

NOVA MEASURING INSTRUMENTS LTD  
Form 20-F  
February 25, 2015

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

Form 20-F

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) or (g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 000-30668

NOVA MEASURING INSTRUMENTS LTD.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Nova Measuring Instruments Ltd. Israel  
(Translation of Registrant's name into English) (Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

Weizmann Science Park, Einstein St., Building 22, 2nd Floor, Ness-Ziona, Israel  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Dror David, +972-73-2295833, +972-8-9407776, P.O.B 266, Rehovot 7610201, Israel  
(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of the Registrant's Contact Person)

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

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Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Ordinary Shares, nominal value NIS 0.01 per share	The NASDAQ Global Select Market

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

None

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

None

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report: 27,137,051 ordinary shares, NIS 0.01 nominal (par) value per share, as of December 31, 2014.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes  No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer   
filer

Accelerated  
Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP

International Financing Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board

Other

If “Other” has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow:

Item 17  Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

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## Introduction

In this Annual Report, the “Company”, “Nova”, “we” or “our” refers to Nova Measuring Instruments Ltd. and its consolidated subsidiaries, when the context requires.

## Our Functional Currency

Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts herein are expressed in United States dollars (“U.S. dollars”, “dollars”, “USD”, “US\$” or “\$”).

The currency of the primary economic environment in which we operate is the U.S. dollar, since substantially all our revenues to date have been denominated in U.S. dollars and over 50% of our expenses are in U.S. dollars or in New Israeli Shekels linked to the dollar. Transactions and balances denominated in dollars are presented at their original amounts. Non-dollar transactions and balances have been re-measured into dollars as required by the principles in ASC 830 Foreign Currency Matters. All exchange gains and losses from such re-measurement are included in the net financial income when they arise.

## Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain information contained herein, which does not relate to historical financial information, may be deemed to constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The words or phrases “will likely result”, “are expected to”, “will continue”, “is anticipated”, “estimate”, “project”, “believe” or similar expressions identify “forward looking statements”. Such statements, including without limitation, statements relating to our anticipated sales, revenues and expenses in 2014, our expectations with respect to our business and operations and our ability to gain market share are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results and those presently anticipated or projected. We wish to caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. We cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We also undertake no obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Among the factors that could cause our actual results in the future to differ materially from any opinions or statements expressed with respect to future periods are competitive industry conditions and the ability to forecast the needs of the semiconductor industry with respect to the very cyclical nature of the industry and the very fast pace of technology evolutions and factors related to the conditions of the global markets and the global economy. Various other factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially are set forth in “Item 3D. Risk Factors” in this annual report on Form 20-F and elsewhere herein.

## PART I

## Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisors

Not applicable.

## Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not applicable.

## Item 3. Key Information

## 3A. Selected Financial Data

The following selected consolidated financial data as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”), and audited by our independent registered public accounting firm. The consolidated selected financial data as of December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 and for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 have been derived from other consolidated financial statements not included in this Form 20-F that were also prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and audited by our independent registered public accounting firm. The selected consolidated financial data set forth below should be read in conjunction with and are qualified by reference to “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and other financial information included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 20-F.

## Summary of Consolidated Financial Data

	Year ended December 31,				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
(in thousands, except per share data)					
<b>Consolidated Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Revenues	\$86,620	\$102,828	\$96,168	\$111,509	\$120,618
Cost of revenues	39,204	44,832	45,014	52,438	57,005
Gross profit	47,416	57,996	51,154	59,071	63,613
<b>Operating expenses:</b>					
Research and development expenses, net	12,445	18,677	24,594	29,578	29,498
Sales and marketing expenses	10,133	11,373	11,998	11,963	12,747
General and administrative expenses	2,968	3,229	3,978	5,197	4,457
Total operating expenses	25,546	33,279	40,570	46,738	46,702
Operating profit	21,870	24,717	10,584	12,333	16,911
Financing income, net	305	901	1,368	693	563
Income before income taxes	22,175	25,618	11,952	13,026	17,474
Income taxes expenses (benefit)	-	(2,500)	124	2,511	(1,178)
Net income for the year	\$22,175	\$28,118	\$11,828	\$10,515	\$18,652
<b>Earnings per share:</b>					
Basic	\$0.91	\$1.07	\$0.44	\$0.39	\$0.68
Diluted	\$0.86	\$1.04	\$0.43	\$0.38	\$0.67

Shares used in calculation of net earnings per share:

Basic	24,448	26,232	26,619	27,091	27,447
Diluted	25,692	26,931	27,277	27,373	27,807

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	December 31,				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(in thousands)				
<b>Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Working capital	65,442	94,669	106,298	118,596	130,480
Total assets	93,377	122,947	142,044	162,277	173,279
Capital stock (including additional paid-in capital)	104,646	108,710	111,062	114,348	119,058
Shareholders' equity	68,384	99,906	114,771	128,664	143,582

### 3B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

### 3C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

### 3D. Risk Factors

#### Risks Related to Our Business and Our Industry

Because substantially most of our current sales are dependent on two specific product lines, factors that adversely affect the pricing and demand for these product lines could substantially reduce our sales.

We are currently dependent on two process control product lines. We expect revenues from these product lines to continue to account for a substantial portion of our revenues for at least the next 12 months. As a result, factors adversely affecting the pricing of, or demand for, these product lines, such as competition and technological change, could significantly reduce our sales.

We depend on a small number of large customers, and the loss of one or more of them could significantly lower our revenues.

Like our peers serving the semiconductor market, our customer base is highly concentrated among a limited number of large customers. We anticipate that our revenues will continue to depend on a limited number of major customers, although the companies considered to be our major customers and the percentage of our revenue represented by each major customer may vary from period to period. As a result of our customer concentration, our financial performance may fluctuate significantly from period to period based, among others, on exogenous circumstances related to our clients. For example, it is possible that any of our major customers could terminate its purchasing relationship with us or significantly reduce or delay the amount of our products that it orders, purchase products from our competitors, or develop its own products internally. The loss of any one of our major customers would adversely affect our revenues. Furthermore, if any of our customers become insolvent or have difficulties meeting their financial obligations to us for any reason, we may suffer losses. For more information regarding our sales by major customers as percentage of our total sales, see Note 10 to our consolidated financial statements contained elsewhere in this report.

The markets we target are highly cyclical and it is difficult to predict the length and strength of any downturn or expansion period.

The semiconductor capital equipment market and industries, which are highly cyclical, experienced a steep upturn in 2010 and 2011, followed by a decline in overall capital equipment sales in 2012 and 2013. According to Gartner, Inc.,

a market research company, the forecast (as of December 2014) for year 2015, predicts a 6.7% increase in wafer fab equipment (WFE) spending. Although we rely on market research companies, we cannot predict the length and strength of the downturns or expansions.

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Our inability to significantly reduce spending during a protracted slowdown in the semiconductor industry could reduce our prospects of achieving continued profitability.

Historically, we have derived all of our revenues, and we expect to continue to derive practically all of our revenues, from sales of our products and related services to the semiconductor industry. Our business depends in large part upon capital expenditures by semiconductor manufacturers, which in turn depend upon the current and anticipated demand for semiconductors. The semiconductor industry has experienced severe and protracted cyclical downturns and upturns. Specifically, during 2010, the semiconductor industry experienced a steep upturn of over 100%, which followed a severe downturn in 2008 and 2009. During cyclical downturns, as those we have experienced in the past and are likely to experience in the future, material reductions in the demand for the type of capital equipment and process technology that we offer may result in a decline in our sales. In addition, our ability to significantly reduce expenses in response to any downturn or slowdown in the rate of capital investment by manufacturers in these industries may be limited because of:

- our continuing need to invest in research and development;
- our continuing need to market our new products to new and existing customers; and
- our extensive ongoing customer service and support requirements worldwide.

As a result, we may have difficulty achieving continued profitability during a protracted slowdown.

If we do not respond effectively and on a timely basis to rapid technological change, our ability to attract and retain customers could be diminished, which would have an adverse effect on our sales and ability to remain competitive.

The semiconductor manufacturing industry is characterized by rapid technological change, new product introductions and enhancements and evolving industry standards. Our ability to remain competitive and generate sales revenue will depend in part upon our ability to develop new and enhanced systems at competitive prices in a timely and cost-effective manner and to accurately predict technology transitions. Because new product development commitments must be made well in advance of sales, new product decisions must anticipate the future demand for products. If we fail to correctly anticipate future demand for products, our sales and competitive position will suffer. In addition, the development of new measurement technologies, new product introductions or enhancements by our competitors could cause a decline in our sales or loss of market acceptance of our existing products.

We depend on PEM for sales of our integrated metrology systems, and the loss of our PEM as business partners could harm our business.

We believe that sales of integrated metrology systems will continue to be an important source of our revenues. Sales of our integrated metrology systems depend upon the ability of PEMs (process equipment manufacturers) to sell semiconductor equipment products that are able to integrate with our metrology systems. If our PEMs are unable to sell such products, or if they choose to focus their attention on products that do not integrate our systems, our business could suffer. If we were to lose our PEMs as business partners for any reason, our inability to realize sales from integrated metrology systems could significantly harm our business. In addition, we may not be able to develop or market new integrated metrology products, which could slow or prevent our growth.

Some of our commercial agreements with process equipment manufacturers and customers may include exclusivity provisions. Such exclusivity obligations may prevent us from engaging in certain business relationships with third parties, and thus may affect our ability to introduce new products into relevant markets.

Some of our commercial agreements with process equipment manufacturers and customers may include exclusivity provisions, which prevent us from engaging in certain business relationships with third parties. These exclusivity obligations are normally used as a tool to promote the development and the penetration of innovative new products, and are usually limited in terms of scope and length. When considering whether to enter into any such exclusivity arrangements, we usually take into the consideration the terms of the exclusivity (e.g. length and scope), the expected benefit to the Company, and the risks and limitations associated with such exclusivity undertakings. Exclusivity obligations relating to our technology and products may affect our ability to commercialize our products, engage in potentially beneficial business relationships with third parties, or introduce new products into relevant markets, which could slow or prevent our growth.

If any of our systems fail to meet or exceed our internal quality specifications, we cannot ship them until such time as they have met such specifications. If we experience significant delays or are unable to ship our products to our customers as a result of our internal processes or for any other reason, our business and reputation may be adversely affected.

Our products are complex and require technical expertise to design and manufacture. Various problems occasionally arise during the manufacturing process that may cause delays and/or impair product quality. We actively monitor our manufacturing processes to ensure that our products meet our internal quality specifications. Any significant delays stemming from the failure of our products to meet or exceed our internal quality specifications, or for any other reasons, would delay our shipments. Shipment delays could be harmful to our business, revenues and reputation in the industry.

We are exposed to cyber security risks that, if materialized, may affect our business and operations.

Our global operations are linked by information systems, including telecommunications, the internet, our corporate intranet, network communications, email and various computer hardware and software applications. Despite our implementation of network security measures, our tools and servers are vulnerable to computer viruses, break-ins and similar disruptions from unauthorized tampering with our computer systems and tools located at customer sites, or could be subject to system failures or malfunctions for other reasons. System failures or malfunctioning could disrupt our operations and our ability to timely and accurately process and report key components of our financial results.

We may incorporate open source technology in some of our software and products, which may expose us to liability and have a material impact on our product development and sales

Some of our software and products may utilize open source technologies. These technologies may be subject to certain open source licenses, including but not limited to the General Public License, which, when used or integrated in particular manners, impose certain requirements on the subsequent use of such technologies, and pose a potential risk to proprietary nature of products. In the event that we have or will in the future, use or integrate software that is subject to such open source licenses into or in connection with our products in such ways that will trigger certain requirements of these open source licenses, we may (i) be required to include certain notices and abide by other requirements in the absence of which we may be found in breach of the copyrights owned by the creators of such open source technologies; and/or (ii) be required to disclose our own source code or parts thereof to the public, which could enable our competitors to eliminate some or any technological advantage that our products may have over theirs. Any such requirement to disclose our source code or other confidential information related to our products, and the failure to abide by license requirement resulting in copyright infringement, could materially adversely affect our competitive position and impact our business results of operations and financial condition.

New product lines that we may introduce in the future may contain defects, which will require us to allocate time and financial resources to correct.

Our new product lines may contain defects when first introduced. If there are defects, we will need to divert the attention of our personnel from our ongoing product development efforts to address the detection and correction of the defects. In the past, no liability claims have been filed against us for damages related to product defects, and we have not experienced any material delays as a result of product defects. However, we cannot provide assurances that we will not incur these costs or liabilities or experience these lags or delays in the future. Moreover, the occurrence of such defects, whether caused by our products or the products of another vendor, may result in significant customer relations problems and adversely affect our reputation and may impair the market acceptance of our products.

We have historically generated losses and may incur future losses.

Starting year 2009, we have been able to demonstrate continued profitability, yet since our inception in 1993, we have had several years of losses and we may incur net losses in future years. We plan to increase our aggregate operating expenses in 2015 relative to 2014. However, our ability to generate profits is dependent mainly on our ability to generate sufficient sales. In the future, our sales may not be sufficient to cover the increase in our expenses and we may not be able to maintain profitability, mainly during a protracted slowdown.

Our dependence on a single manufacturing facility magnifies the risk of an interruption in our production capabilities.

We have only one manufacturing facility, which is located in Weizman Science Park, Ness-Ziona-Rehovot, Israel (the "Manufacturing Facility"). Although we adopted a disaster recovery plan, any event affecting this site, including natural disaster, labor stoppages or armed conflict, may disrupt or indefinitely discontinue our manufacturing capabilities and could significantly impair our ability to fulfill orders and generate revenues, thus negatively impacting our business.

Our lease agreements for our Manufacturing Facility include provisions that exempt the landlord and others from liability for damages to our Manufacturing Facility.

Pursuant to our lease agreements for our Manufacturing Facility (which is also our headquarters), the landlord and anyone on its behalf, and additional companies in Weizman Science Park are exempt from any liability for direct or consequential damages to our Manufacturing Facility, except in the event of willful misconduct. While we have an insurance policy against certain damages, the aforementioned exemption of liability could compromise our ability to recover the full amount of such damages, and consequently we may incur substantial costs upon the occurrence of such damages.

Because shipment dates may be changed and some of our customers may cancel or delay orders with little or no penalty, and since we encounter difficulties in collecting cancellation fees from our customers, our backlog may not be a reliable indicator of actual sales and financial results.

We schedule production of our systems based upon order backlog and customer forecasts. We include in backlog only those orders to which the customer has assigned a purchase order number and for which delivery has been specified. In general, our ability to rely on our backlog for future forecasting and planning is limited because shipment dates may be changed, some customers may cancel or delay orders with little or no penalty, and our ability to collect cancellation fees from customers is not assured. Thus, our backlog may not be a reliable indicator of actual sales and financial results.

We experience quarterly fluctuations in our operating results, which may adversely impact our share price.

Our quarterly operating results within a specific year have fluctuated significantly in the past. This trend may continue. A principal reason is that we derive a substantial portion of our revenue from the sale of a relatively small number of systems to a relatively small number of customers. As a result, our revenues and results of operations for any given quarter may decrease due to factors relating to the timing of orders, the timing of shipments of systems, and the timing of recognizing these revenues. Furthermore, our quarterly results are affected by the highly cyclical nature of the semiconductor capital equipment market and industries.

We also have a limited ability to predict revenues for future quarterly periods and, as a result, face risks of revenue shortfalls. If the number of systems we actually ship, and thus the amount of revenues we are able to record in any particular quarter, is below our expectations, the adverse effect may be magnified by our inability to adjust spending quickly enough to compensate for the revenue shortfall.

We operate in an extremely competitive market, and if we fail to compete effectively, our revenues and market share will decline.

Although the market for process control systems used in semiconductor manufacturing is currently concentrated and characterized by relatively few participants, the semiconductor capital equipment industry is intensely competitive. We compete mainly with Nanometrics, Inc., KLA-Tencor Corp. and Rudolph Technologies, Inc. which manufacture and sell integrated and/or stand-alone process control systems. In addition, we compete with process equipment manufacturers, such as ASML Holdings N.V., which manufactures integrated metrology products, and with process equipment manufacturers, such as Applied Materials, Inc. and Lam Research, Inc., which develop in-situ sensors and products. Established companies, both domestic and foreign, compete with our product lines, and new competitors enter our market from time to time. Some of our competitors have greater financial, engineering, manufacturing and marketing resources than we do. If a particular customer selects a competitor's capital equipment, we expect to experience difficulty in selling to that customer for a significant period of time. A substantial investment is required by the customers to evaluate, test, select and integrate capital equipment into a production line. As a result, once a manufacturer has selected a particular vendor's capital equipment, we believe that the manufacturer generally relies upon that equipment for the specific production line application and frequently will attempt to consolidate its other capital equipment requirements with the same vendor. Accordingly, unless our systems offer performance or cost advantages that outweigh a customer's expense of switching to our systems, it will be difficult for us to achieve significant sales from that customer once it has selected another vendor's system for an application. We believe that our ability to compete successfully depends on a number of factors both within and outside of our control, including:

- the contribution of our equipment to the customers' productivity;
- our product quality and performance;
- our global technical service and support;
- the return on investment (ROI) of our equipment and its cost of ownership;
- the breadth of our product line;
- our success in developing and marketing new products; and
- the extendibility of our products.

If we fail to compete in a timely and cost-effective manner against current or future competitors, our revenues and market share will decline.

The ongoing consolidation in our industry may harm us if our competitors are able to offer a broader range of products and greater customer support than we can offer.

We believe that the semiconductor capital equipment market is undergoing consolidation. A number of process control suppliers have been acquired by larger equipment manufacturers. For example, in 2005 Rudolph Technologies, Inc. acquired August Technologies, Inc., in 2006 Nanometrics acquired Soluris, Inc. and Accent Technologies, Inc., in 2007 KLA-Tencor Corp. acquired Therma-Wave, Inc. and Nanometrics acquired Tevet Ltd., and in 2011 Nanometrics acquired Nanda Technologies. In addition, in the recent two years a major consolidation has occurred in the process equipment manufacturers segment, such as Applied Materials Inc. acquiring Varian Semiconductor Equipment Associates and Tokyo Electron Ltd., and Lam Research Corporation acquiring Novellus Systems Inc. We believe that similar acquisitions and business combinations involving our competitors, our customers



and the process control manufacturers may occur in the future. These acquisitions could adversely impact our competitive position by enabling our competitors and potential competitors to expand their product offerings and customer service, which could provide them an advantage in meeting customers' needs, particularly with those customers that seek to consolidate their capital equipment requirements with a smaller number of vendors. The greater resources, including financial, marketing, intellectual property and support resources, of competitors involved in these acquisitions could allow them to accelerate the development and commercialization of new competitive products and the marketing of existing competitive products to their larger installed bases. Accordingly, such business combinations and acquisitions by competitors or customers could jeopardize our competitive position.

We may not be successful in our efforts to complete and integrate future acquisitions, which could disrupt our current business activities and adversely affect our results of operations or future growth.

Any future acquisitions may involve many risks, including the risks of:

- diverting management's attention and other resources from our ongoing business concerns;
- entering markets in which we have no direct prior experience;
- improperly evaluating new services, products and markets;
- being unable to maintain uniform standards, controls, procedures and policies;
- being unable to integrate new technologies or personnel;
- incurring the expenses of any undisclosed or potential liabilities; and
- the departure of key management and employees.

If we are unable to successfully complete future acquisitions or to effectively integrate any future acquisitions, our ability to grow our business or to operate our business effectively could be reduced, and our business, financial condition and operating results could suffer. Even if we are successful in completing acquisitions, we cannot assure you that we will be able to integrate the operations of the acquired business without encountering difficulty regarding different business strategies with respect to marketing and integration of personnel with disparate business backgrounds and corporate cultures.

Some of our contracts and arrangements potentially subject us to the risk of significant or non-limited liability.

We produce highly complex optical and electronic components and, accordingly, there is a risk that defects may occur in any of our products. Such defects can give rise to significant costs, including expenses relating to recalling products, replacing defective items, writing down defective inventory and loss of potential sales. In addition, the occurrence of such defects may give rise to product liability and warranty claims, including liability for damages caused by such defects.

In our commercial relationship with customers, we attempt to negotiate waivers of consequential damages arising from damages for loss of use, loss of product, loss of revenue and loss of profit caused by our products. Similarly, with respect to our commercial relationship with subcontractors and suppliers, we attempt to negotiate arrangements which do not include a limitation of liabilities and limitation of consequential damages. However, some contracts and arrangements we are bound by expose us to product liability claims resulting in personal injury or death, up to an unlimited amount, and the incurrence of the risk of material penalties for consequential or liquidated damages. Additionally, under such contracts and arrangements, we may be named in product liability claims even if there is no evidence that our products caused the damage in question, and such claims could result in significant costs and expenses relating to attorneys' fees and damages.

Although we have not incurred material penalties for consequential or liquidated damages during the past, we may incur such penalties in the future. Such penalties for consequential or liquidated damages may be significant and could negatively affect our financial condition or results of operations.

Because of our small size, we depend on a small number of employees who possess both executive and technical expertise, and the loss of any of these key employees would hurt our ability to implement our strategy and to compete effectively.

Because of our small size and our reliance on employees with both executive and advanced technical skills, our success depends significantly upon the continued contributions of our officers and key personnel. All of our key management and technical personnel have expertise, which is in high demand among our competitors, and the loss of any of these individuals could cause our business to suffer. We do not maintain life insurance policies for our officers and directors.

Our lengthy sales cycle increases our exposure to customer delays in orders, which may result in obsolete inventory and volatile quarterly revenues.

Sales of our systems depend, in significant part, upon our customers adding new manufacturing capacity or expanding existing manufacturing capacity, both of which involve a significant capital commitment. We may experience delays in finalizing sales following initial system qualification while a customer evaluates and approves an initial purchase of our systems. In general, for new customers or applications, our normal sales cycle takes between six to 12 months to complete. During this time, we may expend substantial funds and management effort, but fail to make any sales. Lengthy sales cycles subject us to a number of significant risks, including inventory obsolescence and fluctuations in operating results, over which we have limited control.

Because of the technical nature of our business, our intellectual property is extremely important to our business, and our inability to protect our intellectual property would harm our competitive position.

As of December 31, 2014, we have been granted more than 110 U.S. patents and have more than 30 U.S. patent applications pending including US provisional patent applications. In addition, we have been granted more than 40 non-U.S. patents and have about 50 non-U.S. patent applications pending.

We cannot assure that:

• pending patent applications will be approved;

• any patents will be broad enough to protect our technology, will provide us with competitive advantages or will not be challenged or invalidated by third parties; or

• the patents of others will not have an adverse effect on our ability to do business.

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We also cannot assure that others will not independently develop similar products, duplicate our products or, if patents are issued to us, design around these patents. Furthermore, because patents may afford less protection under foreign law than is available under U.S. law, we cannot assure that any foreign patents issued to us will adequately protect our proprietary rights.

In addition to patent protection, we also rely upon trade secret protection, employee and third-party nondisclosure agreements and other intellectual property protection methods to protect our confidential and proprietary information. Despite these efforts, we cannot be certain that others will not otherwise gain access to our trade secrets or disclose our technology.

Additionally, as part of our long term technological collaboration, we are engaged with joint development activities with some of our strategic customers as well as with research institutes. These activities impose some limitations on the joint intellectual property developed as part of these programs.

Furthermore, we may be required to institute legal proceedings to protect our intellectual property. If such legal proceedings are resolved adversely to us, our competitive position and/or results of operations could be harmed. For additional information on our intellectual property, see “Item 4B – Intellectual Property” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

There has been significant litigation involving intellectual property rights in the semiconductor and related industries, and similar litigation involving Nova could force us to divert resources to defend against such litigation or deter our customers from purchasing our systems.

We have been, and may in the future be, notified of allegations that we may be infringing intellectual property rights possessed by others. In addition, we may be required to commence legal proceedings against third parties, which may be infringing our intellectual property, in order to defend our intellectual property. In the future, protracted litigation and expense may be incurred to defend ourselves against alleged infringement of third party rights or to defend our intellectual property against infringement by third parties. Adverse determinations in that type of litigation could:

• result in our loss of proprietary rights;

• subject us to significant liabilities, including triple damages in some instances;

• require us to seek licenses from third parties, which licenses may not be available on reasonable terms or at all; or

• prevent us from selling our products.

Any litigation of this type, even if we are ultimately successful, could result in substantial cost and diversion of time and effort by our management, which by itself could have a negative impact on our profit margin, available funds, competitive position and ability to develop and market new and existing products. For additional information on our intellectual property, see “Item 4B – Intellectual Property” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

We depend on a limited number of suppliers, and in some cases a sole supplier. Any disruption or termination of these supply channels may adversely affect our ability to manufacture our products and to deliver them to our customers.

We purchase components, subassemblies and services from a limited number of suppliers and occasionally from a single source. Disruption or termination of these sources could occur (due to several factors, including, but not limited to, work stoppages, acts of war, terrorism, fire, earthquake, energy shortages, flooding or other natural disasters), and these disruptions could have at least a temporary adverse effect on our operations. Although we generally maintain an

inventory of critical components used in the manufacture and assembly of our systems, such supplies may not be sufficient to avoid potential delays that could have an adverse effect on our business.

To date, we have not experienced any material disruption or termination of our supply sources. However, on March 11, 2011, an earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the north-east coast of Japan, causing thousands of deaths and extensive damage, as well as a potential nuclear disaster. Although our direct suppliers in Japan reported that damage to their physical assets was not significant on a consolidated basis and therefore we have no evidence that continuous supply will be interrupted, the damages caused to Japan's energy supplies, local infrastructure and distribution channels could potentially adversely affect us in the future. In addition, the 2011 floods in Thailand disrupted hard drive production by companies with factories in Thailand, including Seagate, Toshiba and Western Digital. As a results, Intel Corporation has cut its revenue forecast for the fourth quarter of 2011 by about 7%, saying that floods in Thailand that have constrained hard drive production will affect PC sales. Although we were not directly impacted by these specific cases, other cases in the future may impact our business.

A prolonged inability on our part to obtain components included in our systems on a cost-effective basis could adversely impact our ability to deliver products on a timely basis, which could harm our sales and customer relationships.

The new disclosure rules regarding the use of conflict minerals may affect our relationships with suppliers and customers.

The Securities and Exchange Commission adopted disclosure rules in August 2012 for companies that use conflict minerals in their products, with substantial supply chain verification requirements in the event that the materials come from, or could have come from, the Democratic Republic of the Congo or adjoining countries. These new rules and verification requirements may impose additional costs on us and on our suppliers, and limit the sources or increase the prices of materials used in our products. Among other things, this new rule could affect sourcing at competitive prices and availability in sufficient quantities of certain minerals used in the manufacture of components that are incorporated into our products. In addition, the number of suppliers who provide conflict-free minerals may be limited, and there may be material costs associated with complying with the disclosure requirements, such as costs related to the process of determining the source of certain minerals used in our products, as well as costs of possible changes to products, processes, or sources of supply as a consequence of such verification activities. We may not be able to sufficiently verify the origins of the relevant minerals used in components manufactured by third parties through the procedures that we implement, and we may encounter challenges to satisfy those customers who require that all of the components of our products be certified as conflict-free, which could place us at a competitive disadvantage if we are unable to do so. While we have created processes and procedures designed to enable compliance to these rules, if we are unable to certify that our products are conflict free, we may face challenges with our customers, which could place us at a competitive disadvantage, and our reputation may be harmed.

We are dependent on international sales, which expose us to foreign political and economic risks that could impede our plans for expansion and growth.

Our principal customers are located in Taiwan, South Korea, China, the United States and Germany, and we produce our products in Israel. International operations expose us to a variety of risks that could seriously impact our financial condition and impede our growth. For instance, trade restrictions, changes in tariffs and import and export license requirements could adversely affect our ability to sell our products in the countries adopting or changing those restrictions, tariffs or requirements. This could reduce our sales by a material amount.

We may be affected by instability in the global economy, including the recent European economic and financial turmoil.

Instability in the global credit markets, including the recent European economic and financial turmoil related to sovereign debt issues in certain countries, the instability in the geopolitical environment in many parts of the world and other disruptions, such as changes in energy costs, may continue to put pressure on global economic conditions. The world has recently experienced a global macroeconomic downturn, and if global economic and market conditions, or economic conditions in key markets, remain uncertain or deteriorate further, we may experience material impacts on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

Because we derive a significant portion of our revenues from sales in Asia, our sales could be hurt by the instability of Asian economies.

A number of Asian countries have experienced political and economic instability. For instance, Taiwan and China have had a number of disputes, as have North and South Korea, and Japan has for a number of years experienced significant economic instability. Additionally, the Asia-Pacific region is susceptible to the occurrence of natural

disasters, such as earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and flooding. We have subsidiaries in Taiwan, Japan and South Korea and we have significant customers in Taiwan and South Korea as well as in China. An outbreak of hostilities or other political upheaval, economic downturns or the occurrence of a natural disaster in these or other Asian countries would likely harm the operations of our customers in these countries, causing our sales to suffer.

A large number of our ordinary shares continue to be owned by a relatively small number of shareholders, whose future sales of our shares, if substantial, may depress our share price.

If our principal shareholders sell substantial amounts of our ordinary shares, including shares issued upon the exercise of outstanding options or warrants, the market price of our ordinary shares may fall. For additional information on our major shareholders, see “Item 7A – Major Shareholders” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

Certain shareholders may control the outcome of matters submitted to a vote of our shareholders, including the election of directors.

To the best of our knowledge, approximately 45% of our outstanding ordinary shares are cumulatively held by a six of our shareholders. As a result, and although we are currently not aware of any voting agreement between such shareholders, if these shareholders voted together or in the same manner, they would have the ability to control the outcome of corporate actions requiring an ordinary majority vote of shareholders as set in the Company’s Amended and Restated Articles of Association. Even if these shareholders do not vote together, each one of them may have the ability to influence the outcome of corporate actions requiring the vote of shareholders as set in the Company’s Amended and Restated Articles of Association. For additional information on our major shareholders, see “Item 7A – Major Shareholders” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

The market price of our ordinary shares may be affected by a limited trading volume and may fluctuate significantly.

