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Vishay Precision Group, Inc.

Form 10-K

March 09, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-34679

Vishay Precision Group, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

27-0986328

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(IRS employer identification no.)

3 Great Valley Parkway, Suite 150

Malvern, PA 19355

(Address of principal executive offices)

484-321-5300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Common Stock, \$0.10 par value

New York Stock Exchange

(Title of class)

(Exchange on which registered)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Note – Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (Section 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

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Accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No   
The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common stock was last sold as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter (\$15.55 on June 27, 2015), assuming conversion of all of its Class B convertible common stock held by non-affiliates into common stock of the registrant, was \$195,204,000. There is no non-voting stock outstanding.

As of March 9, 2016, the registrant had 12,152,803 shares of its common stock and 1,025,158 shares of its Class B convertible common stock outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement, which will be filed within 120 days of December 31, 2015, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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Vishay Precision Group, Inc.  
Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015

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## PART I

### Item 1. BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

#### General

Vishay Precision Group, Inc. (“VPG,” the “Company,” “we,” “us” or “our”) is an internationally recognized designer, manufacturer and marketer of sensors, and sensor-based measurement systems, as well as specialty resistors and strain gages based upon our proprietary technology. We provide precision products and solutions, many of which are “designed-in” by our customers, specializing in the growing markets of stress, force, weight, pressure, and current measurements. A significant portion of our products and solutions are primarily based upon our proprietary foil technology and are produced as part of our vertically integrated structure. We believe this strategy results in higher quality, more cost effective and focused solutions for our customers. Our products are marketed under a variety of brand names that we believe are characterized as having a very high level of precision and quality. Our global operations enable us to produce a wide variety of products in strategically effective geographic locations that also optimize our resources for specific technologies, sensors, assemblies, and systems.

The Company also has a long heritage of innovation in precision foil resistors, foil strain gages, and sensors that convert mechanical inputs into an electronic signal for display, processing, interpretation, or control by our instrumentation and systems products. Our advanced sensor product line continues this heritage by offering high-quality foil strain gages produced in a proprietary, highly automated environment. Precision sensors are essential to the accurate measurement, resolution and display of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, or acceleration, especially in the legal-for-trade, commercial, and industrial marketplaces. This expertise served as a foundation for our expansion into strain gage instrumentation, load cells, transducers, weighing modules, and complete systems for process control and on-board weighing. Although our products are typically used in the industrial market, we believe our advanced sensors may find application outside the industrial market.

The precision sensor market is integral to the development of intelligent products across a wide variety of end markets upon which we focus, including medical, agricultural, transportation, industrial, avionics, military, and space applications. We believe that as original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”) continue a drive to make products “smarter,” they will integrate more sensors and related systems into their solutions to link the mechanical/physical world with digital control and/or response. We believe this offers a substantial growth opportunity for our products and expertise.

#### Our History

In 1962, Dr. Felix Zandman founded Vishay Intertechnology Inc. (“Vishay Intertechnology”) to develop and manufacture the first generation of Bulk Metal® foil resistors and later, foil strain gages.

Resistors are basic components used in all forms of electronic circuitry to adjust and regulate levels of voltage and current. They vary widely in precision and cost, and are manufactured from numerous materials and in many forms. Bulk Metal foil resistors, developed by Dr. Zandman in the 1950’s, are the most precise and stable type of resistors currently available. A strain gage is a resistive sensor that is attached to the surface of an object to determine the surface strain caused by an applied force.

Throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s, Vishay Intertechnology established itself as a technical and market leader in precision foil resistors, PhotoStress® products, and foil strain gages. These innovations were the genesis of the foil technology that is a unique strategic competitive advantage of Vishay Precision Group. The subsequent innovations and advancement of foil resistance and strain gage technology opened the door to numerous commercial applications, such as force sensors and control systems on a vertical market basis.

On July 6, 2010, Vishay Intertechnology spun off its precision measurement and foil technology businesses through a tax-free stock dividend of VPG stock to Vishay Intertechnology’s stockholders and we became a publicly-traded company. In the decade prior to the spin-off, Vishay Intertechnology expanded our sensor and measurement business through acquisitions, extending our business from its initial focus on precision foil resistors and foil strain gages to include an array of sensor-based solutions. These solutions include transducers/load cells, which are force sensors combining strain gages and the metallic structures to which they are bonded; load cell modules that utilize electronic instrumentation and software for measuring the load cell output; and measurement instrumentation and complete systems for process control and on-board weighing.

In 2013, we completed our first acquisition as an independent public company when we acquired substantially all of the assets of the George Kelk Corporation (“KELK”). KELK engineers, designs and manufactures highly accurate

optical and electronic roll force measurement and control equipment primarily used by metals rolling mills and mining applications throughout the world. As a part of our acquisition, we acquired a leased manufacturing, engineering, sales, and administrative facility in Toronto, Canada.

On December 30, 2015, we completed our acquisition of Stress-Tek, Inc. ("Stress-Tek") based in Kent, Washington. Stress-Tek is a privately held designer and manufacturer of state-of-the-art, rugged and reliable strain gage-based load cells and force measurement systems. Stress-Tek primarily operates in North America, where their sensors and display systems are used in a

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wide range of industries, predominantly in transportation and trucking, for timber, refuse, aggregate, mining, and general trucking applications. Stress-Tek products will be marketed under the Vulcan brand as part of the VPG Onboard Weighing offerings. As a part of the Stress-Tek acquisition, we acquired ownership of a 47,000 square foot manufacturing, engineering, sales, administrative, and warehouse facility in Kent, Washington.

While our acquisitions provided us an array of strong brand names, in addition to our historical resistor and strain gage brands, we believe the continued success of our strategy is best served by the establishment of a strong overall global brand. In May 2014, we launched the “VPG” brand, which is intended to leverage the strength of these historical brands under the umbrella of a more unified, globally recognizable VPG name. We continue to broaden and emphasize the VPG brand in the markets we serve under the following brands for each of our business segments:

Foil Technology Products	Force Sensors	Weighing and Control Systems
Alpha Electronics	VPG Transducers	BLH Nobel
Micro-Measurements	- Celtron	KELK
Powertron	- Revere	VPG Onboard Weighing
Vishay Foil Resistors	- Sensortronics	
	- Tedea-Huntleigh	

Our acquisitions added to our strong, diverse, global manufacturing, sales and distribution network, which includes facilities in Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

We were incorporated in Delaware on August 28, 2009. Our principal executive offices are located at 3 Great Valley Parkway, Suite 150, Malvern, PA 19355. Our main telephone number is 484-321-5300.

