

KEY TECHNOLOGY INC
Form DEF 14A
January 05, 2015

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

Key Technology, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - 1 Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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- 1 Amount Previously Paid:
 - 2 Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - 3 Filing Party:
 - 4 Date Filed:
-

150 Avery Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To be held on February 4, 2015

To our Shareholders:

The 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Key Technology, Inc. will be held beginning at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the offices of Tonkon Torp LLP, 1600 Pioneer Tower, 888 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon, for the following purposes:

1. To elect two directors of the Company to three-year terms;
2. To consider advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers;
3. To ratify the selection of the Company's independent registered public accountants for fiscal 2015; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Only holders of record of the Company's Common Stock at the close of business on December 5, 2014 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Shareholders may vote in person or by proxy. The accompanying form of proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Ronald L. Greenman
Secretary

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND PROMPTLY RETURN YOUR PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

Walla Walla, Washington
January 5, 2015

INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

******* IMPORTANT NOTICE *******

Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders

To be held on February 4, 2015

The Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Shareholders are available at

<http://www.proxyvote.com>

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150 Avery Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

PROXY STATEMENT

2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Q: Why am I receiving these proxy materials?

Our Board of Directors is providing these proxy materials to you in order to solicit your proxy (i.e., your voting instructions) to vote your shares of Key Technology, Inc. common stock upon certain matters at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

We will refer to Key Technology, Inc. throughout as "we," "us," the "Company" or "Key."

Q: When did Key send the proxy solicitation materials?

The proxy solicitation materials were first sent on or about January 5, 2015 to all shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Q: Where is the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting will be held at the offices of Tonkon Torp LLP, 1600 Pioneer Tower, 888 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Q: Can I attend the Annual Meeting?

Yes. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting if you were a shareholder of record as of the close of business on December 5, 2014.

Q: What proposals will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, shareholders will be asked to vote on:

- Item 1. The election of two directors to hold office until the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders or until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified;
- Item 2. An advisory (non-binding) resolution to approve the compensation of our named executive officers;
- Item 3. The ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accountants for fiscal 2015; and
- Item 4. Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Q: What do I need to do now?

First, carefully read this document in its entirety. Then, vote your shares by following the instructions from your broker if your shares are held in "street name," or by one of the following methods:

Mark, sign, date and return your proxy card in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible; or

Attend the Annual Meeting and submit a properly executed proxy or ballot. If a broker holds your shares in "street name," you will need to obtain a legal proxy from your broker to vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Q: Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and how many votes do they have?

You may vote if you were a holder of record of our common stock as of the close of business on December 5, 2014, which was the record date for the Annual Meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote.

As of the record date, there were 6,296,839 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Q: How many shares must be present or represented to conduct business at the Annual Meeting?

The presence of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, or the holders of 3,148,420 shares, is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Such shareholders are counted as present at the meeting if they (1) are present in person at the Annual Meeting or (2) have properly submitted a proxy.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted as present for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, but will not be counted for or against any proposal.

Q: What is a broker non-vote?

For shares held through a broker or other nominee that is a New York Stock Exchange member organization, if a matter to be voted on is considered routine, the broker has discretion to vote the shares. If the matter to be voted on is determined to be non-routine, the broker may not vote the shares without specific instructions from the shareholder. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee holding shares does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee has not received instructions from the shareholder and does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item. Broker non-votes will not be counted for or against any proposal.

If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in its name, the broker is permitted to vote your shares on the ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accountants even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you.

Q: Can I vote my shares in person at the Annual Meeting?

Yes. Shares held in your name as the shareholder of record may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting, even if previously voted by another method.

It is important that your shares be represented at the Annual Meeting. Therefore, even if you plan to attend in person, we recommend that you submit your proxy as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Annual Meeting.

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Q: How can I vote my shares without attending the Annual Meeting?

You may direct how your shares are voted without attending the Annual Meeting whether you are the shareholder of record or whether your shares are held by a broker or other nominee on your behalf.

Shareholders of Record – If a proxy card in the accompanying form is properly signed, dated and returned prior to the voting at the Annual Meeting, the shares represented will be voted as instructed on the proxy card.

Shares Held by a Broker or Other Nominee on Your Behalf – You may vote by submitting voting instructions to your broker, trustee or nominee; please refer to the voting instructions provided to you by your broker, trustee or nominee.

Q: How will my shares be voted, as a shareholder of record, if I submit a proxy and do not make specific choices?

As a shareholder of record, if you submit a properly signed and dated proxy card but do not provide voting instructions, your shares will be voted “FOR” the election of all nominees to the Board of Directors; “FOR” the proposal regarding the advisory approval of the compensation of our named executive officers; and "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accountants for fiscal 2015.

Q: What if I abstain from voting?

If your shares are represented at the annual meeting, in person or by proxy, but you abstain from voting on a matter, or include instructions in your proxy to abstain from voting on a matter, your shares will be counted for the purpose of determining if a quorum is present, but will not be counted as either an affirmative vote or a negative vote with respect to that matter. With respect to the three items scheduled to be voted on at the meeting, abstentions will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on those proposals, assuming a quorum is present.

Q: What happens if additional matters are presented at the Annual Meeting?

If any other matters are properly presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting, including, among other things, consideration of a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting to another time or place, the persons named as proxies will use their discretionary authority to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment. We do not currently anticipate that any other matters will be raised at the Annual Meeting.

Q: Can I change or revoke my vote?

Yes. Any proxy may be revoked by a shareholder prior to its exercise by (1) filing with the Secretary of the Company, prior to your shares being voted at the Annual Meeting, a written notice of revocation or another duly executed proxy card, in either case dated later than the prior proxy relating to the same shares, or (2) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (although attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy). Any written notice of revocation or subsequent proxy card must be received by the Secretary of the Company prior to the taking of the vote at the Annual Meeting and should be hand delivered or sent to 150 Avery Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

Q: Who is soliciting votes and will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?

The Board of Directors is soliciting votes, and the Company will bear all costs of soliciting proxies. We have retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company to act as registrar and transfer agent, in return for which we pay a monthly fee of \$1,050. We have retained the services of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. for the solicitation of

voted proxies from brokers, nominees, institutions and individuals for a one time fee of \$13,123. In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited personally, without additional compensation, by our officers and employees or by telephone, facsimile, electronic transmission or express mail. We will reimburse brokerage houses, banks and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses incurred in forwarding proxies and proxy material to their principals.

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Q: Will a list of shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting be available?

Yes. In accordance with Oregon law, a list of shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available for inspection at the Annual Meeting and at our principal executive offices during regular business hours beginning on January 7, 2015 and continuing through the Annual Meeting.

Q: Where can I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?

We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and expect to disclose final results in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within four business days following the Annual Meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Q: How may I obtain a separate copy of the proxy materials?

We have adopted a practice called "householding" for mailing this proxy statement in an effort to reduce printing and postage costs. Under this practice, shareholders who share the same address will receive only one copy of our proxy materials and annual report, unless we receive contrary instructions from any shareholder at that address. If you prefer to receive your own copy of our proxy materials and annual report, please contact Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. at 1-800-690-6903 or by mail at 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717. You may also contact us or Broadridge if you received multiple copies of the proxy materials and annual report and would prefer to receive a single copy in the future.

Q: Can I access Key's proxy materials and Annual Report on Form 10-K on the Internet?

Yes. You can access this proxy statement and the 2014 Annual Report on our website at www.key.net. You may also obtain a copy of our proxy materials and 2014 Annual Report without charge upon request to: Investor Relations, Key Technology, Inc., 150 Avery Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

In addition, pursuant to rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials both by sending you this full set of proxy materials and by notifying you of the availability of our proxy materials on the Internet. The Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Shareholders are available at <http://www.proxyvote.com>. In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission rules, the materials on the site are searchable, readable and printable, and the site does not have "cookies" or other tracking devices which identify visitors.

Q: What is the deadline for receipt of shareholder proposals for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders?

Shareholders were entitled to present proposals for action and director nominations at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders only if they complied with the applicable requirements of the proxy rules established by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the applicable provisions of our bylaws. Shareholders must have ensured that such proposals and nominations were received no later than September 4, 2014 by the Secretary of the Company at our principal executive offices, 150 Avery Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

Any business intended to be presented by a shareholder at the 2016 Annual Meeting, but not included in the Board of Directors' proxy materials, must comply with Key's bylaws. Under our bylaws, notice of the proposed business must be given to the Secretary of the Company in writing on or before the close of business on September 4, 2015. The

notice must set forth as to each matter that the shareholder proposes to bring before the meeting (i) a brief description of the matter, (ii) the proposing shareholder's name and record address, (iii) the class and number of Key's shares that the shareholder beneficially owns, (iv) a description of all agreements, arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and any other person(s) (including their names and addresses) in connection with the proposal of such matter and any material interest of the shareholder in such matter, and (v) a representation that the shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the annual meeting to bring the proposed business before the meeting. If the written notice relates to a shareholder nomination of any

person to stand for election to the Board of Directors, please see page 7 of this Proxy Statement for additional information required to be included in the shareholder's written notice.

Q: How can I communicate with the Board of Directors?

Any shareholder or other interested party desiring to communicate with one or more directors, or a particular committee of the Board of Directors, may do so by addressing their written correspondence to Key Technology, Inc., Board of Directors, c/o Secretary, at our principal executive offices, 150 Avery Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362. The Secretary of the Company will promptly forward all such communications to the specified addressees, as appropriate.

Q. Who will count the vote?

The Secretary of the Company or his designee will act as Inspector of Election at the Annual Meeting and count the vote.

Q. Where can I obtain more information?

If you have questions about the Annual Meeting or about submitting your proxy, you may contact:

Investor Relations
Key Technology, Inc.
150 Avery Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362
(509) 394-3362
investorinfo@key.net

Requests for copies of the proxy materials and 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K should be sent to the Investor Relations address above. Notices of shareholder proposals, recommendations for candidates to the Board of Directors, communications to the Board of Directors, and any other communications should be sent to the address above to the attention of the Secretary of the Company.

