

BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS INC
Form SC 13D/A
January 30, 2019

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

(Rule 13d-101)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT
TO § 240.13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO
§ 240.13d-2(a)

(Amendment No. 1)¹

Benchmark Electronics, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.10 par value per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

08160H101

(CUSIP Number)

glenn w. welling

engaged capital, llc

610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 250

Newport Beach, California 92660

(949) 734-7900

STEVE WOLOSKY

OLSHAN FROME WOLOSKY LLP

1325 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10019

(212) 451-2300

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person

Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

January 28, 2019

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of This Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of §§ 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box “.”

Note: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. *See* § 240.13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

1 The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person’s initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be “filed” for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, *see* the *Notes*).

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

Engaged Capital Flagship
Master Fund, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

WC

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

CAYMAN ISLANDS

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

7 SOLE VOTING POWER
2,050,614

OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

8 SHARED VOTING POWER

- 0 -

PERSON WITH

9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,050,614

10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,050,614

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

4.7%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

PN

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

NUMBER OF 7 SOLE VOTING POWER SHARES BENEFICIALLY 2,050,614

OWNED BY 8 SHARED VOTING POWER EACH REPORTING - 0 -

PERSON WITH 9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,050,614 10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,050,614

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

4.7%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

PN

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, Ltd.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

CAYMAN ISLANDS

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

7 2,050,614

SOLE VOTING POWER

8 SHARED VOTING POWER

- 0 -

9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,050,614

10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,050,614

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

4.7%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

CO

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	Engaged Capital, LLC	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a) (b)
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
	OO	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	DELAWARE	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER 2,236,787
	8	SHARED VOTING POWER - 0 -
	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 2,236,787
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,236,787

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

5.1%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

OO

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

Engaged Capital Holdings, LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

OO

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

7 SOLE VOTING POWER

2,236,787

8 SHARED VOTING POWER

- 0 -

9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,236,787

10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,236,787

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

5.1%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

OO

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	Glenn W. Welling	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (a) OF A GROUP (b)	
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
	OO	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	USA	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
		2,236,787
OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
PERSON WITH	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		2,236,787
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,236,787

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

5.1%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

IN

7

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	Joseph V. Lash	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a)
		(b)
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	USA	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
PERSON WITH	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		- 0 -
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED
BY EACH REPORTING
PERSON

- 0 -

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

14 0%
TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

IN

8

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON	
	Tonia Pankopf	
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a)
		(b)
3	SEC USE ONLY	
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)	
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION	
	USA	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	8	SHARED VOTING POWER
		- 0 -
PERSON WITH	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		- 0 -
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- 0 -

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT
BENEFICIALLY OWNED
BY EACH REPORTING
PERSON

- 0 -

12 CHECK BOX IF
THE AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ROW
(11) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS
REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

14 0%
TYPE OF REPORTING
PERSON

IN

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

The following constitutes Amendment No. 1 to the Schedule 13D filed by the undersigned (“Amendment No. 1”). This Amendment No. 1 amends the Schedule 13D as specifically set forth herein.

Item 2.

Identity and Background.

Item 2 is hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

- (a) This statement is filed by:
- (i) Engaged Capital Flagship Master Fund, LP (“Engaged Capital Flagship Master”), a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, with respect to the Shares directly and beneficially owned by it;
 - (ii) Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, LP (“Engaged Capital Fund”), a Delaware limited partnership, as a feeder fund of Engaged Capital Flagship Master;
 - (iii) Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, Ltd. (“Engaged Capital Offshore”), a Cayman Islands exempted company, as a feeder fund of Engaged Capital Flagship Master;
 - (iv) Engaged Capital, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Engaged Capital”), as the general partner and investment adviser of Engaged Capital Flagship Master and the investment adviser of a certain managed account (the “Engaged Capital Account”);
 - (v) Engaged Capital Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Engaged Holdings”), as the managing member of Engaged Capital;
 - (vi) Glenn W. Welling, as the Founder and Chief Investment Officer (“CIO”) of Engaged Capital and the sole member of Engaged Holdings;
 - (vii) Joseph V. Lash; and
 - (viii) Tonia Pankopf.