#### Key Business Vision and Strategies

Our vision is to be the leading provider of sensors, and sensor-based systems with the highest precision, quality, value, and service for measuring force (weight, pressure, torque, acceleration) and current. As part of that vision, we are a leading provider of foil specialty resistors and strain gages, which are particularly effective in precision measurement applications.

Our strategy is to achieve corporate growth and shareholder value by expanding our existing product portfolio organically, as well as by acquiring complementary precision measurement products. Specifically, we are focused on the following strategic initiatives:

#### Optimize Core Competence

The Company’s core competency and key value proposition is providing customers with proprietary foil technology products and precision measurement sensors and sensor-based systems. Our foil technology resistors and strain gages are recognized as global market leading products that provide high precision and high stability over extreme temperature ranges, and long life. Our force sensor products and our weighing and control systems products are also certified to meet some of the highest levels of precision measurements of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, and acceleration. While these competencies form a solid basis for our products, we believe there are several areas that can be optimized, including: increasing our technical sales efforts; continuing to innovate in product performance and design; and refining our manufacturing processes.

Our foil technology research group continues to provide innovations that enhance the capability and performance of our strain gages, while simultaneously reducing their size and power consumption as part of our advanced sensors product line. We believe this new foil technology will create new markets as customers “design in” these next generation products in existing and new applications. Our development engineering team is also responsible for creating new processes to further automate manufacturing, and improve productivity and quality. Our advanced sensors manufacturing technology offers us the capability to produce high-quality foil strain gages in a highly automated environment, which we expect to result in reduced manufacturing and lead times, and increased margins. The expected benefits of this highly automated approach are the basis for a significant portion of the restructuring efforts we undertook in 2015, and which we expect to continue in 2016.

We also seek to achieve significant production cost savings through the transfer, expansion, and construction of manufacturing operations in countries such as India and Israel, where we can benefit from lower labor costs, improved efficiencies, or available tax and other government-sponsored incentives. For example, we continue to relocate our

force sensor manufacturing from leased locations with higher labor cost to the owned facility we constructed in India. This consolidation of operations is part of our global restructuring and cost reduction program announced in November 2015.

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### Organic Growth

Our product portfolio is focused, to a significant extent, on specialty products serving niche markets. The development of specialty products requires us to form long-term relationships with our customers. Our specialty products are usually designed, or engineered, to meet unique specifications for OEMs. This often results in our customers creating a non-standard part number used solely to designate our product on their bill of materials. We call this customer activity a “design win.” This activity may create organic growth as the OEM customer begins to order increasing quantities to meet their production requirements, with little or no opportunity to purchase a similar part from competing suppliers. The “design in” time for these initiatives is typically 12 to 24 months.

We expect to continue to use our research and development, engineering, and product marketing resources to introduce new and innovative specialty products. An example of our success in this regard is the recent acceptance and growth of our on-board vehicle weighing solution incorporating microelectromechanical systems (“MEMS”) technology. Our ability to react to changing customer needs, emerging markets, and industry trends will continue to be a key to our success.

Our design, research, and product development teams, in partnership with our marketing teams, drive our efforts to bring innovations to market. We intend to leverage our insights into customer demand to continually develop and roll out new, innovative products within our existing lines and to modify our existing core products in ways that make them more appealing, addressing changing customer needs and industry trends in terms of form, fit, and function.

### Growth from Acquisitions

We expect to continue to make strategic acquisitions where opportunities present themselves to grow our segments. Historically, our growth and acquisition strategy has been largely focused on vertical product integration, using our foil strain gages in our force sensor products, and incorporating those products into our weighing and control systems. The acquisitions of Stress-Tek and KELK, each of which employ our foil strain gages to manufacture load cells for their systems, continue this strategy. Additionally, the KELK acquisition resulted in the acquisition of certain optical sensor technology. Along with our recent success in MEMS technology for on-board weighing, we expect to expand our expertise, and our acquisition focus, outside our traditional vertical approach to other precision sensor solutions in the fields of measurement of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, and acceleration. We believe acquired businesses will benefit from improvements we implement to reduce redundant functions and from our current global manufacturing and distribution footprint.

### Product Segments

#### Foil Technology Products

The Foil Technology Products segment includes our foil resistor and strain gage operating segments. Typical applications for foil resistors include high end test equipment for the aviation, military and space, semiconductor, process control, oil and gas, and medical markets. Typical applications for strain gages, which include advanced sensor gages, are stress analysis for structural testing in the aviation, military and space, infrastructure, and construction markets. Our innovative advanced sensors product line enhances the capability and performance of our strain gages, while simultaneously reducing their size and power consumption.

The products in these segments are based on our resistive foil technology, which continues to evolve and enables products in both segments to be suited for new and varied applications.

The manufacturing of the foil material is a critical and common component of the Company’s strain gage and precision foil resistor businesses, and as a result, we experience synergies between our foil resistor and strain gage operating segments. The production cycles for foil resistors and strain gages are similar and many of the same raw materials are utilized in the manufacturing processes for both operating segments. The foil resistor and strain gage products require a similar level of labor and capital. However, the advanced sensors’ manufacturing technology offers us the capability to produce high-quality foil strain gages in a highly automated environment, which we expect will result in reduced manufacturing costs and lead times, and increase margins.

Our strain gage operating segment sells a significant amount of foil inventory to the Company’s foil resistor operating segment. A majority of products from the strain gage operating segment are sold to third parties as “standard catalog items”; the remainder of this operating segment’s products are sold as non-standard and/or custom products to third parties and to our Force Sensors segment.

#### Force Sensors



The Force Sensors segment includes a broad line of load cells and force measurement transducers that are offered as precision sensors for industrial and commercial use. Typical applications for force sensors are in medical devices (such as hospital beds and medication dosing), agricultural equipment (for precision force measurement), and construction machinery (for tipping and overload protection). These sensors use our foil technology products, which serve as sensing elements and components within

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each unit. Further integration of our load cells technology is also offered as part of our weighing module products, which provide customers with a complete sensor assembly that may be used within a wide variety of digital transducers.

A majority of products from the Force Sensors segment are sold to third parties as “standard catalog items,” but a growing sector of this segment’s products are sold as non-standard and/or custom products to third parties and to our Weighing and Control Systems segment. Direct sales channels (field application engineers (“FAEs”)) are utilized as the primary customer interface relating to initial design specifications, development of prototypes, and pricing/delivery of this segment’s products. Distributors are also used for those customers that desire primarily standard, “as is” products.