INFORMATION ABOUT KEY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Q: Who is on Key's Board of Directors?

Our Board of Directors currently has seven members: John J. Ehren, Richard Lawrence, John E. Pelo, Michael L. Shannon, Charles H. Stonecipher, Donald A. Washburn and Frank L. A. Zwerts.

Q: How often are members elected?

The directors are divided into three classes. Currently, two classes consist of two directors and one class consists of three directors. Generally, one class stands for election each year for a three-year term.

Q: What if a nominee is unwilling or unable to serve?

Each nominee listed in this Proxy Statement has agreed to serve as a director, if elected. If for some unforeseen reason a nominee becomes unwilling or unable to serve, proxies will be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the proxy holders or the present Board of Directors.

Q: Which members of Key's Board of Directors are independent?

The Board of Directors has determined that a majority of its directors presently meet the independence standards established under the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the NASDAQ Global Market®. These directors are Messrs. Lawrence, Pelo, Shannon, Stonecipher and Washburn.

Q: How often did the Board of Directors meet in fiscal 2014?

During fiscal 2014, the Board of Directors held four meetings. No director attended fewer than 88% of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees of which he was a member during fiscal 2014.

The Board of Directors does not currently have a policy with regard to the attendance of Board members at the annual meeting of shareholders. All of our current directors attended our 2014 Annual Meeting.

Q: What are the minimum qualifications required to serve on Key's Board of Directors?

Qualifications for consideration as a Board nominee may vary according to the particular areas of expertise being sought as a complement to the existing Board composition. However, minimum qualifications include high-level leadership experience in business activities, breadth of knowledge about issues affecting the Company, experience on other boards of directors, preferably public company boards, and time available for meetings and consultation on Company matters.

In addition, nominees must possess certain basic personal and professional qualities in order to properly discharge their fiduciary duties to our shareholders, provide effective oversight of our management and monitor our adherence to principles of sound corporate governance. Specifically, nominees for election to our Board of Directors should possess the highest personal and professional ethics, integrity and values. They must also have an inquisitive and objective perspective, practical wisdom, and mature and experienced judgment. Directors must develop an understanding of our business and have a willingness to devote adequate time to carrying out their duties.

Q: How does the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee identify and evaluate nominees for director?

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee seeks a diverse group of candidates who possess the background, skills and expertise to make a significant contribution to the Board, to the Company and to its shareholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers potential candidates who may come to the attention of the Committee through current Board members, shareholders or other persons. In identifying candidates for membership on our Board of Directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee takes into consideration a number of factors, including: (i) relevant career experience, relevant technical skills, industry knowledge and experience, and financial expertise; (ii) individual qualifications, including strength of character, mature judgment, familiarity with our business or industry, independence of thought and the ability to work collegially; and (iii) the extent to which the candidate would fulfill a present need on our Board of Directors.

The Committee evaluates potential nominees by reviewing their qualifications, reviewing results of personal and reference interviews, and reviewing such other information as may be deemed relevant. Candidates whose evaluations are favorable are then chosen by a majority of the members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to be recommended for selection by the Board of Directors. The Board selects and recommends candidates for nomination as directors for shareholders to consider and vote upon at the annual meeting. We do not currently employ an executive search firm, or pay a fee to any third party, to locate qualified candidates for director positions.

Q: Are director nominees evaluated differently based on whether the nominee is recommended by a security holder or by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee?

No. Each candidate brought to the attention of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, regardless of who recommended such candidate and regardless of whether such candidate is recommended by a shareholder, is considered on the basis of the criteria set forth above.

Q: Does the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consider diversity in identifying nominees for director candidates?

Although we do not have a formal policy for the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide a diverse mix of skills, knowledge, attributes and experiences that cover the spectrum of areas that affect our business. In general, the composition of the Board is diversified across the following areas: (i) financial accounting, legal and corporate governance experience, and (ii) experience with our business and industry, including experience in global markets, experience with engineered products, and experience with international legal and regulatory frameworks. Candidates for vacant Board seats are considered in the context of current perceived needs of the Board as a whole. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee regularly assesses whether the mix of skills, experience and background of our Board as a whole is appropriate for the Company.

Q: What are the policies and procedures for considering director candidates recommended by shareholders?

A shareholder wishing to nominate a candidate for election to our Board of Directors at any annual meeting at which the Board has determined that one or more directors will be elected shall submit a written notice of his or her nomination of a candidate to our Secretary at our principal executive offices. The submission must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 120 calendar days before the date our proxy statement was released to shareholders in connection with the previous year's annual meeting. For the 2016 annual meeting, this date would be

September 4, 2015. However, if we did not hold an annual meeting the previous year, or if the date of this year's annual meeting has been changed by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's meeting, then the deadline is a reasonable time before we begin to print and mail our proxy materials.

A shareholder's notice to the Secretary in order to be valid must set forth (i) the name and address, as they appear on the Company's books, of the shareholder nominating such candidate; (ii) the class and number of shares of the Company which are beneficially owned by the shareholder; (iii) the name, age, business address and residence address of each nominee proposed in the notice; (iv) the principal occupation or employment of the nominee; (v) the number of shares of our common

stock beneficially owned by the nominee, if any; (vi) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and each nominee and any other person pursuant to which the shareholder is making the nomination; and (vii) any other information required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors or information otherwise required pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, relating to any person that the shareholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director, including the nominee's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected.

Q: Does Key have a code of ethics?

Yes. We have adopted the Key Technology, Inc. Code of Business Conduct and Ethics which applies to all of our directors and employees, including our chief executive officer and senior financial officers. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.key.net and will be provided without charge to any shareholder upon written request to: Investor Relations, Key Technology, Inc., 150 Avery Street, Walla Walla, Washington 99362. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics provides that any waiver of its applicability to any director or executive officer may be made only by the Board of Directors or an appropriately designated Board committee and will be publicly disclosed promptly to our shareholders.

Q: Does Key have a policy on hedging and pledging Company stock?

Yes. We have adopted the Key Technology, Inc. Policy on Hedging and Pledging Company Stock in order to demonstrate our commitment to aligning the interests of our directors and executive officers with those of our shareholders. The policy prohibits all directors and executive officers from engaging in short sales, publicly traded options, puts and calls, forward sale contracts, and other swap, hedging, and derivative transactions relating to Key securities. The policy also prohibits our directors and executive officers from holding our securities in margin accounts or pledging our securities as collateral for a loan without pre-clearance from either the President and Chief Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board.

Q: Are related-party transactions considered by Key's Board of Directors?

We follow a written policy that all proposed transactions by the Company with directors, officers, five percent shareholders and their affiliates be entered into only if such transactions are on terms no less favorable to the Company than could be obtained from unaffiliated parties, are reasonably expected to benefit the Company and are approved by a majority of the disinterested, independent members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.

Q: Did the Company undertake any shareholder engagement activities in fiscal 2014?

Our Board of Directors and management take shareholder concerns seriously and value insights from the Company's shareholders. Our 2014 shareholder engagement program included a live investor forum in April in New York to which all of the Company's shareholders were invited to attend either in person or via webcast. In addition, among other things, in fiscal 2014 management contacted our largest shareholders (representing over 50% of shares outstanding), our Chief Executive Officer met in person with almost all of our largest shareholders, and our non-executive Chairman of the Board communicated telephonically with several significant shareholders during the year to better understand their perspectives on the Company. Our management intends to continue these outreach and shareholder engagement efforts in fiscal 2015.

Q: What are the committees of the Board?

We maintain a standing Audit Committee, Compensation and Management Development Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. All of the committees are engaged in their respective areas of responsibility throughout the year, and frequently interact with the President and Chief Executive Officer in furtherance of the Committees' tasks and our goals and objectives.

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of three members: Mr. Pelo, Chairman, Mr. Stonecipher, and Mr. Lawrence. All of the Audit Committee members are independent, as defined under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on the Company's website at www.key.net. The function of the Audit Committee is to review the performance of, and recommend to

the Board of Directors the appointment of, the Company's independent registered public accountants; to review and approve the scope and proposed cost of the yearly audit; to review the financial information provided to shareholders and others; to review the Company's internal controls; to consult with and review recommendations made by the Company's independent registered public accountants with respect to financial statements, financial records and internal controls; to discuss with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures; to oversee the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies relating to the financial statements and the financial reporting process; and to make such other recommendations to the Board of Directors as it deems appropriate from time-to-time. The Audit Committee met twelve times during fiscal 2014.

Compensation and Management Development Committee. The Compensation and Management Development Committee consists of three members: Mr. Shannon, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Washburn. All of the Compensation and Management Development Committee members are independent, as defined under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market. The Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on the Company's website at www.key.net. The Committee is charged with reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to compensation of the Company's chief executive officer, evaluating the chief executive officer's performance in light of those goals and objectives, and determining and approving the compensation level of the chief executive officer based on this evaluation. The Committee is also charged with, among other matters, considering and making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the compensation of the senior executives of the Company, and considering, reviewing and granting awards under the Company's stock incentive plans and cash bonus plans for senior executives administered by the Committee. The Committee also oversees management development and succession plans for the Company. The Committee has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to make discretionary awards of restricted stock each year up to a pre-determined aggregate number of shares to non-executive managers, individual contributors, and new hires for the purposes of retention and recruitment. For fiscal 2014, the Committee authorized up to a cumulative total of 55,000 shares that may be awarded under this discretionary program. The Committee met four times during fiscal 2014, and on numerous other occasions during the year Committee members consulted with each other and with management in furtherance of the Committee's business.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of five members: Mr. Washburn, Chairman, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Pelo, Mr. Shannon and Mr. Stonecipher, all of whom are independent directors as defined under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market. The Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on the Company's website at www.key.net. The Committee is responsible for providing guidance and recommendations with respect to Board education and development, identifying qualified candidates who may become future members of the Board, and developing and monitoring compliance with corporate governance principles. The Committee met four times during fiscal 2014.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee receives suggestions for potential director nominees from many sources, including members of the Board of Directors, advisers, and shareholders. Any such nominations, together with appropriate biographical information, should be submitted to the Committee in accordance with the Company's policies governing submissions of nominees discussed above. Any candidates submitted by a shareholder or shareholder group will be reviewed and considered by the Committee in the same manner as all other candidates.