In the past there has been a limited public market for our ordinary shares and there can be no assurance that an active trading market for our ordinary shares will continue. An absence of an active trading market could adversely affect our shareholders’ ability to sell our ordinary shares in short time periods. Our ordinary shares have experienced, and are likely to experience in the future, significant price and volume fluctuations, which could adversely affect the market price of our ordinary shares without regard to our operating performance.

We manage our available cash through various bank institutions and invest large portions of our cash reserves in bank deposits. A bankruptcy of one of the banks in which or through which we hold or invest our cash reserves, might prevent us to access that cash for an uncertain period of time.

We manage our available cash through various bank institutions and invest large portions of our cash reserves in bank deposits. As of December 31, 2014, more than 95% of our cash reserves were invested in Israeli based bank institutions, of which approximately 44% was invested in one institution. A bankruptcy of one of the banks in which we hold our cash reserves or through which we invest our cash reserves, might prevent us to access that cash for an uncertain period of time.

We may fail to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 imposes certain duties on us and our executives and directors. Our efforts to comply with the requirements of Section 404 (Assessment of Internal Control), which started in connection with our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, have resulted in increased general and administrative expense and a diversion of management time and attention, and we expect these efforts to require the continued commitment of resources. Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires (i) management’s annual review and evaluation of our internal control over financial reporting and (ii) an attestation report issued by an independent registered public accounting firm on our internal control over financial reporting, in connection with the filing of our Annual Report on Form 20-F for each fiscal year. We have documented and tested our internal control systems and procedures in order for us to comply with the requirements of Section 404. While our assessment of our



internal control over financial reporting resulted in our conclusion that as of December 31, 2014, our internal control over financial reporting was effective, we cannot predict the outcome of our testing in future periods. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, we may not be able to ensure that we can conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal controls over financial reporting. Failure to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could result in investigation or sanctions by regulatory authorities, and could have a material adverse effect on our operating results, investor confidence in our reported financial information, and the market price of our ordinary shares.

### Risks Related to Operations in Israel

Potential political, economic and military instability in Israel may adversely affect our growth and revenues.

Our principal offices and manufacturing facilities and many of our suppliers are located in Israel. Although most of our sales are currently being made outside Israel, potential political, economic and military conditions in Israel directly affect our operations.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, a number of armed conflicts have occurred between Israel and its Arab neighbors, including extensive hostilities along Israel's northern border with Lebanon in 2006 and continuous hostilities along Israel's border with the Gaza Strip. Some of these hostilities and armed conflicts resulted in artillery attacks on Israeli territories and civil facilities. In 2012 as well as during the summer of 2014, rocket attacks from Gaza Strip resulted in damages in areas which are close to our Manufacturing Facility. In addition, it is widely believed that Iran, which has previously threatened to attack Israel, has been stepping up its efforts to achieve nuclear capability. The tension between Israel and Iran may escalate in the future and turn violent, which could affect the Israeli economy generally and us in particular. Moreover, since December 2010, there has been a wave of protests and civil resistance demonstrations in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Egypt and Syria, both of which share a border with Israel. This situation creates instability in the Middle East and the surrounding countries. The resumption of hostilities and on-going tension and instability in the region, may have a negative effect on our business and harm our growth and revenues.

Our operations may be disrupted by the obligation of key personnel to perform military service.

Some of our executive officers and employees in Israel are obligated to perform significant periods of military reserve service until the age of 40 for soldiers and until the age of 45 for officers. This time-period may also be extended by the Military Chief of the General Staff and the approval of the Minister of Defense or by a directive of the Minister of Defense in the event of a declared national emergency. Our operations could be disrupted by the absence for a significant period of one or more of our executive officers or key employees due to military service. To date, our operations have not been materially disrupted as a result of these military service obligations. Any disruption in our operations due to such obligations would adversely affect our ability to produce and market our existing products and to develop and market future products.

Provisions of our Amended and Restated Articles of Association and Israeli law may delay, prevent or make difficult an acquisition of Nova, which could prevent a change of control and negatively affect the price of our ordinary shares.

Israeli corporate law regulates mergers, requires tender offers for acquisitions of shares above specified thresholds, for special approvals for transactions involving directors, officers or significant shareholders and regulates other matters that may be relevant to these types of transactions. Furthermore, Israeli tax considerations may make potential transactions unappealing to us or to some of our shareholders. See Item 10.B, "Additional Information – Memorandum and Articles of Association". For a more detailed discussion regarding some anti-takeover effects of Israeli law.

These provisions of Israeli law may delay, prevent or make difficult an acquisition of Nova, which could prevent a change of control and therefore depress the price of our shares.

The rights and responsibilities of our shareholders are governed by Israeli law and differ in some respects from the rights and responsibilities of shareholders under U.S. law.

We are incorporated under Israeli law. The rights and responsibilities of holders of our ordinary shares are governed by our Amended and Restated Articles of Association and by the Israeli Companies Law, 1999 (the "Companies Law").

These rights and responsibilities differ in some respects from the rights and responsibilities of shareholders in typical U.S. corporations. In particular, pursuant to the Companies Law each shareholder of an Israeli company has to act in good faith in exercising his or her rights and fulfilling his or her obligations toward the company and other shareholders and to refrain from abusing his power in the company, including, among other things, in voting at the general meeting of shareholders and class meetings, on amendments to a company's articles of association, increases in a company's authorized share capital, mergers, and transactions requiring shareholders' approval under the Companies Law. In addition, a controlling shareholder of an Israeli company or a shareholder who knows that it possesses the power to determine the outcome of a shareholder vote or who has the power to appoint or prevent the appointment of a director or officer in the company, or has other powers toward the company has a duty of fairness toward the company. However, Israeli law does not define the substance of this duty of fairness. Because Israeli corporate law has undergone extensive revision in recent years, there is little case law available to assist in understanding the implications of these provisions that govern shareholder behavior.

Because most of our revenues are generated in U.S. dollars, but a significant portion of our expenses is incurred in currencies other than U.S. dollars, and mainly New Israeli Shekels, our profit margin may be seriously harmed by currency fluctuations.

We generate most of our revenues in U.S. dollars, but incur a significant portion of our expenses in currencies other than U.S. dollar, and mainly New Israeli Shekel, commonly referred to as NIS. As a result, we are exposed to risk of devaluation of the U.S. dollar in relation to the NIS and other currencies. In that event, the dollar cost of our operations in countries other than the U.S. will increase and our dollar measured results of operations will be adversely affected. During 2014, the U.S. dollar revaluated against the NIS by 12%, after revaluated by approximately 2% in the previous three years. We cannot predict the future trends in the rate of devaluation or revaluation of the U.S. dollar against the NIS, and our operations also could be adversely affected if we are unable to hedge against currency fluctuations in the future.

We participate in government programs under which we receive tax and other benefits. These programs impose restrictions on our ability to use the technologies developed under these programs. In addition, the reduction or termination of these programs would increase our costs.

We receive royalty-bearing grants from the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, or OCS, for the financing of certain of our research and development programs that meet specified criteria. In addition, we are currently participating in intellectual property consortiums in Europe, in order to be able to support our customers in the transition to advance technology nodes in the coming years. These consortiums are joint programs with the OCS and the European Research Area. We are also eligible to receive tax benefits under Israeli law for capital investments that are designated as “approved enterprises”. To maintain our eligibility for these programs and tax benefits, we must continue to meet certain conditions, including paying royalties related to grants received and making specified investments in fixed assets. Some of these programs also restrict our ability to manufacture particular products and transfer particular technology, which were developed as part of the OCS's programs outside of Israel. The restrictions associated with receiving such OCS's grants may require us to obtain approval of the research and development committee nominated by the OCS for certain actions and transactions and pay additional royalties to the OCS. Such approval may be given only if the recipient abides by all the provisions of the law and related regulations. Approval to manufacture products outside of Israel or consent to the transfer of technology, if requested, might not be granted.

If we fail to comply with these conditions in the future, the benefits received could be cancelled. We could also be required to pay increased taxes or refund any benefits previously received, adjusted for inflation and interest. In addition, if we fail to comply with certain restrictions associated with receiving such OCS's grants, we may be subject to criminal charges. From time to time, we submit requests for new grants from the Office of the Chief Scientist and for expansion of our approved enterprise programs. These requests might not be approved. Also, the Israeli government may reduce or eliminate these benefits in the future. The termination or reduction of these grants or tax benefits could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, if we increase our activities outside Israel due to, for example, future acquisitions or outsourcing of manufacturing or development activities, these activities generally will not be eligible for inclusion in Israeli grants or tax benefit programs. Accordingly, our effective corporate tax rate could increase significantly in the future and our grants may continue to reduce.

Any shareholder with a cause of action against us as a result of buying, selling or holding our ordinary shares may have difficulty asserting a claim under U.S. securities laws or enforcing a U.S. judgment against us or our officers, directors or Israeli auditors.

We are organized under the laws of the State of Israel, and we maintain most of our operations in Israel. Most of our officers and directors as well as our Israeli auditors reside outside of the United States and a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of these persons are located outside the United States. Therefore, if you wish to enforce a judgment obtained in the United States against us, or our officers, directors and auditors, you will probably have to file a claim in an Israeli court. Additionally, you might not be able to bring civil actions under U.S. securities laws if you file a lawsuit in Israel. We have been advised by our Israeli counsel that Israeli courts generally enforce a final executory judgment of a U.S. court for liquidated amounts in civil matters after a hearing in Israel. If a foreign judgment is enforced by an Israeli court, it will be payable in Israeli currency. However, payment in the local currency of the country where the foreign judgment was given shall be acceptable, subject to applicable foreign currency restrictions.

Our shares are listed for trade on more than one stock exchange, and this may result in price variations.

Our ordinary shares are listed for trading on The NASDAQ Global Select Market and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Ltd., or TASE. This may result in price variations. Our ordinary shares are traded on these markets in different currencies, U.S. dollars on The NASDAQ Global Select Market and New Israeli Shekels on the TASE. These markets have different opening times and close on different days. Different trading times and differences in exchange rates, among other factors, may result in our shares being traded at a price differential on these two markets. In addition, market influences in one market may influence the price at which our shares are traded on the other.

We may be classified as a “passive foreign investment company” for U.S. income tax purposes, which could have significant and adverse tax consequences to U.S. shareholders.

Generally, if for any taxable year 75% or more of our gross income consists of specified types of passive income, or, on average, at least 50% of our assets are held for the production of, or produce, passive income, we may be characterized as a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Classification of Nova as a PFIC could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to our U.S. shareholders, including having gain realized on the sale or other disposition of our shares being treated as ordinary income as opposed to capital gain income, and computing tax liability on that gain, as well as on dividends and other distributions, as if the income had been earned ratably over each day in the U.S. holder’s holding period for the shares. In addition, an interest charge will be imposed on the amount of the tax allocated to these taxable years. It may be possible for U.S. holders of common shares to mitigate certain of these consequences by making an election to treat us as a “qualified electing fund” under Section 1295 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) or a “mark-to-market election” under Section 1296 of the Code. U.S. shareholders should consult with their own U.S. tax advisors with respect to the U.S. tax consequences of investing in our ordinary shares.

We believe that in 2014 we were not a PFIC. Nonetheless, because the determination of whether we are, or will be, a PFIC for a taxable year depends, in part, on the application of complex U.S. federal income tax rules, which are subject to various interpretations, there is a risk that we were a PFIC in 2014. Absent one of the elections described above, if we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. holder holds our ordinary shares, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC regardless of whether we cease to meet the PFIC tests in one or more subsequent years. Currently we expect that we will not be a PFIC in 2015. However, PFIC status is determined based on our assets and income over the course of each taxable year, and is dependent on a number of factors, including the value of a corporation’s assets, the trading price of our ordinary shares and the amount and type of its gross income. Therefore, there can be no assurances that we will not become a PFIC for the current fiscal year ending on December 31, 2015, or any future year, or that the Internal Revenue Service will not challenge any determination made by us concerning our PFIC status. For a discussion on how we might be characterized as a PFIC and related tax consequences, please see the section of this annual report entitled “U.S. Taxation – Passive Foreign Investment Companies.”

#### Item 4. Information on the Company

##### 4.A History and Development of the Company

Nova Measuring Instruments Ltd. was incorporated in May 1993 under the laws of the State of Israel. We commenced operations in October 1993 to design, develop and produce integrated process control systems for use in the manufacture of semiconductors, also known as integrated circuits or chips.

In April 2000, we conducted an initial public offering and our shares were listed for trading on NASDAQ.

In June 2002, we listed our shares on the TASE, pursuant to legislation which enables Israeli companies whose shares are traded on certain stock exchanges outside of Israel to be registered on the TASE, while reporting, in substance, in accordance with the provision of the relevant foreign securities law applicable to the Company.

During 2003, we began expanding our product offerings to include stand-alone systems. In recent years stand-alone metrology has started to account for a significant portion of our overall revenues.

Until 2008, most of our products were sold to process equipment manufacturers such as Applied Materials, Inc. and Ebara Corp., which later sold these products to semiconductor manufacturers. Since then, we have completely changed our business model, selling most of our products directly to semiconductor manufacturers. Through this process, which has also enabled us to introduce to these customers additional products and features, we have improved our products gross margins and net profitability. In parallel, we continue to work with the process equipment manufacturers as business partners for future products and process control solutions.

On February 9, 2010, we successfully completed an underwritten public follow-on offering in which we received approximately \$17.0 million in net proceeds.

On March 24, 2014, we announced a \$12 million share repurchase program, which we plan to execute by the first half of 2015.

We have six fully owned subsidiaries in the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Germany and the Netherlands. These subsidiaries are engaged in marketing activities and provide technical support to our customers.

Our main office, research and development and production facilities are located in Israel at the Weizmann Science Park, Building 22, 2nd Floor, Ness-Ziona. Our telephone number at our main office is +1-972-73-229-5600.

#### 4.B Business Overview

We are a worldwide leading designer, developer and producer of optical process control solutions used in the manufacturing process of semiconductor integrated circuits. We offer in-line stand-alone metrology systems, as well as integrated metrology units that attach directly to process equipment. Our metrology systems combine with Nova's modeling software to deliver unique measurement solutions that measure the most advanced structures with high performance and fast time to solution. Our metrology systems measure various thin film properties and critical circuit dimensions during various steps in the semiconductor manufacturing process, allowing semiconductor manufacturers to increase quality, productivity and yields, lower manufacturing costs and increase profitability. We supply our metrology solutions to major semiconductor manufacturers worldwide, and are recognized for excellence since our first system was installed in 1995.

The semiconductor manufacturing process starts with a flat silicon disc known as a silicon wafer upon which circuits are constructed. To construct the circuits, a series of layers of thin films that act as conductors, semiconductors or insulators are applied to the polished side of the wafer. During the manufacturing process, these film layers are subjected to processes which remove portions of the film, create circuit patterns and perform other functions. The semiconductor manufacturing process requires precise steps and strict control of equipment performance and process sequences. Tight control can be achieved through monitoring silicon wafers and measuring relevant parameters before or after each process step with metrology tools such as those we produce.

Prior to the introduction of our integrated metrology systems, process control was solely achieved through stand-alone measurement equipment. Stand-alone measurement equipment requires semiconductor manufacturers to interrupt the manufacturing process sequence, remove sample silicon wafers from the process equipment and place the silicon wafers on the stand-alone measuring or inspection tool. In contrast, our integrated metrology approach is based on patented measuring methods that enable us to produce optical measuring systems that are small enough to be integrated directly inside many types of semiconductor process equipment. We believe that in several instances during the manufacturing process, our integrated approach offers considerable advantages over the conventional stand-alone approach to metrology control, enabling manufacturers using our integrated equipment to reduce costs and to improve production efficiency, yield and quality.

We have always invested in our integrated metrology solutions as this continues to be an area where we have a leading position. In addition, in the past few years, we developed and started manufacturing stand-alone metrology systems, leveraging our technology, methods, metrology expertise and market position in the integrated metrology field to expand our offerings into the larger market for stand-alone metrology systems. Over the past several years we developed several generations of Stand-Alone metrology tools. Through a customer driven roadmap which aligns our development efforts with both R&D as well as high volume manufacturing needs of our customers, we have been able to build a differentiated product offering. The success of this endeavor has allowed us to grow this aspect of our



business such that it now represents a significant part of our overall business. Today, both stand-alone and integrated metrology solutions have reached a level of maturity allowing semiconductor manufactures to choose how to use either technology and make decisions based on merit specific to the process step in question, always balancing between the amount of data attained and the use made of the data for capabilities such as automated process control. Our long-term strategy is focused on advanced metrology and process control solutions where our integrated process control products and stand-alone products are compatible or complementary and used in a customized way to meet specific customer needs.

Demand for metrology systems is driven by capital equipment purchases by semiconductor manufacturers, which in turn are driven by worldwide demand for semiconductor devices. Industry data indicates that through the years worldwide demand for semiconductors has been growing. We believe that this growth in demand will continue to generate demand for process control equipment, including metrology systems, as semiconductor manufacturers invest in technology and capacity expansion. We also believe that demand for metrology systems will be driven by the increasing cost of semiconductor manufacturing and by the requirements of semiconductor manufacturers for better control of process equipment. Finally, demand for metrology is strongly driven by technology challenges. The growing investment in advanced technology nodes and device structures introduces growing complexity and new challenges. Scaling limits and technology progress are continuously pushed in order to improve cost and gain competitive advantage. These fundamental elements create favorable market conditions for Optical CD metrology growth where more process steps are needed, new novel materials are introduced and innovative structures and packaging solutions are incorporated. We believe that all the above market conditions set favorable business environment to grow the company organically and inorganically.

## Our Market

### Semiconductor Industry and the Metrology Market

The increased use of semiconductors has been accompanied by an increase in their complexity. Due to the creation of new applications and markets for semiconductors, suppliers and manufacturers are faced with an increasing demand for new products that provide greater functionality and higher performance at lower prices. As a result, many new complex materials, structures and processes are being introduced to semiconductor manufacturing. New materials include copper, low-k and high-k dielectrics, silicon-on-insulator, silicon-germanium, strained silicon and raised source/drain. Manufacturers have transitioned in the past years toward 300 mm silicon wafers from 200 mm silicon wafers. While 300 mm wafers can yield up to twice as many integrated circuits as 200 mm wafers, larger wafers increase manufacturing challenges. For example, because 300 mm wafers can bend or bow more than twice as much as 200 mm wafers, they are more susceptible to damage. The larger area of 300 mm wafers also makes it more difficult to maintain film uniformity across the entire wafer. The phenomena is expected to become even more challenging as the Semiconductor industry considers a move to 450 mm production in the future (currently on hold due to questions on cost effectiveness). Semiconductors also continue to move toward smaller feature sizes and more complex structures such as 3D FinFET transistors and 3D-NAND memory structures. The increase in complexity of semiconductors and the resulting increase in the complexity and cost of the semiconductor manufacturing process has also been a driver of demand for metrology systems.

The ever-increasing level of complexity and the decrease in feature sizes has also significantly increased the cost and performance requirements of semiconductor fabrication equipment. The cost of wafer fabrication equipment has also increased due to the higher levels of automation being utilized by manufacturers. Thus, semiconductor manufacturers must increase their investment in capital equipment in order to sustain technological leadership, to expand manufacturing capacity and maintain profitability. According to published reports by an industry market research firm, the cost of building a state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing facility has grown from approximately \$200 million in 1983 and may reach up to \$5 billion in 2014 for building mega fab facilities capable of manufacturing 300 mm wafers. We believe that the process control equipment market, which includes the metrology segment, will grow in the future at a rate greater than the overall process equipment market since the challenges of meeting process design goals will become increasingly difficult such that process control equipment is in the future expected to consume a larger portion of the overall costs of semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

### The Semiconductor Manufacturing Process

Semiconductors typically consist of transistors or other components connected by an intricate system of circuitry on silicon wafers. Integrated circuit manufacturing involves well over a dozen individual steps, some of which are repeated several times, through which numerous copies of an integrated circuit are formed on a single silicon wafer. Typically, up to 30 very thin patterned layers are created on each wafer during the manufacturing process. At the end of the manufacturing process, the wafer is cut into individual chips or dies. Because semiconductor specifications are extremely tight, and integrated circuits are becoming more complex, requiring ever more sophisticated manufacturing processes, the process steps are constantly monitored, and critical parameters are measured at each step using metrology equipment.

Many of the manufacturing steps involve the controlled application or removal of layers of materials to or from the wafer. The application of materials to the wafer, known as deposition, involves the layering of extremely thin films of electrically insulating, conducting or semi-conducting materials. These layers can range from one-thousandth to less than one-hundred-thousandth of a millimeter in thickness and create electrically active regions on the wafer and its surface. A wide range of materials and deposition processes are used to build up thin film layers on wafers to achieve specific performance characteristics. One of the principal methods of thin film layer deposition is chemical vapor deposition (CVD). In CVD, a chemical is introduced into the chamber where the wafer is being processed and is deposited using heat and a chemical reaction to form a layer of solid material on the surface of the silicon wafer. Metrology systems monitor the thickness and uniformity of thin film layers during the deposition process.

Once the thin film has been deposited on the wafer to form a solid material, circuit patterns are created using a process known as photolithography. During this process, a light-sensitive coating called photoresist is applied to the wafer, which is then exposed to intense light through a patterned, opaque piece of glass. For the photolithography process to work properly, the thickness of the photoresist must be precise and uniform. In addition, to control the photolithography process, the film thickness, reflectivity, overlay registration and critical dimensions are all measured and verified. The exposed photoresist is developed when it is subjected to a chemical solution. The developed wafer is then exposed to another chemical solution, or plasma, that etches away any areas not covered by the photoresist to create the structure of the integrated circuit. Semiconductor manufacturers use metrology systems to verify the removal of material through the etch process and the critical dimensions of the structures created.

To meet the flatness challenges posed by ever smaller feature sizes and the critical need for ultra-flat foundation for high precision photolithography, manufacturers use process technology known as Chemical Mechanical Planarization, or CMP. CMP removes uneven film material deposited on the surface of the wafer from processes such as CVD and photolithography by carefully “polishing” the wafer with abrasives and chemicals, creating an extremely flat and even surface for the patterning of subsequent film layers. Metrology systems are used to control and verify the results of the CMP process by measuring the thin film layer to determine when the correct thickness has been achieved.

The processes described above are repeated in sequence until the last layer of structures on the wafer has been completed. Each integrated circuit on the wafer is then inspected and its functionality tested before shipment. Measurements taken by metrology systems during the manufacturing process help insure process uniformity and help semiconductor manufacturers avoid costly rework and misprocessing, thereby increasing efficiency and profitability.

#### The World Economy – Update

Gartner Inc. forecasts the world GDP to grow by 3.1% in 2015 compared to an estimated increase of 2.7% in 2014, and forecasts the U.S. GDP to grow by 2.6% in 2015.

Gartner Inc. forecasts semiconductor revenues to increase by 5.4% in 2015, compared to an increase of 7.9% in 2014. In addition, Gartner Inc. forecasts WFE sales in 2015 to increase by 6.7% following an estimated increase of 16% in 2014.

According to research reports, future demand drivers for semiconductors include Tablet PC's, Smartphones, Netbooks, Solid State Drives (SSD) and other electronic equipment.

#### The Need for Greater Overall Equipment Efficiency

We believe that one of the major challenges to achieving improvements in semiconductor manufacturing cost efficiency is continuously improving equipment productivity. Overall equipment efficiency, that is, the percentage of time that processing equipment is utilized to produce wafers, is used as a metric to quantify the productivity of a

processing tool. The major factors affecting productivity are equipment downtime, qualification time, mis-processing and operator skills. We believe that in order to improve cost productivity, earn an acceptable return on their investment in capital equipment and to meet the demand for improved semiconductor device performance, semiconductor manufacturers must continuously find ways to improve overall equipment efficiency. It is therefore that we continuously ensure that our products offer cost efficient performance in their mode of operation. It is also our understanding that the use of metrology equipment that we manufacture enhances the cost efficiency of the process itself by offering high throughput, high reliability and low cost of operation making the metrology an inherent part of the process which does not cause any unnecessary delays.

**Process Control.** The steps used to create semiconductors are accurate processes that require strict control of equipment performance and process sequences for the resulting semiconductor devices to function properly. Tight control is achieved through monitoring of the in-process wafers and by measuring relevant parameters after each process step. These procedures are usually carried out on a small sample of the wafers though in some steps where process stability is difficult to achieve, the number of sampled wafers will increase. The monitoring may include measurement of several parameters, such as the thickness of the layers of thin film deposited, the sizes of the features that are patterned through the photolithography process, as well as the registration or alignment between two consecutive layers, known as overlay. Monitoring also includes inspection of the wafer for irregularities, defects or scratches. If parameters are out of specification or if defects or contamination are present, the manufacturer adjusts the process and measures another sample of wafers thereby allowing manufacturers to reduce costs and improve device performance.

**The Need for Effective Process Control Tools.** A number of technical and operational trends within the semiconductor manufacturing industry are strengthening the need for more effective process control solutions. These trends include:

- **Development of Smaller Semiconductor Features.** The development of smaller features, now as small as 20nm in production and 10nm in R&D, enables semiconductor manufacturers to produce larger numbers of circuits per wafer and to achieve higher circuit performance. As feature geometries decrease, manufacturing yields become increasingly sensitive to processing deviations and defects, as more integrated circuits are lost with every discarded wafer. In addition, the increased complexity and number of layers of the integrated circuits increase the chance of error during the manufacturing of the wafer.
- **Transition to 3D device structures.** Foundries are adopting 3D FinFET transistors starting at 14/16 nm technology nodes to get improved performance and use less power in 1x technology nodes. Memory makers will move to 3D NAND and vertical structures for next generation NAND technology. These trends will require process control with metrology solutions capable of measuring critical dimensions in these 3D structures that are currently supported only by optical metrology technology.
- **Transition to 3D Integration Technology.** Three-dimensional (3D) integration of active devices, directly connecting multiple IC chips, offers many benefits, including power efficiency, performance enhancements, significant product miniaturization, and cost reduction. It provides an additional way to extend Moore's law beyond spending ever-increasing efforts to shrink feature sizes. A critical element in enabling 3D integration is the Through-Silicon Via (TSV); TSV provides the high-bandwidth interconnection between stacked chips. The TSV process is beginning to enter production. In the case of TSV, since multiple chips are connected, the process has to achieve and maintain very high yield levels in order to be economically viable. TSV metrology solutions are required to closely monitor and measure depth, side-wall slope, top and bottom diameter (CD), and bottom curvature.
- **Shortening of Technology Life Cycles.** The technology life cycle of integrated circuits continues to shorten as semiconductor manufacturers strive to adopt new processes that allow a faster transition to smaller, faster and more complex devices. In the past, the technology life cycle was approximately three years; it is now only two years. The accelerating rate of obsolescence of technology makes early achievement of enhanced productivity and high manufacturing yields an even more critical component of a semiconductor manufacturer's profitability and metrology continues to play an even more critical role in achieving these demanding results.
- **New materials.** Copper metal layers continue to be the key material for the back end of line for advanced integrated circuits in order to increase performance and reduce the cost of integrated circuits. The Industry is continuously searching directions to reduce the effective K of the low K materials and to reduce the barrier thickness and material types. These changes require new processing and metrology equipment and thus represents challenging developments for the semiconductor manufacturing industry. In addition, in order to overcome limitations in the

continued shrink of transistor dimensions, leading edge integrated circuit manufacturers are introducing new materials in the transistor gate stack. The adoption of high-k dielectrics is a key element for gate control in the most advanced technology nodes of 28nm, 20nm and 14nm currently in production, while R&D work to implement the next gate control material being done with III-IV materials. These new materials, combined with metal layers, require new processing and metrology equipment and thus represent a challenging development for the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

- Increasing use of multi patterning lithography. The continuous need for scaling to meet reduced transistor costs combined with delays in EUV lithography is pushing the industry to develop alternative lithography techniques such as multi patterning, DSA and E-Beam. These alternative technology are increasing the Etch and CMP process steps and thus increasing the process control and metrology steps in these areas accordingly.
- Increase in Foundry Manufacturing. As a result of the rising investment needed for semiconductor process development and production as well as the proliferation of different types of semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing is increasingly being outsourced to large semiconductor contract manufacturers, or foundries. A foundry typically runs several different processes and makes hundreds to thousands of different semiconductor product types in one facility, making the maintenance of a constant high production yield and overall equipment efficiency more difficult to achieve. This trend of shifting to foundries for manufacturing needs has progressed even further during recent years.

In order to address the increasing costs associated with these trends, we believe semiconductor manufacturers must enhance manufacturing productivity. One way to enhance productivity is through improvements in process control, with a greater emphasis on metrology as part of process control. As part of this emphasis on metrology, manufacturers are taking more measurements to characterize each step of the semiconductor manufacturing process, new and enhanced measurement techniques are being used to provide meaningful data and the data provided is being used in new ways to enhance the manufacturing process. We believe that the demand for advanced process control systems that address the evolving needs of semiconductor manufacturers will continue to drive the growth in the market for process control systems.

We believe that in certain process steps, integrated metrology systems provide semiconductor manufacturers with the greatest opportunity to increase the productivity and yields of their equipment, thereby increasing their profitability. Therefore, we plan to continue to maintain a major focus on the integrated metrology market. However, recognizing that a significant number of process steps will continue to rely on stand-alone equipment, we intend to continue leveraging our market leading position in the integrated metrology market and our metrology expertise to deepen our penetration of the stand-alone metrology market. Furthermore, the technological and operational trends within the semiconductor manufacturing industry that are strengthening the need for more effective process control solutions can sometimes be addressed through the use of stand-alone metrology equipment or a combination of both stand-alone and integrated metrology.

#### Expected equipment spending in 2015

We believe that in 2015 equipment spending will continue in the foundry segment with focus on adding capacity in 20nm and 14/16nm and will increase the memory segment to address capacity expansions and investment in advanced planar nodes as well as in 3D-NAND. Equipment spending will be focused around three main areas:

1. Technology buys of equipment enabling semiconductor manufacturers to move to the next technology node maintaining competitiveness, reducing cost and improving product performance.
2. Expansion within partially populated fabs and initial population of new fabs.
3. Retrofits of equipment that will improve yield or efficiency to reduce overall manufacturing cost or to enable using older process equipment for advanced technology nodes.