#### Weighing and Control Systems

The Weighing and Control Systems segment designs and manufactures complete systems comprised of load cells and instrumentation for weighing and force control/measurement for a variety of uses, including on-board weighing and overload monitor systems. Typical applications for our weighing and control systems products are: process weighing of chemicals, food and pharmaceuticals; aircraft and truck weighing and overload protections; weight force and process optimization in steel and paper mills; and force measurement for offshore oil and gas exploration.

The Weighing and Control Systems segment acquires many of the load cells it requires from our Force Sensors segment. As such, the Company considers the load cell production line to be an integral component of the production process of our Weighing and Control Systems segment. Other major components that comprise our systems are: electronic displays; optical gages; signal processors; MEMS sensors; cabling; system software; and communication software/hardware. The end use for the majority of these products is the precision measurement of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, and acceleration. Direct sales channels (FAEs) are utilized as the primary customer interface relating to initial design specifications, development of prototypes, and pricing/delivery of this segment’s products. Distributors and sales agents are also used, as appropriate, to market, sell, and support certain products in this segment.

#### Products

Our precision sensor and sensor-based systems include products such as load cells, transducers, weighing modules, and complete systems for process control and on-board weighing applications. Our precision foil resistors and strain gages are based on our proprietary foil technology, which we invented. We manufacture and sell high precision foil resistors, foil strain gages, and strain gage instruments containing foil resistors.

Our product portfolio includes:

**Foil resistors** – Foil resistors are the most precise and stable type of resistors currently available. Resistors are basic components used in all forms of electronic circuitry to adjust and regulate levels of voltage and current. Our foil resistors and current sensors are used in applications requiring a high degree of precision and stability, such as in medical applications, precision equipment for front-end and back-end semiconductor testing and semiconductor fabrication equipment, and avionics/military/aerospace applications. We sell our foil resistors under the Vishay Foil Resistors, Alpha Electronics, and Powertron brands, including under our well known Bulk Metal® trademark.

**Foil strain gages** – Strain gages, including our advanced sensors, are resistive sensors that are attached to the surface of an object to determine the surface strain caused by an applied force. Typical uses of strain gages include test and measurement applications where the strength of the object is the main consideration and the object under test is a structural component in a machine or device, such as an automobile, an aircraft, or a highway bridge. Strain gages are also used inside precision transducers where the magnitude of an applied force is the focus of the measurement. A variety of physical measurements can be made using strain gages attached to metal components including force, weight, pressure, displacement, and acceleration. We sell our strain gages under the well-known Micro-Measurements brand.

**Transducers and load cells** – A transducer is mounted on a structure that is subjected to weight or other stress, such as the platform of an industrial scale. The term “load cell” is primarily used to describe transducers used in weighing applications. Strain gage transducers consist of one or more strain gages bonded to a metallic support. The change in resistance of the strain gages in response to deformation of the transducer by the applied load is detected by electronic instrumentation. Transducers are manufactured with different designs and configurations depending on their application and the type of stress or strain to be measured; for example, weight or tension. We produce both analog and digital transducers. With the launch of our “VPG” branding initiative in 2014, we sell our load cells under the

overall VPG Transducers name as we transition from the previously used Celtron, Revere, Sensortronics, and Tedeo-Huntleigh brands.

• Modules – Modules are transducers combined with a mounting and with external features, such as instruments and cables, and are used for weighing and control applications.

• Instruments – Instruments measure, process, digitize, display, and record the output of our strain gages, transducers, and control systems.

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**Weighing and control systems** – Weighing and control systems are integrated systems for the detection and measurement of weight and other types of force, primarily for use in industrial applications. These include systems to control process weighing in food, chemical, and pharmaceutical plants; force measurement systems used to control web tension in paper mills, roller force in steel mills, and cable tension in winch controls; on-board weighing systems installed in logging and waste-handling trucks; and special scale systems used for aircraft weighing and portable truck weighing. With our acquisition of Stress-Tek, we enhanced and broadened our on-board weighing offerings with products that are recognized for high quality in their markets. With our acquisition of KELK, we added certain optical gages for control systems and enhanced our other product offerings for process control in the steel mill industry. We sell our systems under a variety of brand names including BLH Nobel, KELK, and VPG Onboard Weighing.

**PhotoStress® products** – PhotoStress coatings and instruments use a unique optical process to reveal and measure the distribution of stresses in structures under live load conditions. They are used to improve structural design in aerospace, automotive, military, civil engineering, industrial, and mechanical applications.

#### Qualifications and Specifications

Certain of our products must be qualified or approved under various military and aerospace specifications and other standards.

We have qualified certain of our foil resistor and sensor products under various military specifications approved and monitored by the United States Defense Logistics Agency (“DLA”), under certain European military specifications, and various aerospace standards approved by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA”) and the European Space Agency (“ESA”).

Qualification and specification levels are based in part upon the rate of failure of products. We must continuously perform tests on our products, and for products that are qualified, the results of these tests must be reported to the qualifying organization. If a product fails to meet the requirements for the applicable classification level, the product’s classification may be suspended or reduced to a lower level. During the time that the classification is suspended or reduced, net revenues and earnings attributable to that product may be adversely affected.

Certain of our load cell and instrumentation products are approved by the National Type Evaluation Program (“NTEP”) and International Organization of Legal Metrology (“OIML”). Many of our weighing systems must also meet these standards to make them usable for legal-for-trade weighing applications. Products and systems that are to be used in hazardous areas, where explosive atmospheres might exist, must comply with special safety standards, such as the European Atmosphere Explosible (“ATEX”) Standard and the U.S. Factory Mutual (“FM”) Standard. Our load cell manufacturing sites are undergoing periodic audits by regulatory authorities in order to verify the compliance with standard requirements and extend the product approvals.

#### Manufacturing Operations

Our principal manufacturing facilities are located in Israel, the United States (North Carolina), Canada (Toronto), India, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, and Costa Rica. We also have manufacturing facilities in Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and France. Over the past several years, we have invested substantial resources to increase capacity and to maximize automation in our plants, which we believe will further reduce production costs.

We have quality management systems at all of our major manufacturing facilities approved under the ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems Standard. ISO 9001 is a comprehensive set of quality program standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”). The quality management system in our major foil resistors manufacturing site is certified against Aerospace Standard AS9100.