Q: What is the Board's leadership structure?

Our Board of Directors currently consists of John J. Ehren, President and Chief Executive Officer, Frank L.A. Zwerts, Chief Strategy Officer and President of Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEA), and five independent directors.

The Board elected to maintain separate chairman and chief executive officer positions to enhance corporate governance and management oversight. In February 2007, Mr. Stonecipher was elected Chairman of the Board. The Board believes that a board leadership structure in which the chairman and chief executive officer positions are separated is most appropriate for Key because it separates the leadership of the Board from the day-to-day leadership of the Company. The Board believes that an independent chairman better positions the Board to evaluate the performance of management and more efficiently facilitates the communication of the views of the independent directors. The Chairman and independent directors meet regularly in executive session and regularly review governance practices. All the Directors believe the separation of the roles of chairman and chief executive officer has contributed to effective corporate governance at the Company.

In his role as Chairman, Mr. Stonecipher is specifically responsible for enhancing Board effectiveness, in particular by ensuring the Board works as a cohesive team; ensuring that the Board has adequate resources and is presented with full, timely and relevant information; ensuring that there is a process in place to monitor best practices that relate to the responsibilities of

the Board; and by assessing the effectiveness of the overall Board, its committees and individual directors on a regular basis. He is also responsible for Board management, in particular by providing oversight on the agendas for Board and committee meetings; ensuring that the independent directors meet regularly without management present to discuss the effectiveness of the Chief Executive Officer and the Board, succession planning and strategic planning; and by chairing Board meetings.

Q: What is the Board's role in risk oversight?

Our senior management team is responsible for day-to-day risk management activities, while our Board of Directors, as a whole and on the committee level, is responsible for the overall supervision and oversight of our risk management activities.

The full Board considers risks among other factors in reviewing our strategy, business plan, budgets and major transactions. Future risks are anticipated and discussed as part of the strategic planning process. The full Board also receives periodic information from management about our risk areas and initiatives for addressing those risks. In addition, our outside counsel reports in person to the Board periodically on an as-needed basis to keep the directors informed concerning legal risks and other legal matters involving the Company.

The Board delegates certain of its risk oversight responsibilities to the committees of the Board. The committees report to the full Board as appropriate regarding their risk oversight activities, which include:

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee discusses with management on an as-needed basis our major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. The Audit Committee also oversees our risk assessment and risk management policies relating to the financial statements, internal controls and the financial reporting process. At each of its quarterly, in-person meetings, the Audit Committee meets privately with representatives from our independent registered public accounting firm. Finally, the Audit Committee receives quarterly reports from our management Disclosure Committee and regular reports regarding our testing and controls implemented in compliance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Compensation and Management Development Committee. The Compensation and Management Development Committee annually reviews our compensation policies and practices and succession plan, and monitors risks related to compensation and succession planning.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees risks related to our governance structures and processes.

Q: How are directors compensated?

Any member of the Board of Directors who is an employee of the Company is not separately compensated for serving on the Board of Directors. Compensation for independent, non-employee directors has been based upon an annual retainer of \$80,000, consisting of \$40,000 in cash and the equivalent of \$40,000 in restricted stock based upon the current market price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant, subject to the terms of the Company's 2010 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan. For fiscal 2014, the five independent directors were awarded an aggregate of 16,640 shares of restricted stock. These grants vest on the first anniversary of the date of grant. All directors receive reimbursement of their Board-related expenses. The Company does not pay meeting fees.

During fiscal 2014, the non-executive Chairman of the Board received an additional annual cash retainer of \$40,000, the Chairmen of the Audit Committee and of the Compensation and Management Development Committee each

received an additional annual cash retainer of \$10,000, and the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee received an additional annual cash retainer of \$5,000. Effective during the second, third and fourth quarters of fiscal 2015, the cash portion of each non-employee Director's Board compensation will be reduced by 25%.

Stock ownership guidelines for the Company's directors adopted by the Board of Directors call for the non-employee directors to own shares of the Company's common stock equal to not less than 33% of the total vested shares issued to the Director as restricted stock during the period of Board service with the Company.

The following table provides information as to compensation for services of the non-employee directors during fiscal 2014, including compensation attributed to them in 2014 as a result of stock option grants and restricted stock awards made in prior years:

Director Compensation

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Richard Lawrence	\$40,000	\$40,000	—	\$80,000
John E. Pelo	\$50,000	\$40,000	—	\$90,000
Michael L. Shannon	\$50,000	\$40,000	—	\$90,000
Charles H. Stonecipher	\$80,000	\$40,000	—	\$120,000
Donald A. Washburn	\$45,000	\$40,000	—	\$85,000

(1) The amounts reported represent the full grant date fair values for awards granted computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 and do not correspond to the actual value that may be realized by the directors.

(2) On February 5, 2014, each non-employee director then-serving was awarded 3,328 shares of restricted stock, the restrictions on which lapse one year from the grant date. The fair market value of the grant was \$12.02 per share calculated using the closing price reported on the NASDAQ Global Market on the grant date.

(3) Each of the non-employee directors held stock options and unvested restricted shares as of September 30, 2014 as follows:

Name	Stock Options	Restricted Shares
Richard Lawrence	—	3,328
John E. Pelo	5,000	3,328
Michael L. Shannon	—	3,328
Charles H. Stonecipher	5,000	3,328
Donald A. Washburn	—	3,328

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

INFORMATION ABOUT KEY'S DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYEES

(Item 1 on the Proxy Card)

Q: Who are this year's nominees for re-election to Key's Board of Directors and what particular qualifications led the Board to conclude that the person should serve as a director of the Company?

The two nominees recommended by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and nominated by the Board of Directors for re-election this year to serve until the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2018, or until their respective successors are elected and qualified, are Michael L. Shannon and Donald A. Washburn. Messrs. Shannon and Washburn are independent directors as defined under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market.

The table below sets forth the following information as of December 5, 2014 about this year's nominees for election to Key's Board of Directors: (i) name and age; (ii) all positions and offices currently held with the Company; (iii) the period of service as a director or officer of the Company; and (iv) the expiration of his current term as a director of the Company.

Name	Age	Positions	Has Been a Director or Officer Since	Expiration of Current Term
Michael L. Shannon †c ‡	64	Director	2000	2015
Donald A. Washburn † ‡c	70	Director	2003	2015

‡ Member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

† Member of the Compensation and Management Development Committee

c Committee Chair

Michael L. Shannon. Mr. Shannon has served as a director of the Company since 2000. Mr. Shannon has served as principal of The General Counsel Law Firm since 1994. From 2006 to 2010, he served as co-founder of Concerto Development LLC, a real estate development firm. From 1995 to 2004, he also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Data Access Technologies, Inc., a software company. Between 1985 and 1989, Mr. Shannon served as Associate General Counsel for the Santa Fe International Corporation and, from 1989 to 1993, as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of that corporation.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Shannon should continue to serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

Extensive knowledge of Key's business—Mr. Shannon has been a director of our Company for 14 years.

Knowledge of executive compensation strategies—Mr. Shannon has been the Chairman of the Compensation and Management Development Committee for eight years.

Extensive legal experience—Mr. Shannon has extensive legal and regulatory experience in heavy industry in multiple countries.

Donald A. Washburn. Mr. Washburn has been a director of the Company since 2003. He is a private investor. Mr. Washburn served as an Executive Vice President of Northwest Airlines, Inc. from 1995 to 1998, and as a Senior Vice President from 1990 to 1995. He also served as Chairman and President of Northwest Cargo, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northwest Airlines, Inc. from 1997 to 1998. Mr. Washburn served as a senior corporate officer of Marriott Corporation from 1980 to 1990, responsible for worldwide real estate development and acquisition activities and most recently as Executive Vice President, with general management responsibility for the Courtyard Hotel Division. Currently, Mr. Washburn serves as a trustee of LaSalle Hotel Properties, a real estate investment trust. Mr. Washburn also serves as a director of The Greenbrier

Companies, Inc., a supplier of transportation equipment and services to the railroad and related industries, and he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Amedisys, Inc., a multi-state provider of home healthcare nursing and therapy services.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Washburn should continue to serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

• Extensive knowledge of Key's business—Mr. Washburn has been a director of our Company for 11 years.

• Public company board experience—Mr. Washburn has over 11 years experience as an independent director on multiple public company boards of directors.

• Financial literacy and governance experience—Mr. Washburn is a retired senior executive with experience (i) developing and monitoring corporate financial strategies, (ii) analyzing investment proposals, and (iii) evaluating, planning and overseeing financial transactions and establishing and monitoring financial controls.

• Relevant executive officer experience—During Mr. Washburn's career, he has been responsible for developing and managing complex, multi-location business enterprises. Mr. Washburn was an Executive Vice President with global responsibilities at Northwest Airlines and an Executive Vice President with responsibilities for real estate development and hotel operating activities at Marriott Corporation. Mr. Washburn is also a former Chairman and President of Northwest Cargo.

Q: What is the voting requirement to approve the election of directors?

You may vote "FOR" or "WITHHOLD" on each of the nominees for election as director. A properly executed proxy marked "WITHHOLD" with respect to the election of a director will not be voted with respect to such director, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum present at the Annual Meeting. Proxies received from shareholders of record that do not contain voting instructions will be voted FOR each of the nominees for election as director. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in its name on your behalf, the broker or nominee is not permitted to vote your shares for the election of directors in the absence of voting instructions from you. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of the election of directors. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the Board of Directors if a quorum is present.

Q: How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote on this proposal?

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the election of Messrs. Shannon and Washburn.