Metrology plays an important role in all of the above. We believe that we are well positioned for technology as well as expansion buys and retrofit opportunities with our legacy and new generation stand-alone products, the NovaScan 3090Next, the Nova T500, the Nova T600 and the Nova v2600 for the TSV market, and with our market leading



integrated metrology products, the legacy NovaScan 3090Next IM and the new generation Nova i500.

### The Nova Approach

#### Integrated Metrology

As processes development time is shorter, processes are becoming less stable and call for process control that is closer to the actual process step. Nova's approach is to lead the industry with solutions that can enable effective and accurate measurements under non-ideal process conditions. Our integrated metrology systems provide semiconductor manufacturers with effective and efficient process control by measuring wafers and their properties immediately after the process, without removing the wafer from the process equipment. All our products use our patented measuring methods that enable us to produce optical measuring systems that are small enough to be incorporated directly inside many types of equipment used in semiconductor processing. Integrated systems measure the wafer within the actual process environment, reducing labor and wafer handling as well as the risk of contamination of or damage to the wafer. In addition, we believe that our systems deliver significant increases in overall equipment efficiency through advanced process control, along with improving wafer-to-wafer uniformity, all with minimal operator intervention.

We provide our customers with flexible integrated process control solutions by offering systems that meet thin film as well as Optical CD measurement needs in critical applications in the fabrication process. Our integrated process control platform can be deployed to multiple processes and applications of semiconductor manufacturing.

Our systems can be installed directly in new equipment or used to upgrade existing equipment with minimal integration costs, extending the useful lifetime of existing process equipment and saving significant capital costs. To our knowledge, only our metrology systems can be used to retrofit older 200 mm semiconductor manufacturing equipment, giving us a unique opportunity as manufacturers seek to increase production quickly to meet the increasing demand for semiconductors. Our pioneering approach, centered on our NovaReady integration package, later adopted by process equipment manufacturers, allows process equipment manufacturers to prepare their equipment to accept our measurement systems, which can then be integrated with a simple plug-and-play installation.

We believe our integrated process control systems and solutions provide several important advantages to semiconductor manufacturers, enabling manufacturers to:

- utilize the process equipment wafer handling system to allow measurement of the sample wafers while processing other wafers and avoid the need for the costly additional wafer handling required by stand-alone metrology systems;
- perform the measurements without removing the wafer from the process equipment, increasing the efficiency of the process and decreasing the risk of contamination;
- reduce manufacturing equipment processing variability through the use of wafer to wafer measurements and closed loop control based on automated feedback of process variability;
- reduce capital costs of the fabrication facility by increasing overall equipment efficiency and reducing labor costs and necessary clean room area;
- reduce the amount of time required to qualify process equipment that is usually idle during qualification steps, thus, minimizing costly equipment down-time;
- reduce the number of test wafers; and
- detect processing errors as early as possible.

We believe that as semiconductor manufacturers demand greater efficiency from their manufacturing equipment, process equipment manufacturers will increasingly seek to offer their customers integrated metrology in their tools to lower costs and increase overall efficiency. We believe the drive toward more efficient manufacturing operations in the face of increasing complexity will continue the trend of adopting integrated metrology solutions such as those we offer to multiple processes.

In prior years, most of our integrated metrology products were sold through process equipment manufacturers (such as Applied Materials, Inc. and Ebara Corporation). These products were later sold by the process equipment manufacturers (PEMs) to the semiconductor manufacturers. In recent years, we completely changed this model and now we sell our integrated metrology products directly to semiconductor manufacturers. This resulted in more favorable commercial terms to end users, to PEMs and to our Company. It also enabled deeper technological cooperation with end users and expansion of our product offering through new, and previously unavailable, features and functionality.



### Stand-Alone Metrology

As stated above, we pioneered the area of integrated metrology and to-date revenues from that product continue to represent the larger portion of our overall revenues. With the adoption of our technology and the formation of long standing relationships with leading manufacturers, we have come to realize that our technology can be extended beyond integrated metrology into areas such as stand-alone metrology. Accordingly, in the past few years we developed stand-alone metrology tools to perform measurements similar to those performed by our integrated metrology tools. The expression “stand-alone metrology” generically describes free standing metrology equipment which sits inline, i.e., next to the processing equipment and receives cassettes or FOUP of wafers to allow sampling of a few or several wafers from each cassette it receives. There are several types of stand-alone metrology tools each of which performs a distinct type of measurement, e.g., defect inspection, electrical performance, microscopic analysis, cross sections, etc. Our specific focus is in the area of optical CD measurement which is generally utilized in order to characterize critical dimensions on a wafer, their width, shape and profile. This technology is utilized today in several areas of the fab such as photolithography, etch, CMP, selective deposition of thin films, etc. The key advantage offered by this technique is that it provides visualization of the full cross-section-like profile of the structure, while remaining non-destructive and extremely fast with very high accuracy and repeatability. Adding stand-alone metrology to our product portfolio has allowed us to expand our reach into areas of the fab that have been slower to adopt integrated metrology or such areas that can be properly controlled with a lower sampling scheme offered by a stand-alone measurement tool.

We introduced this concept in 2006 and were successful in penetrating several accounts since then, allowing us to see a significant increase in our overall customer base with the stand-alone products. With the introduction of stand-alone metrology, we have expanded our addressable markets and are now able to provide metrology solutions for four of the five critical manufacturing steps, as opposed to the one or two we were previously able to provide, when our product offering was limited.

### Modeling and Software solutions

The integrated and stand-alone products combine with the NovaMARS modeling engine to create Nova’s metrology solution. NovaMARS is our modeling and application development software that enables complex 2D, 3D and in-die measurements with high accuracy and fast time-to-solution. Over the past several years we have leveraged our advanced modeling know-how to create unique solutions that address industry process challenges. As part of Nova’s holistic metrology approach we have introduced the hybrid metrology solution that combines data from different toolsets such as CD SEM with Nova’s optical metrology to provide improved performance above that of any individual toolset. Furthermore, we are continuously exploring new methods to deliver superior process control solutions that leverage our advanced modeling engines. In addition to our modeling software solutions, we have introduced the fleet management software which is Nova solution for managing large fleets of metrology tools to deliver high productivity and operational efficiency in high volume production environment of foundry and memory customers. The fleet management solution offers an easy and intuitive platform for managing and improving the overall productivity of Nova systems and is designed to address the needs and working methodologies of Metrology and Process Engineers in the fab.

### Our Technology

We believe that our technological and engineering expertise and research and development capabilities allow us to develop and offer new products and technologies to meet the ever-changing demands of the semiconductor industry. We have applied our technological and engineering expertise to develop a wide range of integrated and stand-alone products for the dielectric CMP, copper CMP, Tungsten CMP, Etch and lithography processes as well as high end CVD deposited layers, Cu electroplating and sputtering of Cu barrier and seed materials. Because of our open

architecture policy, our integrated metrology solutions can work with most models of CMP and Etch tools made by the major process equipment manufacturers, for both 200 mm and 300 mm applications.

Our scatterometry capabilities have enabled us to penetrate new customers with Stand-Alone Optical CD metrology systems. Our combined offering of advanced measurement hardware and advanced modeling software place us in a position to offer an advantageous solution to our customers.

In addition to the above applications, we have a stand-alone product for the emerging 3D-interconnect market. This internal development is based on an extension of our existing technologies.

Our suite of technological capabilities includes:

- Broadband Spectrophotometry. Our broadband Spectrophotometry capabilities range from deep ultraviolet to infrared. This technology enables fast, accurate and small spot size film thickness measurement in a large range of applications on a very cost effective basis, both as an integrated system and as a stand-alone system.

- **Scatterometry.** Our Scatterometry systems are based on our broadband Spectrophotometry technology. These systems use a fully polarized deep ultraviolet to near-infrared spectral light source. This technology enables fast and cost effective system development. Scatterometry provides two and three dimensional characterization of very fine geometries on patterned product wafers. These profiling and critical dimension capabilities are key enablers of advanced process control, allowing almost real time metrology of the most advanced design rules, down to 7 nm and below. A key component in scatterometry technology is the modeling software which converts raw spectra coming from the measurement tool into useful information in terms of customer parameters. This segment of the technology is where we currently focus our attention and where we have also acquired specific advantages due to our unique solutions. Some of Nova's metrology solutions use multi-channel reflectometry to reduce the ambiguity, increase the sensitivity to critical parameters, and improve measurement accuracy. The measurements are gathered using different wave lengths, polarizations and directions in order to deliver highly-accurate results.
- **Dark Field Spectral Reflectometry -** In order to further increase the variety of independent channels, we implemented measurement schemes based on the notion of dark-field (DF) detection. In DF measurements, the optical system is designed so that light going through 'simple' reflection from the sample is blocked before detection. Dark field spectral reflectometry is currently implemented in Nova's V2600 for measurements of Through-Silicon-Via (TSV). In order to isolate and highlight the signal related to reflection from TSV side walls, we implemented a dark-field method by which all light specularly reflected from the wafer top surface is blocked, and only light that has entered the via is collected for analysis. This method is beneficial for the characterization of the TSV profile, allowing sensitivity to the via side walls and bottom characteristics.
- **Imaging and image processing.** One of Nova's key core technologies is high-end optical imaging. As part of this specialty, Nova has implemented advanced image processing algorithms, sophisticated navigational channels, and robust pattern recognition capabilities, in its tools.

The measurement techniques used in our metrology products are unique and protected by a number of patents.

Throughout our history, we have been a technological leader in the integrated metrology field. We were the first to offer integrated metrology solutions for semiconductor manufacturers and are the only provider of integrated metrology solutions that can measure wafers in water, which allows for more efficient and close-to-the-process metrology.

## Products

Our products include metrology systems for thin film measurement in chemical mechanical polishing and chemical vapor deposition applications; optical CD and Metal Line Thickness (MLT) systems for use in post-copper chemical mechanical polishing applications and optical critical dimension systems for lithography and etch applications. Our integrated thickness monitoring system for chemical mechanical polishing process control enables wafer-to-wafer closed loop control. We offer several models of integrated thickness monitoring systems, depending on polisher type and end-user requirements. These metrology systems address a broad range of metrology requirements of our end-user and process equipment manufacturer customers. Both our integrated and stand-alone systems incorporate patented optical scanning, dynamic auto-focus, unique pattern recognition for arbitrarily oriented wafers and proprietary algorithms for in-water measuring of multiple layers simultaneously. We offer several different product models that are tailored to conventional chemical mechanical polishing equipment as well as to newer, high throughput polishers. Following is a summary of our products:

### Thin Film and Optical CD Process Control

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The NovaScan 2040 is the second generation of integrated thickness monitoring systems with enhanced spectral range, responding to the needs of the industry for emerging chemical mechanical polishing high-end applications of thin films and complex layer stacks. The 2040 model was introduced to the market at the end of 2000, and since then has replaced the NovaScan 840 and accounted for the majority of our sales for 200 mm production lines.

- The NovaScan 3090Next is a legacy system still sold into 300mm fabs as the latest and best of the NovaScan line. Targeted for 45 nm and 32 nm technology nodes with extendibility down to 20nm, this tool was released in 2006 and provided significant improvements in throughput, accuracy, tool to tool matching and spectral range over the older NovaScan 3090. It also improved overall tool reliability. The NovaScan 3090Next is available as integrated metrology and as stand-alone metrology systems for both thin film and Optical CD (scatterometry) applications.

- The Nova T500 stand-alone product family, targeted at technology nodes ranging from 32nm and smaller than 20nm. The Nova T500 features improved metrology performance, improving both accuracy and tool to tool matching, providing industry leading throughput of 250WPH using dual metrology units.
- The new generation Nova i500 integrated metrology features the same metrology as the Nova T500 for complete stand-alone to integrated metrology compatibility. The Nova i500 features advanced metrology for technology nodes smaller than 20nm and high throughput that meets the standards of next generation polishers. The Nova i500 demonstrated more than 30% improvement in throughput, was qualified for high throughput polishers and showed improved precision and tool matching compared to the previous model in various production scenarios.
- The Nova T600 is the latest addition to the stand-alone product family, targeted at technology nodes of 2x and beyond. The Nova T600 features multi-channel reflectometry configuration that is optimized for best sensitivity on small features and critical device parameters, such as measurement of high-aspect-ratio structures. Nova T600 is designed to meet the challenging cost of ownership requirements of semiconductor customers, achieved through a combination of high throughput, Modular Metrology, and the flexibility to optimize optical configuration and tool type to best serve application needs. Nova T600 is aimed in assisting memory manufacturers in developing their next generation cutting edge technology in the 1Xnm tech node.
- The Nova V2600 TSV metrology system, announced in July 2012, enables chipmakers to accelerate the development and improve production yield of multi-chip integrations that rely on TSVs (Through Silicon Vias). The Nova V2600, developed in collaboration with device makers, allows accurate measurement of critical TSV features such as side-wall angle, bottom diameter, and bottom curvature. This process control solution delivers complete TSV dimensional metrology in a high-throughput production-ready system for the industry's transition to 3D integration in production. Nova V2600 collects a dark-field reflectometry spectrum that is highly sensitive to variations in TSV internal structure, and has a unique capability to extend measuring of future TSVs with diameters below 5 microns. This high-throughput platform is recognized for providing superior cost of ownership and operational flexibility.
- NovaMars is an advanced scatterometry modeling and application development software tool enabling complex 2D, 3D and in-die measurements as well as Real Time Regression (RTR) capabilities. Process engineers can harness the power and flexibility of the tool to develop their own scatterometry applications by themselves thus keeping the details of their process within the fab. Its user interface and high level of automation provide for easier and faster application development and eliminate discrepancies between different developers, enabling the best solution, independent of user proficiency. Combined with the NovaMARS innovative modeling software capabilities, the Nova T600, for example, provides the metrology precision and accuracy as well as application development flexibility needed for the development of most advanced technology nodes. The NovaMars is an integral part in all Nova integrated and stand alone solutions.
- Nova Hybrid Metrology solution is part of our holistic metrology approach that utilizes different sources of information that can enhance the overall metrology performance. The Hybrid metrology solution combines data from different toolsets in the fab such as CD-SEM and XRD together with Nova's optical metrology to provide improved performance above that of any individual toolset. Nova has been pioneering the hybrid concept in the past several years and has proven the value of the solution in multiple publications and technical papers. As of 2013, the Hybrid solution has been implemented in production at leading foundry fabs.
- Nova Fleet Management is Nova's newest solution for managing large fleets of metrology tools and is designed to address the needs and working methodologies of Metrology and Process Engineers in the fab. The solution offers an easy and intuitive platform for managing and improving the overall productivity of Nova systems. Comprised of a centralized server dedicated for databases and data storage, network-connected tools and servers, Nova Fleet



Management serves as the back-end platform that enables Wafer-less Recipe Creation (WRC) for simple and intuitive recipe creation without interfering with tool operation. It also supports distribution of recipes from a central location to multiple tools over the fab network in efficient and secure mechanism. The centralized server contains an advanced report generator for the analysis of the metrology spectral data collected from the tools as well as tool performance and health monitoring to ensure that your tools are operating within specifications and enabling you to monitor tools' performance trends.

- NovaNet is a legacy computer network, connecting all NovaScan systems on a factory floor. The network is managed by a dedicated server, running with proprietary software developed by Nova, and ensuring safe recipe distribution and recipe integrity across the factory. The NovaNet also includes a report generator (NSA) that allows the creation of reports from all the systems connected and allows programmable cross sections.
- NovaHPC (High Power Computer) supports the NovaMars Application Development Tool and enables effective and timely calculations of attained spectra. Scalable and user configurable infrastructure with Nova's proprietary task management software addresses the growing needs of IC manufacturing metrology. NovaHPC is just one of the few solutions available for cost effectiveness and computation power growth flexibility.

With the combination of integrated and stand-alone metrology solutions we offer product portfolio that serves significantly available markets.

### Research and Development

We have assembled a core team of experienced scientists and engineers who are highly skilled in their particular field or discipline. Our research and development core competencies, technologies and disciplines are in scatterometry, thin film metrology, and include measurement instruments, optical modeling, image acquisition, pattern recognition and equipment integration. Our research and development staff consists of about 177 highly skilled members, over 41 of which hold Ph.D's. In addition, we rely on independent subcontractors and consultants in various fields. Since June 2003, our research and development operations are certified as ISO9001/2000 quality standard.

The metrology and process control market is characterized by continuous technological development and product innovations. We believe that the rapid and ongoing development of new products and enhancements to our existing product lines is critical to our success. Accordingly, we devote a significant portion of our technical, management and financial resources to developing new applications and emerging technologies. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, our research and development expenses, net of participation by the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, were \$24.6 million, \$29.6 million and \$29.5 million respectively, representing, 25.6%, 26.5% and 24.5% % of our respective total revenues for those years. The significant increase of R&D expenditures in the years 2012-2014 represents our strategic plan to increase our market share in the growing Optical CD market as well as to develop new products beyond our existing fields. In the future, we plan to continue and expand our R&D investments in this area.

Our vision is to continue to be a market leader in the semiconductor process control market, increase our leadership in integrated metrology solutions and become the leader in the stand-alone Optical CD metrology market, and our research and development efforts and activities are designed to support this vision. Our research and development policy is based on a structured process of initiating new projects and on-going review of existing development projects. Project initiation is based on a detailed project plan, risk and market analysis. Each project is monitored throughout its life cycle in a structured process, including design reviews and project management reviews. In the frame of our research and development activities we consider from time to time entering into intellectual property consortium arrangements. In 2014 we entered into intellectual property consortiums in Europe, and also continued with intellectual property consortiums, which we entered in 2012 and 2013, in order to be able to support our customers in the transition to advance technology nodes in the coming years. These consortiums are joint programs with the OCS and the European Research Area.

As part of our long term technological collaboration, we are also engaged with joint development activities with some of our strategic customers, as well as with research institutes. These activities impose some limitations on the joint intellectual property developed as part of these programs.



## Intellectual Property

Our success depends in part upon our ability to protect our intellectual property. We therefore have an extensive program devoted to seeking patent protection for our inventions and discoveries that we believe will provide us with competitive advantages. As of December 31, 2014, our portfolio includes more than 110 U.S. patents and more than 40 non-U.S. patents. The U.S. patents we hold have expiration dates ranging from 2014 to 2030. We also have more than 30 U.S. patent applications pending and about 50 applications pending in other countries including 9 PCT applications. Our patents and applications principally cover various aspects of optical measurement systems and methods, integrated process control implementation concepts, and optical, opto-mechanical and mechanical design. We have also registered 4 trademarks in the U.S. and have 10 registered trademarks and 9 applications for trademarks' registration in countries other than the U.S.

To protect our proprietary rights, we also rely on a combination of copyrights, trademarks, trade secret laws, contractual provisions (e.g. confidentiality agreements) and licenses. Our copyrights include software copyrights. We constantly seek to control access to, and distribution of our proprietary information, such as our proprietary algorithms.

While we attempt to protect our intellectual property through patents, copyrights and non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements, we may not be able to adequately protect our technology. Competitors may be able to develop similar technology independently or design around our patents and, despite our efforts, our trade secrets may be disclosed to others. Furthermore, the laws of countries other than the U.S. may not protect our intellectual property to the same extent as the laws in the U.S. We also cannot assure that: (i) our pending patent applications will be approved; (ii) any patents granted will be broad enough to protect our technology or provide us with competitive advantages or will not be successfully challenged or invalidated by third parties; or (iii) that the patents of others will not have an adverse effect on our ability to do business. We may also have to commence legal proceedings against third parties to protect our intellectual property.

From time to time, we receive communications from others asserting that our products infringe or may infringe their intellectual property rights. Typically, our in-house patent counsel investigates these matters and, where appropriate, retains outside counsel to provide assistance. We are not presently involved in any material legal proceedings in which a third party has asserted that we have violated their intellectual property rights. If, however, we become involved in any such litigation and its outcome is adverse to us, it may result in a loss of proprietary rights, subject us to significant liabilities, including treble damages in some instances, require us to seek licenses from third parties which may not be available on reasonable terms or at all, or prevent us from selling our products. Furthermore, any litigation relating to intellectual property, even if we are ultimately successful, could result in substantial costs and diversion of time and effort by our management. This in and of itself could have a negative impact on us.

While we believe that we would be successful in any litigation seeking to enforce our patent rights, the ultimate outcome of any litigation or other legal proceedings cannot be predicted.

## Our Customers, Sales and Marketing

Our sales and marketing strategy is based mostly on a direct approach where we engage with our customers from the early stages of process development, work in collaboration to address their challenges in the development phase and support the transition to high volume production. We seek to establish and maintain close and mutually beneficial relationships with our customers by consistently providing them with a high level of service, support and new capabilities. We have a global network of direct sales and marketing, customer service and applications support offices worldwide. We maintain sales, service and applications offices in Europe, Israel, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, China and the U.S. These offices provide highly qualified application support specialists, training to end

users and process equipment engineers, marketing, demonstrations and evaluations, spare parts hubs and sales and support engineers.

In additions, we have established sales and support activities with key process equipment manufacturers to ensure our products are combined into our partners' next generation equipment sets as those become available. As part of our integrated tools sales effort, we continuously add new process equipment manufacturers as partners as we introduce new integrated process control systems that can be integrated with different types of equipment.

We serve all sectors of the integrated circuit manufacturing industry including logic, ASIC, foundries and memory manufactures. Our end user and process equipment manufacturer customers are located in different countries, including Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, China the U.S., Germany, France and Italy.

The table below describes the distribution of our total revenues, from systems and services, according to the geographic location of the actual installation of our systems in end-user sites:

	2012	2013	2014
Taiwan, R.O.C.	\$ 50,298	\$ 57,523	\$ 53,870
USA	22,097	16,680	31,078
Korea	8,556	7,166	12,865
Europe	6,076	14,124	10,600
Singapore	5,422	5,854	4,457
China	2,597	6,833	4,405
Other	1,122	3,329	3,343
Total	\$ 96,168	111,509	120,618

The semiconductor industry is dominated by a small number of large companies. As a result, while our overall customer base is diverse, our sales are highly concentrated among a relatively small number of customers. The following table indicates the percentage of our total revenues derived from sales to our five largest customers and the range of these revenues from these customers for the periods indicated.

	2012	2013	2014
Total revenues from five largest customers	72 %	72 %	74 %
Range of revenues from five largest customers	5%-41 %	4%-44 %	4%-36 %

We anticipate that our revenues will continue to depend on a limited number of major customers, although the companies considered to be our major customers and the percentage of our revenue represented by each major customer may vary from year to year. As our customer base is highly concentrated, if any of our customers becomes insolvent or has difficulties meeting its financial obligations to us, we may suffer losses that may be material in amount. A loss of any of our major customers may likewise cause us to suffer a material decrease in sales and revenue.

The highly competitive nature of the market for semiconductor capital equipment affects our ability to successfully implement our marketing and sales efforts. Competitive factors in the market for integrated process control systems include technological leadership, system performance, ease of use, reliability, cost of ownership, technical support and customer relationships. For integrated process control, an adequate business model, internal organization and unique process equipment manufacturer agreements and partnerships are also significant factors. We believe we compete favorably on the basis of these factors in the markets we serve.

Our current stand-alone metrology products compete with both Nanometrics and KLA-Tencor. In this area, we have gained market share both in CMP and Etch segments using our T600 platform combined with our advanced modeling and software capabilities. These solutions are being used for in line metrology at leading foundries and memory customers. The T600 was selected for several process steps due to its metrology capability and has a significant cost of ownership advantage with the dual measurement unit configuration. In the integrated metrology field, we primarily compete with products manufactured by Nanometrics. We have gained market share with the successful proliferation of NovaScan 3090 and i500 platform in key accounts, but we expect our integrated products to face intense

competition in the coming years. We see an increasing demand to implement high end metrology solution – both software and hardware – for integrated metrology tools as customers start using these tools for advanced nodes. We also compete against companies manufacturing other types of equipment as a result of the disruptive nature of the technology we offer. These companies include Hitachi hi-tech and Applied Materials in the area of CD-SEM and Rudolph Technologies in the area of acoustic measurement of top metal copper lines.

## Manufacturing

In order to leverage the relatively high volume of integrated and stand-alone systems we manufacture, and in order to decrease production costs, we continue to focus our internal manufacturing activities on processes that add significant value or require unique technology or specialized knowledge and outsource others. Our manufacturing operations received the ISO 9001 quality mark by an international certification institute in October 1999. Since then, we have upgraded our quality systems to conform to ISO 9001/2008 requirements. In 2010, we received the formal certification of ISO 14001:2004 and in 2014 we received the formal certification of ISO 18001:2007.

Our principal manufacturing activities include assembly, integration, final testing and calibration. Our production activities are conducted in our manufacturing and Repair Center facility in Israel. We rely and expect to continue to rely on subcontractors and turnkey suppliers to fabricate components, build subassemblies and perform other non-core activities in a cost-effective manner. While we use standard components and subassemblies wherever possible, most mechanical parts, metal fabrications, optical components and other critical components used in our products are engineered and manufactured to our specifications. A small portion of these components and subassemblies are obtained from a limited group of suppliers, and occasionally from a single source supplier.

We have our own manufacturing facility, which is located in Ness-Ziona, Israel, divided into two buildings.

## Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditures are primarily for network infrastructure, computer hardware and software, leasehold improvements of our facilities and system demonstration and development tools. None of these assets are held as collateral or guarantee other obligations. For additional information on our capital expenditures, see “Item 5B. Liquidity and Capital Resources” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

## Political and Economic Conditions in Israel

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Israel, and our principal offices and manufacturing facilities are located in Israel. We are, therefore, directly influenced by the political, economic and military conditions affecting Israel. Any major hostilities involving Israel, the interruption or curtailment of trade between Israel and its trading partners or a significant downturn in the economic or financial condition of Israel could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, many of our male employees in Israel are currently obligated to perform annual reserve duty in the Israel Defense Force and virtually all such employees are subject to being called to active duty at any time under emergency circumstances. While we have operated effectively under these requirements since we began our operations, no assessment can be made as to the full impact of such requirements on our workforce or business if conditions should change, and no prediction can be made as to the effect of the expansion or reduction of such obligations.

## Government Regulation

For information relating to the impact of certain government regulations on our business, see “Item 5C –Grants from the Office of the Chief Scientist” on this annual report on Form 20-F.

## 4.C Organizational Structure

### Our Subsidiaries



Our subsidiaries and the countries of their incorporation are as follows. All of our subsidiaries are wholly owned by the Company:

Name of Subsidiary	C o u n t r y o f Incorporation
Nova Measuring Instruments Inc.	Delaware, U.S.
Nova Measuring Instruments K.K.	Japan
Nova Measuring Instruments Taiwan Ltd.	Taiwan
Nova Measuring Instruments Netherlands B.V.	Netherlands
Nova Measuring Instruments Korea Ltd	Korea
Nova Measuring Instruments GmbH	Germany

#### 4.D Property, Plant and Equipment

Our main facilities, located in Ness-Ziona, Israel, occupy approximately 7,800 square meters, including: approximately 1,300 square meters of production facilities, approximately 4,500 square meters of research and development offices (including approximately 700 square meters of laboratories) and approximately 2,000 square meters of headquarters, sales and marketing, service and support and administration facilities. In 2015 we expect to expand our facilities in Israel with additional clean room space and with additional offices. For a summary of the main terms of our lease agreements, see Exhibit 4.4 to this annual report on Form 20-F.

Our subsidiaries lease offices in various locations, for use as a service and pre-sale facility. Our U.S. subsidiary leases approximately 380 square meters, our Japanese subsidiary leases approximately 34 square meters, our Taiwanese subsidiary leases approximately 800 square meters and our Korean subsidiary leases approximately 340 square meters. Our European subsidiaries leases approximately 100 square meters in Germany and France.

We believe that our facilities and equipment are in good operating condition and adequate for their present usage.

#### Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

#### Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects

Information in this Operating Review and Financial Prospects Section should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto which are included elsewhere in this report.

##### Executive Overview

We are a worldwide leading designer, developer and producer of metrology systems for the semiconductor manufacturing industry. Our metrology systems are used to take precise measurements of semiconductors during the manufacturing process to control the manufacturing process and increase the productivity of manufacturing equipment. We market and sell our metrology systems mainly to semiconductor manufacturers, and in some cases to semiconductor process equipment manufacturers.

Our business is greatly affected by the level of spending on capital equipment by semiconductor manufacturers. Capital expenditures by semiconductor manufacturers tend to be cyclical in nature and depend on numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control. Such factors include, inter alia, general economic conditions throughout the world and the demand and perceived demand for semiconductors. In addition, demand for our products and services is affected by the timing of new product announcements and releases by us and our competitors, market acceptance of our new or enhanced products and changes or advances in semiconductor design or manufacturing processes.

In the recent five years (2009-2014), we were able to present positive Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of approximately 25%, while the Wafer Fab Equipment ("WFE") segment experienced an increase of CAGR of approximately 20%. We believe that this improved performance is attributed mainly to our continued penetration into the Optical CD standalone metrology segment. Industry forecasts indicate increase in WFE spending in the next year, and we believe we are well positioned to continue to grow as we continue our focus on high growth segments within the industry.

We derive our revenues principally from sales of our metrology systems and services relating to our systems. In 2014, product sales accounted for approximately 76.4% of our total revenues. Services, which include software upgrade on

existing installed base accounted for approximately 23.6%. Presently, we have no significant long-term debt, and during 2014 we increased our overall cash reserves by \$24 million, through generating positive cash flow from operating activities. As of the end of 2014, we had overall cash reserves of \$123.7 million and working capital of \$130.5 million.

Our service organization is operated on a profit and loss basis and is measured as a cost center in each territory and on a global basis. The objectives of our service organization are defined and measured by: customer satisfaction; quality parameters, such as time to repair and mean time between failures; and by profit and loss criteria. The service organization provides support to all products we sell, during both the warranty period and the post warranty period.

