

WHITAKER ERIC S

Form 4

March 29, 2012

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
WHITAKER ERIC S

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3500 DEER CREEK ROAD

(Street)

PALO ALTO, CA 94304

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
TESLA MOTORS INC [TSLA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
03/28/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)

General Counsel

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	03/28/2012		M	3,833 A	\$ 24.98 3,833	D	
Common Stock	03/28/2012		S	3,833 D	\$ 37.95 0	D	
Common Stock	03/28/2012		M	333 A	\$ 24.98 333	D	
Common Stock	03/28/2012		S	333 D	\$ 37.95 0	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.98	03/28/2012		M ⁽¹⁾		333		⁽²⁾	11/08/2020	Common Stock	333
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.98	03/28/2012		M ⁽¹⁾		3,833		⁽²⁾	11/08/2020	Common Stock	3,833

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WHITAKER ERIC S 3500 DEER CREEK ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94304			General Counsel	

Signatures

/s/ Eric
Whitaker 03/28/2012

**Signature of
Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The sales reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on December 7, 2011.

(2)

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1/4th of the shares subject to the option become vested and exercisable one year from hire date and 1/48th of the shares subject to the option shall become vested and exercisable each month thereafter.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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