Each of the foregoing is referred to as a “Reporting Person” and collectively as the “Reporting Persons.” Each of the Reporting Persons is party to that certain Joint Filing and Solicitation Agreement, as further described in Item 6. Accordingly, the Reporting Persons are hereby filing a joint Schedule 13D.

(b) The address of the principal office of each of Engaged Capital Flagship Master and Engaged Capital Offshore is c/o Conyers Trust Company (Cayman) Limited, Cricket Square, Hutchins Drive, P.O. Box 2681, Grand Cayman KY1-1111, Cayman Islands. The address of the principal office of each of Engaged Capital Fund, Engaged Capital, Engaged Holdings and Mr. Welling is 610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 250, Newport Beach, California 92660. The officers and directors of Engaged Capital Offshore and their principal occupations and business addresses are set forth on Schedule A to the Schedule 13D and are incorporated by reference in this Item 2. The address of the principal office of Mr. Lash is 27A Imperial Avenue, Westport, Connecticut 06880. The address of the principal office of Ms. Pankopf is Pareto Advisors, LLC, 340 West 57th Street, 5J, New York, New York 10019.

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

(c) The principal business of Engaged Capital Flagship Master is investing in securities. Each of Engaged Capital Fund and Engaged Capital Offshore is a private investment partnership that serves as a feeder fund of Engaged Capital Flagship Master. Engaged Capital is a registered investment advisor and serves as the investment adviser to each of Engaged Capital Flagship Master, Engaged Capital Fund, Engaged Capital Offshore and the Engaged Capital Account. Engaged Capital is also the general partner of each of Engaged Capital Flagship Master and Engaged Capital Fund. Engaged Holdings serves as the managing member of Engaged Capital. Mr. Welling is the Founder and CIO of Engaged Capital, the sole member of Engaged Holdings and a director of Engaged Capital Offshore. The principal occupation of Mr. Lash is serving as Managing Member of VT Capital, LLC, a private equity investment firm. The principal occupation of Ms. Pankopf is serving as Managing Partner of Pareto Advisors, LLC, a firm providing capital investment and financial and strategic advisory services.

(d) No Reporting Person, nor any person listed on Schedule A annexed to the Schedule 13D, has, during the last five years, been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors).

(e) No Reporting Person, nor any person listed on Schedule A annexed to the Schedule 13D, has, during the last five years, been party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

(f) Engaged Capital Flagship Master and Engaged Capital Offshore are organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Engaged Capital Fund, Engaged Capital and Engaged Holdings are organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Messrs. Welling and Lash and Ms. Pankopf are citizens of the United States of America. The citizenship of the persons listed on Schedule A to the Schedule 13D is set forth therein.

Item 4.

Purpose of Transaction.

Item 4 is hereby amended to add the following:

On January 28, 2019, Engaged Capital Flagship Master delivered a letter to the Issuer nominating Joseph V. Lash, Tonia Pankopf and Glenn W. Welling (the “Nominees”) for election to the Board of Directors of the Issuer (the “Board”) at the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”).

Item 5.

Interest in Securities of the Issuer.

Items 5(a) – (c) are hereby amended and restated to read as follows:

(a) The aggregate percentage of Shares reported owned by each person named herein is based upon 43,710,356 Shares outstanding as of November 7, 2018, which is the total number of Shares outstanding as reported in the Issuer’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 8, 2018.

As of the date hereof, Engaged Capital Flagship Master beneficially owned 2,050,614 Shares, constituting approximately 4.7% of the Shares outstanding. Each of Engaged Capital Fund and Engaged Capital Offshore, as feeder funds of Engaged Capital Flagship Master, may be deemed to beneficially own the 2,050,614 Shares owned by Engaged Capital Flagship Master, constituting approximately 4.7% of the Shares outstanding.

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As of the date hereof, 186,173 Shares were held in the Engaged Capital Account, constituting less than 1% of the Shares outstanding.

