Burnaby, British Columbia V5J 5J9 (604) 454-0900

Corporation Trust Company 1633 Broadway New York, New York 10019 (212) 894-8940

Address (including zip code) and telephone number (including area code) of agent for service in the United States)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

Title of each class
Not applicable

Name of each exchange on which registered
Not Applicable

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.

Common Shares

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.

Non-Applicable

For annual reports, indicate by check mark the information filed with	h this Form:
ý Annual information form	o Audited annual financial statements
Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's class annual report.	sses of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the
<u>118,187,87</u>	7 Common Shares
	tion contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the nge Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). If "Yes" is marked, indicate the filing
	No ý ts required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing
Yes ý	No o

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Registrant's management (with the participation of its chief executive officer and chief financial officer) conducted an evaluation pursuant to Rule 13a-15 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on this evaluation, the Registrant's chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that as of the end of the period covered by this report such disclosure controls and procedures were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Registrant in reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Undertaking

The Registrant undertakes to make available, in person or by telephone, representatives to respond to inquiries made by the Commission staff, and to furnish promptly, when requested to do so by the Commission staff, information relating to: the securities registered pursuant to Form 40-F; the securities in relation to which the obligation to file an annual report on Form 40-F arises; or transactions in said securities.

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 40-F and has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

Registrant: BALLARD POWER SYSTEMS INC.

Date: May 18, 2004

By (Signature and Title) /s/ NOORI

/s/ NOORDIN S. K. NANJI

Noordin S. K. Nanji Vice President, Corporate Strategy & Development and Corporate Secretary

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Annual Report for Ballard Power Systems Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2003, dated as of February 5, 2004 (incorporated by reference to the Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 17, 2004).
99.2	Annual Information Form for Ballard Power Systems Inc., dated as of March 31, 2004
99.3	Certification pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
99.4	Certification pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
99.5	Consent of KPMG LLP
99.6	Comments by Auditor for U.S. Readers on Canada-U.S. Reporting Difference

QuickLinks

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Undertaking

<u>Signatures</u>

EXHIBIT LIST