When evaluating the performance of the Company, our management tends to focus on several financial metrics and qualitative areas, including market share, gross margins, operating margins, inventory turns and days sales outstanding. Blended gross margins in 2014 were approximately 53%, while product sales presented gross margins of approximately 57% and services presented gross margins of approximately 39%. In 2014, our inventory turns were approximately 3 and our daily sales outstanding were 66 days.

#### Significant Events in 2014 and Outlook for 2015

During 2014 Nova demonstrated few significant achievements:

- Revenues hit record high.
- Solid financial model and P&L control generated growing profits.
- Stronger position in the foundry segment, including market share and new process steps gains in the sector.
  - Growth in the memory segment following continuous growth in DRAM.
  - A more diverse customer base with 3 major customers accounting for more than 66% of revenues.
  - Proven advanced fleet to support solutions in advance tech nodes below 2Xnm.
  - Growing position in both Standalone and Integrated metrology markets.
- Extending proliferation of standalone metrology tools into existing customers across multiple production steps.
  - Significant adoption of Nova's latest and advanced products portfolio for 3D structure evolution:
    - o Nova T600 Standalone tools
    - o Nova i500 Integrated metrology tools
    - o MARS modeling SW
  - Major portfolio diversification to include SW products.
    - o Fleet management capabilities.
    - o Hybrid metrology for complex structures and advanced tech nodes.
    - o IPM (In Process Monitoring).
- V2600 TSV (Through Silicon Via) metrology systems were accepted by leading memory and logic customer.
- Deep collaboration with multiple research institutes and customer technology development centers, utilizing a variety of Nova's products, leading to Nova's positioning as a partner for long term technology development.
  - More than 85% of product revenues during 2014 coming from 2X and 1X technology nodes.

- Improved capital management with shares repurchase program of \$12M.

In 2015, Nova plans to focus on the following:

- Continue our sustainable growth through a stronger market position and technical leadership.
- Continue Nova's aggressive innovation and development plans for meeting future industry challenges.
- Be a significant part of both Foundry and Memory customers' ramp up during the year.
- Excellent execution of the ramp up of the 16/14nm technology nodes at leading foundry customers.

- Establishing our leadership position in the coming 10nm and 7nm technology node at leading customers.
  - Making significant inroads into memory customers with advanced metrology solutions.
- Support our customers' transition to 3D device structures (both in memory and foundry sectors) to enable them to move to high volume manufacturing of advanced technology nodes.
  - Continue leading the emerging metrology markets with innovative solutions.
- Continue the collaborations and joint research with leading semiconductor manufacturers and relevant leading research institutes.
- Continue our products innovation and diversification through several new product introductions to extend the company's market leadership.
  - Continue the aggressive plans to generate revenues through SW products.
- Strengthening the partnership with our customers and build a "Customer Centric" approach to accommodate and deliver customers' requirements along the Semiconductor evolution.

The challenges and risks we face in meeting our plans include:

- On time delivery of the required process control solutions to meet the current and future needs of our existing and new customers.
- Correctly understanding the market trends and competitive landscape to ensure our products retain proper differentiation to win customer confidence.
- Creating aggressive, innovative and competitive roadmap deliverables at reasonable costs in order to properly control expenses.
- Identifying the metrology evolution for future industry needs in order to meet process control requirements and lead the market.

In order to address these risks and challenges, we are working closely with leading customers' process development groups and with the leading process equipment manufacturers as well as with leading technology research institutes. The purpose of working closely with these entities is to receive from them as early as possible information and feedback on their current and future metrology and process control needs and tune the roadmap to support such needs.

In 2014 we performed well with yearly growth both in revenues and profit. We were able to present record revenues for 2 years in a row, demonstrating our growing position in the market.

It is our belief that we have been able to consistently win and grow as a result of a combination of factors:

- Optical Metrology has become an enabler for the entire industry over the last few years, even on the count of other metrology capabilities, which are not optic enabled.
- Nova's Optical Metrology solutions are the most advanced solutions, combining the best innovative and technical metrology capabilities with the best cost of ownership.

- Our technical innovative solutions are well accepted by leading customers that allow us to gain more market share with additional process steps and new applications
- Our ability closely team with our customers allows us to predict well the industry evolution and process control challenges and by that introduce innovative and advanced metrology solutions to solve industry needs.
- Our diversified portfolio, which is a result of continuous R&D development, is well adopted by our customers.
  - Well controlled balance sheet and P&L elements to continue a sustainable growth.

Understanding the industry's challenges for the next several years, it is our belief that we should continue growing going forward as the adoption of our solutions increases as a function of process complexity and industry development. We believe that our served addressable market is continuously expanding as we penetrate to more steps of the semiconductor manufacturing process and as we continue innovating our portfolio for leading new emerging metrology opportunities. We also believe that going forward and as the semiconductor process is becoming much more complicated with variety of challenges the necessity for Optical Metrology will grow in the next few years.

#### Critical Accounting Policies

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe the following critical accounting policies, among others, affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

#### Use of Estimates – General

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Revenue Recognition

We recognize revenues from the sale of products when all the following criteria have been met: a persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred, the price is fixed or determinable, collection of resulting receivables is probable and there are no remaining significant obligations.

For transactions containing multiple elements, revenue is recognized upon delivery of the separate elements, based on their relative fair value. The Company determines the selling price using vendor specific objective evidence ("VSOE"), if it exists, and otherwise uses estimated selling price ("ESP"). Third Party Evidence ("TPE") is not typically used to determine selling prices as to limited availability of reliable competitor products' selling prices. The ESP is established considering multiple factors including, but not limited to, gross margin objectives, pricing strategies, internal costs and other economic conditions. These factors are subjective in nature and any changes in these factors will affect the ESP and as a consequence revenues recognized.

Service contracts generally specify fixed payment amounts for periods longer than one month, and are recognized on a straight line basis over the term of the contract.

#### Inventories Write-Off

We carry our inventory at the lower of either the actual cost or the current estimated market value of the inventory. We regularly review inventory quantities on hand and record a provision for excess and obsolete inventory based primarily on our estimated forecast of product demand and production requirements for the next twenty four months. As demonstrated during 2008, demand for our products can fluctuate significantly. A significant increase in the demand for our products could result in a short-term increase in inventory purchases while a significant decrease in demand could result in an increase in the amount of excess inventory quantities on hand, which could lead to losses. In addition, our industry is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent new product developments, and rapid product obsolescence that could result in an increase in the amount of obsolete inventory quantities on hand. Additionally, our estimates of future product demand may prove to be inaccurate, in which case we may have



understated or overstated the provision required for excess and obsolete inventory. In the future, if our inventory is determined to be overvalued, we would be required to recognize such costs in our cost of goods sold at the time of such determination. Likewise, if our inventory is determined to be undervalued, we may have over-reported our costs of goods sold in previous periods and would be required to recognize such additional operating income at the time of sale. Therefore, although we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our forecasts of future product demand, any significant unanticipated changes in demand or technological developments could have a significant impact on the value of our inventory and our reported operating results.

For a discussion of other significant accounting policies used in the preparation of our financial statements and recent accounting pronouncements, see Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements contained elsewhere in this report.

## 5.A Operating Results

## Overview

The table below describes the distribution of our total revenues, from systems and services, by geographic areas of our product installations at semiconductor manufacturing facilities. As our customers include semiconductor manufacturers as well as process equipment manufacturers, this distribution is different from the distribution of our revenues by customer location discussed in the immediately preceding paragraph.

	2012		2013		2014	
Taiwan, R.O.C.	52	%	52	%	45	%
USA	23	%	15	%	26	%
Korea	9	%	6	%	11	%
Europe	6	%	13	%	9	%
China	3	%	6	%	4	%
Singapore	6	%	5	%	3	%
Other	1	%	3	%	2	%
Total	100	%	100	%	100	%

Historically, a substantial portion of our revenues has come from a small number of customers, and we anticipate that our revenues will continue to depend on a limited number of major customers.

The sales cycle for our systems typically ranges from 6 to 12 months and depends upon the status of our system's integration with a particular manufacture and model of process equipment, the evaluation criteria of our customers, and the technology or application of the process. Additionally, the rate and timing of customer orders may vary significantly from month to month as a function of the specific timing of fab expansions. Accordingly, if sales of our products do not occur when we expect or we are unable to adjust our estimates on a timely basis, our expenses and inventory levels may fluctuate relative to revenues and total assets. In 2014, our inventory levels at the end of each quarter ranged from \$16.1 million to \$19.4 million. We schedule production of our systems based upon order backlog and customer forecasts. We include in backlog only those orders to which the customer has assigned a purchase order number and for which delivery has been specified.

Our revenues increased by 8% in 2014 following an increase of 16% in 2013, and a decrease of 7% in 2012.

The following table shows the relationship, expressed as a percentage, of the listed items from our consolidated statements of operations to our total revenues for the periods indicated:

	Percentage of Total Revenues					
	2012		2013		2014	
Revenues from product sales	80.3	%	80.2	%	76.4	%
Revenues from services	19.7	%	19.8	%	23.6	%
Total revenues	100	%	100	%	100	%
Cost of products sale	33.0	%	33.9	%	33.0	%
Cost of services	13.8	%	13.2	%	14.3	%
Total cost of revenues	46.8	%	47.0	%	47.3	%

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Gross profit	53.2	%	53.0	%	52.7	%
Operating expenses:						
Research and development expenses, net	25.6	%	26.5	%	24.5	%
Sales and marketing expenses	12.5	%	10.7	%	10.5	%
General and administrative expenses	4.1	%	4.7	%	3.7	%
Total operating expenses	42.2	%	41.9	%	38.7	%
Operating profit	11.0	%	11.1	%	14.0	%
Financing income, net	1.4	%	0.6	%	0.5	%
Income before income taxes	12.4	%	11.7	%	14.5	%
Income tax expenses (benefit)	0.1	%	2.3	%	(1.0)	(%)
Net income	12.3	%	9.4	%	15.5	%

Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

**Revenues.** Our revenues in 2014 increased by \$9.1 million, or 8%, compared to 2013, with revenues attributable to product sales accounting for \$92.2 million, an increase of \$2.8 million, or 3%, compared to 2013, and revenues attributable to services accounting for \$28.4 million, an increase of \$6.3 million, or 29%, compared to 2013. The increase in product revenues in 2014 was mainly attributed to increased adoption of our software products. The increase in services revenues is attributed to an increase in service contracts revenues as a result of higher number of systems included in our installed base, and to an increase in time and materials as a result of higher number of upgrades of existing 200mm installed base.

**Cost of Revenues and Gross Profit.** Cost of revenues consists of labor, material and overhead costs of manufacturing our systems, royalties, and the costs associated with our worldwide service and support infrastructure. It is also consists of inventory write-offs and provisions for estimated future warranty costs for systems we have sold. Our cost of revenues attributable to product sales in 2014 was \$39.8 million. Our gross margin attributable to product revenues in 2014 was 57%, compared to 58% in 2013. This decrease in products gross margins in 2014 is mainly related to penetration into new manufacturing process steps at existing customer sites, and increase in the amount of royalties paid to third parties. Our cost of services in 2014 was \$17.2 million, compared to \$14.7 million in 2013. Our gross margin attributable to service revenues in 2014 was 39%, compared to 34% in 2013. The increase in service gross margins in 2014 is mainly related to the significant increase of 29% in services revenues in this year, utilizing more efficiently existing infrastructure.

**Research and development expenses, net.** Consist primarily of salaries and related expenses and also include consulting fees, subcontracting costs, related materials and overhead expenses, after offsetting grants received or receivable from the Office of the Chief Scientist. Our net research and development expenses in 2014 were \$29.5 million, similar to 2013, after offsetting grants received or receivable from the Office of the Chief Scientist of \$3.5 million in 2014 and \$1.5 million in 2013. In 2014, net research and development expenses represented 25% of our revenues compared to 27% of our revenues in 2013.

Approximately 50% of our net research and development expenses in 2014 resulted from our research and development efforts relating to current products and product lines, and the rest were related to developing a technology infrastructure for next generation metrology tools and SW platforms.

**Sales and Marketing.** Sales and marketing expenses are mainly comprised of salaries and related costs for sales and marketing personnel, travel related expenses and overhead. They also include commissions to our representatives and sales personnel. Our sales and marketing expenses in 2014 were \$12.7 million compared to \$11.9 million in 2013. Sales and marketing expenses represented 11% our revenues in 2014 and 2013. The increase in sales and marketing expenses is related to the increase in headcount and related costs supporting the revenue growth.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expenses are comprised of salaries and related expenses and other non-personnel related expenses such as legal expenses. Our general and administrative expenses decreased by 14% to \$4.5 million in 2014, compared to \$5.2 million in 2013. This decrease is mainly attributed to decrease in employee related costs (including expenses related to retirement of a senior executive in 2013). General and administrative expenses represented 4% and 5% of our revenues in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decrease as a percentage of revenue is mainly related to the decrease in expenses as described above, which was also combined with the increase in 2014 revenues.

**Income Tax Expenses.** Income tax expenses are comprised of current tax expenses and deferred tax expenses/income. We recorded \$1.2 million of tax income in 2014, compared with \$2.5 million tax expenses in 2013. This change is mainly attributed to the utilization of tax incentives in Israel which started in 2014, and to the creation of deferred tax assets in 2014 (related to potential future research and development tax credits in Israel).

#### Comparison of Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

**Revenues.** Our revenues in 2013 increased by \$15.3 million, or 16%, compared to 2012, with revenues attributable to product sales accounting for \$89.4 million, an increase of \$12.2 million, or 16%, compared to 2012, and revenues attributable to services accounting for \$22.1 million, an increase of \$3.1 million, or 17%, compared to 2012. The increase in product sales revenue in 2013 was mainly attributed to increased adoption of our solutions in advanced technology nodes in existing customers. The increase in services revenues is attributed mainly to an increase in time and materials revenues on a higher number of systems included in our installed base, and to an increase in software upgrades on existing installed base.

**Cost of Revenues and Gross Profit.** Cost of revenues consists of labor, material and overhead costs of manufacturing our systems, royalties, and the costs associated with our worldwide service and support infrastructure. It also consists of inventory write-offs and provisions for estimated future warranty costs for systems we have sold. Our cost of revenues attributable to product sales in 2013 was \$37.8 million, an increase of \$6 million, or 19%, compared to 2012. Our cost of revenues attributable to product sales, as a percentage of product revenues in 2013, was 42%, compared to 41% in 2012. Our gross margin attributable to product revenues in 2013 was 58%, compared to 59% in 2012. This decrease in products gross margins in 2013 is mainly related to new products in the sales mix and to higher amount of royalties. Our cost of revenue attributable to service, as a percentage of service revenues in 2013, was 66%, compared to 70% in 2012. Our gross margin attributable to service revenues in 2012 was 34%, compared to 30% in 2011. The increase in service gross margins in 2013 is mainly related to the higher portion of software upgrades on existing installed base.

**Research and development expenses, net,** consist primarily of salaries and related expenses and also include consulting fees, subcontracting costs, related materials and overhead expenses, after offsetting grants received or receivable from the Office of the Chief Scientist. Our net research and development expenses increased by 20% to \$29.6 million in 2013, compared to \$24.6 million in 2012, after offsetting grants received or receivable from the Office of the Chief Scientist of \$1.5 million in 2013 and \$1.7 million in 2012. In 2012, net research and development expenses represented 27% of our revenues compared to 26% of our revenues in 2012. This increase in research and development expenses is mainly attributed to an increase in headcount and subcontractors to support our products roadmap. We expect to continue and expand our annual research and development efforts and expenses during 2014, in order to support the wide market opportunities that we see ahead of us, albeit with a very marginal headcount increase expected during the year.

Approximately 50% of our net research and development expenses in 2013 resulted from our research and development efforts relating to current products and product lines, and the rest were related to developing a technology infrastructure for next generation metrology tools and SW platforms and features.

**Sales and Marketing.** Sales and marketing expenses are mainly comprised of salaries and related costs for sales and marketing personnel, travel related expenses and overhead. They also include commissions to our representatives and sales personnel. Our sales and marketing expenses in 2013 and 2012 were \$11.9 million. Sales and marketing expenses represented 11% and 13% of our revenues in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The decrease as a percentage of revenue is related to the increase in sales volumes while expenses remained stable.

**General and Administrative.** General and administrative expenses are comprised of salaries and related expenses and other non-personnel related expenses such as legal expenses. Our general and administrative expenses increased by 31% to \$5.2 million in 2013, compared to \$3.9 million in 2012. This increase is mainly attributed to increase in employee related costs (including headcount increase and one-time retirement provision for a senior executive), depreciation, rent, maintenance and consulting costs. General and administrative expenses represented 5% and 4% of our revenues in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The increase as a percentage of revenue is mainly related to a major increase in expenses which was offset with the increase in revenues in 2013.

**Income Tax Expenses.** Income tax expenses are comprised of current tax expenses and deferred tax expenses/income. We recorded \$2.5 million of income tax expenses in 2013 compared with \$0.1 million in 2012. This change is mainly attributed to utilization of deferred tax asset and the expected usage of the remaining carry forward tax losses in 2014.

## 5.B Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of December 31, 2014, we had working capital of approximately \$130.5 million compared to working capital of \$118.6 million as of December 31, 2013.

Cash and cash equivalents, short-term and long-term deposits as of December 31, 2014 were \$123.7 million compared to \$99.7 million as of December 31, 2013.

Trade accounts receivable decreased from \$27.9 million as of December 31, 2013 to \$15.6 million as of December 31, 2014. Inventories decreased from \$18.1 million as of December 31, 2013 to \$16.1 million as of December 31, 2014. The decrease in accounts receivables and inventories is related to the decrease in sales volumes at the fourth quarter of 2014, relative to the comparable quarter in 2013.

Operating activities in 2014 generated positive cash flow of \$33.5 million compared to a positive cash flow of \$11 million in 2013.

The following table describes our investments in capital expenditures during the last three years:

	2012		2013		2014	
	Domestic	Abroad	Domestic	Abroad	Domestic	Abroad
	(in dollar thousands)					
Electronic equipment	3,903	34	4,514	42	3,884	84
Office furniture and equipment	22	1	10	5	29	5
Leasehold improvements*	1,131	3	1,052	1	1,352	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5,576</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5,265</b>	<b>89</b>

\*The balance represents the gross investment in capital expenditure, as there was a scrap of fully depreciated assets during 2014.

In 2014, the investment in capital expenditures was financed from our positive operating cash flow. Although we currently have no significant capital commitments, we expect to spend approximately \$8.1 million on capital expenditures in 2015, mainly for information systems improvements (software and hardware), electronic equipment used in our research and development labs and expansion of demonstration, manufacturing and development facilities.

Our principal liquidity requirement is expected to be for working capital and capital expenditures. We believe that our current cash reserves will be adequate to fund our planned activities for at least the next 12 months. Our long-term capital requirements will be affected by many factors, including the success of our current products, our ability to enhance our current products and our ability to develop and introduce new products that will be accepted by the semiconductor industry. We plan to finance our long-term capital needs with our cash reserves together with positive cash flow from operations, if any. If these funds are insufficient to finance our future business activities, which may include acquisitions, we will have to raise additional funds through the issuance of additional equity or debt securities, through borrowing or through other means. We cannot assure that additional financing will be available on acceptable terms.

Presently, we have no long-term debt, nor any readily available source of long-term debt financing such as a line of credit.

With regard to usage of hedging financial instruments and the impact of inflation and currency fluctuations, see “Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

5.C Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.

For information regarding our research and development activities, see “Item 4B – Research and Development” in this annual report on Form 20-F.



### Grants from the Office of the Chief Scientist

Under the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial Research and Development, 1984, or the R&D Law, a qualifying research and development program is eligible for grants of up to 50% of the program's research and development expenses. The program must be approved by a committee of the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, or the OCS. The recipient of the grants is required to return the grants by the payment of royalties on the revenues generated from the sale of products (and related services) developed (in all or in part) according to, or as a result of, a research and development program funded by the OCS (at rates which are determined under the R&D Law up to the aggregate amount of the total grants received by the OCS, plus annual interest (as determined in the R&D Law). Royalties are paid in NIS linked to the dollar at the exchange rate in effect at the time of payment. Following the full payment of such royalties and interest, there is generally no further liability for payment. Nonetheless, the restrictions under the R&D Law (as generally specified below) will continue to apply even after our company has repaid the full amount of royalty payable pursuant to the grants.

The pertinent obligations under the R&D Law are as follows:

- **Notices to the OCS:** any change of control and any change of ownership of our ordinary shares that would make a non-Israeli citizen or resident an "interested party," as defined in the R&D Law, requires a prior written notice to the OCS (and in the later event, the non-Israeli citizen or resident shall execute an undertaking towards to the OCS, in a form provided under the OCS guidelines).
- **Local Manufacturing Obligation:** The terms of the grants under the R&D Law require that we manufacture the products developed with these grants in Israel. Under the regulations promulgated under the R&D Law, the products may be manufactured outside Israel by us or by another entity only if prior approval is received from the OCS (such approval is not required for the transfer of less than 10% of the manufacturing capacity in the aggregate). This approval may be given only if we abide by all the provisions of the R&D Law and related regulations. Ordinarily, as a condition to obtaining approval to manufacture outside Israel, we would be required to pay increased royalties, as defined under the R&D Law. The total amount to be repaid to the OCS would also be adjusted to between 120% and 300% of the grants, depending on the manufacturing volume that is performed outside Israel. We note that a company also has the option of declaring in its OCS grant application an intention to exercise a portion of the manufacturing capacity abroad, thus avoiding the need to obtain additional approval. On January 6, 2011, the Israeli Knesset passed an Amendment to the R&D Law (the "Amendment"), under which it is clarified that even in the case where approval has been granted to manufacture outside Israel within the framework of approval of an R&D plan and in the case of the transfer of manufacturing at a rate that does not require the approval of the research committee (i.e. at rate of up to 10%), a company is obligated with regard to the transfer of manufacturing outside of Israel, to pay increased royalties to the State of Israel, at the rates set forth in the R&D Law.
- **Know-How transfer limitation:** The R&D Law restricts the ability to transfer know-how funded by the OCS outside of Israel. Transfer of OCS funded know-how outside of Israel requires prior OCS approval and is subject to certain payment to the OCS calculated according to formulae provided under the R&D Law. If we wish to transfer OCS funded know-how, the terms for approval shall be determined according to the character of the transaction and the consideration paid to us for such transfer. Approval of the transfer of OCS funded technology to another Israeli company may be granted only if the recipient abides by all the provisions of the law and related regulations, including the restrictions on the transfer of know-how outside of Israel and the obligation to pay royalties in an amount that may be increased. The OCS approval to transfer know-how created, in whole or in part, in connection with an OCS-funded project to third party outside Israel where the transferring company remains an operating Israeli entity is subject to payment of a redemption fee to the OCS calculated according to a formula provided under the R&D Law that is based, in general, on the ratio between the aggregate OCS grants to the company's aggregate

investments in the project that was funded by these OCS grants, multiplied by the transaction consideration. The transfer of such know-how to a party outside Israel where the transferring company ceases to exist as an Israeli entity is subject to a new redemption fee formula that is based, in general, on the ratio between aggregate OCS grants received by the company and the company's aggregate R&D expenses, multiplied by the transaction consideration. Such new formula enacted lately in the framework of the Amendment and came into effect on November 5, 2012 when the new Regulations for the Encouragement of Research and Development in the Industry (the Maximum Payment for the Transfer of Know-How in Accordance with Section 19B(b)(1) and (2), 5777-2012 (the "Cap Regulations") were promulgated. The Cap Regulations establish a maximum payment of the redemption fee paid to the OCS under the above mentioned formulas and differentiates between two situations: (i) in the event that the company sells its OCS funded know-how, in whole or in part, or is sold as part of an M&A transaction, and subsequently ceases to conduct business in Israel, the maximum redemption fee under the above mentioned formulas shall be no more than 6 times the amount received (plus annual interest) for the applicable know-how being transferred, or the entire amount received, as applicable; (ii) in the event that following the transactions described above (i.e. asset sale of OCS funded know-how or transfer as part of an M&A transaction) the company continues to conduct its R&D activity in Israel (for at least three years following such transfer and keeps on staff at least 75% of the number of R&D employees it had for the six months before the know-how was transferred), then the company is eligible for a reduced cap of the redemption fee of no more than 3 times the amounts received (plus annual interest) for the applicable know-how being transferred, or the entire amount received, as applicable.

Approval to manufacture products outside of Israel or consent to the transfer of technology, if requested, might not be granted.

We are obligated to pay royalties of 3%-3.5% of revenues derived from sales of products funded with these grants. As of December 31, 2014, our contingent liability to the OCS for grants received was approximately \$22.9 million. See also Note 7A to our consolidated financial statements contained elsewhere in this report.

In addition to royalty-bearing grants from the OCS, in 2010, we participated in a 'Magnet' program, IMG4, sponsored by the OCS. Under the terms of this program, we were cooperating with additional companies and research institutes in Israel, organized in a consortium, for the development of advanced techniques for improved tool control. No royalties from this funding are payable to the Israeli government, however, the provisions of the R&D Law and related regulations regarding, inter alia, the restrictions on the transfer of know-how outside of Israel do apply. In general, any consortium member that develops technology as part of the consortium retains the intellectual property rights to the technology developed by this member, and all the members of the consortium have the right, under certain conditions, to utilize and implement such technology without having to pay royalties to the developing consortium member. Since our collaboration with this consortium will not deal with issues that are part of our core technology, we believe that it will have no effect on our strong intellectual property portfolio. The IMG4 program has ended during 2010.

In addition to royalty-bearing grants from the OCS, in 2014 and 2013, we participated in a 'Magnet' program, METRO 450, sponsored by the OCS. Under the terms of this program, we are cooperating with additional companies and research institutes in Israel, organized in a consortium for the development of pre-competitive elements of 450mm solutions, that can also bring value even if the transition to 450mm is delayed. No royalties from this funding are payable to the Israeli government. However, the restrictions under the R&D Law (and the regulations promulgated thereunder) relating to the transfer of know-how outside of Israel do apply. In general, any consortium member that develops technology as part of the consortium retains the intellectual property rights to the technology developed by this member, and all the members of the consortium have the right, under certain conditions, to utilize and implement such technology without having to pay royalties to the developing consortium member. Since our collaboration with this consortium will not deal with issues that are part of our core technology, we believe that it will have no effect on our strong intellectual property portfolio. We are also participating in European consortiums, which are joint programs with the OCS and the European Research Area. Some of the abovementioned obligations apply regarding these joint projects as well.

In addition to royalty-bearing grants from the OCS, we are currently participating in intellectual property consortiums in Europe, in order to be able to support our customers in the transition to advance technology nodes in the coming years. These consortiums are joint programs with the OCS and the European Research Area.

#### 5.D Trend Information

For Information regarding most significant recent trends in our market, see "Item 4B – Our Market – The World Economy – Update" in this annual report on Form 20-F.

#### 5.E Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have and are not party to any off-balance sheet arrangements.

#### 5.F Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

As of December 31, 2014 we had contractual obligations as described in the following table:

	Payment due by Period (in \$ thousands)				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Operating Lease Obligations	8,183	1,880	3,905	2,397	-
Purchase Obligations	16,789	14,306	2,483	-	-
Other Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	24,972	16,186	6,388	2,398	-

## Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees

## 6.A Directors and Senior Management

The following is the list of senior management and directors as of February 3, 2015:

Name	Age	Position
Michael Brunstein	71	Chairman of the Board of Directors
Alon Dumanis	64	Director
Naama Zeldis	51	External Director
Avi Cohen	61	Director
Raanan Cohen	59	Director
Zehava Simon	56	External Director
Eitan Oppenheim	49	President and Chief Executive Officer
David Dror	45	Chief Financial Officer
Sharon Wolfling	43	Chief Technology Officer
Gabriel Sharon	52	Vice President Operations
Erez Ravid	53	Vice President of Global Business Group
Hila Mukevisius	40	Vice President Human Resources
Dov Farkash	55	Vice President Business Development
Erez Sali	47	Vice President of Strategic Software Development
Michael Rybski	47	Vice President Product Development
Jacob Olin	49	Vice President Business Development

Our directors (other than the external directors) serve as such until the next annual general meeting of our shareholders. Our external directors, in accordance with Israeli law, serve for a three-year term, which may be renewed for two additional three-year terms, subject to certain conditions, and thereafter for additional three-year terms, if both the audit committee and the board of directors confirm that in light of the expertise and contribution of the external director, the extension of such external director's term would be in the interest of the Company. Ms. Zeldis was elected in 2006 to serve for a three-year term that expired in 2009 and was re-elected in 2009 for an additional three-year term that expired in 2012. Ms. Zeldis was re-elected in 2012 to serve for an additional three-year term. Ms. Zehava Simon was elected in 2014 to serve for a three-year term. Ms. Simon replaced Mr. Dan Falk, who has served as an external director of the Company for three consecutive periods of three years each since 2005.

Our board of directors determined that Zehava Simon, Naama Zeldis, Avi Cohen and Raanan Cohen are independent directors under the Companies Law. In addition, our board of directors determined that Zehava Simon, Naama Zeldis, Avi Cohen, Michael Brunstein, Alon Dumanis and Raanan Cohen, qualify as "independent directors" as defined by The NASDAQ Stock Market.