Engaged Capital, as the general partner and investment adviser of Engaged Capital Flagship Master and the investment adviser of the Engaged Capital Account, may be deemed to beneficially own the 2,236,787 Shares owned in the aggregate by Engaged Capital Flagship Master and held in the Engaged Capital Account, constituting approximately 5.1% of the Shares outstanding. Engaged Holdings, as the managing member of Engaged Capital, may be deemed to beneficially own the 2,236,787 Shares owned in the aggregate by Engaged Capital Flagship Master and held in the Engaged Capital Account, constituting approximately 5.1% of the Shares outstanding. Mr. Welling, as the Founder and CIO of Engaged Capital and sole member of Engaged Holdings, may be deemed to beneficially own the 2,236,787 Shares owned in the aggregate by Engaged Capital Flagship Master and held in the Engaged Capital Account, constituting approximately 5.1% of the Shares outstanding.

As of the date hereof, Mr. Lash and Ms. Pankopf did not beneficially own any Shares, constituting 0% of the Shares outstanding.

Each Reporting Person, as a member of a “group” with the other Reporting Persons for the purposes of Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), may be deemed the beneficial owner of the Shares directly owned by the other Reporting Persons. The filing of this Schedule 13D shall not be deemed an admission that the Reporting Persons are, for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, the beneficial owners of any securities of the Issuer he, she or it does not directly own. Each of the Reporting Persons specifically disclaims beneficial ownership of the securities reported herein that he, she or it does not directly own.

(b) By virtue of their respective positions with Engaged Capital Flagship Master, each of Engaged Capital Fund, Engaged Capital Offshore, Engaged Capital, Engaged Holdings and Mr. Welling may be deemed to have sole power to vote and dispose of the Shares reported owned by Engaged Capital Flagship Master.

By virtue of their respective positions with the Engaged Capital Account, each of Engaged Capital, Engaged Holdings and Mr. Welling may be deemed to have sole power to vote and dispose of the Shares held in the Engaged Capital Account.

(c) None of the Reporting Persons have entered into any transactions in the securities of the Issuer since the filing of the Schedule 13D and further, Mr. Lash and Ms. Pankopf have not entered into any transactions in the securities of the Issuer during the past 60 days.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships With Respect to Securities of the Issuer.
Item 6 is hereby amended to add the following:

On January 28, 2019, the Reporting Persons entered into a Joint Filing and Solicitation Agreement pursuant to which, among other things, the parties agreed to (a) the joint filing on behalf of each of them of statements on Schedule 13D, and any amendments thereto, with respect to the securities of the Issuer and (b) solicit proxies for the election of the Nominees at the Annual Meeting. A copy of the Joint Filing and Solicitation Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Engaged Capital Flagship Master has entered into letter agreements pursuant to which it and its affiliates agreed to indemnify Mr. Lash and Ms. Pankopf against claims arising from the solicitation of proxies from the Issuer’s shareholders in connection with the Annual Meeting and any related transactions. A form of the indemnification letter agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and is incorporated herein by reference.

CUSIP NO. 08160H101

Item 7.

Material to be Filed as Exhibits.

Item 7 is hereby amended to add the following exhibits:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 99.1 | Joint Filing and Solicitation Agreement, dated January 28, 2019. |
| 99.2 | Form of Indemnification Letter Agreement. |
| 99.3 | Powers of Attorney. |

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CUSIP NO. 08160H101

SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: January 30, 2019

Engaged Capital Flagship Master Fund, LP

By: Engaged Capital, LLC
General Partner

By: /s/ Glenn W. Welling
Name: Glenn W. Welling
Title: Founder and Chief Investment Officer

Engaged Capital Flagship Fund, LP

By: Engaged Capital, LLC
General Partner

By: /s/ Glenn W. Welling
Name: Glenn W. Welling

Title: Founder and Chief Investment Officer

Engaged Capital Flagship
Fund, Ltd.

By: /s/ Glenn W. Welling
Name: Glenn W. Welling
Title: Director

Engaged Capital, LLC

By: /s/ Glenn W. Welling
Name: Glenn W. Welling

Title: Founder and Chief Investment Officer

Engaged Capital Holdings,
LLC

By: /s/ Glenn W. Welling
Name: Glenn W. Welling
Title: Sole Member

/s/ Glenn W. Welling
Glenn W. Welling

Individually and as attorney-in-fact for Joseph V. Lash and Tonia Pankopf

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