* * *

Q: Which members of Key's Board of Directors are continuing in office and what particular qualifications led the Board to conclude that the person should serve as a director of the Company?

The table below sets forth the following information as of December 5, 2014 about members of Key's Board of Directors who are continuing in office: (i) name and age; (ii) all positions and offices currently held with the Company; (iii) the period of service as a director or officer of the Company; and (iv) the expiration of his current term as a director of the Company.

Name	Age	Positions	Has Been a Director or Officer Since	Expiration of Current Term
John E. Pelo * ^c ‡	58	Director	1998	2016
Charles H. Stonecipher * ‡	53	Chairman	2004	2016
Frank L. A. Zwerts	46	Director, Chief Strategy Officer, and President of EMEIA	2013	2016
John J. Ehren	54	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer	2008	2017
Richard Lawrence * ‡ †	62	Director	2007	2017

† Member of the Compensation and Management Development Committee

‡ Member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

* Member of the Audit Committee

^c Committee Chair

John E. Pelo. Mr. Pelo has served as a director of the Company since 1998. He has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Swire Coca-Cola USA, a subsidiary of Swire Pacific Ltd., since 1996. Swire Pacific is a diversified holding company with real estate, shipping, airline, trading, and soft drink interests in Asia and North America. Between 1984 and 1996, Mr. Pelo served as General Manager of one of Swire's soft drink operations in the United States.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Pelo should serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

Extensive knowledge of Key's business—Mr. Pelo has been a director of our Company for 16 years. Having been involved in the food and beverage business for over 25 years, he has a deep understanding of our business and operations.

Relevant Chief Executive Officer/President experience—Mr. Pelo is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of Swire Coca-Cola USA.

High level of financial literacy—Mr. Pelo has more than 30 years of experience evaluating complex financial statements and internal controls, and participating in audit committee activities.

Charles H. Stonecipher. Mr. Stonecipher has served as a director of the Company since 2004 and as the Board's Chairman since 2007. He is a Partner at Trilogy Equity Partners LLC, a private investment firm for which Mr. Stonecipher has served as an investment professional since 2008. Mr. Stonecipher served as Executive Vice President of Strategy and Corporate Development for Advanced Digital Information Corporation, a supplier of data storage solutions for client server computing networks, from 2005 to 2006, and as Executive Vice President of Product Development and Strategy from 2004 to 2005. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Digital Information Corporation from 1997 to 2004, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 1995 to 1997.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Stonecipher should serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

Extensive knowledge of Key's business—Mr. Stonecipher has been a director of our Company for ten years.

•

Relevant executive officer experience—Mr. Stonecipher is a former President and Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Digital Information Corporation.

Relevant product development experience—Mr. Stonecipher has extensive experience in bringing technology products to market.

Frank L.A. Zwerts. Mr. Zwerts was appointed a director of the Company in February 2013, in addition to his role as President of EMEIA (Europe, Middle East, India and Africa). In November 2013, Mr. Zwerts also assumed the role of Chief Strategy Officer of the Company. Mr. Zwerts joined the Company in February 2013, when the company he co-founded in 2004, Visys NV, a manufacturer of high-end digital sorters located in Belgium, was acquired by Key. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Zwerts was Executive Director of ABN Amro Rothschild, and from 1998 to 2001, Vice-President of Technology Banking at ING Barings LLC in London, where he had responsibility for technology investment banking and led several technology IPOs, mergers and acquisitions.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Zwerts should serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

High level of financial literacy—Mr. Zwerts has extensive knowledge of accounting and finance due to his five years of experience as an audit professional for KPMG, and his various senior roles in corporate finance and investment banking.

Extensive knowledge of international mergers and acquisitions for public and private companies—Mr. Zwerts has extensive experience with corporate finance transactions, spanning approximately ten years in investment banking and corporate finance roles for ABN Amro Rothschild and ING Barings.

Extensive knowledge of the food processing industry—Mr. Zwerts has approximately ten years of experience in the food processing industry, and has successfully managed high-growth, innovative companies.

Extensive knowledge of operations and technology in our industry—Mr. Zwerts has extensive knowledge of the technology used to serve the Company's industries due to his founding and leadership of Visys NV.

Extensive knowledge of international cultures and languages—Mr. Zwerts is fluent in English, French, and Dutch, and literate in German and Spanish.

John J. Ehren. Mr. Ehren was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Company in May 2012. While at Key, Mr. Ehren has held the following positions: Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (December 2011 to May 2012), Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (February 2008 to May 2012), and Senior Vice President of Global Operations (2010 and 2011). From 2004 to 2008, he served as Vice President of Global Operations of Planar Systems, Inc., a public company that provides flat panel display and system solutions for medical, transportation, industrial and retail applications. From 1997 to 2004, Mr. Ehren held several senior-level financial officer positions with Planar, including Corporate Controller and Treasurer. Between 1990 and 1997, he held Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Operations positions with two privately-held manufacturing companies. Mr. Ehren was employed by Ernst & Young, a public accounting firm, from 1985 to 1990, working primarily with high technology, manufacturing and software development clients.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Ehren should serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

Extensive knowledge of Key's business—Since joining the company in 2008, until his appointment as President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ehren held the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer while also taking on additional Company responsibilities including Global Operations, European Operations, and business unit General Manager. Further, in 2011, Mr. Ehren was appointed as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer with management responsibilities for all aspects of our business. This extensive exposure to every aspect of Key's business uniquely qualifies Mr. Ehren for his service as a director.

Relevant Chief Executive Officer/President experience—In addition to his responsibilities at Key, Mr. Ehren held various senior vice president positions for high technology manufacturing companies where he had domestic and

international operations and overall business responsibilities. This experience provides Mr. Ehren with the relevant background that is critical for his current role as a director of Key.

High level of financial literacy—Throughout his career, Mr. Ehren has held multiple chief financial officer positions and other financial officer positions with various companies. This vast experience with the financial workings of both Key and other companies uniquely positions Mr. Ehren to provide financially sound guidance in his role as a director.

Richard Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence has served as a director of the Company since 2007. He is an independent consultant and business advisor specializing in mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures. From 1996 to 2006, Mr. Lawrence served as Vice President of Worldwide Corporate Development of PepsiCo, Inc. He served in various other management positions with PepsiCo beginning in 1977 in engineering, and advanced into corporate and franchise development in 1985.

The Board has concluded that Mr. Lawrence should serve as a director of Key based on the following primary qualifications:

- Extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions—Mr. Lawrence has extensive experience in planning, implementing and integrating domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, as well as in corporate governance.

- Extensive knowledge of the food industry—Mr. Lawrence has over 30 years of experience in the food processing industry.

- Extensive knowledge of operations and engineering in our industry—Mr. Lawrence has extensive knowledge of the management and leadership of operations and engineering in our industry.

Messrs. Pelo, Stonechipper and Lawrence are independent, as defined under the rules of the NASDAQ Global Market.

Q: Who are Key's other executive officers?

The table below sets forth the following information as of December 5, 2014 about Key's other executive officers: (i) name and age; (ii) all positions and offices currently held with the Company; and (iii) the period of service as an executive officer of the Company.

Name	Age	Positions	Has Been an Officer Since
Jeffrey T. Siegal	51	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2013
Louis C. Vintro, Ph.D.	54	Senior Vice President of New Products and Business Development	2011
Stephen M. Pellegrino	55	Senior Vice President of Global Sales	2012
Michael L. Nichols, Ph.D.	66	Vice President of Global Aftermarket and Legacy Engineering	2012

Jeffrey T. Siegal. Mr. Siegal joined the Company in April 2013 as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. From 2008 to 2013, he served as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Schmitt Industries, Inc., a public company that designs, manufactures and markets precision test and measurement equipment. During this time, he also served as Managing Director of Schmitt Europe Ltd. Between 1999 and 2007, Mr. Siegal served as Corporate Controller and Treasurer of Planar Systems, Inc., a public company that provides flat panel display and system solutions for medical, transportation, industrial and retail applications. From 1991 to 1999, he served in several positions with Deloitte LLP in Portland, Oregon, most recently as Senior Manager. Mr. Siegal holds a BA in Business Administration and Accounting from San Jose State University, California. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Louis C. Vintro, Ph.D. Dr. Vintro was appointed Senior Vice President of New Products and Business Development of the Company in 2013. He served as Senior Vice President of Business Development and Global Operations from 2011, when he joined the Company, until 2013. From 2009 to 2011, Dr. Vintro served as Vice President and General Manager of the Semiconductor Division of ESI, Inc., a manufacturer of laser-based wafer fabrication equipment. From 2005 to 2009, Dr. Vintro served as Senior Director of Technical Programs for KLA - Tencor Corporation, a

manufacturer of laser-based particle inspection equipment. From 2001 to 2004, he served as Global Business Manager of BOC Edwards Kachina, now Applied Materials, Inc., a provider of semiconductor processing services. Dr. Vintro holds a PhD in Physics from Stanford University and an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He earned a BS in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Stephen M. Pellegrino. Mr. Pellegrino was appointed Senior Vice President of Global Sales of the Company in 2013. He served as Vice President of Sales from 2012 to 2013, and as Senior Director of North American Sales and Corporate Sales Operations from 2011 to 2012. From 2006 to 2011, he held the position of Director of U.S. and Canada Sales, and served as Director of Eastern Region Sales from 2000, when he joined the Company, until 2006. From 1981 to 2000, Mr. Pellegrino

worked in the Food Handling Equipment Operation of FMC Corporation, a provider of custom-engineered food processing solutions, where he held a number of positions including Sales and Marketing Manager of Food Handling Equipment from 1996 to 2000, Sales Manager of Major Accounts from 1995 to 1996, Product Manager for Aseco Equipment from 1993 to 1995, Food Industry Specialist from 1990 to 1993, and Field Sales Engineer from 1981 to 1990. Mr. Pellegrino holds a BS in Marketing from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Nichols, Ph.D. Dr. Nichols was appointed Vice President of Global Aftermarket and Legacy Engineering of the Company in 2013. Dr. Nichols joined the Company in 2010 as Senior Director of Research and Development, and served as Vice President of Research and Development from 2012 to 2013. From 1994 to 2010, Dr. Nichols worked for Planar Systems, Inc., serving in several capacities. From 2008 to 2010, he served in a dual role as Director of Operations, and as Site Director of Planar SAS Command and Control Systems Business Unit in Albi, France. During 2007, he served as Director of Programs in Operations. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Director of Engineering for Planar's Medical Business Unit, and in the same role for the Industrial Business Unit from 2002 to 2004. Between 2001 and 2002, Dr. Nichols served as Director of Sustaining Engineering and Customer Service. He served as Director of Manufacturing from 1995 to 2001 and, concurrently, also served as Business Area Manager of Traffic Controls Displays from 1998 to 1999. He served as Quality Assurance Manager from 1994 to 1995. Dr. Nichols holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Oregon State University, and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Q: Who are Key's other significant employees?