Dr. Michael Brunstein was named chairman of our board of directors in June 2006, after serving as member of our board of directors from November 2003. During the years 1990 and 1999, Dr. Brunstein served as Managing Director

of Applied Materials Israel Ltd. Prior to that, Dr. Brunstein served as President of Opal Inc., and as a Director of New Business Development in Optrotech Ltd. Dr. Brunstein is a member of the board of directors of IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd.) and also serves on boards of directors of several privately owned companies. Dr. Brunstein holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Physics from Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Alon Dumanis has served as a director of Nova since 2002. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Crecor B.V, Docor International B.V, Docor Levi Lassen I BV, Docor Levi Lassen II BV and Docor International Management Ltd., all Dutch investment companies, subsidiaries of The Van-Leer Group Foundation. Dr. Dumanis is currently a chairman of Aposense, a public company traded on TASE, Xsight System, Softlib, Bondex, Clariton, DNR Imaging, and a member of the board of directors of Collplant, a public company traded on TASE, and other Hi Tech companies in Docor's investment portfolio. Dr. Dumanis is a former member of the board of directors of Tadiran Communications (a public company traded on TASE), of El Al Israel Airlines (a public company traded on TASE), of Protalix Biotherapeutics (a public company traded on the New York Stock Exchange), and a former member of the board of directors of Inventech Investments Co. Ltd. (a public company traded on TASE), Spectronix (a public company traded on TASE) and Ice Cure (a public company traded on TASE). Previously, Dr. Dumanis was the Head of the Material Command in the Israel Air Force at the rank of Brigadier General. Dr. Dumanis currently serves as chairman and member of several national steering committees and is the author of many papers published in a number of subject areas, including technology and management. Dr. Dumanis holds a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

Ms. Naama Zeldis was elected as the Company's external director in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Law in 2006, and was re-elected for an additional term in 2009 and in 2012. Ms. Zeldis has been serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Tahal Group International B.V. since December 2013. Prior to that, Ms. Zeldis served as Chief Financial Officer of Netafim Ltd. from 2005 until 2013. Prior to joining Netafim Ltd., she served as Chief Financial Officer of EDS Israel, Radguard, and Director of Finance of RAD Data Communications. Ms. Zeldis is a former member of the board of directors and of the audit committee of Metalink. Ms. Zeldis holds a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Business Administration, majoring in Financing, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a B.A. in Accounting from Tel-Aviv University.

Mr. Avi Cohen has served as a director of Nova since 2008. Mr. Cohen serves as the Chief Executive Officer of RR Media Ltd. (previously known as RRsat Global Communications Network), a public company traded on NASDAQ. Prior to that, until March 2012, Mr. Cohen served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Orbit Technologies, a public company traded on the TASE. Prior to joining Orbit in December 2008, Mr. Cohen served as Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the CEO of ECI Telecom Ltd. a leading supplier of best-in-class networking infrastructure equipment for carrier and service provider networks worldwide. Prior to joining ECI in September 2006, Mr. Cohen served in a variety of management positions at KLA-Tencor. From 2003 he was a Group Vice President, Corporate Officer and Member of the Executive Management Committee based at the corporate headquarters in the U.S. During his tenure, he successfully led the creation of KLA-Tencor's global Metrology Group. From 1995 he was the President of KLA-Tencor Israel responsible for the Optical Metrology Division. Before joining KLA-Tencor, Mr. Cohen also spent three years as Managing Director of Octel Communications, Israel, after serving as Chief Executive Officer of Allegro Intelligent Systems, which he founded and which was acquired by Octel. Mr. Cohen holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in electrical engineering and applied physics from Case Western Reserve University, USA.

Mr. Raanan Cohen was appointed as a director of the Company by our board of directors on February 6, 2014. Prior to that and until December 2012, Mr. Cohen has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Orbotech Ltd., a public company traded on NASDAQ. Mr. Cohen has also served in a range of other executive positions at Orbotech Ltd, including Co-President for Business and Strategy, EVP and President of the Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Division, Vice President for the PCB-AOI product line and President and CEO of Orbotech, Inc. Prior to its merger with Orbotech in 1991, Mr. Cohen held various positions at Orbot, another manufacturer of AIO systems. Prior to joining Orbot in 1984, he worked at Telrad Networks Ltd. Mr. Cohen currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of EyeWay Vision Ltd., as chairman of the board of directors of Datumate Ltd., as a member of the board of directors of Utilight Ltd., all private companies. Mr. Cohen holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Ms. Zehava Simon was elected as the Company's external director in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Law in June 2014. Ms. Simon served as a Vice President of BMC Software from 2000 until 2013, most recently as Vice President of Corporate Development. From 2002 to 2011, Ms. Simon served as Vice President and General Manager of BMC Software in Israel. In this role, she was responsible for directing operations in Israel and India as well as offshore sites. Prior to that, Ms. Simon held various positions at Intel Israel., which she joined in 1982, including leading of Finance & Operations and Business Development for Intel in Israel. Ms. Simon is currently a board member of Audiocodes, a public company traded on NASDAQ, and Amiad water systems, a public company traded on London Stock Exchange. Ms. Simon is a former member of the board of directors of Insightec Ltd. (2005-2012), M-Systems Ltd., a NASDAQ listed company which was acquired in 2006 by SanDisk Corp., a public company traded on NASDAQ as well (2005-2006) and Tower Semiconductor Ltd., a public company traded on TASE and NASDAQ (1999-2004). Ms. Simon holds a B.A. in Social Sciences from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, a law degree (LL.B.) from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzlia and an M.A. in Business and Management from Boston University.





Mr. Eitan Oppenheim has been serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since July 31, 2013. He has previously served as the Executive Vice President Global Business Group, since November 2010. From 2009 until 2010, Mr. Oppenheim served as Vice President and Europe General Manager of Alvarion Ltd., a public company traded on NASDAQ. During the years 2007 through 2009, Mr. Oppenheim served as Vice President of sales and marketing of OptimalTest Ltd., a public company traded the New York Stock Exchange. Prior to that, from 2002 till 2006, Mr. Oppenheim served as Vice President – Business Manager of the Flat Panel Displays division of Orbotech Ltd., a public company traded on NASDAQ. From 2001 till 2002, Mr. Oppenheim served as Managing Director of Asia Pacific at TTI Telecom International, a leading provider of assurance, analytics and optimization solutions to communications service providers (CSP) worldwide. Prior to that, from 1994 till 2001, Mr. Oppenheim held several key executive positions at Comverse Network Systems Ltd., a public company traded on NASDAQ. Mr. Oppenheim holds a BA in Economics and Accounting from the Haifa University, Israel and an MBA from Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Mr. Dror David has served as the Chief Financial Officer since November 2005. Mr. David joined Nova in April 1998, as the Company's Controller, and since then served in various financial and operational positions, including the position of Vice President of Resources, in which he was responsible for the finance, operations, information systems and human resources functions of the Company. Mr. David was also a leading member in the Company's initial public offering on NASDAQ in 2000, the Company's private placement in 2007 and the Company's secondary offering in 2010. Prior to joining Nova, Mr. David spent five years in public accounting with Deloitte Touch in Tel Aviv, specializing in industrial high-tech companies. Mr. David is a Certified Public Accountant in Israel, holds a B.A. in Accounting and Economics from Bar Ilan University, and an M.B.A. from Derby University of Britain.

Dr. Shay Wolfling joined Nova in 2011, as Chief Technology Officer. Prior to joining Nova, Dr. Wolfling was an R&D manager at KLA-Tencor-Belgium (formerly ICOS Vision Systems, a public traded company acquired by KLA in 2008), where he led multidisciplinary metrology & inspection development projects. From 2000 until its technology acquisition by ICOS in 2005, Dr. Wolfling was a founder and Vice President of Research and Development of Nano-Or-Technologies, a start-up company with a proprietary technology for 3D optical measurements. Dr. Wolfling took Nano-Or from the idea stage to initial product sales. Prior to founding Nano-Or, Dr. Wolfling was a project manager in Y-Beam-Technologies, a start-up offering laser-based skin treatments. Dr. Wolfling has several patents under his name in the field of optical measurements. Dr. Wolfling holds a B.Sc. in physics and mathematics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, a second degree in physics from Tel-Aviv University, Israel and a Ph.D. in physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Mr. Gabi Sharon has served as Vice President of Operations since September 2006. Having joined Nova in 1995, Mr. Sharon served in several key positions in the Company including as Global Customer Support Manager from September 1995 to September 2004. From September 2004 until September 2006 Mr. Sharon managed the Product Development Division, and spearheaded the NovaScan 3090 product line and its successful market launch. For a period of two years, from 2004 to 2006, he also served as the Product Marketing Manager and led the initial penetration of the Copper CMP market. Prior to joining Nova Mr. Sharon served as Project Manager in ECI Israel. Mr. Sharon holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science from Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, and a M.Sc. in Technology Management from Polytechnic University, New York.

Mr. Erez Ravid joined Nova in January 2014, as Vice President Global Business Group. Prior to joining Nova, from 2001 till 2014, Mr. Ravid served in several positions at Applied Materials Israel and Applied Materials Corporate, including as a Director of Sales of the Europe Region, Director of Business Development, Director of Marketing of the Water Inspection Division and Director of Sales. Prior to that, from 1995 until 2001, Mr. Ravid served as wafer inspection marketing manager at Orbot Instruments. From 1988 till 1995, Mr. Ravid served as a process engineer at Intel Electronics Israel. Mr. Ravid holds a B.Sc. in Materials Engineering from Ben-Gurion University, Israel, a M.Sc. in Applied Physics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and an M.B.A. from the Hebrew University of

Jerusalem, Israel.

Ms. Hila Mukevisius has served as Vice President Human Resources since May 2008. Ms. Mukevisius joined Nova after eight years at Amdocs Ltd., a market leader in customer experience systems innovations, where she held several positions as HR Director of large scale global groups. Ms. Mukevisius holds a B.A. in Behavioral Science from the College of Management, Academic Studies, Tel Aviv, Israel, specializing in organization development and MA in Diplomacy and Security from the Tel Aviv University, Israel.

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Mr. Dov Farkash has served as co-Manager of the Strategic Software Business Unit since April 2014. Mr. Farkash joined Nova in 2000, and till 2005 he served in various key sales positions in Nova. From 2005 until 2009, Mr. Farkash has served as VP Sales of Nova. From 2009 until April 2014, Mr. Farkash served as our Vice President Business Development. Prior to joining Nova, Mr. Farkash served as worldwide Sales and Marketing Manager of AFCON Ltd., and AFCON Inc., USA. Prior to that, Mr. Farkash served in various managerial positions in software development in various Hi-tech companies. Mr. Farkash holds a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering and an MBA from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

Dr. Erez Sali has served as co-Manager of the Strategic Software Business Unit since April 2014. Dr. Sali joined Nova in 2012, as the Vice President of Strategic Software Development. In this role, Dr. Sali was responsible for Nova's Optical CD software and its computation platform as well as additional software products that the company is developing. Previously, Dr. Sali served as the director of research at PrimeSense, an Israeli startup that developed the Kinect 3D sensor for Microsoft XBOX, where he oversaw the development of electro-optics and algorithms. Prior to that, Dr. Sali served as VP R&D at Topspin medical, as the director of product development at Negevtech and as R&D manager for the Assembly division at Orbotech. Dr. Sali has over 15 issued patents under his name and many patent applications as well as several scientific publications. Dr Sali holds a B.Sc. in mathematics, physics and computer science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, an M.Sc. in computer science from Tel-Aviv University, Israel and a Ph.D. in computer science from the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel.

Mr. Michael Rybski joined Nova in December 2010 and has served as Vice President Product Development since 2012. Mr. Rybski brings over 15 years of experience in development and management of complex solutions in the semiconductor industry. Mr. Rybski has successfully led the development of new products from concept to market launch. Prior to joining Nova, Mr. Rybski served as project manager in R&D at Hp-Scitex, a large format digital printing company. Prior to that, he served as HW platform manager, project manager and as director of product development, leading the development of new products at Negevtech. Previously Mr. Rybski held different managerial positions in R&D at Applied Materials Israel, where he worked on a SEM based Automatic Review system. Mr. Rybski holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

Mr. Jacob Olin joined Nova in April 2014 as Vice President of Business Development. Prior to joining Nova, Mr. Olin has served as CEO of Qlight Nanotech Ltd., from 2010 until 2014. Under his management, Qlight Nanotech formed a strategic cooperation with the German Chemical company, Merck KGaA, which became a major stakeholder in Qlight Nanotech. In March 2014, Qlight Nanotech was selected as Nanotechnology Startup of the Year, by the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) in Israel. Prior to this position, Mr. Olin served as Corporate Director of Business Development at Orbotech Ltd., as Vice President Business Development at Advanced Vision Technology (AVT) Ltd., and was a founding partner at Sphere Capital Markets Ltd., an investment boutique firm specializing in investment banking and futures and options trading. Mr. Olin holds an MBA in Technology Management and a B.Sc. in Theoretical Mathematics, from Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

#### Voting Agreement

We are not aware of any voting agreement currently in effect.

#### 6.B Compensation

The aggregate direct remuneration paid or payable to all persons who served in the capacity of executive officer for 2014 (consisting of ten persons) in terms of employer costs was approximately \$3.2 million (including \$0.49 million set aside for pension and retirement benefits and amounts expensed by the Company for automobiles made available to its executive officers).

Disclosure regarding the compensation of our senior executives on an individual basis will be disclosed in our proxy statement in connection with the 2015 annual general meeting of shareholders in accordance with Israeli regulations.

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At the 2013 annual general meeting, our shareholders approved the employment terms of Mr. Eitan Oppenheim, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, including: (i) a monthly base salary of NIS 87,000; (ii) an annual bonus of up to ten monthly base salaries (with up to two additional monthly base salaries in the case of over achievement), subject to objectives to be annually determined by the board of directors and its committees in accordance with our compensation policy. In the event of employment termination during a fiscal year (unless for termination for cause), Mr. Oppenheim will be entitled to a prorated bonus (subject to adjusted objectives to the relevant period of employment); (iii) a one-time grant of an option to purchase up to 80,000 ordinary shares of the Company with an exercise price per share equal to the closing price on NASDAQ Stock Market on September 12, 2013) and the option will vest in equal annual installments over four years commencing one year from the grant date (i.e., 25 % of the option shall vest on each anniversary of the grant date); (iv) a bonus of up to ten monthly base salaries for the completion of an acquisition of a non-affiliated company, subject to the limitation on a special bonus set forth in our compensation policy (the payment of such bonus is subject to the approval of the board of directors and its committees); (v) in connection with termination of employment, a three month advance notice and a six month adjustment period, during which Mr. Oppenheim will be entitled to all of his compensation elements, and to the continuation of vesting of his options; (vi) based on our policies and procedures and the applicable law, Mr. Oppenheim is entitled to customary social benefits such as pension fund or management insurance, education fund, vacation pay, sick leave and convalescence pay; (vii) based on our policies and procedures and the applicable law and subject to required approvals under applicable law, Mr. Oppenheim is entitled to be covered by a directors and officers insurance, including a “run-off” insurance policy; (viii) non disclosure, non-compete and ownership of intellectual property undertakings; (ix) upon certain events of change of control, Mr. Oppenheim will be entitled to (A) advance notice and adjustment period as defined in Section (v) above, and (B) term and vesting extension of options of two years following termination of employment; (x) monthly travel expenses or a Company car, a Company's cellular phone, a land line phone, toll road expenses, a laptop computer and other expense reimbursements pursuant to our policies and procedures.

At the 2014 annual general meeting, our shareholders approved the following amendments to the employment terms of Mr. Oppenheim, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company: (i) an update of Mr. Oppenheim's monthly salary to NIS 96,000; (ii) that the maximum bonus for over achievement will be 150% of the target bonus which is ten (10) monthly base salaries (rather than two monthly base salaries); and (iii) that Mr. Oppenheim will be entitled to an annual grant of options to purchase up to 100,000 ordinary shares of the Company per each year of 2014, 2015 and 2016. The first grant of 100,000 options was made on August 1, 2014; the second and third grants of 100,000 options each will be made on the second and third anniversary of the initial grant, respectively, provided that Mr. Oppenheim is fully employed by the Company and continues with his duties as the president and chief executive officer of the Company at the respective grant date. The vesting schedule of the options is over a four (4) year period with a one fourth of such options vesting on each anniversary of the grant. The term of the options is of seven (7) years after each grant date, unless they have been exercised or cancelled in accordance with the terms of and conditions of the applicable incentive plan of the Company or the employment terms of Mr. Oppenheim. The exercise price is determined per the Company's equity-based compensation policy.

The total amount paid or payable to the directors, including external directors, (consisting of seven persons in 2014, including one former external director of the Company) for 2014 was \$0.26 million.

As of February 3, 2015, 1,079,617 options to purchase our ordinary shares and 31,804 RSU's were outstanding to certain current executive officers and directors (consisting of 16 persons), of which 420,670 options are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of February 3, 2015. See “Item 6E. Share Ownership” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

The compensation arrangement of the Company's directors (excluding the chairman of the board of directors and, unless approved otherwise, any other director who is also an employee of the Company), as approved by our

shareholders at the 2012 annual general meeting, includes:

1. An annual payment of US\$18,000 (or an equivalent amount in NIS calculated into NIS according to a NIS 4.00 = US\$1.00 exchange rate) but not less than the annual payment required under the Companies Regulations (Rules Regarding Compensation and Expenses to an External Director), 2000, and the Companies Regulations (Relief for Public Companies with Shares Listed for Trading on a Stock Market Outside of Israel), 2000 (collectively, the “Regulations”).
2. Additionally, the following payments (subject to the minimal and maximal payment restrictions applicable to the Company under the Regulations): (i) for each meeting that the director or external director attends in person, an amount of US\$600 (in an equivalent amount in NIS according to a NIS 4.00 = US\$1.00 exchange rate, provided that such payment will not be lower than the applicable payment required under the Regulations to be paid to external directors); (ii) for each execution of a written consent in lieu of a meeting, an amount of US\$300 (in an equivalent amount in NIS according to a NIS 4.00 = US\$1.00 exchange rate, provided that such payment will not be lower than the applicable payment required under the Regulations to be paid to external directors); and (iii) for each meeting that the director or external director attends by teleconference, an amount of US\$360 (in an equivalent amount in NIS according to a NIS 4.00 = US\$1.00 exchange rate, provided that such payment will not be lower than the applicable payment required under the Regulations to be paid to external directors).

3. An annual award of an option to purchase up to 10,000 ordinary shares or options with fair market value of US\$80,000, the lower of the two, to be granted to each director or external director on the date of each annual general meeting at which such director or external director is elected or reelected (or if an external director is not standing for reelection, on the date of the annual general meeting, provided that such external director is serving on the board of directors at the time of the annual general meeting). The exercise price of each option shall be determined pursuant to our equity based compensation policy.

In addition, the compensation arrangement of Dr. Michael Brunstein, the chairman of our board of directors, as approved by our shareholders at the 2006, 2008 and 2010 annual general meetings, includes: (i) a gross annual fee of \$110,000 payable monthly in NIS; (ii) an annual award of options to purchase up to 10,000 ordinary shares, to be granted to Dr. Brunstein on the date of each annual general meeting at which the chairman of the board of directors is elected or reelected, starting the 2008 annual general meeting, the exercise price of which will be determined pursuant to our equity based compensation policy and the other terms (i.e., the amount, exercise price and vesting schedule) shall be identical to the terms of options granted to other directors on an annual; and (iii) a biennial award of an option to purchase up to 75,000 ordinary shares to Dr. Brunstein on the date of every other annual general meeting at which the chairman of the board of directors is elected or reelected, starting with the 2010 annual general meeting (and thereafter in 2012). The exercise price of such options will be determined pursuant to our equity based compensation policy, and consistent with our compensation policy, the options shall vest quarterly over a period of four years.

On September 12, 2013, our shareholders approved the Company's compensation policy. The full text of the compensation policy was included as Exhibit A to the proxy statement attached to the Company's report on Form 6-K furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 12, 2013.

## 6.C Board Practices

### Board of Directors' Committees

The Company's board of directors has appointed the following committees:

The Audit Committee is comprised of Naama Zeldis, Zehava Simon and Avi Cohen. The audit committee is responsible to assist the board of directors in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Company. According to the Companies Law, the audit committee must consist of at least three directors, must include all of the external directors and the majority of its members must be independent directors under the Companies Law. The following individuals may not be members of the audit committee: (i) the chairman of the board of directors; (ii) any director employed by the Company, its controlling shareholder or any entity under the control of the controlling shareholder; (iii) any director providing services on a regular basis to the Company, its controlling shareholder or any entity under the control of the controlling shareholder; (iv) any director whose main source of income comes from the Company's controlling shareholder; or (v) the Company's controlling shareholders or any of their relatives. The chairman of the audit committee must be an external director, who has not been serving as a chairman of the audit committee for more than nine years. Under the Companies Law, the audit committee is responsible, among others, for (i) identifying deficiencies in the administration of the Company, including by consulting with the internal auditor, and recommending remedial actions with respect to such deficiencies; (ii) reviewing and approving related party transactions, including, among others, determining whether or not such transactions are deemed material actions or extraordinary transactions; (iii) ensuring that a competitive process is conducted for related party transactions with a controlling shareholder (regardless of whether or not such transactions are deemed extraordinary transactions), optionally based on criteria which may be determined by the audit committee annually in advance; (iv) setting forth the approval process for transactions that are 'non-negligible' (i.e. transactions with a controlling shareholder that are classified by the audit committee as non-negligible, even though they are not deemed extraordinary transactions), as

well as determining which types of transactions would require the approval of the audit committee, optionally based on criteria which may be determined annually in advance by the audit committee; (v) evaluating the Company's internal audit programme and the performance of the Company's internal auditor and the resources at his/her disposal; (vi) reviewing the scope of work of the Company's external auditor and making recommendations regarding his/her salary; and (vii) creating procedures relating to the employees' complaints regarding deficiencies in the administration of the Company. The audit committee operates under a charter adopted by the board of directors.



The Compensation Committee is comprised of Zehava Simon, Naama Zeldis and Raanan Cohen. The function of the compensation committee is described in the approved charter of the committee, and includes assisting the board of directors in discharging its responsibilities relating to compensation of the Company's officers, directors and executives and the overall compensation programs and reviewing and approving, or if required by law, approving and recommending for approval by the board of directors, grants and awards under the Company's equity incentive plans. The primary objective of the committee is to oversee the development and implementation of the compensation policies and plans that are appropriate for the Company in light of all relevant circumstances and which provide incentives that further the Company's long-term strategic plans and are consistent with the culture of the Company and the overall goal of enhancing enduring shareholder value. Under the Companies Law (as recently amended; see "Item 10B. Memorandum and Article of Association – Compensation of Directors and Officers" in this annual report on Form 20-F), the compensation committee must consist of at least three directors, must include all the external directors, the majority of its members must be external directors, and its chairman must be an external director. In addition, all members of the compensation committee must meet the requirements under the Companies Law for membership in the audit committee, as described above.

Under the Companies Law and our compensation committee charter, our compensation committee is responsible, among others, for (i) recommending to the board of directors regarding its approval of a compensation policy in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Law, and any other compensation policies, incentive-based compensation plans and equity-based plans; (ii) overseeing the development and implementation of such compensation plans and policies that are appropriate in light of all relevant circumstances and recommending to the board of directors regarding any amendments or modifications that the compensation committee deems appropriate; (iii) determining whether to approve transactions concerning the terms of engagement and employment of our officers and directors that require compensation committee approval under the Companies Law or our compensation plans and policies; and (iv) taking any further actions as the compensation committee is required or allowed to under the Companies Law or the compensation plans and policies.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of Alon Dumanis Michael Brunstein and Zehava Simon. The function of the nominating committee is described in the approved charter of the committee, and includes responsibility for identifying individuals qualified to become board members and recommending that the board of directors consider the director nominees for election at the general meeting of shareholders. The nominating and corporate governance committee is also responsible for developing and recommending to the board of directors a set of corporate governance guidelines applicable to the Company, periodically reviewing such guidelines and recommending any changes thereto.

On September 7, 2010, our board of directors resolved to authorize the audit committee to fulfill the scope and act as the Company's investment committee.

All committees are acting according to written charters that were approved by our board of directors. In February 2012, we adopted an internal enforcement plan which was approved by our board of directors. The internal enforcement plan, as part of which we adopted and implementing procedures and policies in order to comply with the provisions of the Israeli Securities Law, 5728-1968 (the "Israeli Securities Law"), the Companies Law and the applicable guidelines issued by Israel Securities Authority. The internal enforcement plan includes, among others, the board committees' charters, procedures with respect to related party transactions, insider trading, reporting and complaints, and a code of conduct.

#### Internal Auditor

Under the Companies Law, the board of directors must also appoint an internal auditor nominated by the audit committee. Our internal auditor is Mr. Guy Sapir, C.P.A (Isr) of Kesselman & Kesselman PwC Israel. The role of the

internal auditor is to examine whether a company's actions comply with the law and proper business procedure. The internal auditor may not be an interested party or office holder, or a relative of any interested party or office holder, and may not be a member of the company's independent accounting firm or its representative. The Companies Law defines an interested party as a holder of 5% or more of the shares or voting rights of a company, any person or entity that has the right to nominate or appoint at least one director or the general manager of the company or any person who serves as a director or as the general manager of a company.

## 6.D Employees

Set forth below is a chart showing the number of people we employed at the times indicated:

		As of December 31,	
	2012(*)	2013(*)	2014(*)
Total Personnel	367	383	404
Located in Israel	264	276	292
Located abroad	103	107	112
In operations	80	91	79
In research and development	118	120	146
In global business	146	149	154
In general and administration	23	23	25

(\*) The numbers of employees set forth in this table do not include contractors and an insignificant number of temporary employees retained by the Company from time to time.

We were a member of the Industrialists Association in Israel, an employer's union until December 31, 2006. Under applicable Israeli law, we and our employees are subject to protective labor provisions such as restrictions on working hours, minimum wages, paid vacation, sick pay, severance pay and advance notice of termination of employment as well as equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws. Orders issued by the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor make certain industry-wide collective bargaining agreements applicable to us. These agreements affect matters such as cost of living adjustments to salaries, length of working hours and week, recuperation and travel expenses. In Israel, Nova is subject to the instructions of the Extension Order in the Industrial Field for Extensive Pension Insurance 2006 according to the Israeli Collective Bargaining Agreements Law, 1957 (the "Extension Order"). The Extension Order ensures the pension insurance of most employees which fall under its criteria.

## 6.E Share Ownership

Based on information provided to us, our 16 directors and officers listed in Item 6A above, have had, as a group, sole voting and investment power for 432,420 shares beneficially owned by them as of February 3, 2015 (representing 1.59% of the 27,200,263 issued and outstanding ordinary shares of the Company as of such date). Such number includes 420,670 shares subject to options that are immediately exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of February 3, 2015 (expiration dates: 2018 - 2021; exercise prices (\$/share): 0.93 - 11.67). Each of such directors and executive officers beneficially owned less than 1% of the Company's shares as of such date.

Beneficial ownership of shares is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes any shares over which a person exercises sole or shared voting or investment power. Ordinary shares that are subject to warrants or options that are presently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of the date of February 3, 2015 are deemed to be outstanding and beneficially owned by the person holding the options for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of that person, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage of any other person.

## Employee Benefit Plans

The share option plans active throughout 2014, are described below:

Option Plan 8 - As of December 31, 2014, options to purchase 1,496,620 ordinary shares at an exercise prices ranging from \$1.79 to \$2.87, the fair market value of Nova's stock based on the date of grant, were granted under this plan. As of December 31, 2014, 938,027 options were exercised and 558,593 options had been cancelled. As of December 31, 2014, no options were outstanding and exercisable under this plan. We do not intend to grant any further options or shares under this plan.

2007 Incentive Plan - The maximum number of ordinary shares to be issued under the plan, which was adopted by our shareholders on October 25, 2007, was 2,500,000, subject to future increases or decreases by the Company. On May 1, 2012, the board of directors resolved to increase the aggregate number of shares issuable under the 2007 Incentive Plan by one million shares, and amend the 2007 Incentive Plan to address a change in the clearing procedures of the TASE. On December 17, 2014, the board of directors resolved to increase the aggregate number of shares issuable under the 2007 Incentive Plan by two million shares, and to amend the 2007 Incentive Plan. Such amendment includes, among others, a change of the exercise period in the event of termination, and in case of death, disability or retirement of the optionee. The amended 2007 Incentive Plan is filed as Exhibit 4.2 to this annual report on Form 20-F. In connection with the aforementioned increases, we have not obtained a shareholder approval as required under NASDAQ Listing Rules and followed in lieu home practice rules that do not require such approval. As of December 31, 2014, options to purchase 3,034,247 ordinary shares at an exercise prices which range from \$0.43 to \$11.67, the fair market value of Nova's stock based on the dates of grant, were granted under this plan of which, as of December 31, 2014, 1,156,877 options were exercised, 644,688 options were outstanding and exercisable, 342,728 options had been cancelled and 889,954 were outstanding and unvested. As of December 31, 2014, 451,647 RSU's had been issued, of which 343,718 had vested, 9,609 had been cancelled and 98,320 RSU's were outstanding.

On September 12, 2013, our shareholders (following an approval by or compensation committee and board of directors), approved the Company's compensation policy, which includes, among others, provisions relating to equity based compensation for Nova's executive officers. The compensation policy provides, among others, that: (i) such equity based compensation is intended to be in a form of share options and/or other equity based awards, such as RSUs, in accordance with the Company's equity incentive plan in place as may be updated from time to time; (ii) all equity-based incentives granted to executive officers shall be subject to vesting periods in order to promote long-term retention of the awarded executive officers. Unless determined otherwise in a specific award agreement approved by the compensation committee and the board of directors, grants to executive officers (other than directors) will vest gradually over a period of between three to five years; and (iii) all other terms of the equity awards shall be in accordance with Nova's incentive plans and other related practices and policies. The board of directors may, following approval by the compensation committee, extend the period of time for which an award is to remain exercisable and make provisions with respect to the acceleration of the vesting period of any executive officer's awards, including, without limitation, in connection with a corporate transaction involving a change of control, subject to any additional approval as may be required by the Companies Law. The compensation policy also provides that the equity based compensation shall be granted from time to time and be individually determined and awarded according to the performance, educational background, prior business experience, qualifications, role and the personal responsibilities of the executive officer. The fair market value of the equity based compensation for the executive officers will be determined according to acceptable valuation practices at the time of grant.