To maintain our cost competitiveness, we are pursuing our strategic initiatives to shift manufacturing emphasis to more advanced automation in higher-labor-cost regions and to relocate production to regions with skilled workforces and relatively lower labor costs. See additional information in Item 7 “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Cost Management” related to our restructuring efforts.

#### Sources of Supplies

Although most materials incorporated in our products are available from a number of sources, certain materials are available only from a relatively limited number of suppliers. The principal materials used in our products include various metallic foil alloys, aluminum, stainless steel, tool steel, plastics, and for a few products, gold. Some of the most highly specialized materials for our sensors are sourced from a single vendor. We maintain a safety stock

inventory of certain critical materials at our facilities. We are taking steps to determine the use, source, and origin of any tin, tantalum, tungsten, or gold in our global product portfolio and, if appropriate, would work with our suppliers to remediate issues and source more responsibly.

A significant portion of our Force Sensors and Weighing and Control Systems segment products are based on strain gages produced by our Foil Technology Products segment.

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### Inventory and Backlog

We manufacture both standardized products and those designed and produced to meet customer specifications. We maintain an inventory of standardized components, and monitor the backlog of outstanding orders for our products. We include in our backlog only open orders that have been released by the customer for shipment in the next twelve months. Many of our customers for strain gages, load cells, and foil resistors encounter uncertain and changing demand for their products. They typically order products from us based on their forecasts. If the customers' business needs change, they may cancel or reschedule the shipments that are included in our backlog, in many instances without the payment of any penalty. Therefore, the backlog at any point in time is not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for future periods.

### Customers and Marketing

Our customer base is diversified in terms of industry, geographic region, and range of product needs. No single customer accounts for more than 10% of our net revenues, and only one customer accounts for more than 5%. The vast majority of our products are used in the broad industrial market, with selected uses in the military and aerospace, medical, agricultural, steel, and construction sectors. Within the broad industrial market, our products serve a wide variety of applications in waste management, bulk hauling, logging, scales manufacturing, engineering systems, pharmaceutical, oil, chemical, steel, paper, and food industries.

Our net revenues attributable to customers by region are as follows:

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	
Americas	40	% 38	% 37	%
Europe	38	% 40	% 40	%
Asia	22	% 22	% 23	%
	100	% 100	% 100	%

We sell through a variety of sales channels, including OEMs, electronic manufacturing services companies (“EMS”) (which manufacture for OEMs on an outsourcing basis), and independent distributors. We also sell directly to end-use customers. During 2015, sales channels for our three reporting segments were as follows:

	Foil Technology Products	Force Sensors	Weighing and Control Systems	
OEMs	39	% 61	% 49	%
EMS	11	% —	% —	%
Distributors	29	% 33	% 13	%
End users	21	% 6	% 38	%
	100	% 100	% 100	%

Many of our products have historically been sold by dedicated sales forces, consisting mainly of FAEs focusing on specific market segments or specific customers. The FAEs help identify the products in our portfolio that best meet the needs of our customers and provide technical and applications support. Their in-depth knowledge of customer needs is a key factor in new product design and future research and development initiatives.

### Competition

Our competitive success depends on our ability to maintain a competitive advantage on the basis of superior product capability and performance, product quality, know-how, proprietary data, market knowledge, service capability, and business reputation. Price competitiveness can be an important factor, especially within our Force Sensors segment. Our sales and marketing programs offer our customers a broad range of world-class precision technologies, and superior global sales and support.

Competition in the markets where we sell the bulk of our products is extremely fragmented, both geographically and by application. To our knowledge, there are no competitors with the same product mix and proprietary technology as ours. Our competitors range from very small, local companies to large, international companies with greater financial resources than us.

Our foil resistors, where we maintain a leading market share, and our foil strain gages are based on our proprietary technology. Competitors try to compete in this market using different technology to offer functionally equivalent

products. Competition in our

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Foil Technology Products segment includes HBM, an operating company of Spectris. Competitors in our Force Sensors segment include HBM, Zemic, Keli, and Flintec. Competitors in our Weighing and Control Systems segment include Roper Industries, ABB, and Mettler Toledo.

#### Research and Development

Many of our products, manufacturing techniques, and technologies have been invented, designed, and developed by our engineers and scientists. Special proprietary resistive metal foil is the most important material in both our foil resistors and our foil strain gages, and our research and development activities related to foil materials are an important linkage between these two products.

We maintain strategically placed design centers for each of our business segments where proximity to customers enables us to more easily monitor and satisfy the needs of local markets. These design centers are located in the United States, Israel, Canada, Sweden, Japan, the United Kingdom, India, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Germany, and France.

We also maintain research and development staff, and promote programs at a number of our production facilities to develop new products and new applications of existing products, and to improve manufacturing techniques. This decentralized system encourages individualized product development at specific manufacturing facilities that occasionally has applications at other facilities.

Our research and development staff and our sales force are closely linked. Our sales force is comprised of individuals with an engineering background who can help meet the needs of our customers for technical and applications support. This in-depth knowledge of customer needs and specifications is a key factor in future research and development initiatives.

Research and development will continue to play a key role in our efforts to introduce innovative products for new sales, and to improve profitability. We expect to continue to expand our position as a leading supplier of precision foil technology products. We believe our R&D efforts should provide us with a variety of opportunities to leverage technology, products, and our manufacturing base and, ultimately, our financial performance. To that end, we expect to sustain or increase our R&D expenditures in order to fill the product development pipeline and lay the foundation for future sales growth.

#### Patents and Licenses

We have made a significant investment in securing intellectual property protection for our technology and products. We seek to protect our technology by, among other things, filing patent applications for technology considered important to the development of our business. Although we have numerous United States and foreign patents covering certain of our products and manufacturing processes, no particular patent is considered individually material to our business. We also rely upon trade secrets, unpatented know-how, and continuing technological innovation.

Our ability to compete effectively with other companies depends, in part, on our ability to maintain the proprietary nature of our technology. Although we have been awarded, have filed applications for, or have obtained numerous patents in the United States and other countries, there can be no assurance concerning the degree of protection afforded by these patents, or the likelihood that pending patents will be issued.

We require all of our technical, research and development, sales and marketing, and management employees, and most consultants and other advisors to execute confidentiality agreements upon the commencement of employment, or consulting relationships with us. These agreements provide that all confidential information developed, or made known to the entity or individual during the course of the entity's or individual's relationship with us, is to be kept confidential and not disclosed to third parties except in specific circumstances. Substantially all of our technical, research and development, sales and marketing, and management employees have entered into agreements providing for the assignment to us of rights to inventions made by them while employed by us.

