

MKS INSTRUMENTS INC

Form DEFA14A

April 15, 2005

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

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

FILED BY THE REGISTRANT

FILED BY A PARTY OTHER THAN THE REGISTRANT

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

**MKS Instruments, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5) Total fee paid:

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:



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April 15, 2005

Dear Shareholder:

Included in this letter as Exhibit A is a clarification of two sections of Proposal Two of the MKS Instruments, Inc. proxy statement. A new Proxy Card and envelope are also enclosed.

**If you have voted and do not wish to change your vote**, you do not need to complete this new Proxy Card.

**If you want to change your vote**, please record your vote on all items, and then date, sign, and return the new Proxy Card.

**If you have not yet voted**, you may use this new Proxy Card to do so.

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Monday, May 9, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street, Andover, Massachusetts 01810. If you elect to submit a new Proxy Card, please send it promptly, using the enclosed envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States.

Sincerely,

John R. Bertucci  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

**MKS Instruments, Inc.**

Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 9, 2005

The Company is clarifying the impact of two sections of Proposal Two, relating to approval of the Company's Second Restated By-Laws, which begins on page 20 of the proxy statement. The sections are:

*Shareholder voting at meetings.*

*Vacancies in the Board of Directors.*

The Second Restated By-Laws do not actually change shareholder rights under either of these two sections, although the language in the Second Restated By-Laws relating to these matters differs from that in the current By-Laws.

With respect to shareholder voting at meetings, abstentions have no impact on shareholder voting on ordinary matters under either the Second Restated By-Laws or the current By-Laws. Accordingly, the effect to shareholders is the same under both the current By-Laws and the Second Restated By-Laws.

With respect to the provision relating to vacancies in the Board of Directors and setting the number of directors, Massachusetts law provides that if a public corporation has a staggered Board of Directors, only the directors can fill a Board vacancy and set the number of directors, unless the corporation approves an exemption from the statute. The Second Restated By-Laws takes into consideration the fact that the Company is public and has a staggered Board of Directors and deletes the inapplicable reference that is included in the current By-Laws to shareholders having rights with respect to filling vacancies and setting the number of directors.