Our equity based compensation policy, which was initially adopted in February 2007 and was most recently amended in July 2014, provides, among others, that the exercise price for each option will be equal to the closing price of our ordinary shares on NASDAQ on the day the final approval with respect to the option grant is obtained, and if such day is not a trading day on NASDAQ, the first trading day immediately thereafter; provided, however, that in the event the final approval to be obtained with respect to an option grant is by the compensation committee or the board of directors, and the meeting of the compensation committee or the board of directors is taking place during a 'blackout period', the exercise price of each option granted will be equal to the closing price of our ordinary shares on NASDAQ on the trading day immediately following the last day of the blackout period; and provided, further, that in the event the final approval to be obtained with respect to a grant is prior to the commencement of employment of the grantee, the exercise price of the options granted will be equal to the closing price of our ordinary shares on NASDAQ on the later of: (i) the day of commencement of employment of the grantee or, if such day is not a trading day on NASDAQ, the first trading day immediately thereafter, or (ii) the trading day immediately following the last day of the blackout period (in the event, if applicable, the last approval to be obtained is by the compensation committee or the board of directors and the compensation committee's or board of directors meeting is taking place during a blackout period);

and further provided that in the event of an approval of future grants (i.e. grants to be made in separate allocations), the exercise price for each option to be allocated more than 30 days following the date of the final approval, excluding the first grant to a grantee prior to his or her commencement of employment as indicated above, will be equal to the closing price of the Company's ordinary shares on NASDAQ on the day of such allocation, and if such day is not a trading day on NASDAQ, the first trading day immediately thereafter; provided, however, that the grant approval will set the allocation day explicitly. In any event, the exercise price shall not be lower than our ordinary shares par value.

For additional information regarding our employees' incentive plans, see Note 8 of our consolidated financial statements, contained elsewhere in this report.

## Item 7. Major Shareholder and Related Party Transactions

### A. Major Shareholders

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our outstanding ordinary shares as of the dates indicated below for each person who we know beneficially owns five percent or more of the outstanding ordinary shares.

Beneficial ownership of shares is determined under rules of the SEC and generally includes any shares over which a person exercises sole or shared voting or investment power. Applicable percentages are based on 27,200,263 ordinary shares outstanding as of February 3, 2015.

Name	Number of Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Ordinary Shares Beneficially Owned	
Itshak Sharon (Tshuva), Delek Group Ltd., The Phoenix Holdings Ltd. Excellence Holdings Ltd.(1)	3,688,214	13.56	%
Clal Insurance Enterprises Holdings Ltd.(2)	2,519,311	9.26	%
Migdal Insurance & Financial Holdings Ltd.(3)	1,741,008	6.40	%
Renaissance Technologies LLC and Renaissance Technologies Holdings Corporation(4)	1,645,163	6.05	%
Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services Ltd.(5)	1,636,251	6.02	%

(1) Based upon information provided to the Company by Itshak Sharon (Tshuva), Delek Group Ltd., The Phoenix Holdings Ltd., and Excellence Holdings Ltd., on February 3, 2015 and consist of 381,278 shares held for their own account.

(2) The information is based upon Amendment No. 3 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Clal Insurance Enterprises Holdings Ltd., on February 17, 2015.

(3) The information is based upon Amendment to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Migdal Insurance & Financial Holdings Ltd., on February 10, 2015.

(4) The information is based upon Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Renaissance Technologies LLC and Renaissance Technologies Holdings Corporation, on February 12, 2015.

(5) The information is based upon Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services Ltd., on February 12, 2015.

All the shareholders of the Company have the same voting rights.

To our knowledge, the significant changes in the percentage of ownership held by our major shareholders during the past three years have been: (i) the decrease in the percentage of ownership held by Clal Electronics Industries Ltd. and Clal Industries Ltd., following the sale of our ordinary shares in, 2013. As reported on Amendment No. 9 to Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on May 28, 2013, Clal Electronics Industries Ltd. and Clal Industries Ltd. beneficially owned 1,302,493 of our ordinary shares (then representing 4.87% of our issued and outstanding share capital); (ii); the increase in the percentage of ownership held by Clal Insurance Enterprises Holdings Ltd. above 5% in 2012 and 2013 and as a group by Delek Group Ltd., The Phoenix Holdings Ltd. & Excellence Holdings Ltd. above 5% in 2012, 2013 and 2014; (iii) the increase in 2013 and afterwards the decrease in 2014 in the percentage of ownership held by Invicta Capital Management, LLC. As reported on Amendment 8 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Invicta Capital Management on February 14, 2014, Invicta Capital Management beneficially owned 1,157,376 of our ordinary shares (then representing 4.2% of our issued and outstanding share capital); (iv) the decrease in the percentage of ownership held by Federated Investors, Inc., Voting Shares Irrevocable Trust, John F. Donahue and Rhodora J. Donahue (collectively, "Federated Investors"). As reported on Amendment 3 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Federated Investors on June 7, 2013, Federated Investors beneficially owned 1,286,534 of our ordinary shares (then representing 4.82% of our issued and outstanding share capital); (v) the increase in the percentage of ownership held by Migdal Insurance & Financial Holdings Ltd., above 5% in 2012, 2013 and 2014; (vi) the increase in the percentage of ownership held by Renaissance Technologies LLC and Renaissance Technologies Holdings Corporation above 5% in 2013 and 2014; (vii) the increase in the percentage of ownership held by Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services Ltd., above 5% in 2014; and (xiii) the increase in the percentage of ownership held by Yelin Lapidot Holdings Management Ltd., above 5% in 2014, and later the decrease below 5%, as reported in Schedule 13G filed with the SEC by Yelin Lapidot Holdings Management Ltd., on June 2, 2014 and in Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 21, 2015 respectively.



As of February 3, 2015, our ordinary shares were held by 15 registered holders (not including CEDE & Co.). Based on the information provided to us by our transfer agent, as of February 3, 2015, 13 registered holders were U.S. domicile holders and held approximately 0.16% of outstanding ordinary shares.

#### Control of Registrant

To the Company's knowledge, it is not owned or controlled by a foreign government. Except for the shareholders identified above owning more than five percent of the Company's ordinary shares, the Company has no knowledge of any corporation or other natural or legal person owning a controlling interest in the Company.

#### B. Related Party Transactions

In 2010, our shareholders approved the Company to purchase annual insurance policies with respect to director's and officers' liability until the end of fiscal year 2015, which terms shall be approved by the company's audit committee and the board of directors, provided, that the aggregate annual premium to be paid by the Company will not exceed 1.5% of the aggregate coverage of the directors' and officers' insurance policies and the aggregate coverage of the directors' and officers' insurance policies will not exceed the greater of \$25 million or 30% of the company's shareholder equity. In February 2011 and August 2012, we obtained directors' and officers' liability insurance for our officers and directors with coverage in an aggregate amount of \$25,000,000. This directors' and officers' liability insurance was presented and approved by the audit committee and the board.

In September 2013, our shareholders approved our compensation policy, which includes, among others, provisions relating to director's and officers' liability insurance (the arrangements set forth in the compensation policy replace the resolutions from 2010 that is described above). Pursuant to the compensation policy, we will provide "directors' and officers' liability insurance" for our directors and officers as follows: (i) the annual premium to be paid by us shall not exceed 1.5% of the aggregate coverage of the insurance policy; (ii) the limit of liability of the insurer shall not exceed the greater of \$40 million or 30% of our shareholders equity based on our most recent financial statements at the time of approval by the compensation committee; (iii) the insurance policy, as well as the limit of liability and the premium for each extension or renewal shall be approved by the compensation committee (and, if required by law, by the board of directors) which shall determine that the sums are reasonable considering our exposures, the scope of coverage and the market conditions and that the insurance policy reflects the current market conditions, and it shall not materially affect our profitability, assets or liabilities. The compensation policy also provides that upon circumstances to be approved by the compensation committee (and, if required by law, by the board of directors), we will be entitled to enter into a "run off" insurance policy of up to seven years, with the same insurer or any other insurance, as follows: (i) the limit of liability of the insurer shall not exceed the greater of \$40 million or 30% of our shareholders equity based on our most recent financial statements at the time of approval by the compensation committee; (ii) the annual premium shall not exceed 300% of the last paid annual premium; (iii) the insurance policy, as well as the limit of liability and the premium for each extension or renewal shall be approved by the compensation committee (and, if required by law, by the board of directors) which shall determine that the sums are reasonable considering our exposures covered under such policy, the scope of cover and the market conditions, and that the insurance policy reflects the current market conditions and that it shall not materially affect our profitability, assets or liabilities. According to the compensation policy, we may extend the insurance policy in place to include cover for liability pursuant to a future public offering of securities as follows: (i) the additional premium for such extension of liability coverage shall not exceed 50% of the last paid annual premium; and (ii) the insurance policy as well as the additional premium shall be approved by the compensation committee (and if required by law, by the board of directors) which shall determine that the sums are reasonable considering the exposures pursuant to such public offering of securities, the scope of cover and the market conditions and that the insurance policy reflects the current market conditions, and it does not materially affect our profitability, assets or liabilities. In November 2013, we obtained directors' and officers' liability insurance for our officers and directors with coverage in an aggregate amount of \$35,000,000. This

directors' and officers' liability insurance was presented and approved by the compensation committee and the board of directors.

In addition, we undertook to indemnify our officers and directors. On June 21, 2012, the shareholders at the annual general meeting approved an amended letter of indemnification to be given to our directors and officers. The amended letter of indemnification addresses recent amendments to the Companies Law and the Israeli Securities Law, and, among others, provides indemnification against monetary liability imposed in favor of injured parties in administrative procedures under the Israeli Securities Law and expenses related to such procedures, including reasonable litigation expenses and attorneys' fees. The aggregate indemnification amount that the Company will pay to all its officers and directors pursuant to these letters of indemnification shall not exceed 25% of the Company's shareholders equity, according to the most recent consolidated financial statement prior to the date of indemnification payment. Prior to that, we undertook to indemnify our officers and directors up to an aggregate amount of \$10,000,000 or 25% of the Company's shareholders equity, the higher of the two. Pursuant to our compensation policy, which was approved by our shareholders in September 2013, we may indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, for any liability and expense that may be imposed on the director or the officer, as provided in the indemnity agreement between us and such individuals, all subject to applicable law and our articles of association. Our compensation policy also provides that we may exempt our directors and officers in advance for all or any of their liability for damage in consequence of a breach of the duty of care vis-a-vis our company, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

At our 2013 annual general meeting, our shareholders approved an amendment to the terms of up to 326,662 vested options (including 37,500 options originally scheduled to vest in August 2014) held by Mr. Gabi Seligsohn, our former President and Chief Executive Officer, such that any such vested options held by Mr. Seligsohn as of the expiration date of his adjustment period (i.e., April 15, 2014), shall be exercisable until October 15, 2015 (18 months following to the expiration of the adjustment period), subject to the earlier expiration of any option according to its terms. This amendment is consistent with our compensation policy, which was approved by our shareholders at the same annual general meeting.

For information relating to options granted to officers and directors, see "Item 6E. Share Ownership" in this annual report on Form 20-F. For information regarding our compensation policy and compensation arrangements with our directors and executive officers (including our chairman and chief executive officer), please refer to Item 6B in this annual report on Form 20-F.

#### 7.C Interest of Experts and Counsel

Not applicable.

### Item 8. Financial Information

#### 8.A Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information

See "Item 17. Financial Statements" in this annual report on Form 20-F and pages F-1 through F-25.

#### Legal Proceedings

From time to time, we are a party to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of business. We are not currently a party to any significant legal proceedings.

#### Dividend Policies

We anticipate that, for the foreseeable future, we will retain any earnings to support operations and to finance the growth and development of our business. Therefore, we do not expect to pay cash dividends for at least the next

several years.

We obtained the status of “approved enterprise” under the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments, 1959, under which we may take advantage of certain tax exemptions. We may further obtain such status in the future. If we distribute a cash dividend from income which is tax exempt, we would generally have to pay corporate tax at a rate of up to 25% on the amount equal to the amount distributed and on the amount of corporate tax which would have been due in the absence of the tax exemption, in addition to withholding tax on such dividends paid. Such corporate tax liability may be reduced in certain circumstances under the Trapped Profits Law. For further description of the Trapped Profits Law and the conditions limiting our ability to declare and pay dividends see “Item 10E –Israeli Taxation” in this annual report on Form 20-F.

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The distribution of dividends may also be limited by the Companies Law, which permits the distribution of dividends only out of retained earnings or earnings derived over the two most recent fiscal years, whichever is higher, provided that there is no reasonable concern that payment of a dividend will prevent a company from satisfying its existing and foreseeable obligations as they become due. Our Amended and Restated Articles of Association provide that dividends will be paid at the discretion of, and upon resolution by, our board of directors.

#### Export Sales

Substantially all of our products are sold to customers located outside Israel.

#### 8.B Significant Changes

Not applicable.

### Item 9. The Offer and Listing

#### 9.A Offer and Listing Details

The information presented in the table below presents, for the periods indicated, the reported high and low market prices on NASDAQ. The shares began trading on NASDAQ on April 11, 2000 at a price of \$18 per share. Our ordinary shares were registered for trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 2002, and the table below presents, for the periods indicated, the reported high and low market prices on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

#### NASDAQ

	Price per share (US\$)	
	High	Low
Yearly highs and lows		
2009	6.55	0.68
2010	8.48	3.63
2011	11.79	5.11
2012	9.28	6.82
2013	10.31	7.68
2014	12.25	9.5
Quarterly highs and lows		
2012		
First quarter	9.28	7.15
Second quarter	9.27	6.82
Third quarter	9.18	6.98
Fourth quarter	8.14	6.87
2013		
First quarter	9.67	7.68
Second quarter	10.31	8.25
Third quarter	9.38	8.40
Fourth quarter	9.86	8.32
2014		
First quarter	12.25	9.82

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Second quarter	12.13	9.63
Third quarter	12.19	9.77
Fourth quarter	10.83	9.5
2015		
First quarter (until February 15, 2015)	11.52	10.04
Monthly highs and lows		
August 2014	11.26	9.89
September 2014	11.49	10.75
October 2014	10.81	9.50
November 2014	10.83	10.12
December 2014	10.64	9.78
January 2015	11.52	10.04
February 2015 (until February 15, 2015)	11.46	10.91

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

	Price per share (NIS)	
	High	Low
<b>Yearly highs and lows</b>		
2009	24.24	1.53
2010	30.50	14.50
2011	40.99	20.00
2012	36.58	26.04
2013	36.99	29.02
2014	42.55	33.99
<b>Quarterly highs and lows</b>		
2012		
First quarter	34.65	27.72
Second quarter	34.75	26.40
Third quarter	36.58	28.70
Fourth quarter	31.10	26.04
2013		
First quarter	35.70	29.02
Second quarter	36.99	31.01
Third quarter	34.39	30.05
Fourth quarter	34.15	29.70
2014		
First quarter	42.55	34.35
Second quarter	41.50	33.99
Third quarter	41.98	34.50
Fourth quarter	41.78	36.51
2015		
First quarter (until February 15, 2015)	46.45	39.77
<b>Monthly highs and lows</b>		
August 2014		
August 2014	40.33	34.50
September 2014		
September 2014	41.98	38.41
October 2014		
October 2014	40.45	36.51
November 2014		
November 2014	41.73	37.65
December 2014		
December 2014	41.78	37.93
January 2015		
January 2015	46.45	39.77
February 2015 (until February 15, 2015)		
February 2015 (until February 15, 2015)	44.65	42.00

## 9.B Plan of Distribution

Not applicable.

## 9.C Markets

Our ordinary shares are quoted on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “NVMI” and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

9.D Selling Shareholders

Not applicable.

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9.E Dilution

Not applicable.

9.F Expenses on the Issue

Not applicable.

Item 10. Additional Information

10.A Share Capital

Not applicable.

10.B Memorandum and Articles of Association

Set forth below is a summary of certain provisions of the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Association, as adopted by the Company's shareholders on September 25, 2008, and Israeli law affecting shareholders of the Company. This summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our memorandum and Amended and Restated Articles of Association and such law. On September 25, 2008, our shareholders adopted the Amended and Restated Articles of Association of the Company, which were later amended on June 21, 2012 (for the purposes of this Item, the "Amended Articles").

Registration. The Company was incepted and registered with the Israeli Registrar of Companies on May 17, 1993, under registration number 51-181-246-3.

Purpose of the Company. The purposes of the Company, as provided by Article 4 of our Amended Articles, are (a) to invent, design, plan, develop, manufacture, market and trade in the field of measuring instruments in electronics, micro-electronics, medicine, chemistry, metallurgy, ceramics and any other field, (b) to initiate, participate, manage, execute, import and export any kind of project within the borders of the State of Israel and/or outside Israel, (c) to register patents, trademarks, trade names intellectual property rights marketing rights and any other right of any kind whatsoever, both in Israel and abroad and (d) to engage in any legal activity, both in Israel and abroad.

Approval of Related Party Transaction; Corporate Borrowings. The Companies Law requires that office holders of a company, including directors and executive officers, promptly disclose to the board of directors any personal interest they may have and all related material information known to them about any existing or proposed transaction with such company. The approval of the board of directors is required for 'non-extraordinary' transactions between a company and its office holders, or between a company and other persons in which an office holder has a personal interest, unless such company's articles of association provide otherwise. Under the Companies Law, a 'non-extraordinary' transaction between a company or between the company and a third party in which an office holder of a company has a personal interest, will require the approval of the board of directors or a committee authorized by the board of directors, unless such company's articles of association provide otherwise. Our Amended Articles do not provide otherwise, and therefore such transaction requires the approval of our board of directors. If a transaction is an "extraordinary transaction", it is subject to the approval of the audit committee prior to its approval by the board of directors. For information regarding the necessary approvals under the Companies Law for transactions with office holders and directors regarding their terms of engagement with the company, see "— Compensation of Officers and Directors" in this Item below.

In addition, an extraordinary transaction between a public company and a controlling shareholder (i.e. a shareholder who has the ability to direct the activities of a company, including a shareholder that owns 25% or more of the voting rights if no other shareholder owns more than 50% of the voting rights, but excluding a shareholder whose power derives solely from its position on the board of directors or any other position with the company), or in which a controlling shareholder has a personal interest, including a private placement in which the controlling shareholder has a personal interest, a transaction between a public company and a controlling shareholder, the controlling shareholders' relative, or entities under its control, directly or indirectly, with respect to services to be provided to the public company, and a transaction concerning the terms of compensation of the controlling shareholder or the controlling shareholder's relative, who is an office holder or an employee, requires the approval of the audit committee or, in some cases, the compensation committee (see "— Compensation of Officers and Directors" in this Item below), the board of directors and a majority of the shares voted by the shareholders of the company participating and voting on the matter in a shareholders' meeting. In addition, the shareholder approval must fulfill one of the following requirements: (i) the majority must include at least a majority of the shares of the voting shareholders who have no personal interest in the transaction (in counting the total votes of such shareholders, abstentions shall not be taken into account); or (ii) the total of opposition votes among the shareholders who have no personal interest in the transaction may not exceed 2% of the aggregate voting rights in the company. Any such transaction the term of which is more than three years, must be approved in the same manner every three years, unless the audit committee has determined that longer term is reasonable under the circumstances.

According to the Companies Law, if an extraordinary transaction is discussed by the board of directors or the audit committee, directors and office holders that have personal interest in the proposed transaction, may not participate in the discussion or vote. However, if the majority of the members of the audit committee or the board of directors (as applicable) have personal interest in the proposed transaction, then all directors (including those with personal interest) may participate in the discussion and vote, provided that in the event the majority of the members of the board of directors have personal interest in the transaction, said transaction shall also be subject to the approval of the Company's shareholders meeting.

Under regulations promulgated under the Companies Law regarding payment of compensation to external directors, compensation of external directors shall be comprised of annual compensation and a per meeting payment ranging as stated in the regulations. These amounts are adjusted twice a year in accordance with the Israeli consumer price index. With regard to a company, which shares are traded in an exchange outside of Israel, and is subject to laws which impose upon the external directors duties which exceed the duties imposed upon them under Israeli law, the maximum amount payable to the external directors is NIS 115,400 per annum and NIS 3,470 per meeting, as adjusted for changes in the Israeli CPI twice a year. The approval of the shareholders of the company is required for such compensation, unless it is between the maximum and fixed amounts set forth in these regulations. If the shareholder's approval is required, it shall be done in the same manner as the approval of transactions with office holders and directors regarding their terms of engagement with the company (see "— Compensation of Officers and Directors" in this Item below). The compensation of external directors may also be linked to the compensation of other directors, subject to certain restrictions. Additionally, external directors may be entitled to compensation in stock (including by way of granting options to purchase the Company's stock), provided that such compensation is granted within the framework of a stock incentive plan applicable to all other directors and further provided the amount of stock granted or purchasable shall not fall below the lowest amount granted to any other director and shall not exceed the average amount of stock granted to all other directors. The regulations also allow an increased compensation to external directors that are considered "expert external directors" under the terms set forth in said regulations.

Share Capital. The Company currently has one class of ordinary shares, 0.01 NIS par value per share. The Amended Articles provide that the board of directors may decide on a distribution, subject to the provisions set forth under the Companies Law and the Amended Articles. Under the Companies Law, dividends may be paid out of net earnings, as calculated under that law, for the two years preceding the distribution of the dividend and retained earnings, provided that there is no reasonable concern that the dividend will prevent the company from satisfying its existing and foreseeable obligations as they become due. For more information, see the Company's balance sheet and the statement of shareholders' equity in the financial statements. Each ordinary share is entitled to one vote at all shareholders meetings.

Changes of Rights of Holders of the Shares. According to the Amended Articles, any change in the rights and privileges of the holders of any class of shares shall require the approval of a class meeting of such class of shares by a simple majority (unless otherwise provided by the Companies Law or the regulations thereto or by the terms of issue of the shares of that class).

Shareholders Meetings. An annual meeting shall be convened at least once every calendar year, and no later than 15 months after the preceding annual meeting, to review the Company's financial statements and to transact any other business required pursuant to the Amended Articles or to the Companies Law, and any other matter which the board of directors places on the agenda of the annual meeting, at a time and place that the board of directors shall determine. A special meeting may be called by the board of directors and at the demand of any of the following: two directors or one-quarter of the directors then serving; one or more shareholders who hold at least five per cent of the issued and outstanding capital stock and at least one percent of the voting rights in the Company; or one or more shareholders who hold at least five percent of the voting rights in the Company.

According to the Amended Articles, the quorum required for an ordinary meeting of shareholders is at least two shareholders present in person or by proxy who together hold or represent in the aggregate more than one third (33.33%) of the voting power. A meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum is reconvened one day thereafter at the same time and place or to such other day, time and place as our board of directors may indicate in a notice to the shareholders. At the reconvened meeting, the required quorum consists of any number of members present in person or by proxy, regardless of the number of shares represented. The Companies Law and regulations determine that prior notice of no less than 21 days should be given to the company's shareholders, prior to convening a meeting. In the event that the issue to be resolved is an issue subject to the Israeli proxy rules, a notice of no less than 35 days should be given to the company's shareholders. In some cases a prior notice of not less than 14 days may be given to the company's shareholders.

Subject to anti-terror legislations, there are no limitations on the rights of non-resident or foreign owners to hold or vote ordinary shares imposed under Israeli law or under the Amended Articles.

Board of Directors. The Amended Articles provide that directors may be elected either at our annual general meeting or a special meeting of shareholders by a vote of the holders of more than 50% of the total number of votes represented at such meeting. In addition, our board of directors is authorized to appoint directors, at its discretion, provided that the total number of directors shall not exceed the maximum number of directors permitted by the Amended Articles. Each of our directors (except our external directors) holds office until the next annual general meeting of shareholders. The Companies Law provides that a person, who is, directly or indirectly subordinated to the chief executive officer of a public company, may not serve as the chairman of its board of directors. In addition, neither the chief executive officer nor his relative is eligible to serve as chairman of the board of directors (and vice versa), unless such nomination was approved by a majority of the company's shareholder for a term not exceeding three years, and either: (i) such majority included at least two thirds of the voting shareholders (shares held by abstaining shareholders are not considered) which are not controlling shareholders and have not personal interest regarding the decision; or (ii) the aggregate number of shares voting against the proposal did not exceed 2% of company voting shareholders. The term can be extended for additional three year terms, in the same manner.

The Companies Law provides that Israeli public companies must have at least two external directors. External directors may be elected at our annual general meeting or a special meeting of our shareholders in a number and manner stipulated by the Companies Law, i.e., for an initial term of three years, which may be extended for two additional three-year terms (provided that the re-election for additional term was presented by the external director whose tenure is about to end or by the board of directors or by one or more shareholders that own, in the aggregate, 1% or more of the Company's outstanding share capital), and thereafter for additional three-year terms, if both the audit committee and the board of directors confirm that in light of the expertise and contribution of the external director, the extension of such external director's term would be in the interest of the Company. The election and re-election of external directors, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares and in addition either that (i) a majority of the shares held by shareholders who are not controlling shareholders or a have personal interest in the election (other than a personal interest unrelated to the controlling shareholders) attending in person or represented by proxy have voted in favor of the proposal (shares held by abstaining shareholders shall not be considered) or (ii) the aggregate number of shares voting against the proposal held by such shareholders has not exceeded 2% of the company's voting shareholders. External directors may be removed from office only under the following circumstances: (i) an external director ceases to meet the legal requirements for appointment as an external director or breaches his or her fiduciary duty to the company and a resolution to remove such external director is made by the shareholders at a meeting at which such external director is granted a reasonable opportunity to express his position (such a resolution requires the same majority of votes that elected the external director); (ii) an external director ceases to meet the legal requirements for appointment as an external director or breaches his or her fiduciary duty to the Company and a court orders that such director be removed; or (iii) an external director is unable to perform his or her duties or is convicted of certain felonies and a court orders that such director be removed.

An external director is qualified for nomination as an external director, only if he/she has either professional qualifications or accounting and financial expertise. At least one of the external directors must have accounting and financial expertise. However, a company whose shares are traded in certain exchanges outside of Israel, including The NASDAQ Global Select Market, such as our company, is not required to nominate at least one external director who has accounting and financial expertise, as long as another independent director for audit committee purposes who has such expertise serves on the board of directors pursuant to the applicable foreign securities laws. In such case all external directors will have professional qualification.



Regulations adopted under the Companies Law provide that a director with accounting and financial expertise is a director that due to his education, experience and skills has high expertise and understanding in business-accounting matters and financial statements in a way that enables him to deeply understand the financial statements of the company and to facilitate discussion with respect to the way the financial data should be presented. The assessment of the accounting and financial expertise of a director shall be made by the board of directors, who shall take into consideration, inter alia, the education, experience and knowledge of the director in the following subjects:

- (1) Accounting matters and audit accounting matters, which are typical to the sector in which the company works and of companies with the same size and complexity as of the company;
- (2) The duties and obligations of the auditing accountant; and
- (3) Preparing of financial statements and their approval according to applicable law, including securities law.

The regulations also provide that a director with professional qualifications is a director who meets one of the following conditions:

- (1) A holder of an academic degree in one of the following: economics, business administration, accounting, law, or public administration;
- (2) A holder of another academic degree or is otherwise a graduate of higher education in a major field of business of the company or in other field which is relevant to the role;
- (3) He has experience of at least five years in one of the following, or that he has cumulative experience of at least five years in two or more of the following:
  - (a) A senior position in the business management of a corporation which has a significant scope of business;
  - (b) A senior public position or in a senior role in the public service; or
  - (c) A senior position in the company's major fields of business.

According to the Companies Law, the board of directors of a public company must establish the minimum number of board members that are to have accounting and financial expertise while considering, inter alia, the nature of the company, its size, the scope and complexity of its operations and the number of directors stated in the Amended Articles.

In April 2006, our board of directors resolved that the minimum number of board members that need to have accounting and financial expertise, including the external director with accounting and financial expertise, is one (1).

Our board of directors determined that each of Ms. Naama Zeldis and Ms. Zehava Simon has accounting and financial expertise as described in the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Companies Law, and that, therefore, the requirements of the minimum number of board members that need to have accounting and financial expertise, as set by the board of directors, has been met.

Under the Companies Law, the majority of the members of the audit committee must be independent directors. A public company may classify a director as independent only if (i) the audit committee has determined that he or she is qualified to serve as an external director (with the exception that such director does not have to have professional qualifications or accounting and financial expertise in order to serve as an independent director), and (ii) he or she is

not serving as a director in the company for more than consecutive nine years (only a period of two or more years, in which such person did not serve as a director in the company, shall be deemed to discontinue the nine year sequence). A majority of our board members are independent, in accordance with NASDAQ Listing Rules and the Companies Law.

Compensation of Officers and Directors. Amendment No. 20 to the Companies Law ("Amendment No. 20"), which recently came into effect, adopted new procedures relating to the approval of executive compensation and the formulation of compensation policies in Israeli public companies (including companies that issued only debentures to the public). Pursuant to Amendment No. 20, Israeli public companies are required to establish a compensation committee and adopt a policy regarding the compensation and terms of employment of their directors and officers. For information on the composition, roles and objectives of the compensation committee pursuant to the Companies Law and our compensation committee charter, see "Item 6C. Board Practices –Board of Directors' Committees – Compensation Committee" in this annual report on Form 20-F.



Pursuant to the Companies Law following Amendment No. 20, the compensation policy must be approved by the company's board of directors after reviewing the recommendations of the compensation committee. The compensation policy also requires the approval of the general meeting of the shareholders, which approval must satisfy one of the following (the "Majority Requirement"): (i) the majority should include at least a majority of the shares of the voting shareholders who are non controlling shareholders or do not have a personal interest in the approval of the compensation policy (in counting the total votes of such shareholders, abstentions shall not be taken into account) or (ii) the total number of votes against the proposal among the shareholders mentioned in paragraph (i) does not exceed two percent of the aggregate voting power in the company. Under certain circumstances and subject to certain exceptions, the board of directors may approve the compensation policy despite the objection of the shareholders, provided that the compensation committee and the board of directors determines that it is for the benefit of the company, following an additional discussion and based on detailed arguments.