#### Environmental, Health and Safety

We have an Environmental, Health and Safety Policy that commits us to achieve health and safety for employees and protection of the environment, to maintain compliance with applicable environmental, health and safety laws, to promote proper management of hazardous materials, and to minimize the hazardous materials generated in the course of our operations. In addition, our manufacturing operations are subject to various regional, federal, state, and local laws restricting discharge of materials into the environment. We are not involved in any pending or threatened proceedings that would require curtailment of our operations.



Employees

As of December 31, 2015, we employed approximately 2,352 total employees, substantially all of which were full-time employees. Approximately 87% of the employees were located outside the United States. Our future success is substantially dependent on our ability to attract and retain highly qualified technical and administrative personnel. Some of our employees outside the United

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States are members of trade unions. Our relationship with our employees is generally good. However, no assurance can be given that labor unrest or strikes will not occur.

#### Executive Officers

The following table sets forth certain information regarding our executive officers as of March 9, 2016:

Name	Age	Positions
Ziv Shoshani	49	Chief Executive Officer, President, and Director
William M. Clancy	53	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Roland B. Desilets	54	Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

Ziv Shoshani is our Chief Executive Officer and President, and also serves on the board of directors. Mr. Shoshani was Chief Operating Officer of Vishay Intertechnology from January 1, 2007 to November 1, 2009. During 2006, he was Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Vishay Intertechnology. Mr. Shoshani was Executive Vice President of Vishay Intertechnology from 2000 to 2009 with various areas of responsibility, including Executive Vice President of the Capacitors and the Resistors businesses, as well as heading the Measurements Group and Foil Divisions. Mr. Shoshani had been employed by Vishay Intertechnology since 1995. He continues to serve on the Vishay Intertechnology board of directors. Mr. Shoshani is a nephew of the late Dr. Felix Zandman, the founder of Vishay Intertechnology.

William M. Clancy is our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Clancy was Corporate Controller of Vishay Intertechnology from 1993 until November 1, 2009. He became a Vice President of Vishay Intertechnology in 2001 and a Senior Vice President of Vishay Intertechnology in 2005. Mr. Clancy served as Corporate Secretary of Vishay Intertechnology from 2006 to 2009. From June 16, 2000 until May 16, 2005 (the date Vishay Intertechnology acquired the noncontrolling interest in Siliconix incorporated), Mr. Clancy served as the principal accounting officer of Siliconix. Mr. Clancy had been employed by Vishay Intertechnology since 1988.

Roland B. Desilets is our Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary. He joined VPG in March 2010 after serving as Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary for QAD, Inc. (NASDAQ:QADA/QADB) from 2001 to 2009. Prior to that time he spent one year as Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Atlas Commerce, Inc., a Safeguard Scientifics (NYSE:SFE) partner company. Mr. Desilets initially joined QAD, Inc. in 1993, serving as Regional General Counsel until 1998, when he was named General Counsel. Previously, he was Intellectual Property Counsel for Unisys Corporation. Mr. Desilets holds a juris doctor degree from Widener University Delaware School of Law, a master of science degree in computer science from Villanova University, and a bachelor of science degree in physics from Ursinus College.

#### Company Information and Website

We began filing annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements, and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after our spin-off from Vishay Intertechnology on July 6, 2010. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at Station Place, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Also, the SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. The public can obtain any documents that we file with the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

In addition, our company website can be found on the Internet at [www.vpgsensors.com](http://www.vpgsensors.com). The website contains information about us and our operations. Copies of each of our filings with the SEC on Form 10-K, Form 10-Q, and Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports, can be viewed and downloaded free of charge as soon as reasonably practicable after the reports and amendments are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. To view the reports, access <http://ir.vpgsensors.com> and click on “SEC Filings”/ “Documents.”

The following corporate governance related documents are also available on our website:

- ☉ Compensation Committee Charter
- ♠ Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter
- ♣ Audit Committee Charter
- ☪ Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Code of Ethics Applicable to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Principal Accounting Officer  
or Controller

Corporate Governance Principles

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To view these documents, access <http://ir.vpgsensors.com> and click on “Corporate Governance.”

To view our Ethics Program Reporting Procedures, access <http://www.vpgsensors.com/company> and click on “Ethics.”

We are not incorporating by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K any material from our website.

Any of the above documents can also be obtained in print by any stockholder, upon request to our Investor Relations Department at the following address:

Corporate Investor Relations

Vishay Precision Group, Inc.

3 Great Valley Parkway, Suite 150

Malvern, PA 19355

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## Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risks and other information in this Form 10-K in evaluating our company and common stock. Any of the following risks, as well as additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial, could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition, and could also adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

### Risks Related to Our Business

We face intense competition in our business.

We face various degrees and types of competition in our different businesses. In some cases our products compete directly with those of third party competitors. In other cases, competition in one segment, such as in our Weighing and Control Systems segment, may affect not only the sales of our systems within that segment, but also sales of products that we incorporate in those systems from other segments, such as load cells and strain gages.

We have a significant market position in foil resistors and foil strain gages. Foil resistors and foil strain gages are also produced by competitors, principally located in China. We believe that our foil technology products provide superior performance relative to our competitors, but that could change if our competitors succeed in developing and introducing innovative competitive offerings. Also, our foil strain gages compete with other types of strain gages, such as semiconductor strain gages, which we do not manufacture. We believe that other types of strain gages are not as reliable or stable as our foil strain gages, but that could change as the technology for these other products continues to evolve. If our competitors are able to improve the quality, performance, or pricing of their products relative to our offerings, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

The market for transducer/load cell products is highly fragmented and very competitive. Our load cell modules and systems face competition from numerous other load cell module and systems manufacturers. Competition for modules and systems is most often based on customer relationships, product reliability, technical performance, and the ability to anticipate and satisfy customer needs for specific design configurations. Many other manufacturers have more experience in particular geographic markets and specific applications than we do, and may be better positioned to compete in these areas. We cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully grow our business in the face of these competitive challenges.

Our vertical product integration exposes us to certain risks.

Our business structure emphasizes vertical product integration. For example, we use our strain gages in our force sensor products and our force sensor business is our largest customer (by volume) for our strain gages. Similarly, our weighing and control systems business uses our force sensor products in its systems. Many of our acquisitions, which form the core operations of our business, had the effect of extending our vertical integration.