The table below sets forth the following information as of December 5, 2014 about Key's other significant employees (i) name and age; (ii) all positions and offices currently held with the Company; and (iii) the period of service as an employee of the Company.

Name	Age	Positions	Has Been an Employee Since
Steven R.S. Johnson	49	Senior Director of Global Marketing and Latin America and Asia Sales	2011
Shawn P. Prendiville	50	Senior Director of Global Operations	1991

Steven R.S. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was appointed Senior Director of Global Marketing and Latin America and Asia Sales for the Company in 2014. From 2012 to 2014, he served as Senior Director of Marketing. He joined the Company in 2011 as Product Marketing Manager of Process Systems. Previously, Mr. Johnson was with Gordon Composites, a manufacturer of technical composite products for recreational, commercial, industrial, defense and aerospace applications, where he served as Vice President and General Manager from 2004 to 2010, and as Manufacturing Systems Manager from 2002 to 2004. He served as Manufacturing Manager for IdaTech, a developer and producer of hydrogen fuel cell power systems, from 2000 to 2002. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Johnson was a Senior Manufacturing Engineer with Key Technology, Inc. Mr. Johnson holds a BS degree in Automotive Engineering from Weber State University, Utah.

Shawn P. Prendiville. Mr. Prendiville was appointed Senior Director of Global Operations of the Company in 2013. From 2011 to 2013, he served as Senior Director of North American Operations. Previously, he served as Director of Worldwide Sales Operations from 2009 to 2011, and as General Manager of the Company's Redmond Operations from 2007 to 2009. Between 2005 and 2007, Mr. Prendiville served as Director of Manufacturing, and as Manufacturing Manager of the Company's Process Systems division from 1996 to 2005. Mr. Prendiville joined the company in 1991 and served in several management and engineering capacities within the Project Engineering group before moving into Operations. Prior to joining Key in 1991, Mr. Prendiville was a Design Engineer with Strauser Manufacturing, Inc., a wood products manufacturing company. Mr. Prendiville holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from South

Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

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OTHER MATTERS TO BE VOTED UPON

PROPOSAL REGARDING ADVISORY APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF KEY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

(Item 2 on the Proxy Card)

Q: What am I voting on?

Key is providing shareholders with the opportunity at the 2015 Annual Meeting to vote on an advisory resolution, commonly known as "say-on-pay," considering approval of the compensation of Key's named executive officers in fiscal 2014. Such compensation is described on pages 21 through 34 of this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation and Management Development Committee, which is responsible for the compensation of our executive officers, has overseen the development of a compensation program designed to attract, retain and motivate executives who enable us to achieve our strategic and financial goals. The Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the tabular disclosures regarding named executive officer compensation, together with the accompanying narrative disclosure, allow you to view the trends in compensation and application of our compensation philosophies and practices for the years presented.

Shareholders are being asked to vote on the following advisory resolution:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders approve the compensation of Key Technology, Inc.'s named executive officers as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section and in the tabular disclosure regarding named executive officer compensation (together with the accompanying narrative disclosure) in this Proxy Statement.

Q: What is the effect of this resolution?

Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Board of Directors. However, the Compensation and Management Development Committee and the Board will take the outcome of the vote into account when considering future executive compensation arrangements.

Q: What is the voting requirement to approve this proposal?

You may vote "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" on this proposal. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in its name on your behalf, the broker or nominee is not permitted to vote your shares on this proposal in the absence of voting instructions from you. Proxies received from shareholders of record that do not contain voting instructions for this proposal will be voted FOR approval of this resolution. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of voting on this proposal. To be approved, the number of votes cast "FOR" the advisory resolution must exceed the votes cast "AGAINST" the advisory resolution.

Q: How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote on this proposal?

The Board of Directors believes that Key's executive compensation program aligns our incentive compensation with the long-term interests of our shareholders. The Company's program is guided by the philosophy that total executive compensation should vary based on achievement of goals and objectives, both individual and corporate, and should be focused on long-term strategies to build shareholder value. The Board believes that our philosophy and practices have resulted in executive compensation decisions that are appropriate and that have benefited the Company and its

shareholders over time.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers.

* * *

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PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF THE COMPANY'S
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

(Item 3 on the Proxy Card)

Q: What am I voting on?

You are being asked to vote on a proposal to ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accountants to audit our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Grant Thornton LLP has acted as our independent registered public accountants since 2005, and the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has recommended the reappointment of Grant Thornton LLP to serve as our fiscal 2015 accounting firm.

Q: Will a representative of Grant Thornton LLP be present at the Annual Meeting?

A representative of Grant Thornton LLP is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Q: What is the voting requirement to approve this proposal?

You may vote "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" on this proposal. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares in its name, the broker is permitted to vote your shares with respect to this proposal even if the broker does not receive voting instructions from you. Abstentions will not affect the outcome of voting on this proposal. To be approved, the number of votes cast "FOR" ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered accountants must exceed the votes cast "AGAINST" ratification.

Q: How will my shares be voted if I submit a proxy and do not make a specific choice with respect to this proposal?

Unless marked to the contrary, proxies received will be voted FOR ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accountants for fiscal 2015.

Q: How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote on this proposal?

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR ratification of the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accountants for fiscal 2015.

* * *

PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth information, as of December 5, 2014, with respect to the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock by each person who is known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the Company's outstanding common stock, by each director or nominee for director, by each named executive officer, and by all directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, each person has sole voting power and sole investment power with respect to the shares listed.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class
John J. Ehren	103,670	1.6
Richard Lawrence	24,838	*
Stephen M. Pellegrino	66,870	1.1
John E. Pelo ⁽²⁾	47,567	*
Michael L. Shannon ⁽³⁾	30,115	*
Jeffrey T. Siegal	29,844	*
Charles H. Stonecipher ⁽²⁾	39,257	*
Louis C. Vintro	75,809	1.2
Donald A. Washburn	59,957	*
Frank L.A. Zwerts ⁽⁴⁾	125,557	2.0
Columbia Management Investment Advisors, LLC ⁽⁵⁾ 100 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110	581,140	9.2
Royce & Associates LLC ⁽⁵⁾ 745 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10151	662,943	10.5
Rutabaga Capital Management LLC ⁽⁵⁾ 64 Broad Street Boston, MA 02109	321,038	5.1
Leslie J. Schreyer, as Trustee under Trust Agreement dated December 23, 1989 FBO the issue of Jonathan D. Sackler ⁽⁶⁾ C/O Chadbourne & Parke LLP 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, NY 10112	754,318	12.0
All directors and executive officers as a group (11 persons)	654,924	10.4

*Less than 1%

(1) For the listed directors and officers, the amounts reported include shares of either or both service-based and performance-based restricted stock.

(2) Includes options to purchase 5,000 shares.

(3) 5,000 of Mr. Shannon's common shares are pledged as collateral in connection with a business loan.

(4) Includes 12,371 currently exercisable warrants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock.

(5) Information is based solely on Forms 13F for the quarter ended September 30, 2014.

(6) Information is based solely on a Form 4 filed on June 30, 2014.

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SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file reports of beneficial ownership and changes in beneficial ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners are required by Securities and Exchange Commission regulations to furnish the Company with copies of all forms they file pursuant to Section 16(a). Based solely on the Company's review of the copies of such forms it received and written representations from reporting persons required to file reports under Section 16(a), the Company believes that all of the Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to such persons were complied with during fiscal 2014.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview of Compensation

The Compensation and Management Development Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for oversight and design of compensation programs for the Company's senior management. The Compensation Committee is composed only of independent, non-employee members of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee, with input from the Board of Directors, is responsible for establishing performance goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the President and Chief Executive Officer, evaluating his performance in light of those goals and objectives, and determining and approving his compensation based on this evaluation. The Compensation Committee reviews and considers recommendations made by the President and Chief Executive Officer in determining the compensation of the other named executive officers. Under the Compensation Committee Charter, the Compensation Committee is also charged with administering and granting awards under the Company's stock incentive plans and cash incentive plans for senior executives. In practice, all decisions of the Compensation Committee are subject to review and approval by the independent members of the Board of Directors.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Shareholders, over 92% of the shares voted were voted to approve the fiscal 2013 compensation of the Company's named executive officers. The Compensation Committee and the full Board of Directors have reviewed the vote on the say-on-pay proposal received at the 2014 Annual Meeting and will take into account the results in establishing compensation for the named executive officers for fiscal 2015. In response to the 2011 say-on-pay frequency vote, the Compensation Committee and Board of Directors determined to implement an annual say-on-pay advisory vote.