The Companies Law provides that the compensation policy must be re-approved every three years, in the manner described above. Moreover, the board of directors is responsible for reviewing from time to time the compensation policy and deciding whether or not there are any circumstances that require an adjustment to the company's compensation policy. When approving the compensation policy, the relevant organs must take into consideration the goals and objectives listed in the Companies Law, and include reference to specific issues listed in the Companies Law. Such issues include, among others (the "Compensation Policy Mandatory Criteria"): (i) the relevant person's education, qualifications, professional experience and achievements; (ii) such person's position within the company, the scope of his responsibilities and previous compensation arrangements with the company; (iii) the proportionality of the employer cost of such person in relation to the employer cost of other employees of the company, and in particular, the average and median pay of other employees in the company, including contract workers, and the impact of the differences between such person's compensation and the other employees' compensation on the labor relations in the company; (iv) the authority, at the board of director's sole discretion, to lower any variable compensation components or set a maximum limit (cap) on the actual value of the non-cash variable components, when paid; and (v) in the event that the terms of engagement include any termination payments - the term of employment of the departing person, the company's performance during that term, and the departing person's contribution to the performance of the company.

In addition, the Companies Law provides that the following matters shall be included in the compensation policy (the "Compensation Policy Mandatory Provisions"): (i) the award of variable components must be based on long term and measurable performance criteria (other than non-material variable components, which may be based on non measurable criteria taking into account the relevant person's contribution to the performance of the company); (ii) the company must set a ratio between fixed and variable pay, set a cap on the payment of any cash variable compensation components as of the payment of such components, and set a cap on the maximum cash value all non-cash variable components as of their grant date; (iii) the compensation policy must include a provision requiring the relevant person to return to the company any compensation that was awarded on the basis of financial figures that were subsequently restated; (iv) equity based variable compensation components should have an appropriate minimum vesting periods, which should be linked to long term performance objectives; and (v) the company must set a clear limit on termination payments.

Amendment No. 20 also introduced new procedures for the approval of compensation arrangements with officers and directors of Israeli public companies (including companies that issued only debentures to the public). Pursuant to the Companies Law following Amendment No. 20, any transaction with an office holder (except directors and the CEO of the company) with respect to such office holder's compensation arrangements and terms of engagement, requires the approval of the compensation committee and the board of directors. Such transaction must be consistent with the provisions of the company's compensation policy, provided that the compensation committee and the board of directors may, under special circumstances, approve such transaction that is not in accordance with the company's compensation policy, if both of the following conditions are met: (i) the compensation committee and the board of

directors discussed the transaction in light of the roles and objectives of the compensation committee (see "Item 6C. Board Practices –Board of Directors' Committees – Compensation Committee" in this annual report on Form 20-F) and after taking into consideration the Compensation Policy Mandatory Criteria and including in such transaction the Compensation Policy Mandatory Provisions; and (ii) the company's shareholders approved the transaction, provided that in public companies the approval must satisfy the Majority Requirement. Notwithstanding the above, the compensation committee and the board of directors may, under special circumstances, approve such transaction even if the shareholders' meeting objected to its approval, provided that (i) both the compensation committee and the board of directors re-discussed the transactions and decided to approve it despite the shareholder's objection, based on detailed arguments, and (ii) the company is not a 'Public Pyramid Held Company'. For the purpose hereof, a "Public Pyramid Held Company" is a public company that is controlled by another public company (including companies that issued only debentures to the public), which is also controlled by another public company (including companies that issued only debentures to the public) that has a controlling shareholder.

Transactions between public companies (including companies that have issued only debentures to the public) and their chief executive officer, with respect to his or her compensation arrangement and terms of engagement, require the approval of the compensation committee, the board of directors and the shareholder's meeting, provided that the approval of the shareholders' meeting must satisfy the Majority Requirement. Notwithstanding the above, the compensation committee and the board of directors may, under special circumstances, approve such transaction with the CEO even if the shareholders' meeting objected to its approval, provided that (i) both the compensation committee and the board of directors re-discussed the transactions and decided to approve it despite the shareholder's objection, based on detailed arguments, and (ii) the company is not a Public Pyramid Held Company. Such transaction with the CEO must be consistent with the provisions of the company's compensation policy, provided that the compensation committee and the board of directors may, under special circumstances, approve such transaction that is not in accordance with the company's compensation policy, if both of the following conditions are met: (i) the compensation committee and the board of directors discussed the transaction in light of the roles and objectives of the compensation committee (see "Item 6C. Board Practices –Board of Directors' Committees – Compensation Committee" in this annual report on Form 20-F) and after taking into consideration the Compensation Policy Mandatory Criteria and including in such transaction the Compensation Policy Mandatory Provisions; and (ii) the company's shareholders approved the transaction, provided that in public companies the approval must satisfy the Majority Requirement. In addition, the compensation committee may determine that such transaction with the CEO does not have to be approved by the shareholders of the company, provided that: (i) the CEO is independent based on criteria set forth in the Companies Law; (ii) the compensation committee determined, based on detailed arguments, that bringing the transaction to the approval of the shareholders may compromise the chances of entering into the transaction; and (iii) the terms of the transaction are consistent with the provisions of the company's compensation policy. Under the Companies Law, non material amendments of transactions relating to the compensation arrangement or terms of engagement of office holders (including the CEO), require only the approval of the compensation committee.

With respect to transactions relating to the compensation arrangement and terms of engagements of directors in public companies (including companies that have issued only debentures to the public), the Companies Law following Amendment No. 20 provides that such transaction shall be subject to the approval of the compensation committee, the board of directors and the shareholders' meeting. Such transaction must be consistent with the provisions of the company's compensation policy, provided that the compensation committee and the board of directors may, under special circumstances, approve such transaction that is not in accordance with the company's compensation policy, if both of the following conditions are met: (i) the compensation committee and the board of directors discussed the transaction in light of the roles and objectives of the compensation committee (see "Item 6C. Board Practices –Board of Directors' Committees – Compensation Committee" in this annual report on Form 20-F) and after taking into consideration the Compensation Policy Mandatory Criteria and including in such transaction the Compensation Policy Mandatory Provisions; and (ii) the company's shareholders approved the transaction, provided that in public companies the approval must satisfy the Majority Requirement.

Amendment No. 20 became effective on December 12, 2012. Under Amendment No. 20, Israeli public companies must adopt a compensation policy within nine months from the date on which the amendment became effective, i.e. September 12, 2013. During this period, extensions of existing terms of engagement with directors and officers of Israeli public companies are not subject to the provisions of Amendment No. 20, provided that they are extended as-is without any modification. On September 12, 2013 (at our 2013 annual general meeting), our shareholders approved the company's compensation policy. The full text of the compensation policy was included as Exhibit A to the proxy statement attached to the Company's report on Form 6-K furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 12, 2013.

On January 11, 2013, the SEC approved the amended NASDAQ listing standards on compensation committees and advisers. Among others, the amended NASDAQ listing standards include provisions relating to the establishment of a compensation committee, the compensation committee charter, compensation committee members' independence

requirements, and arrangements relating to advisers retained by the compensation committee. Under the amended rules, the compensation committee adviser and compensation committee authority requirements become effective on July 1, 2013. However, NASDAQ listed companies will have until their first annual meeting after January 15, 2014, or, if earlier, October 31, 2014, to comply with other standards, including the compensation committee member independence standards and the requirement to have a compensation committee and charter (including any charter amendment to reflect the compensation committee authority requirements). NASDAQ listed companies must certify compliance with the listing standards within 30 days after the applicable implementation deadline. In addition, under the amended rules, foreign private issuers are exempt from compliance with the amended listing standards if home country practice is followed and the listed company discloses with the SEC the reasons why it does not have an independent compensation committee. Our compensation committee charter was updated in accordance with said amendments.

The Israeli parliament (the Knesset) has recently approved the new Promotion of Competition and Reduction of Centralization Law, 5774-2013 (the "Centralization Law"), which, among others, imposes new constraints and stricter corporate governance rules on pyramid conglomerates, and forces separation between equity holdings in significant non-financial corporate businesses and equity holdings in significant financial businesses. The Centralization Law has entered into force on December 11, 2013.

**Changes in Capital.** Our share capital may be increased or decreased by a vote of our shareholders in accordance with the Companies Law.

**Acquisition of a Controlling Stake.** According to the Companies Law, an acquisition pursuant to which a purchaser shall hold a "controlling stake", that is defined as 25% or more of the voting rights if no other shareholder holds a controlling stake, or an acquisition pursuant to which such purchaser shall hold more than 45% of the voting rights of the company if no other shareholder owns more than 45% of the voting rights, may not be performed by way of market accumulation, but only by way of a special tender offer (as defined in the Companies Law) made to all of the company's shareholders on a pro rata basis. A special tender offer may not be consummated unless a majority of the shareholders who announced their stand on such offer have accepted it (in counting the total votes of such shareholders, shares held by the controlling shareholders, shareholders who have personal interest in the offer, shareholders who own 25% or more of the voting rights in the company, relatives or representatives of any of the above or the bidder and corporations under their control, shall not be taken into account). A shareholder may be free to object to such an offer without such objection being deemed as a waiver of his right to sell its respective shares if the transaction is approved by a majority of the company's shareholders despite his objection. Shares purchased not in accordance with those provisions shall become "dormant shares" and shall not grant the purchaser any rights so long as they are held by the purchaser.

**Acquisition.** A person wishing to acquire shares or a class of shares of an Israeli public company and who would, as a result, own more than 90% of the target company's issued and outstanding share capital or of certain class of its shares, is required by the Companies Law to make a full tender offer (as defined in the Companies Law) to all of the company's shareholders for the purchase of all of the issued and outstanding shares of the company or class of shares. If either (i) the shareholders who do not accept the offer hold, in the aggregate, less than 5% of the issued and outstanding share capital of the company or of the applicable class, and more than half of the shareholders who do not have a personal interest in the offer accept the offer, or (ii) the shareholder who do not accept the offer hold less than 2% of the issued and outstanding share capital of the company or of the applicable class, then all of the shares that the acquirer offered to purchase will be transferred to the acquirer by operation of law. However, a shareholder that had its shares so transferred, whether or not it accepted the tender offer (unless otherwise provided in the offering memorandum), may, within six months from the date of acceptance of the tender offer, petition the court to determine that the tender offer was for less than fair value and that the fair value should be paid as determined by the court. If the shareholders who did not accept the tender offer hold at least 5% of the issued and outstanding share capital of the company or of the applicable class of shares, the acquirer may not acquire shares of the company that will increase its holdings to more than 90% of the company's issued and outstanding share capital or of the applicable class from shareholders who accepted the tender offer.

The Companies Law provides that corporate mergers require the approval of both companies' boards of directors and shareholders. In the event, however, that shares of the target company are held by the acquiring company or by a person holding 25% or more of any type of controlling means of the acquiring company, the merger will not be approved if a majority of the shareholders of the target company attending and voting at the meeting at which the merger is considered (without taking into account, for that purpose, the shares held by the acquiring company or by a person holding 25% or more of any type of controlling means of the acquiring company) object to and do not vote in favor of the merger. If a person holds 25% or more of any type of controlling means of more than one merging company, the same provisions shall apply with regard to the shareholders' vote with respect to each such company.

Upon the request of a creditor of either party to the proposed merger, the court may delay or prevent the merger if the court concludes that there exists a reasonable concern that as a result of the merger the surviving company will be unable to satisfy the target company's obligations. Furthermore, a merger may not close unless at least 30 days have passed from the time that the general meeting of each of the merging companies was held and at least 50 days have passed from the date on which the merger proposal was sent to the Israeli Registrar of Companies.

In addition, the Companies Law preserves provisions of its predecessor, the Companies Ordinance, dealing with arrangements between a company and its shareholders. These arrangements may be used to effect squeeze out transactions in which the target company becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of the acquirer. These provisions generally require that the merger be approved by at least 75% of the shares of participating shareholders and a majority of the shareholders voting at a shareholders meeting. In addition to shareholder approval, court approval of the transaction is required, which entails further delay.

A merger, the acquisition of a controlling stake or any transaction in which all or substantially all the assets of a company are de facto transferred to another company, may require the approval of the Israeli Commissioner of Restrictive Trade Practices, in the event that the aggregate annual sales volume in Israel of all the companies which are parties to such transaction in the year preceding the merger, exceeds NIS 150 million (approximately \$39.6 million), adjusted annually to the Israeli consumer price index, and the annual sales volume in Israel of at least two of the companies which are parties to such transaction exceeds NIS 10 million each (approximately \$2.64), and also if after the consummation of such transactions, the joint market, in Israel, or at any identified geographic part of Israel will be in excess of 50% with respect to such products and services.

Indemnification. On June 21, 2012, our shareholders approved amendments to the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Association, addressing among others recent amendments to the Companies Law and the Israeli Securities Law, authorizing the grant by the Company of indemnification as well as against monetary liability imposed in favor of injured parties in an administrative procedures under the Israeli Securities Law and expenses related to such procedures, including reasonable litigation expenses and attorneys' fees.

#### 10.C Material Contracts

N/A

#### 10.D Exchange Controls

Israeli law and regulations do not impose any material foreign exchange restrictions on non-Israeli holders of our ordinary shares.

Dividends, if any, paid to holders of our ordinary shares, and any amounts payable upon our dissolution, liquidation or winding up, as well as the proceeds of any sale in Israel of our ordinary shares to an Israeli resident, may be paid in non-Israeli currency or, if paid in Israeli currency, may be converted into freely repatriable dollars at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time of conversion.

#### 10.E Taxation

##### Israeli Taxation

The following is a summary of the material Israeli tax laws applicable to us, and some Israeli Government programs benefiting us. This section also contains a discussion of some Israeli tax consequences to persons owning our ordinary shares. This summary does not discuss all the aspects of Israeli tax law that may be relevant to a particular investor in light of his or her personal investment circumstances or to some types of investors subject to special treatment under Israeli law. Examples of this kind of investor include traders in securities or persons that own, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of our outstanding voting capital, all of whom are subject to special tax regimes not covered in this discussion. Some parts of this discussion are based on a new tax legislation which has not been subject to judicial or administrative interpretation. The discussion should not be construed as legal or professional tax advice and does not cover all possible tax considerations.

SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE ISRAELI OR OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF OUR ORDINARY SHARES, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE EFFECT OF ANY FOREIGN, STATE OR LOCAL TAXES.

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## General Corporate Tax Structure in Israel

Israeli companies are generally subject to corporate tax on their taxable income at the rate of 26.5% for the 2015 tax year.

## Income Tax Regulations (Rules on Bookkeeping by Foreign Invested Companies and Certain Partnerships and Determination of their Taxable Income), 1986

As a "foreign invested company" (as defined in the Israeli Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments-1959), the Company's management has elected to apply Income Tax Regulations (Rules for Maintaining Accounting Records of Foreign Invested Companies and Certain Partnerships and Determining Their Taxable Income) - 1986. Accordingly, its taxable income or loss is calculated in US Dollars.

## Tax Benefits under the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments, 1959

### Tax benefits prior to the 2005 Amendment

The Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments, 1959, generally referred to as the "Investments Law", provides that a capital investment in eligible facilities may, upon application to the Investment Center of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor of the State of Israel the ("Investment Center"), be granted the status of an Approved Enterprise. Each certificate of approval for an Approved Enterprise relates to a specific investment program delineated both by its financial scope, including its capital sources, and by its physical characteristics, e.g., the equipment to be purchased and utilized pursuant to the program.

A company owning an Approved Enterprise is eligible for a combination of grants and tax benefits (the "Grant Track"). The tax benefits under the Grant Track include, among others, accelerated depreciation and amortization for tax purposes. The benefit period is ordinarily seven years commencing with the year in which the Approved Enterprise first generates taxable income. The benefit period is limited to 12 years from the earlier of the commencement of production by the Approved Enterprise or 14 years from the date of approval of the Approved Enterprise.

The tax benefits under the Investments Law also apply to income generated by a company from the grant of a usage right with respect to know-how developed pursuant to the Approved Enterprise, income generated from royalties, and income derived from a service which is auxiliary to such usage right or royalties, provided that such income is generated within the ordinary course of business of the company investing in the Approved Enterprise. If a company has more than one approval or only a portion of its capital investments are approved, its effective tax rate is the result of a weighted average of the applicable rates. The Tax Benefits under the Investments Law are not, generally, available with respect to income derived from products manufactured outside of Israel. In addition, the Tax Benefits available to a company investing in an Approved Enterprise are contingent upon the fulfillment of conditions stipulated in the Investments Law and related regulations and the criteria set forth in the specific certificate of approval, as described above. In the event that a company does not meet these conditions, it would be required to refund the amount of tax benefits, plus a consumer price index linked adjustment and interest.

A company which qualifies as a foreign investment company (a "FIC") will be eligible for a three-year extension of tax benefits following the expiration of the seven-year period referenced above. In addition, in the event that the level of foreign ownership in an Approved Enterprise reaches 49% or higher, the corporate tax rate applicable to income earned from the Approved Enterprise is reduced as follows:

% of Foreign Ownership	Tax Rate
49% or more but less than 74%	20 %

74% or more but less than 90%	15	%
90% or more	10	%

A company qualifies as a FIC if (i) it has received at least NIS 5 million in loans (for a minimum period of three years) or as investment in share capital from a foreign resident who is consequently entitled to at least 25% of the “rights” in the company (consisting of profit sharing rights, voting rights and appointment of directors) , or (ii) if a foreign resident has purchased the company’s shares from an existing shareholder, consequently entitling the foreign shareholder to at least 25% of such rights in the company provided that the company’s outstanding and paid-up share capital exceeds NIS 5 million.

Additionally, a company owning an Approved Enterprise on or after April 1, 1986, may elect to forgo its entitlements to grants and tax benefits under the Grant Track and apply for alternative package of tax benefits for a benefit period of between seven and ten years (the “Alternative Track”). Under the Alternative Track, a company’s undistributed income derived from the Approved Enterprise will be exempt from corporate tax for a period of between two and ten years, starting from the first year the company derives taxable income under the Approved Enterprise program. The length of time of this exemption will depend on the geographic location of the Approved Enterprise within Israel and the type of the approved enterprise. After the exemption period lapses, the company subject to tax at a tax rate of 25% (or a lower rate in the case of a FIC) for the remainder of the benefit period.

The Company has elected to be taxed under the Alternative Track. A company that has elected the Alternative Track and subsequently pays a dividend out of income derived from the Approved Enterprise during the tax exemption period will be subject to corporate tax on the amount which is determined by the distributed amount grossed up with the effective corporate tax rate which would have been applied had the company not elected the Alternative Track, which is as referred above ranged between 10%-25%. Dividends paid out of income derived from an Approved Enterprise are generally subject to withholding tax at source at the reduced rate of 15%, if the dividend is distributed during the tax exemption period or within 12 years thereafter. In the event, however, which the company qualifies as a FIC, there is no such time limitation.

Under the Alternative Track, dividends paid by a company are considered to be attributable to income received from the entire company and the company's effective tax rate is the result of a weighted average of the various applicable tax rates, excluding any tax-exempt income. Under the Investments Law, a company that has elected the Alternative Track is not obliged to distribute retained profits, and may generally decide from which year's profits to declare dividends

We currently intend to reinvest any income derived from our Approved Enterprise program and not to distribute such income as a dividend.

#### Tax benefits under the 2005 Amendment

An amendment to the Investments Law, which effective as of April 1, 2005, has changed certain provisions of the Investments Law. An eligible investment program under the Amendment qualifies for benefits as a "Benefited Enterprise" (rather than as an Approved Enterprise which status is still applicable for investment programs approved prior to December 31, 2004 and/or investment programs under the Grant Track). According to the amendment, only Approved Enterprises receiving cash grants require the prior approval of the Investment Center.

The duration of the tax benefits described herein is limited to the earlier of seven or ten years (depending on the geographic location of the Approved Enterprise within Israel) from the Commencement Year (as described below) or 12 years from the first day of the Year of Election. Commencement Year is defined as the later of the first tax year in which a company had derived liable income for tax purposes from the Benefited Enterprise, or the year of election which is the year in which a company requested to have the tax benefits apply to the Benefited Enterprise. The tax benefits granted to a Benefited Enterprise are determined, depending on the geographic location of the Benefited Enterprise within Israel, according to one of the following, which may be applicable to us:

- (i) Similar to the currently available Alternative Track, exemption from corporate tax may be available on undistributed income for a period of two to ten years, depending on the geographic location of the Benefited Enterprise within Israel, and a reduced corporate tax rate of 10% to 25% for the remainder of the benefit period, depending on the level of foreign investment in each year. Benefits may be granted for a term of seven to ten years, depending on the level of foreign investment in the company. If the company pays a dividend out of income derived from the Benefited Enterprise during the tax exemption period, such income will be subject to deferred corporate tax with respect to the amount distributed (grossed up with the effective corporate tax rate which would have applied had the company not enjoyed the exemption) at the rate which would have applied had such company had the status of a Benefited Enterprise. The company is required to withhold tax on such distribution at a rate of 15%; or
- (ii) A special track which enables companies owning facilities in certain geographical locations in Israel to pay corporate tax at a flat rate of 11.5% on income the Benefited Enterprise (the "Ireland Track"). The benefit period is for ten years. Upon payment of dividends, the company is required to withhold tax on such dividend at a rate of 15% for Israeli residents and at a rate of 4% for foreign residents.

Generally, a company that is Abundant in Foreign Investment (owned by at least 74% foreign shareholders and has undertaken to invest a minimum sum of \$20 million in the Benefited Enterprise) is entitled to an extension of the benefit period by an additional five years, depending on the rate of its income that is derived in foreign currency.

As a result of the amendment, tax-exempt income generated under the provisions of the Investments Law, as amended, will subject us to taxes upon distribution or liquidation and we may be required to record deferred tax liability with respect to such tax-exempt income.

Currently, we have three Approved Enterprise plans under the Investments Law, which entitle us to certain tax benefits. Each of these Approved Enterprises is under the Alternative Track, which allows us, inter alia, a two year period of exemption of taxes for undistributed income pertaining to these enterprises. Some of these plans have already expired (before their benefits were utilized). In 2011, based on Company investments in property and equipment in the years 2009 and 2008, the Company submitted a request to approve a new plan (fourth plan) as an Approved Enterprise in accordance with the Amendment to the Investment Law. The commencing year was 2010. The expected expiration year is 2021.

Starting 2014, the Company has earnings attributable to Approved Enterprise programs, and it has begun utilizing the two years exemption of corporate tax, as discussed above.

#### Tax benefits under the 2011 Amendment

On December 29, 2010, the Israeli Parliament approved an amendment to the Investment Law (the “2011 Amendment”). The 2011 Amendment significantly revising the tax incentive regime in Israel, commencing on January, 1 2011.

The 2011 Amendment introduced a new status of “Preferred Enterprise”, replacing the existed status of “Benefited Enterprise”. Similarly to “Beneficiary Company”, a Preferred Company is an industrial company meeting certain conditions (including a minimum threshold of 25% export). However, under the 2011 Amendment the requirement for a minimum investment in productive assets in order to be eligible for the benefits granted under the Investments Law as with respect to “Benefited Enterprise” was cancelled.

A Preferred Company is entitled to a reduced flat tax rate with respect to the income attributed to the Preferred Enterprise, at the following rates:

Tax Year	Development Region “A”	Other Areas within Israel
2011-2012	10%	15%
2013	7%	12.5%
2014 onwards <sup>1</sup>	9%	16%

In addition, the 2011 Amendment introduced a new status of “Special Preferred Company” which is an Industrial company meeting, in addition to the conditions prescribed for “Preferred Company” certain additional conditions (including that the total Preferred Enterprise income is at least NIS 1.5 billion in the given tax year). The tax rate applicable for a period of 10 years to income generated by such an enterprise will be reduced to 5%, if located in Development Region “A”, or to 8%, if located in other area within the State of Israel.

Dividends distributed from income which is attributed to a “Preferred Enterprise” or a “Special Preferred Enterprise” will be subject to withholding tax at source at the following rates: (i) Israeli resident corporations – 0%, (ii) Israeli resident individuals – 20% (iii) non-Israeli residents - 20%, subject to a reduced tax rate under the provisions of an applicable double tax treaty.

The 2011 Amendment also revised the Grant Track to apply only to the approved programs located in Development Region “A” and shall provide not only cash grants (as prior to the Amendment) but also the granting of loans. The rates for grants and loans shall not be fixed but up to 20% of the amount of the approved investment (may be increased with additional 4%). In addition, a company owning a Preferred Enterprise under the Grant Track may be entitled also to

the tax benefits which are prescribed for a Preferred Company.

The provisions of the 2011 Amendment shall not apply to existing “Benefited Enterprises” or “Approved Enterprises”, which will continue to be entitled to the tax benefits under the Investment Law, as has been in effect prior to the New Amendment, unless the company owning such enterprises had made an election to apply the provisions of the 2011 Amendment (such election cannot be later rescinded), which is to be filed with the Israeli Tax Authority, not later than the date prescribed for the filing of the company’s annual tax return for the respective year,. A company owning a Benefited Enterprise or Approved Enterprise which made such election by July 30, 2015, will be entitled to distribute income generated by the Approved/Benefited Enterprise to its Israeli corporate shareholders tax free.

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1 In august 2013, the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) approved an amendment to the Investments Law pursuant to which the previously scheduled gradual reduction in the tax rates applicable to Preferred Enterprises would be repealed as of 2014 to the tax rates reflected on the above table.

#### Law for the Encouragement of Industry (Taxes), 1969

We believe that we qualify as an “Industrial Company” within the meaning of the Law for the Encouragement of Industry (Taxes), 1969, or the Industry Encouragement Law. The Industry Encouragement Law defines “Industrial Company” as an Israeli resident company, of which 90% or more of its income in any tax year (exclusive of income from certain defense loans), capital gains, interest and dividends is generated from an “Industrial Enterprise” that it owns. An “Industrial Enterprise” is defined as an enterprise whose principal activity in a given tax year is industrial manufacturing.

An Industrial Company is entitled to certain tax benefits, including: (i) a deduction of the cost of purchases of patents, know-how and certain other intangible property rights (other than goodwill) used for the development or promotion of the Industrial Enterprise over a period of eight years, beginning from the year in which such rights were first used, (ii) the right to elect to file consolidated tax returns with additional Israeli Industrial Companies controlled by it, and (iii) the right to deduct expenses related to public offerings in equal amounts over a period of three years beginning from the year of the offering.

Eligibility for benefits under the Encouragement of Industry Law is not contingent upon the approval of any governmental authority.

There is no assurance that we qualify or will continue to qualify as an Industrial Company or that the benefits described above will be available in the future.

#### Taxation of the Company Shareholders

##### Capital Gains

Capital gain tax is imposed on the disposal of capital assets by an Israeli resident, and on the disposal of such assets by a non-Israel resident if those assets are either (i) located in Israel; (ii) are shares or a right to a share in an Israeli resident corporation, or (iii) represent, directly or indirectly, rights to assets located in Israel. The Israeli Income Tax Ordinance of 1961 (New Version) (the "Ordinance") distinguishes between “Real Gain” and the “Inflationary Surplus”. Real Gain is the excess of the total capital gain over Inflationary Surplus computed generally on the basis of the increase in the Israeli CPI between the date of purchase and the date of disposal.

The capital gain accrued by individuals on the sale of our ordinary shares will be taxed at the rate of 25%. However, if the individual shareholder is a “Controlling Shareholder” (i.e., a person who holds, directly or indirectly, alone or together with another, 10% or more of one of the Israeli resident company’s means of control) at the time of sale or at any time during the preceding 12 months period, such gain will be taxed at the rate of 30%.

The real capital gain derived by corporations will be generally subject to a corporate tax rate of 26.5% in 2014.

Individual and corporate shareholder dealing in securities in Israel are taxed at the tax rates applicable to business income – 26.5% for corporations in 2014 and a marginal tax rate of up to 50% in 2014 for individuals, including a 2% excess tax for high earning individuals whose taxable income from Israeli sources exceeds NIS 811,560 in 2014). Notwithstanding the foregoing, capital gain derived from the sale of our ordinary shares by a non-Israeli shareholder may be exempt under the Ordinance from Israeli taxation provided that the following cumulative conditions are met: (i) the shares were purchased upon or after the registration of the securities on the stock exchange (this condition shall not apply to shares purchased on or after January 1, 2009), (ii) the seller does not have a permanent establishment in Israel to which the derived capital gain is attributed, and (iii) if the seller is a corporation, less than 25% of its means of control are held, directly and indirectly, by Israeli resident shareholders. In addition, the sale of shares may be

exempt from Israeli capital gain tax under the provisions of an applicable tax treaty. For example, the U.S.-Israel Double Tax Treaty exempts U.S. resident from Israeli capital gain tax in connection with such sale, provided (i) the U.S. resident owned, directly or indirectly, less than 10% of an Israeli resident company's voting power at any time within the 12 month period preceding such sale; (ii) the seller, being an individual, is present in Israel for a period or periods of less than 183 days at the taxable year; and (iii) the capital gain from the sale was not derived through a permanent establishment of the U.S. resident in Israel.



Either the purchaser, the Israeli stockbrokers or financial institution through which the shares are held is obliged, subject to the above mentioned exemptions, to withhold tax upon the sale of securities from the real capital gain at the rate of 25% in respect of a corporation and/or an individual.

At the sale of securities traded on a stock exchange a detailed return, including a computation of the tax due, must be filed and an advanced payment must be paid on January 31 and June 30 of every tax year in respect of sales of securities made within the previous six months. However, if all tax due was withheld at source according to applicable provisions of the Ordinance and regulations promulgated thereunder the aforementioned return need not be filed and no advance payment must be paid. Capital gain is also reportable on the annual income tax return.

#### Dividends

We have never paid cash dividends. A distribution of dividend from income attributed to an Approved Enterprise/Benefited Enterprise/Preferred Enterprise will be generally subject to withholding tax in Israel at the following tax rates: Israeli resident individuals - 15%, or 20% if the income from which the dividend was distributed is attributed to a Benefited Enterprise/Preferred Enterprise and it was distributed after January 1, 2014 ; Israeli resident companies – 0% for a Preferred Enterprise or 15% for an Approved Enterprise/Benefited Enterprise or 20% if the income from which the dividend was distributed is attributed to a Preferred Enterprise and it was distributed after January 1, 2014 ; Non-Israeli residents – 15% or 20% if the income from which the dividend was distributed is attributed to a Benefited Enterprise and it was distributed after January 1, 2014, (or 4% under the Ireland Track), subject to a reduced rate under the provisions of any applicable double tax treaty. A distribution of dividends from income, which is not attributed to an Approved Enterprise/Benefited Enterprise/Preferred Enterprise to an Israeli resident individual, will generally be subject to income tax at a rate of 25%. However, a 30% tax rate will apply if the dividend recipient is a “Controlling Shareholder” (as defined above) at the time of distribution or at any time during the preceding 12 months period. If the recipient of the dividend is an Israeli resident corporation, such dividend will be exempt from income tax provided the income from which such dividend is distributed was derived or accrued within Israel.