While we believe this has been, and will continue to be, a sound business structure, vertical product integration and the resulting interdependencies of our divisions exposes us to certain risks. As a consequence of our vertical integration, our force sensors business may compete with certain of our customers and potential customers for strain gages while our systems business may compete with certain of our customers and potential customers for force sensors, who, for that reason, may elect not to do business with us.

In the past we have grown through successful integration of acquired businesses, but this may not continue.

Our long-term historical growth in revenues and net earnings has resulted in large part from our strategy of expansion through acquisitions. We cannot assure that we will identify, have the financial capabilities to acquire, or successfully complete transactions with suitable acquisition candidates in the future. We also cannot assure that acquisitions that we will complete in the future will be successful.

Such acquisitions or investments involve a number of risks, including the following:

- we may be unable to achieve the anticipated benefits from the acquisition or investment;
- we may have difficulty integrating the operations and personnel of the acquired business, and may have difficulty retaining the key personnel of the acquired business;
- we may have difficulty incorporating the acquired technologies or products into our existing solutions;
- our ongoing business and management's attention may be disrupted or diverted by transition or integration issues, and the complexity of managing geographically and culturally diverse locations; and
- we may lose customers of those companies due to the change in control or for other reasons.



The factors noted above could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and financial condition or cash flows, particularly in the case of a larger acquisition. From time to time, we may enter into negotiations for acquisitions or investments that are not ultimately consummated. These negotiations could result in significant diversion of management time, as well as out-of-pocket costs.

Future acquisitions may require us to incur or issue additional indebtedness or issue additional equity.

If we were to undertake future substantial acquisitions for cash, these acquisitions would likely need to be financed in part through bank borrowings, or the issuance of public or private debt. This acquisition financing would likely decrease our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and adversely affect other credit metrics. Our revolving credit facilities require us to obtain the lenders' consent for certain additional debt financing and to comply with other covenants, including the application of specific financial ratios. We cannot assure that the necessary acquisition financing would be available to us on acceptable terms, if and when, required. If we were to make an acquisition with equity, the acquisition may have a dilutive effect on the interests of the holders of our common stock.

We may experience difficulties, delays, or unexpected costs in completing our cost reduction programs.

To remain competitive, particularly when business conditions are difficult, we sometimes take steps to reduce our cost structure by restructuring our existing businesses to achieve efficiencies, eliminate redundant functions, facilities and staff positions, and move operations, where possible, to reduce labor or other costs. In 2015, we announced various cost reduction programs as part of our continuous efforts to improve efficiency and operating performance. The Company recorded restructuring costs of approximately \$4.5 million during 2015 in relation to cost reduction programs at its subsidiaries in Asia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Israel. We expect to complete the implementation of several cost reduction programs in 2016, including the closure of our Beijing, China force sensor facility, and the further consolidation of certain product lines and functions in the Foil Technology Product and Force Sensors segments.

We expect to realize the full benefit of the cost reduction programs that we initiated in 2015 by the year 2017.

However, we may not realize, in full or in part, the anticipated benefits of these programs without encountering difficulties, which may include complications in the transfer of production knowledge, loss of key employees and/or customers, and the disruption of ongoing business. Any of these difficulties could delay and/or undermine our ability to realize the benefits of these cost reduction programs, as well as potentially adversely affecting our customer relationships and operations.

Our business is cyclical, and in periods of increased economic strength, we may experience intense demand for our products. If our cost reduction programs and related restructuring result in us not being able to satisfy our customer's demand for products during a rising economy, and our competitors sufficiently expand production, we could lose customers and/or market share. These losses could have an adverse effect on our operations, financial condition, and results of operations.

We might require additional capital to support business growth and this capital might not be available.

We intend to continue to make investments to support our business growth and may require additional funds to respond to business challenges or opportunities, including the need to develop new offerings or enhance our existing offerings, enhance our operating infrastructure, or acquire complementary businesses and technologies. Accordingly, we may need to engage in equity or debt financings to secure additional funds. If we raise additional funds through further issuances of equity or convertible debt securities, our existing stockholders could suffer significant dilution, and any new equity securities we issue could have rights, preferences, and privileges superior to those of holders of our common stock. Any debt financing secured by us in the future could involve additional restrictive covenants relating to our capital raising activities and other financial and operational matters, which may make it more difficult for us to obtain additional capital and to pursue business opportunities, including potential acquisitions.

In addition, we may not be able to obtain additional financing on terms favorable to us, if at all. If we are unable to obtain adequate financing or financing on terms satisfactory to us, when we require it, our ability to continue to support our business growth and to respond to business challenges could be significantly limited.

We may encounter difficulties in the implementation or operation of new enterprise resource planning systems.

We have implemented, and continue to implement, new enterprise resource planning ("ERP") systems in different parts of our business. ERP systems are integral to our ability to accurately and efficiently manage our manufacturing and sales activities, and provide critical business information to management. The implementation of an ERP system may

cause us to incur additional costs, shipment delays, and related customer dissatisfaction; expend employee (including Company management) time and attention; and otherwise burden our internal resources. Any difficulties we encounter with the implementation or successful operation of an ERP system could damage the effectiveness of our business processes and could adversely impact our ability to accurately and effectively forecast and manage sales demand, manage our supply chain, and report management information on an accurate and timely basis, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

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To remain successful, we must continue to innovate, and our investments in new technologies may not prove successful.

Our future operating results depend on our ability to continually develop, introduce, and market new and innovative products, to modify existing products, to respond to technological change, and to customize certain products to meet customer requirements. There are numerous risks inherent in this process, including the risks that we will be unable to anticipate the direction of technological change, that customers may be unwilling, or unable, to adopt the new products or methods of using them, that we will be unable to develop and market new products and applications in a timely fashion to satisfy customer demands, or that such products will experience quality or other qualification issues with our customers as they, and we, gain experience with qualifying them and using them. If this occurs, we could lose customers and experience adverse effects on our financial condition and results of operations.

Our success is dependent upon our ability to protect our proprietary technology and other intellectual property. We rely on a combination of the protections provided by applicable patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret laws, as well as on confidentiality procedures and other contractual arrangements, to establish and protect our rights in our technology, and related materials and information. We enter into agreements with our customers and distributors. These agreements contain confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions, a limited warranty covering our products, and indemnification for the customer from infringement actions related to our products.