Background

The Compensation Committee makes every effort to ensure that the Company's compensation program for senior management aligns the interests of senior management with the economic interests of shareholders and provides incentives to support the business strategy of the Company. The Compensation Committee does not use peer data and surveys, or set compensation or any element of compensation to meet specific benchmarks or percentiles within any identified group. The members of the Compensation Committee take into account their business experience, their experience from serving on other boards of directors, publicly available information from news sources, information from generally accessible databases, and broad-based third-party surveys containing information about companies of similar size in a variety of industries to obtain a general understanding of current compensation practices. The Compensation Committee also benefits from experience gained from previous executive recruiting efforts involving the Company. The Compensation Committee uses this information, together with recommendations from the President and Chief Executive Officer, to establish broad guidelines for total compensation for executives. The Compensation Committee has conducted an annual review of compensation for the named executive officers for fiscal

2014.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

The Compensation Committee has established the following compensation objectives for the Company's named executive officers as important elements of its overall compensation philosophy:

Compensation should be related to performance. The Compensation Committee believes that the compensation paid to the named executive officers should be closely aligned with the performance of the Company on both a short-term and long-term basis, with a material portion of an executive's potential annual performance-based incentive compensation and long-term stock compensation at risk if Company and individual performance objectives are not achieved.

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Compensation should serve to encourage executives to remain with the Company. The Company's executive compensation program components are designed to retain talented executives. The Compensation Committee believes that continuity of employment is critical to achieving the Company's strategic objectives and building shareholder value. A significant element of the executive compensation program, therefore, is long-term stock incentive compensation awards that vest on a rolling basis over periods of several years and align the interests of senior management with the interests of our shareholders.

Compensation should be reasonable for our business, our locations and our long-term, multi-year approach to achieving sustainable growth. The Compensation Committee believes that an appropriate compensation package will attract executives and motivate them to achieve the Company's annual and long-term strategic objectives. At the same time, the Committee believes that compensation should be set at reasonable and fiscally responsible levels.

Compensation should be managed to encourage innovation and appropriate levels of risk. The Compensation Committee believes incentive compensation should be structured to discourage assumption of excessive short-term risk without constraining innovation and reasonable risk-taking. To achieve this objective, the Compensation Committee believes the success of the Company over time will be more effectively assured by connecting a significant element of incentive compensation to longer-term Company performance.

General Process for Setting Compensation for Fiscal 2014

The Compensation Committee first determined the appropriate level of total compensation for each named executive officer and then determined the appropriate allocation among annual base cash compensation, annual performance-based cash incentive compensation and long-term stock incentive compensation.

The proportion of the executive's overall compensation that is performance-based depends upon the executive's level and area of responsibility. As a result of the Company's emphasis on incentive compensation, base salary for fiscal 2014 generally represented approximately one-third of each executive's total potential compensation. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee weighted each executive's total compensation opportunity toward incentive compensation tied to the Company's performance by allocating approximately one-third of the executive's total potential compensation to annual performance-based cash compensation and approximately one-third to long-term stock incentive compensation. For fiscal 2014, each executive was awarded targets for restricted stock grants and an annual performance-based cash compensation award valued at from 60% to 100% of their fiscal 2014 base salary.

When the Company does not achieve satisfactory financial results, the compensation that can be realized by the Company's executives may be substantially reduced. When the Company's performance exceeds financial expectations or its stock price appreciates, the compensation that can be realized by the Company's executives may be substantially increased. The Compensation Committee believes that this is the most effective means of aligning executive incentives with shareholder interests. The Compensation Committee evaluates the levels and the maximum amounts of such payouts in relation to the Company's overall financial performance.

Elements of Compensation for Fiscal 2014

The compensation program for named executive officers consists of (i) annual base cash compensation, (ii) annual performance-based cash incentive compensation, (iii) long-term stock incentive compensation, and (iv) other executive benefits. A discussion of each element follows:

Annual Base Cash Compensation

The Company provided the named executive officers in fiscal 2014 with annual base cash compensation (“base salary”) at levels which in general were approximately 50% of the executive’s potential total annual cash compensation. Base salary is a fixed, cash component of overall compensation, which is reviewed and may be adjusted periodically based on a variety of factors, including executive performance, Company performance, general economic conditions and the subjective business judgment and general business experience of the members of the Compensation Committee. Base salary ranges for named executive officers are designed to account for varying responsibilities, experience and performance levels. Effective October 1, 2014, the base salaries for Mr. Ehren, Mr. Siegal, Mr. Pellegrino and Dr. Vintro were reduced at their initiative by 15% for an indefinite period of time.

Annual Performance-Based Incentive Cash Compensation

The Company's annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program is designed to tie executive compensation to the Company's performance. For fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee approved the performance-based incentive cash compensation program for certain executives subject to the achievement by the Company of a final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation. The targeted cash compensation for each executive for fiscal 2014 varied from 60% to 100% of their base salary. The executives were eligible to earn from 0% to 125% of their targeted cash compensation for performance greater than the minimum threshold, but only after all non-management cash incentive compensation and a portion of the management and sales incentive compensation was paid to other Company employees. For fiscal 2014, the Company did not achieve its operating income threshold, and as a result the participants did not receive a performance-based incentive cash payout.

Long-Term Stock Incentive Compensation

The Compensation Committee believes that incentives tied to stock ownership by executive officers are the most important component of total compensation. The Compensation Committee uses grants of restricted stock as part of the Company's overall incentive compensation to align the interests of executive officers with those of the Company's shareholders. All named executive officers participate in the restricted stock awards. The stock is restricted in that if the criteria for retention of the shares awarded are not achieved, the shares are forfeited and canceled. The restrictions lapse if the criteria for unrestricted ownership are achieved.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded to each named executive officer restricted stock awards, the restrictions on which lapse upon the achievement of certain criteria, including continued employment with the Company through September 30, 2016 and Company and individual performance objectives. The Compensation Committee determined that the first part of this element should be continued employment to retain talented executives and encourage executives to remain with the Company. In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded each executive shares of restricted stock subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the award is contingent upon continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions on such shares lapse in one-third increments each year beginning October 1, 2014.

The second part of this element was based on the Company achieving performance goals relating to EBITDA, cash flow from operations and an individual incentive plan designed to reward achievement of quantitative goals within each executive's area of responsibility. Company performance objectives constitute three-fourths of the performance determination. The individual performance objectives included goals related to cash flow, gross margin dollars, reduction of warranty expense, and Company order growth. Individual performance objectives constitute one-fourth of the performance determination. All named executive officers participated in this element of compensation in fiscal 2014, although each officer did not necessarily participate in each goal. In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded each executive shares of restricted stock subject to performance-based vesting requirements. The Company did not grant any other performance-based restricted stock awards in fiscal 2014.

Other Executive Benefits

The policy of the Company is not to provide material perquisites to its named executive officers. Executive officers are eligible to participate in the Company's 401(k) plan and Restated 1996 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and receive similar health, dental and insurance benefits as are available to other employees of the Company.

Analysis of Specific Compensation Determinations

John J. Ehren. For fiscal 2014, Mr. Ehren served as the President and Chief Executive Officer. In determining the fiscal 2014 compensation for Mr. Ehren, the Compensation Committee considered the factors described above under “Annual Base Salary Compensation” and in addition further evaluated the Company's performance and Mr. Ehren's performance. Mr. Ehren's annual base salary was continued at \$300,000.

Under the annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program, Mr. Ehren's incentive compensation target was based on the Company achieving a minimum final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014. Mr. Ehren's target incentive cash compensation was 100% of his base salary, or \$300,000. If the operating income threshold had been met, Mr. Ehren could have earned from 0% to a maximum of 125% of his target incentive cash compensation based on final reported operating income in a linear relationship from the threshold operating income. For fiscal 2014, the Company did not reach its operating income threshold, and Mr. Ehren did not receive a performance-based cash incentive payout.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded grants of long-term performance-based restricted stock subject to achievement of pre-determined performance goals and continued employment. Under this grant, Mr. Ehren was awarded 21,740 shares, which was equal to 100% of Mr. Ehren's base salary on October 1, 2013 based on the grant date fair market of \$13.80 per share. If certain pre-determined targeted performance goals were met or exceeded, Mr. Ehren would earn 14,566 shares, which represents 67% percent of the total awarded restricted stock. The restrictions on these shares will lapse on September 30, 2016 subject to Mr. Ehren's continued employment and the achievement of individual performance objectives. The individual performance objectives are: (i) the Company achieving a pre-determined EBITDA objective as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016; (ii) the Company achieving a pre-determined cash flow from operations objective as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016; and (iii) at the discretion of the Compensation Committee of the Company. The remaining 7,174 shares, which represent 33% of the total restricted stock award, are subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the continued employment portion of the award is contingent upon Mr. Ehren's continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

Jeffrey T. Siegal. Mr. Siegal serves as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In determining the fiscal 2014 compensation for Mr. Siegal, the Compensation Committee considered the factors described above under "Annual Base Salary Compensation" and set his annual base salary at \$200,000.

Under the annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program, Mr. Siegal's incentive compensation target was based on the Company achieving a minimum final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014. Mr. Siegal's target incentive cash compensation was 100% of his base salary, or \$200,000. If the operating income threshold had been met, Mr. Siegal could have earned from 0% to a maximum of 125% of his target incentive cash compensation based on final reported operating income in a linear relationship from the threshold operating income. For fiscal 2014, the Company did not reach its operating income threshold, and Mr. Siegal did not receive a performance-based cash incentive payout.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded grants of long-term performance-based restricted stock subject to achievement of pre-determined performance goals and continued employment. Under this grant, Mr. Siegal was awarded 14,493 shares, which was equal to 100% of Mr. Siegal's base salary on October 1, 2013 based on the grant date fair market of \$13.80 per share. If certain pre-determined targeted performance goals are met or exceeded, Mr. Siegal would earn 9,710 shares, which represents 67% percent of the total awarded restricted stock. The restrictions on these shares will lapse on September 30, 2016 subject to Mr. Siegal's continued employment and the achievement of individual performance objectives. The individual performance objectives are: (i) the Company achieving a pre-determined EBITDA objective as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016; (ii) the Company achieving a pre-determined cash flow from operations objective as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016; and (iii) at the discretion of the Compensation Committee of the Company. The remaining 4,783 shares, which represent 33% of the total restricted stock award, are subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the continued employment portion of the award is contingent upon Mr. Siegal's continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

Louis C. Vintro. In determining the compensation for Dr. Vintro, Senior Vice President of New Products and Business Development, for fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee considered the factors described above under "Annual Base Salary Compensation" and continued Dr. Vintro's annual base salary at \$230,000.