The Ordinance generally provides that a non-Israeli resident (either individual or corporation) is subject to an Israeli income tax on the receipt of dividends at the rate of 25% (30% if the dividends recipient is a “Controlling Shareholder” (as defined above), at the time of distribution or at any time during the preceding 12 months period); those rates are subject to a reduced tax rate under the provisions of an applicable double tax treaty. Thus, under the U.S.-Israel Double Tax Treaty the following rates will apply in respect of dividends distributed by an Israeli resident company to a U.S. resident: (i) if the U.S. resident is a corporation which holds during that portion of the taxable year which precedes the date of payment of the dividend and during the whole of its prior taxable year (if any), at least 10% of the outstanding shares of the voting stock of the Israeli resident paying corporation and not more than 25% of the gross income of the Israeli resident paying corporation for such prior taxable year (if any) consists of certain type of interest or dividends – the tax rate is 12.5%, (ii) if both the conditions mentioned in section (i) above are met and the dividend is paid from an Israeli resident company’s income which was entitled to a reduced tax rate applicable to an Approved Enterprise Benefited Enterprise/Preferred Enterprise – the tax rate is 15%, and (iii) in all other cases, the tax rate is 25%. The aforementioned rates under the Israel U.S. Double Tax Treaty will not apply if the dividend income was derived through a permanent establishment of the U.S. resident in Israel.

Payors of dividends on our shares, including the Israeli stockbroker effectuating the transaction, or the financial institution through which the securities are held, are generally required, subject to any of the foregoing exemption, reduced tax rates and the demonstration of a shareholder of his, her or its foreign residency, to withhold taxes upon the distribution of dividends at a rate of 25%, provided that the shares are registered with a Nominee Company (for corporations and individuals).

Foreign Exchange Regulations

Non-residents of Israel who hold our ordinary shares are able to receive any dividends, and any amounts payable upon the dissolution, liquidation and winding up of our affairs, repayable in non-Israeli currency at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time of conversion. However, Israeli income tax is generally required to have been paid or withheld on these amounts. In addition, the statutory framework for the potential imposition of currency exchange control has not been eliminated, and may be restored at any time by administrative action.

## U.S. Taxation

The following discussion describes certain material United States (“U.S.”) federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our ordinary shares.

For purposes of this discussion, a “U.S. holder” is a beneficial owner of ordinary shares who or which is any of the following for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the U.S. or someone treated as a U.S. citizen or resident of the U.S.;
- a corporation (or another entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust, if (a) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or (b) the trust was in existence and treated as a U.S. person on August 20, 1996 and has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations (as defined below) to be treated as a U.S. person.

This summary is for general information purposes only and does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, hold or dispose of the Company’s ordinary shares. This summary generally considers only U.S. holders that will own the ordinary shares as capital assets and does not consider the U.S. tax consequences to a person that is not a U.S. holder or the tax treatment of persons who hold the ordinary shares through a partnership or other pass-through entity. In addition, the possible application of U.S. federal estate or gift taxes or any aspect of state, local or non-U.S. tax laws is not considered. This discussion is based on current provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code by the U.S. Treasury Department (including proposed and temporary regulations) (the “Treasury Regulations”), rulings, current administrative interpretations and official pronouncements by the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, with a retroactive effect. Such changes could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences described below. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below.

This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to any particular U.S. holder based on the holder’s particular circumstances, such as,

- persons who own, directly, indirectly or constructively, 10% or more (by voting power or value) of our outstanding voting shares;
- persons who hold the ordinary shares as part of a hedging, straddle or conversion transaction;
- persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- persons who acquire their ordinary shares in a compensatory transaction;
- broker-dealers;
- insurance companies;

- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment companies;
- traders who elect to mark-to-market their securities;
  - tax-exempt organizations;
  - banks or other financial institutions;
  - U.S. expatriates; and
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax.

## HOLDER RELIANCE ON TAX STATEMENTS

THIS SUMMARY OF MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. EACH HOLDER SHOULD CONSULT ITS TAX ADVISOR WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES TO IT OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE ORDINARY SHARES, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS OF APPLICABLE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL ESTATE OR GIFT TAX RULES OR UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY FOREIGN, STATE OR LOCAL JURISDICTION OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.

### Availability of Reduced Tax Rates

The maximum U.S. Federal income tax rate on certain long-term capital gains and on qualifying dividends is currently 20%. Long-term capital gains from the sale of our ordinary shares may be eligible for this rate, although the actual rates may be higher due to the phase out of certain tax deductions, exemptions and credits. Subject to the discussion below, dividends, if any, may also be eligible for this 20% maximum rate on long-term capital gains, provided that we do not constitute a passive foreign investment company (a "PFIC"). However, tax rates are subject to change, especially given the uncertain economic conditions in the United States and the size of the federal deficit. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors.

### Distributions on the Ordinary Shares

We currently do not intend to pay dividends for at least the next several years. However, if we make any distributions of cash or other property to a U.S. holder of our ordinary shares, the amount of the distribution for U.S. federal income tax purposes will equal the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property distributed and will also include the amount of Israeli taxes withheld, if any, as described above under "— Dividends". In general (and subject to the PFIC rules discussed below), any distribution paid by us on the ordinary shares to a U.S. holder will be treated as dividend income if the distribution does not exceed our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If holding period and other requirements are met, dividends paid to non-corporate U.S. holders should generally qualify for the reduced maximum tax rate of 20% as long as our common shares remain "readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States," provided that we are not considered a PFIC (as discussed below) in the taxable year in which the dividend is paid or in any preceding taxable year. The amount of any distribution which exceeds these earnings and profits will be treated first as a non-taxable return of capital, reducing the U.S. holder's tax basis in its ordinary shares to the extent thereof, and then as capital gain, and as long-term capital gain if the U.S. holder's holding period exceeds one year, from the deemed disposition of the ordinary shares (subject to the PFIC rules discussed below). Corporate holders generally will not be allowed a deduction for dividends received on the ordinary shares.

A dividend paid by us in NIS will be included in the income of U.S. holders at the U.S. dollar value of the dividend, based upon the spot rate of exchange in effect on the date of the distribution. U.S. holders will have a tax basis in NIS for U.S. federal income tax purposes equal to that U.S. dollar value. Any subsequent gain or loss resulting from exchange rate fluctuations between the day the dividend was included in the income of U.S. holders and the day the NIS are converted into U.S. dollars or are otherwise disposed of, will be taxable as ordinary income, gain or loss from U.S. sources.

Dividends paid by us generally will be foreign source "passive income" for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes or, in the case of a U.S. holder that is a financial services entity, "financial services income." U.S. holders may elect to claim as a foreign tax credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability the Israeli income tax withheld from dividends received on the ordinary shares. The Code provides limitations on the amount of foreign tax credits that a U.S. holder

may claim. U.S. holders that do not elect to claim a foreign tax credit may instead claim a deduction for Israeli income tax withheld, but only for a year in which these U.S. holders elect to do so for all foreign income taxes. The rules relating to foreign tax credits are complex (and may also be impacted by the tax treaty between the United States and Israel), and you should consult your tax advisor to determine whether you would be entitled to this credit.

#### Sale or Exchange of the Ordinary Shares

Upon the sale or exchange of the ordinary shares (subject to the PFIC rules discussed below), a U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or exchange and the U.S. holder's tax basis in the ordinary shares. The gain or loss recognized on the sale or exchange of the ordinary shares generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period of the ordinary shares is more than one year at the time of the disposition.

Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. holder on a sale or exchange of ordinary shares generally will be treated as U.S. source income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Under the tax treaty between the United States and Israel, gain derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of ordinary shares by a holder who is a resident of the U.S. for purposes of the treaty and who sells the ordinary shares within Israel may be treated as foreign source income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

#### Passive Foreign Investment Companies

In general, a foreign (i.e., non-U.S.) corporation will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which, after applying the relevant look-through rules with respect to the income and assets of its subsidiaries, either (1) 75% or more of its gross income in the taxable year is “passive income,” or (2) assets held for the production of, or that produce, passive income comprise 50% or more of the average of its total asset value in the taxable year. For purpose of the income test, passive income includes dividends, interest, royalties, rents, annuities and net gains from the disposition of assets, which produce passive income. For purposes of the assets test, assets held for the production of passive income includes assets held for the production of, or that produce dividends, interest, royalties, rents, annuities, and other income included in the income test. In determining whether we meet the assets test, cash is considered a passive asset and the total value of our assets generally will be treated as equal to the sum of the aggregate fair market value of our outstanding stock plus our liabilities. If we own at least 25% (by value) of the stock of another corporation, we will be treated, for purposes of the PFIC tests, as owning our proportionate share of the other corporation’s assets and receiving our proportionate share of the other corporation’s income. The income test is conducted at the taxable year-end. The asset test is conducted on a quarterly basis and the quarterly results are then averaged together.

If a corporation is treated as a PFIC for any year during a U.S. holder’s holding period and the U.S. holder does not timely elect to treat the corporation as a “qualified electing fund” under Section 1295 of the Code or elect to mark its ordinary shares to market (both as described below), any gain on the disposition of the shares will be treated as ordinary income, rather than capital gain, and the holder will be required to compute its tax liability on that gain, as well as on dividends and other distributions, as if the income had been earned ratably over each day in the U.S. holder’s holding period for the shares. The portion of the gain and distributions allocated to prior taxable years in which a corporation was a PFIC will be ineligible for any preferential tax rate otherwise applicable to any “qualified dividend income” or capital gains, and will be taxed at the highest ordinary income tax rate in effect for each taxable year to which this portion is allocated. An interest charge will be imposed on the amount of the tax allocated to these taxable years. A U.S. holder may elect to treat a corporation as a qualified electing fund only if the corporation complies with requirements imposed by the IRS to enable the shareholder and the IRS to determine the corporation’s ordinary income and net capital gain. Additionally, if a corporation is a PFIC, a U.S. holder who acquires shares in the corporation from a decedent will be denied the normally available step-up in tax basis to fair market value for the shares at the date of death and instead will have a tax basis equal to the decedent’s tax basis if lower than fair market value. These adverse tax consequences associated with PFIC status could result in a material increase in the amount of tax that a U.S. holder would owe and an imposition of tax earlier than would otherwise be imposed and additional tax form filing requirements. Unless otherwise provided by the IRS, if a corporation is classified as a PFIC, a U.S. person that is a direct or indirect holder will generally be required to file an informational return annually on IRS Form 8621 (or any applicable successor form hereto) to report its ownership interest in such entity.

Status of Nova as a PFIC. Under the income test, less than 75% of our gross income was passive income in 2014. For 2014, while we continued to have substantial amounts of cash and short-term deposits and the market value of our ordinary shares continued to be volatile, a determination of the value of our assets by reference to the average market value of our ordinary shares and our liabilities results in a conclusion that the average value of our passive assets did not exceed 50% of the average value of our gross assets in 2014. Nonetheless, there is a risk that we were a PFIC in 2014 or we will be a PFIC in 2015 or subsequent years because there are no definitive rules regarding the manner in which a company should value its assets for purposes of the PFIC asset test. For example, taking into account our

existing cash balances, if the value of our stock were to decline materially, it is possible that we could become a PFIC in 2015 or a subsequent year. Additionally, due to the complexity of the PFIC provisions and the limited authority available to interpret such provisions, there can be no assurance that our determination regarding our PFIC status could not be successfully challenged by the IRS.

Available Elections. If we become a PFIC for any taxable year, U.S. holders should consider whether or not to elect to treat us as a “qualified electing fund” or to elect to “mark-to-market” their ordinary shares in order to mitigate the adverse tax consequences of PFIC status.



If a U.S. holder makes a qualified electing fund election (a “QEF election”) for its ordinary shares that is effective from the first taxable year that the U.S. holder holds our ordinary shares and during which we are a PFIC, the electing U.S. holder will avoid the adverse consequences of our being classified as a PFIC, but will instead be required to include in income a pro rata share of our net capital gain, if any, and other earnings and profits (“ordinary earnings”) as long-term capital gains and ordinary income, respectively, on a current basis, in each case whether or not distributed, in the taxable year of the U.S. holder in which or with which our taxable year ends. A subsequent distribution of amounts that were previously included in the gross income of U.S. holders should not be taxable as a dividend to those U.S. holders who made a QEF election. In the event we incur a net loss for a taxable year, such loss will not be available as a deduction to an electing U.S. holder, and may not be carried forward or back in computing our net capital gain or ordinary earnings in other taxable years. The tax basis of the shares of an electing U.S. holder generally will be increased by amounts that are included in income, and decreased by amounts distributed but not taxed as dividends, under the QEF rules described above. In order to make (or maintain) a QEF election, the U.S. holder must annually complete and file IRS Form 8621. In addition, we must make certain information regarding our net capital gains and ordinary earnings available to the U.S. holder and permit our books and records to be examined to verify such information. Therefore, we will monitor our PFIC status and make a disclosure to our shareholders if we determine that we have become a PFIC. If we determine that we are a PFIC for any year and you make a request to us in writing at the address on the cover of our latest Annual Report on Form 20-F, Attention Chief Financial Officer, for the information required to make a QEF election, we will promptly make the information available to you and comply with any other applicable requirements of the Code.

A QEF election, once made with respect to us, applies to the tax year for which it was made and to all subsequent tax years, unless the election is invalidated or the IRS consents to revocation of the election. If you make a QEF election and we cease to be classified as a PFIC in a subsequent tax year, the QEF election will remain in effect, although it will not be applicable during those tax years in which we are not classified as a PFIC. Therefore, if we – after ceasing to be classified as a PFIC – again are classified as a PFIC in a subsequent tax year, the QEF election will be effective and you will again be subject to the rules described above for U.S. holders making QEF elections in such tax year and any subsequent tax years in which we are classified as a PFIC. A QEF election also remains in effect even after you dispose of all of your direct and indirect interest in our ordinary shares. As a result, if you subsequently acquire any of our ordinary shares or an interest in any of our ordinary shares, you will again be subject to the rules described above for U.S. holders making a QEF election for each tax year in which we are classified as a PFIC.

Alternatively, if a U.S. holder elects to “mark-to-market” its ordinary shares, the U.S. holder will generally include in its income any excess of the fair market value of our ordinary shares at the close of each taxable year over the holder’s adjusted basis in such ordinary shares. If a U.S. holder makes a valid mark-to-market election with respect to our ordinary shares for the first taxable year of the U.S. holder in which the U.S. holder holds (or is deemed to hold) our ordinary shares and for which we are determined to be a PFIC, such holder generally will not be subject to the PFIC rules described above in respect to its common shares. A U.S. holder generally will be allowed an ordinary deduction for the excess, if any, of the adjusted tax basis of the ordinary shares over the fair market value of the ordinary shares as of the close of the taxable year, or the amount of any net mark-to-market gains recognized for prior taxable years, whichever is less. A U.S. holder’s adjusted tax basis in the ordinary shares will generally be adjusted to reflect the amounts included or deducted under the mark-to-market election. Additionally, any gain on the actual sale or other disposition of the ordinary shares generally will be treated as ordinary income. Ordinary loss treatment also will apply to any loss recognized on the actual sale or other disposition of ordinary shares to the extent that the amount of such loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gains previously included with respect to such ordinary shares. A mark-to-market election applies to the tax year for which the election is made and to each subsequent year, unless our ordinary shares cease to be marketable, as specifically defined, or the IRS consents to revocation of the election. No view is expressed regarding whether our ordinary shares are marketable for these purposes or whether the election will be available.

If a U.S. holder makes either the QEF election or the mark-to-market election, distributions and gain will not be recognized ratably over the U.S. holder's holding period or be subject to an interest charge as described above. Further, the denial of basis step-up at death described above will not apply. If a U.S. holder elects to treat us as a "qualified electing fund," gain on the sale of the ordinary shares will be characterized as capital gain. However, U.S. holders making one of these two elections may experience current income recognition, even if we do not distribute any cash. The elections must be made with the U.S. holder's federal income tax return for the year of election, filed by the due date of the return (as it may be extended) or, under certain circumstances provided in applicable Treasury Regulations, subsequent to that date.

The foregoing discussion relating to the QEF election and mark-to-market elections assumes that a U.S. holder makes the applicable election with respect to the first year in which Nova qualifies as a PFIC. If the election is not made for the first year in which Nova qualifies as a PFIC, the procedures for making the election and the consequences of election will be different.

**A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RULES AND REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO BOTH THE QEF ELECTION AND THE MARK-TO-MARKET ELECTION, AND YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR CONCERNING OUR PFIC STATUS AND THE VARIOUS ELECTIONS YOU CAN MAKE.**

#### Legislation regarding Medicare Tax

A U.S. holder that is an individual or estate, or a trust that does not fall into a special class of trusts that is exempt from such tax, will be subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) the U.S. holder's "net investment income" for the relevant taxable year and (2) the excess of the U.S. Investor's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year over a certain threshold (which, in the case of individuals, will be between \$125,000 and \$250,000 depending on the individual's circumstances). A U.S. holder's "net investment income" may generally include its dividend income and its net gains from the disposition of shares, unless such dividends or net gains are derived in the ordinary course of the conduct of a trade or business (other than a trade or business that consists of certain passive or trading activities). If you are a U.S. holder that is an individual, estate or trust, you are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the applicability of the Medicare tax to your income and gains in respect of your investment in the shares.

#### Withholdable Payments to Foreign Financial Entities and Other Foreign Entities

The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act of March 2010 (the "HIRE Act"), including the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") provisions promulgated thereunder, generally provides that (1) a 30% withholding tax may be imposed on certain payments of U.S. source income (such as dividends) to certain non-U.S. holders, and (2) beginning January 1, 2017, a 30% withholding tax may be imposed on the proceeds from the sale of property by certain non-U.S. holders that could give rise to certain types of U.S. source payments. Withholding is generally required unless such non-U.S. holders enter into an agreement with the IRS to disclose the name, address and taxpayer identification number of certain U.S. persons that own, directly or indirectly, interests in such non-U.S. holders, as well as certain other information relating to such interests. Non-U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications and obligations of FATCA and the HIRE Act on the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

#### United States Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, U.S. holders may be subject to certain information reporting requirements under the Code relating to their purchase and/or ownership of stock of a foreign corporation such as the Company. Failure to comply with these information reporting requirements may result in substantial penalties.

For example, certain individuals who are U.S. holders are generally required to file IRS Form 8938 to report the ownership of specified foreign financial assets on an annual basis if the total value of those assets exceeds an applicable threshold amount (subject to certain exceptions). For these purposes, a specified foreign financial asset includes not only a financial account (as defined by the Code and applicable Treasury Regulations for these purposes) maintained by a foreign financial institution, but also any stock or security issued by a non-U.S. person, any financial instrument or contract held for investment that has an issuer or counterparty other than a U.S. person and any interest in a foreign entity, provided that the asset is not held in an account maintained by a financial institution. The minimum applicable threshold amount is generally \$50,000 in the aggregate, but this threshold amount varies depending on whether the individual lives in the U.S., is married, files a joint income tax return with his or her spouse, etc. Certain

domestic entities that are U.S. holders may also be required to file Form 8938 in the near future. U.S. holders are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding their reporting obligations, including the requirement to file IRS Form 8938.

In addition and as discussed in the section of this annual report entitled “U.S. Taxation – Passive Foreign Investment Companies”, if a corporation is classified as a PFIC, a U.S. person that is a direct or indirect holder will generally be required to file an informational return annually on IRS Form 8621 (or any applicable successor form hereto) to report its ownership interest in such entity, unless otherwise provided by the IRS.

Dividend payments and proceeds from the sale or disposal of ordinary shares may be subject to information reporting to the IRS and possible U.S. federal backup withholding at the rate of 28%. Certain holders (including, among others, corporations) are generally not subject to information reporting and backup withholding. A U.S. holder generally will be subject to backup withholding if such holder is not otherwise exempt and such holder:

- fails to furnish its taxpayer identification number, or TIN, which, for an individual, is ordinarily his or her social security number,
- furnishes an incorrect TIN,
- is notified by the IRS that it is subject to backup withholding because it has previously failed to properly report payments of interest or dividends, or
- fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that it has furnished a correct TIN and that the IRS has not notified the U.S. holder that it is subject to backup withholding.

Any U.S. holder who is required to establish exempt status generally must file IRS Form W-9 (“Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification”).

Amounts withheld as backup withholding may be credited against a U.S. holder’s federal income tax liability. A U.S. holder may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules by filing the appropriate claim for refund with the IRS and furnishing any required information.

10.F Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

10.G Statements by Experts

Not applicable.

10.H Documents on Display

The documents referred to herein, including the Amended Articles, can be obtained from the Company at its registered office at Weizmann Science Park, Building 22, 2nd Floor, Ness-Ziona, Israel. In addition, the Company is subject to certain informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. In accordance therewith, the Company files reports with the Commission. Reports and other information provided to the Commission by the Company may be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission at Room 1024, 100 Fifth Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the public reference facilities may be obtained by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, certain of the Company’s reports filed with the Commission are available on-line at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

10.I Subsidiary Information

Not applicable.

Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact the consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company. The Company is exposed to market risk in the area of foreign exchange rates, as described below.

The Company does not utilize financial instruments for trading purposes and holds no derivative financial instruments that could expose it to significant market risk.

#### Impact of Currency Fluctuation

Because our results are reported in Dollars, changes in the rate of exchange between the Dollar and local currencies in those countries in which we operate (primarily the NIS, the Euro and the Japanese Yen) will affect the results of our operations. The dollar cost of our operations in countries other than the U.S., is negatively influenced by revaluation of the U.S. dollar against other currencies. During 2014, the value of the U.S. dollar revaluated against the NIS by 12%, revaluated against the Yen by approximately 15% and revaluated against the Euro by approximately 13%. During the first six months of 2014 the value of the U.S. dollar devaluated against the NIS by approximately 1%, devaluated against the Yen by approximately 2.6% and revaluated against the Euro by 0.9%. During the last six months of 2014 the value of the U.S. dollar revaluated against the NIS by approximately 13.1%, revaluated against the Yen by approximately 18% and revaluated against the Euro by approximately 12.5%.

As of December 31, 2014, the majority of our net monetary assets were denominated in dollars and the remainder was denominated mainly in NIS. Net monetary assets that are not denominated in dollars or dollar-linked NIS were affected by the currency fluctuations in 2014, and are expected to continue to be affected by such currency fluctuations in 2015.

In 2012, we entered into currency-forward transactions and currency-put options (NIS/dollar) of approximately \$36 million with settlement dates through 2012-2013, designed to reduce cash-flow exposure to the impact of exchange-rate fluctuations on transactions of approximately \$36 million. In accordance with ASC 815-10 the Company recorded in 2012 a decrease of approximately \$0.8 million in fair market value in "Other Comprehensive Income".

In 2013, we entered into currency-forward transactions and currency-put options (NIS/dollar) of approximately \$47 million with settlement dates through 2013-2014, designed to reduce cash-flow exposure to the impact of exchange-rate fluctuations on transactions of approximately \$47 million. In accordance with ASC 815-10, we recorded in 2013 an increase of approximately \$0.1 million in fair market value in "Other Comprehensive Income".

In 2014, we entered into currency-forward transactions and currency-put options (NIS/dollar) of approximately \$67 million with settlement dates through 2014-2015, designed to reduce cash-flow exposure to the impact of exchange-rate fluctuations on firm commitments of approximately \$67 million. In accordance with ASC 815-10, we recorded in 2014 a decrease of approximately \$1.7 million in fair market value in "Other Comprehensive Income". Short-term exposures to changing foreign exchange rates are primarily due to operating cash flows denominated in foreign currencies and transactions denominated in non-functional currencies. Our most significant foreign currency exposures are related to our operations in Israel. We have used foreign exchange forward contracts to partially cover known and anticipated exposures. We estimate that an instantaneous 10% depreciation in NIS from its level against the dollar as of December 31, 2014, with all other variables held constant, would decrease the fair value of our net assets denominated in foreign currency, held at December 31, 2014, by approximately \$0.6 million.

#### Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities

Not applicable.

## PART II

#### Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies

None.

#### Item 14. Material Modification to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

#### Item 15. Controls and Procedures

(a) Our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2014. Based on such review, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that we have in place effective controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow

timely decisions regarding required disclosure, and is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

(b) Our management, under the supervision of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over our financial reporting, as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is defined as a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that:



- pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and asset dispositions;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and directors; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding the prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Due to its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. In addition, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 based on the framework for Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992) set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, our management concluded that the Company's internal controls over financial reporting were effective as of December 31, 2014.

(c) Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co., an independent registered accounting firm and a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, as stated in their report included herein. See "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" on page F-3.

(d) There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting identified with the evaluation thereof that occurred during the period covered by this annual report that have materially affected, or are reasonable likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting.

#### Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert

Our board of directors has determined that our audit committee includes one audit committee financial expert, as defined by Item 16A of Form 20-F, Ms. Naama Zeldis is an independent director as such term is defined by Rule 5605(a)(2) of The NASDAQ Stock Market.

#### Item 16B. Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted a written code of conduct that applies to all Company employees, including the Company's directors, principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer.

You may review our code of conduct on our website: <http://www.novameasuring.com>, under "Corporate/Corporate Governance".

#### Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

During each of the last two fiscal years, Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co., an independent registered accounting firm and a member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ("Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.") has acted as the our registered public accounting firm and independent auditors.

Audit Fees

Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co. audit fees were approximately \$135,000 and \$130,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2013 respectively, including fees associated with the annual audit and reviews of the Company's quarterly consolidated financial results submitted on Form 6-K, consultations on various accounting issues and performance of local statutory audits. The audit fees in 2014 and 2013 include fees associated with the audit of management assessment of internal control over financial reporting, annual tax returns and audit of reports to OCS.

### Audit-Related Fees

Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co. did not bill for any audit-related services in 2014 or 2013, except as included under the caption "Audit Fees".

### Tax Fees

Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co. did not bill the Company for any tax advice services for fiscal year 2014 or 2013.

### All Other Fees

Other than the audit fees described above, other fees of Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co. were \$1,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2013, and included services related to information technology.

### Pre-Approval Policies for Non-Audit Services

Prior to the engagement of Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co. each year, the engagement is approved by the audit committee of the board of directors. The Company's audit committee rules of procedure provide for a process with respect to the prior approval of all services, including non-audit services, to be performed by the independent auditors for the Company. In fiscal years 2014 and 2013, the Company's audit committee approved all of the services provided by Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.

### Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees

The Company has not obtained any exemption from applicable audit committee listing standards.

### Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliates Purchasers

In March 2014, we announced a \$12 million repurchase program of the Company's ordinary shares, which we plan to execute by the first half of 2015. Through February 3, 2015, we spent an aggregate of \$6.7 million to repurchase 639,831 ordinary shares under our share repurchase program. The following table provides information regarding our repurchases of our ordinary shares for each month included in the period covered by this annual report on Form 20-F:

Period	(a) Total Number of Ordinary Shares Purchased	(b) Average Price Paid per Ordinary Share	(c) Total Number of Ordinary Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	(d) Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (in thousands)
May 2014	100,000	\$ 11	100,000	\$ 10,942
June 2014	4,100	\$ 11	4,100	\$ 10,896
July 2014	21,500	\$ 10	21,500	\$ 10,677
August 2014	278,500	\$ 11	278,500	\$ 7,723

October 2014	15,250	\$ 10	15,250	\$ 7,569
November 2014	136,161	\$ 10	136,161	\$ 6,142
December 2014	84,320	\$ 10	84,320	\$ 5,247

## Item 16F. Changes in Registrant's Certifying Accountant

None.

## Item 16G. Corporate Governance

There are no significant ways in which the Company's corporate governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market. However, on December 17, 2014, our board of directors resolved to increase the aggregate number of shares issuable under the 2007 Incentive Plan by two million shares, in connection of which, we have elected to follow home country practice rules which do not require the approval of our shareholders for such amendment rather than the applicable NASDAQ shareholder approval requirement.

Item 16H. Mine Safety Disclosure

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 17. Financial Statements

Not applicable.

Item 18. Financial Statements

See pages F-1 through F-25.

Item 19. Exhibits

See Exhibit Index.

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NOVA MEASURING INSTRUMENTS LTD.  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

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NOVA MEASURING INSTRUMENTS LTD.  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Nova Measuring Instruments LTD.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Nova Measuring Instruments LTD. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nova Measuring Instruments LTD. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 25, 2015, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/S/ Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.  
Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants  
A member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Tel Aviv, Israel  
February 25, 2015



REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM  
To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Nova Measuring Instruments LTD.

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Nova Measuring Instruments LTD. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2014, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 of the Company and our report dated February 25, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/S/ Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.  
Brightman Almagor Zohar & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants  
A member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Tel Aviv, Israel  
February 25, 2015

## NOVA MEASURING INSTRUMENTS LTD.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share data)

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$13,649	\$17,542
Short-term interest-bearing bank deposits	107,289	79,552
Held for trading securities	1,995	-
Available for sale securities	-	1,845
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$179 and \$143, respectively	15,566	27,947
Inventories (Note 3)	16,107	18,118
Deferred income tax assets (Note 9)	142	137
Other current assets	2,928	3,922
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>157,676</b>	<b>149,063</b>
<b>LONG-TERM ASSETS</b>		
Long-term interest-bearing bank deposits	750	750
Deferred income tax assets (Note 9)	1,654	33
Other long-term assets	169	197
Severance pay funds (Note 6)	1,580	1,852
	4,153	2,832
<b>FIXED ASSETS, NET (Note 4)</b>	<b>11,450</b>	<b>10,382</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$173,279</b>	<b>\$162,277</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade accounts payable	\$11,568	\$15,599
Deferred revenues	3,022	3,420
Other current liabilities (Note 5)	12,606	11,448
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		