Despite our efforts, it may be possible for others to copy portions of our products, reverse engineer them, or obtain and use information that we regard as proprietary, all of which could adversely affect our competitive position. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that our competitors will not independently develop technology similar to ours. The laws of certain countries in which we manufacture do not protect our intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. In the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") annual "Special 301" Report released in April 2015, the adequacy and effectiveness of intellectual property protection in a number of foreign countries were analyzed.

A number of countries in which we manufacture are identified in the report as being on the Priority Watch List. In China, for instance, the USTR is concerned about the existence of serious obstacles to the effective protection of intellectual property rights, including the concern that China may treat foreign owned intellectual property differently than that owned or developed in China, including measures that require or pressure rights holders to transfer intellectual property rights from foreign to domestic entities. The USTR has also stated that the theft of trade secrets in China is of particular concern, with theft occurring inside and outside China for the competitive advantage of Chinese state-owned and private companies. The USTR also expressed concern that India continues to have a weak legal framework and enforcement system for intellectual property rights. Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kuwait, Pakistan, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, and Venezuela were also identified because of problems in intellectual property enforcement. The absence of harmonized intellectual property protection laws and effective enforcement makes it difficult to ensure consistent respect for patent, trade secret, and other intellectual property rights on a worldwide basis. As a result, it is possible that we will not be able to enforce our rights against third parties that misappropriate our proprietary technology in those countries.

The success of our business is highly dependent on maintenance of intellectual property rights.

The unauthorized use of our intellectual property rights may increase the cost of protecting these rights or reduce our revenues. We seek to protect trade secrets and our other proprietary technology, in part, by requiring each of our employees to enter into non-disclosure and intellectual property assignment agreements. In these agreements, the employee agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all of our proprietary information and, subject to certain exceptions, to assign to us all rights in any proprietary information or technology made, or contributed, by the employee during his or her employment. Generally, we do not enter into non-compete arrangements with our employees, with the exception of certain executives and, in some cases, one or more of the principals of the businesses that we acquire. All of these types of agreements may be breached or be found unenforceable, and we may not have an adequate remedy for any such breach of, or inability to enforce, these agreements. We may initiate, or be subject to, claims or litigation for infringement of proprietary rights, or to establish the validity of our proprietary rights, which could result in significant expense to us, cause product shipment delays, require us to enter royalty or licensing agreements, and divert the efforts of our technical and management personnel from productive tasks, whether or not such litigation were determined in our favor.

We may be exposed to product liability claims.

While our agreements with our customers and distributors typically contain provisions designed to limit our exposure to potential material product liability claims, including appropriate warranty, indemnification, damages waiver, and limitation of liability provisions, it is possible that such provisions may not be effective under the laws of some jurisdictions, thus exposing us to substantial liability. Moreover, defending a suit, regardless of its merits, could entail substantial expense, and require the time and attention of key management personnel. If product liability claims are brought against us, the costs associated with defending such claims may adversely affect our results of operations and future cash flows.

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We must expend significant resources to obtain design wins without assurance that we will be successful. In many cases, we must initiate communication with our customers, and convince the customer that our products and systems will offer solutions for its business that are technically superior and more cost effective compared to their existing arrangements. To do so, we must often expend significant financial and human resources to develop technologically compelling products or systems with no guarantee that they will be adopted by our customers. The non-recurring engineering (“NRE”) costs for product development in these cases could be substantial, and may adversely affect our profitability if we are unable to recover these costs.

Also, customers will often require a lengthy period of on-site testing before committing to purchase a product or system, during which period we will not receive material revenue from the customer. While a design win for our products and systems may result in a long period of recurring revenue during which we hope to recover our costs, we must often internally finance our development costs over significant time periods. If our products or systems fail to gain acceptance with our customers, we will be forced to absorb any NRE costs, which could adversely affect our business if these costs are substantial.

The long development times for certain of our products and systems may result in unpredictable fluctuations in revenue and results of operations.

Our force sensor products, and weighing and control systems, often involve long product development cycles, both to develop the product or system and to secure customer acceptance following what may be a lengthy on-site testing period. During product development and testing, we may incur substantial costs without corresponding revenues. If our custom product or system is ultimately accepted by the customer, we may then begin to realize substantial revenues from our development efforts.

In particular, our weighing and control systems can be priced for several hundred thousand dollars per unit, so that a contract to acquire one or more units can materially contribute to our revenues during the period or periods that we are permitted to recognize the contract revenues for accounting purposes. The nature of our weighing and control products and systems, and in particular, the products and systems manufactured by the steel business, may therefore result in substantial fluctuations in our operating results, including revenues and profitability, from period to period, even though there has been no fundamental change in our business or its prospects. Further, customers may request a delay in shipping a product they have ordered due to changes in their business needs, which may delay the revenue recognition for the product until shipment occurs. This may make it difficult for investors to undertake period-to-period comparisons of our performance. Also, the fluctuating nature of key components of our revenues may limit the visibility of our management regarding performance in future periods, and make it more difficult for our management to provide guidance to our investors.

We may not have adequate facilities to satisfy future increases in demand for our products.

Our business is cyclical and in periods of a rising economy, we may experience intense demand for our products. During such periods, we may have difficulty expanding our manufacturing capacity to satisfy demand. Factors which could limit such expansion include delays in procurement of manufacturing equipment, shortages of skilled personnel, and physical constraints on expansion at our facilities. If we are unable to meet our customers’ requirements and our competitors sufficiently expand production, we could lose customers and/or market share. These losses could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Also, capacity that we add during upturns in the business cycle may result in excess capacity during periods when demand for our products recedes, resulting in inefficient use of capital, adversely affecting our business.

The nature of the market for our products may render them particularly susceptible to downturns in the economic environment.

Our products are designed to replace and provide superior functionality over existing product infrastructure utilized by our customers. Often, it is only after introductory demonstrations by our sales and engineering teams that our customers come to appreciate the advantages of our products and systems, and the long-term benefits of their adoption. An economic downturn or extended period of economic uncertainty may make customers less receptive to adopting new technological solutions at our suggestion - even ones with demonstrated operational and financial advantages. During these periods, customers may defer, or even cancel, orders for products and systems for which they have previously contracted, or given indications of interest.

Also, because our business is concentrated largely in the industrial sector, we do not benefit from countervailing fluctuations in consumer demand. As a result, our business may be more significantly affected by the consequences of a general economic slowdown than other segments of our industry, and may also take longer to recover from the effects of a slowdown.

Our backlog is subject to customer cancellation.