Under the annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program, Dr. Vintro's incentive compensation target was based on the Company achieving a minimum final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014. Dr. Vintro's target incentive cash compensation was 100% of his base salary,

or \$230,000. If the operating income threshold had been met, Dr. Vintro could have earned from 0% to a maximum of 125% of his target incentive cash compensation based on final reported operating income in a linear relationship from the threshold operating income. For fiscal 2014, the Company did not reach its operating income threshold, and Dr. Vintro did not receive a performance-based cash incentive payout.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded grants of long-term performance-based restricted stock subject to achievement of pre-determined performance goals and continued employment. Under this grant, Dr. Vintro was awarded 16,667 shares, which was equal to 100% of Dr. Vintro's base salary on October 1, 2013 based on the grant date fair market of \$13.80 per share. If certain pre-determined targeted performance goals are met or exceeded, Dr. Vintro would earn 11,167 shares, which represents 67% percent of the total awarded restricted stock. The restrictions on these shares will lapse on September 30, 2016 subject to Dr. Vintro's continued employment and the achievement of individual performance objectives. The individual performance objectives as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016

are: (i) the Company achieving a pre-determined EBITDA objective; (ii) the Company achieving a pre-determined cash flow from operations objective; and (iii) the Company achieving a pre-determined gross margin dollar growth objective. The remaining 5,500 shares, which represent 33% of the total restricted stock award, are subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the continued employment portion of the award is contingent upon Dr. Vintro's continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded Dr. Vintro an additional 5,435 shares of restricted stock subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the award is contingent upon his continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

Stephen M Pellegrino. In fiscal 2014, Mr. Pellegrino served as Senior Vice President of Global Sales. In determining the compensation for Mr. Pellegrino, the Compensation Committee considered the factors described above under "Annual Base Salary Compensation" and set Mr. Pellegrino's annual base salary at \$225,000.

Under the annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program, Mr. Pellegrino's incentive compensation target was based on the Company achieving a minimum final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014. Mr. Pellegrino's target incentive cash compensation was 100% of his base salary or \$225,000. If the operating income threshold had been met, Mr. Pellegrino could have earned from 0% to a maximum of 125% of his target incentive cash compensation based on final reported operating income in a linear relationship from the threshold operating income. For fiscal 2014, the Company did not reach its operating income threshold, and Mr. Pellegrino did not receive a performance-based cash incentive payout.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded grants of long-term performance-based restricted stock subject to achievement of pre-determined performance goals and continued employment. Under this grant, Mr. Pellegrino was awarded 16,305 shares, which was equal to 100% of Mr. Pellegrino's base salary on October 1, 2013 based on the grant date fair market of \$13.80 per share. If certain pre-determined targeted performance goals are met or exceeded, Mr. Pellegrino would earn 10,924 shares, which represents 67% percent of the total awarded restricted stock. The restrictions on these shares will lapse on September 30, 2016 subject to Mr. Pellegrino's continued employment and the achievement of individual performance objectives. The individual performance objectives as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016 are: (i) the Company achieving a pre-determined EBITDA objective; (ii) the Company achieving a pre-determined cash flow from operations objective; and (iii) the Company achieving a pre-determined order dollar growth objective. The remaining 5,381 shares, which represent 33% of the total restricted stock award, are subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the continued employment portion of the award is contingent upon Mr. Pellegrino's continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

Frank L.A. Zwerts. In determining the compensation for Mr. Zwerts, Chief Strategy Officer and President of EMEIA, for fiscal 2014, the Compensation Committee considered the factors described above under "Annual Base Salary Compensation" and set Mr. Zwerts' annual base salary at approximately 180,000 Euro, or approximately \$240,000 based on the exchange rate in effect at that time.

Under the annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program, Mr. Zwerts' incentive compensation target was based on the Company achieving a minimum final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014. Mr. Zwerts' target incentive cash compensation was 100% of his base salary, or \$240,000. If the operating income threshold had been met, Mr. Zwerts could have earned from 0% to a maximum of 125% of his target incentive cash compensation based on final reported operating income in a linear relationship

from the threshold operating income. For fiscal 2014, the the Company did not reach its operating income threshold, and Mr. Zwerts did not receive a performance-based cash incentive payout.

In fiscal 2014, the Company awarded grants of long-term performance-based restricted stock subject to achievement of pre-determined performance goals and continued employment. Under this grant, Mr. Zwerts was awarded 16,667 shares, which was equal to 100% of Mr. Zwerts' base salary on October 1, 2013 based on the grant date fair market of \$13.80 per share. If certain pre-determined targeted performance goals are met or exceeded, Mr. Zwerts would earn 11,167 shares, which represents 67% percent of the total awarded restricted stock. The restrictions on these shares will lapse on September 30, 2016 subject to Mr. Zwert's continued employment and the achievement of individual performance objectives. The individual performance objectives as determined from the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2016 are: (i) the Company achieving a pre-determined EBITDA objective; (ii) the Company achieving a pre-determined cash flow from operations objective; and (iii) the Company achieving a pre-determined order dollar growth objective. The remaining

5,500 shares, which represent 33% of the total restricted stock award, are subject to continued employment-based vesting requirements. The lapse of restrictions on the continued employment portion of the award is contingent upon Mr. Zwerts' continued employment over a three-year period and the restrictions lapse in one-third increments annually beginning October 1, 2014.

Other Compensation Matters

Change in Control and Severance Arrangements

Mr. Zwerts provides services to the Company and to Visys NV, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, pursuant to a Contract for Services, dated February 25, 2013, between his wholly owned affiliate, Embla BVBA, and Visys NV. Under the terms of the Contract for Services, Embla BVBA is to be paid annual remuneration of 177,999 Euro, or approximately \$225,845 based on the exchange rate in effect as of September 30, 2014, subject to price index adjustments. In the event that the Contract for Services is terminated by Visys NV in the absence of any serious misconduct, as defined therein, on the part of Embla BVBA or Mr. Zwerts, Visys NV agrees to pay to Embla BVBA the greater of (i) one year's remuneration or (ii) the remuneration which is owed for the period from the date of termination through the third anniversary of the Contract for Services. If the Contract for Services had been terminated as of September 30, 2014, Embla BVBA could have earned approximately 252,165 Euro, or approximately \$319,947, in connection with its termination, subject to certain non-competition and confidentiality obligations applicable to Embla BVBA and Mr. Zwerts for the duration of the Contract for Services and for two years thereafter.

The Company has no other employment agreements with its named executive officers and has no policy with respect to change in control and severance arrangements for such officers; provided, however, the restricted stock agreements with the named executive officers provide that some or all of the restrictions on such shares may be terminated in the discretion of the Compensation Committee in the event of a change of control. In the event of such terminations, the estimated range of value of the lapse of such restrictions on September 30, 2014 with respect to the restricted shares held by the named executive officers would be as follows: Mr. Ehren, \$0 - \$893,422; Mr. Siegal, \$0 - \$379,683; Dr. Vintro, \$0 - \$928,230; Mr. Pellegrino \$0 - \$754,905; and Mr. Zwerts, \$0 - \$625,921. Other benefits, such as medical benefits, may be extended to the named executive officers at the discretion of the Compensation Committee.

Risks Arising from the Company's Compensation Policies and Practices

The Compensation Committee oversees risks related to the Company's compensation programs and policies and reviews management's periodic reports on such risks. The Compensation Committee has developed a framework to assess the specific risks associated with the Company's compensation programs. The framework was designed to evaluate the key elements of the Company's compensation programs to determine whether such programs could reasonably be expected to have or create a material adverse effect on the Company. As part of this framework, the Company's pay philosophy, incentive plan designs, performance metrics and pay plan governance process are evaluated on an annual basis. Based on the results of the assessment with respect to fiscal 2014, management and the Compensation Committee, with the assistance of the Company's legal advisors, and in collaboration with the Audit Committee, concluded that any risks associated with the Company's compensation programs are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

Tax Considerations

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, generally provides that a publicly-held company may not deduct compensation paid to certain of its senior executive officers to the extent such compensation exceeds \$1,000,000 per officer in any year. However, pursuant to regulations issued by the Treasury Department, certain limited exceptions to Section 162(m) apply with respect to "performance-based compensation." The Company's 2003

Restated Employees' Stock Incentive Plan and the 2010 Plan, both of which were approved by the Company's shareholders, allow performance-based awards of restricted stock to be granted with certain performance criteria. The approval by the shareholders meets one of the criteria the IRS requires for the Company to be able to exempt compensation attributed to performance-based awards of restricted stock from the limitations of Section 162(m) on tax deductible compensation expense. The Company did not pay any compensation during fiscal 2014 that would be subject to the limitations set forth in Section 162(m) and, therefore, all compensation paid to executives was deductible for tax purposes.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

As noted above, part of the Compensation Committee's compensation philosophy is to align the interests of its named executive officers with those of the Company's shareholders. The Board of Directors has adopted stock ownership guidelines that will result in an increasingly higher level of stock ownership by executives as their length of service and expected value to the Company increases over time. The stock ownership guidelines call for total shares held by the executive to be not less than 33% of the total vested shares issued to the executive under equity-based compensation programs during the period of employment with the Company. In addition, beginning October 2009, 50% of all restricted shares awarded and earned as compensation must be held by the executive for a minimum of three years after the restrictions on the shares lapse before they may be transferred. In the event of any termination of employment, all vested shares then held by the executive that are subject to the three-year holding requirement will be released from that restriction on transfer six months following the date of termination of employment or sooner upon approval of the Board of Directors.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

No member of the Compensation Committee has been an officer or employee of the Company, and no member of the Compensation Committee had any relationships requiring disclosure by the Company under the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules requiring disclosure of certain relationships and related-party transactions since the beginning of fiscal 2014. None of the Company's executive officers served as a director or member of a compensation committee (or other committee serving an equivalent function) of any entity, the executive officers of which served as director or member of the Compensation Committee of the Company during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014.

COMPENSATION AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be soliciting material, or to be filed with, or incorporated by reference into future filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The Compensation and Management Development Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed with management the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this Proxy Statement. Based on that review and discussion, the Compensation and Management Development Committee has recommended to the Board, and the Board has approved, the inclusion of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis in this Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting and its incorporation by reference into the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014.

Submitted on December 12, 2014 by the Compensation and Management Development Committee of the Board.

Respectfully,

Michael L. Shannon, Chairman
Richard Lawrence
Donald A. Washburn

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Cash and Non-Cash Compensation Paid to Certain Executive Officers

The following table sets forth the compensation earned by our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and our three other most highly compensated officers, constituting our named executive officers, during the last fiscal year for services rendered in all capacities to the Company, for Messrs. Ehren, Vintro and Pellegrino for the three fiscal years ended September 30, 2014, and for Messrs. Siegal and Zwerts for the two fiscal years ended September 30, 2014.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE – FISCAL 2014

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
John J. Ehren President and Chief Executive Officer	2014	299,998	99,001	0	⁽²⁾ 9,924	408,923
	2013	299,998	99,002	225,000	⁽³⁾ 23,091	647,091
	2012	263,654	0	0	⁽⁴⁾ 11,609	275,263
Jeffrey T. Siegal Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2014	200,000	66,005	0	⁽²⁾ 5,393	271,398
	2013	84,615	66,000	75,000	⁽³⁾ 20,019	245,634
Louis C. Vintro Senior Vice President of New Products and Business Development	2014	230,006	150,903	0	⁽²⁾ 10,369	391,278
	2013	230,006	115,003	172,500	⁽³⁾ 29,488	546,997
	2012	206,121	229,425	0	⁽⁴⁾ 28,859	464,405
Stephen M. Pellegrino . Senior Vice President of Global Sales	2014	224,904	74,258	0	⁽²⁾ 11,198	310,360
	2013	199,992	66,001	150,000	⁽³⁾ 8,244	424,237
	2012	187,685	229,425	0	⁽⁴⁾ 8,238	425,348
Frank L.A. Zwerts Chief Strategy Officer and President of EMEIA	2014	241,518	75,900	0	⁽²⁾ —	317,418
	2013	135,984	290,045	134,167	⁽⁴⁾ —	560,196

(1) The amounts reported in this column represent both service-based and performance-based awards. The amounts reported represent the full grant date fair values for service-based awards granted to the named executive officers in the applicable fiscal year. These amounts were computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures, and do not correspond to the actual value that may be realized by the named executive officers. All performance-based stock awards granted in the fiscal years reported in this column are reported at a \$0 value as at the time of grant it was estimated that it was less than probable the related performance

goals would be achieved with the exception of 4,069 shares awarded to Dr. Vintro in fiscal 2013 at a fair market value of \$39,103. During fiscal 2014, it was determined that the achievement of the performance goals disclosed in fiscal 2013 for Dr. Vintro was no longer probable. The maximum possible outcome for Mr. Ehren related to performance-based awards was \$201,000, \$201,000, and \$460,000, in fiscal 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. The maximum possible outcome for Mr. Siegal related to performance-based awards was \$134,000 for both fiscal 2014 and 2013. The maximum possible outcome for Dr. Vintro related to performance-based awards was \$154,000, \$154,000 and \$460,000 in fiscal 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The maximum possible outcome for Mr. Pellegrino related to performance-based awards was \$151,000, \$134,000 and \$352,400 in fiscal 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The maximum possible outcome for Mr. Zwerts related to performance-based awards was \$154,000 for both fiscal 2014 and 2013.

All performance-based non-equity incentive plan awards granted in fiscal 2014 are reported at a \$0 value as it was (2)less than probable that the related performance goals would be achieved. None of the performance-based non-equity incentive plan awards awarded in

2014 were earned and no payouts were made pursuant to such awards because the Company's minimum operating income threshold was not met.

(3) The amounts for fiscal 2013 reflect the cash awards earned by the named executive officers under individual incentive plans as a portion of the performance criteria was achieved.

(4) All performance-based non-equity incentive plan awards granted in fiscal 2012 are reported at a \$0 value as at the time of grant it was estimated that it was less than probable that the related performance goals would be achieved. None of the performance-based non-equity incentive plan awards awarded in 2012 were earned and no payouts were made pursuant to such awards because the Company's minimum operating income threshold was not met.

(5) The table below discloses the components of the amounts included for each named executive officer under the "All Other Compensation" column in the Summary Compensation Table for fiscal 2014.

Name	Fiscal Year	Term Life Insurance Premium (\$)	Profit Sharing & 401(k) Plan Contributions (\$)	Total (\$)
John J. Ehren	2014	186	9,738	9,924
Jeffrey T. Siegal	2014	162	5,231	5,393
Louis C. Vintro	2014	169	10,200	10,369
Stephen M. Pellegrino	2014	267	10,931	11,198
Frank L.A. Zwerts	2014	—	—	—

The following table provides information for fiscal 2014 with respect to incentive plan awards that were granted to each of our named executive officers.

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS – FISCAL 2014

Name	Grant Date	Estimated future payouts under non-equity incentive plan awards			Estimated future payouts under equity incentive plan awards			All other stock awards: number of shares of stock or units (#)	Grant date fair value of stock and option awards (\$)
		Threshold (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Target (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Maximum (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Threshold (#) ⁽²⁾	Target (#) ⁽²⁾	Maximum (#) ⁽²⁾		
John J. Ehren	10/1/2013	\$0	\$300,000	\$375,000	—	14,566	—	7,174 ⁽³⁾	\$99,001 ⁽³⁾
Jeffrey T. Siegal	10/1/2013	\$0	\$200,000	\$250,000	—	9,710	—	4,783 ⁽³⁾	\$66,005 ⁽³⁾
Louis C. Vintro	10/1/2013	\$0	\$230,000	\$287,500	—	11,167	—	5,500 ⁽³⁾	\$75,900 ⁽³⁾
	10/1/2013	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,435 ⁽⁴⁾	\$75,003 ⁽⁴⁾
Stephen M. Pellegrino	10/1/2013	\$0	\$225,000	\$281,250	—	10,924	—	5,381 ⁽³⁾	\$74,258 ⁽³⁾
Frank L.A. Zwerts	10/1/2013	\$0	\$230,000	\$287,500	—	11,167	—	5,500 ⁽³⁾	\$75,900 ⁽³⁾

(1) These named executive officers participated in the Company's annual performance-based incentive cash compensation program in fiscal 2014. The target incentive compensation each named executive could earn was 100% of their base salary. Subject to the achievement by the Company of a final reported operating income of \$7.0 million, net of incentive compensation for fiscal 2014, participants could earn from 0% to 125% of their target cash compensation for performance greater than threshold in a linear relationship from the threshold operating income. The dollar figures in the table above represent the threshold, target and maximum amount payable to each participant. The Company did not achieve its operating income goals for fiscal 2014 and no annual performance-based incentive compensation was paid.

(2) The restrictions on these performance-based restricted stock awards lapse on September 30, 2016 based on the achievement of certain Company and individual performance objectives for fiscal years 2014, 2015 and 2016, subject to continued employment with the Company through September 30, 2016. The estimated awards listed in these columns are not subject to thresholds or maximums. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Analysis of Specific Compensation Determinations" for an explanation of the calculations.

(3) These service-based restricted stock awards were granted under the Company's long-term incentive compensation program and the restrictions on such stock awards lapse 33% on October 1, 2014, 33% on October 1, 2015 and 33% on October 1, 2016, subject to continued employment with the Company on the applicable date.

This supplemental service-based restricted stock award was granted to Mr. Vintro under the 2010 Plan and the (4) restrictions lapse on such stock award 33% on October 1, 2014, 33% on October 1, 2015 and 33% on October 1, 2016, subject to continued employment with the Company on the applicable date.

Outstanding Equity Awards

The following table reflects previously granted and outstanding restricted stock awards.

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2014 FISCAL YEAR-END

Stock Awards

Name	Grant date	Number of shares or units of stock that have not vested (#)	Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested (\$) *	Equity incentive plan awards: Number of unearned shares, units or other rights that have not vested (#)	Equity incentive plan awards: payout value of unearned shares, units, or other rights that have not vested (\$) *
John J. Ehren	10/03/2011	—	\$—	17,955	(1) \$237,724
	10/01/2012	—	\$—	20,916	(2) \$276,928
	10/01/2012	6,868	(3) \$90,932	—	\$—
	10/01/2013	—	\$—	14,566	(4) \$192,854
	10/01/2013	7,174	(5) \$94,984	—	\$—
Jeffrey T. Siegal	4/15/2013	—	\$—	10,678	(2) \$141,377
	4/15/2013	3,506	(3) \$46,419	—	\$—
	10/01/2013	—	\$—	9,710	(4) \$128,560
	10/01/2013	4,783	(5) \$63,327	—	\$—
Louis C. Vintro	10/26/2011	—	\$—	17,955	(1) \$237,724
	2/08/2012	8,750	(6) \$115,850	—	\$—
	10/01/2012	—	\$—	16,036	(2) \$212,317
	10/01/2012	5,265	(3) \$69,709	—	\$—
	10/01/2013	—	\$—	11,167	(4) \$147,851
	10/01/2013	5,500	(5) \$72,820	—	\$—
	10/01/2013	5,435	(5) \$71,959	—	\$—
Stephen M. Pellegrino	2/08/2012	—	\$—	13,440	(1) \$177,946
	2/08/2012	8,750	(6) \$115,850	—	\$—
	10/01/2012	—	\$—	13,944	(2) \$184,619
	10/01/2012	4,578			