Many of the orders that comprise our backlog may be canceled by our customers without penalty. Our customers, particularly for our foil technology products, often cancel orders when business is weak and inventories are excessive, a situation that we have experienced during periods of economic slowdown. Therefore, we cannot be certain that the amount of our backlog accurately forecasts the level of orders that will ultimately be delivered. Our results of operations could be adversely impacted if customers cancel a material portion of orders in our backlog.

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The complexity of our sophisticated weighing and control systems may require costly corrections if design flaws are found.

Our weighing and control systems combine sophisticated electronic hardware and computer software. We believe that the sophistication of our systems contributes to their competitive advantage over similar products offered by other system integrators. We go to substantial lengths to assure that our system products are free of design flaws when they are delivered to our customers for installation and testing. However, due to the systems' complexity, design flaws may occur and require correction. If the requisite corrections are substantial, or difficult to implement due to the systems' complexity, we may not be able to recover the costs of correction and retesting, with the result that our profit margins on these systems could be substantially reduced, or even negated by losses, and our results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Our results are sensitive to raw material availability, quality, and cost.

Although most materials incorporated in our products are available from a number of sources, certain materials are available only from a relatively limited number of suppliers. The materials that are only available from a limited number of sources include certain molding compounds, metal package suppliers, low resistance switches, polyimide film and laminating adhesives. We generally maintain a supply of strategic raw materials for continuity and risk management. Our customers would need significant advance notification to qualify alternative materials, if we had to use them. Alternative suppliers are available worldwide for most of our raw materials, but significant time (between 3 to 12 months) would be required to qualify new suppliers and establish efficient production scheduling.

Certain metals used in the manufacture of our products are traded on active markets, and can be subject to significant price volatility.

Our results of operations may be materially and adversely affected if we have difficulty obtaining these raw materials, if the quality of available raw materials deteriorates, if there are significant price changes for these raw materials, or if compliance with the laws and regulations described below proves costly and time-consuming. For periods in which the prices of these raw materials are rising, we may be unable to pass on the increased cost to our customers, which would result in decreased margins for the products in which they are used. For periods in which the prices are declining, we may be required to write down our inventory carrying cost of these raw materials, since we record our inventory at the lower of cost or market. Depending on the extent of the difference between market price and our carrying cost, this write-down could have a material adverse effect on our net earnings. We also may need to record losses for adverse purchase commitments for these materials in periods of declining prices.

Pursuant to the SEC's "conflict minerals" rules, reporting companies that determine that certain metals, dubbed "conflict minerals" by the SEC (which include tantalum, gold, tin, and tungsten sourced from the Democratic Republic of the Congo or adjoining countries), are necessary to the functionality or production of a product they manufacture, or contract to have manufactured, must file a specialized disclosure form with the SEC. We use raw materials that are subject to conflict minerals rules. The compliance with the SEC's related disclosure requirements may affect the sourcing and availability of minerals used in the manufacture of our products. Also, because our supply chain is complex, we may face reputational challenges with our customers and other stakeholders if we are unable to materially verify the origins of all "in scope" metals used in our products.

Our product sales may be adversely affected by changes in product classification levels under various qualification and specification standards.

Certain of our products must be qualified or approved under various military and aerospace specifications and other standards.

We have qualified certain of our foil resistor products under various military specifications approved and monitored by the DLA, and under certain European military specifications, and various aerospace standards approved by NASA and the ESA.

Qualification and specification levels are based in part upon product failure rate. We must continuously perform tests on our products, and for products that are qualified, the results of these tests must be reported to the qualifying organization.

Certain of our force sensor products are approved by the NTEP and OIML. Our on-board weighing systems must meet approved standards to make them legal-for-trade.

If a product fails to meet the requirements for the applicable classification level or other approval, the product's classification or approval may be suspended or reduced to a lower level. During the time that the classification is suspended or reduced to a lower level, net revenues and earnings attributable to that product may be adversely affected.

Our future success is substantially dependent on our ability to attract and retain highly qualified technical, managerial, marketing, finance, and administrative personnel.

The competitive environment of our business requires us to attract and retain highly qualified personnel to develop technological innovations and bring them to market on a timely basis. Our complex operations also require us to attract and retain highly qualified administrative personnel in functions such as legal, tax, accounting, business development, financial reporting, and treasury. The market for personnel with such qualifications is highly competitive. We have not entered into employment agreements with many of our key personnel.

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The loss of the services of, or the failure to effectively recruit, qualified personnel, including for key executive positions, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Failure to maintain effective internal controls could adversely affect our ability to meet our reporting requirements. Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reasonable assurance with respect to our financial reports, and to effectively prevent fraud. Internal controls over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements because of inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls, or fraud. Therefore, even effective internal controls can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements. If we cannot provide reasonable assurance with respect to our financial reports and effectively prevent fraud, our operating results could be harmed. In addition, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Our acquisition of new businesses requires the integration and harmonization of the acquired business' internal controls with our existing internal controls in order to properly account for the acquired business' assets and operations. If we fail to maintain the effectiveness of our internal controls, including any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or if we experience difficulties in their implementation, our business and operating results could be harmed, we could fail to meet our reporting obligations, and there could be a material adverse effect on our stock price.

We are exposed to, and may be adversely affected by, interruptions to our computer and information technology systems and sophisticated cyber-attacks.

We rely on our information technology systems and networks in connection with many of our business activities. Some of these networks and systems are managed by third party service providers and are not under our direct control. Our operations routinely involve receiving, storing, processing, and transmitting sensitive information pertaining to our business, customers, suppliers, employees, and other sensitive matters. Any cyber incidents could materially disrupt operational systems; result in loss of trade secrets or other proprietary or competitively sensitive information; compromise personally identifiable information regarding customers or employees; and jeopardize the security of our facilities. Because techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, or to sabotage systems, change frequently and generally are not recognized until they are launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques, or to implement adequate preventative measures. Information technology security threats, including security breaches, computer malware, and other cyber-attacks are increasing in both frequency and sophistication, and could create financial liability, subject us to legal or regulatory sanctions, or damage our reputation with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders. We continuously seek to maintain a robust program of information security and controls, but the impact of a material information technology event could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position, reputation, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

Future changes in our environmental liability and compliance obligations may harm our ability to operate or increase costs.

Our manufacturing operations, products and/or packaging are subject to environmental laws and regulations governing air emissions, wastewater discharges, the handling, disposal, and remediation of hazardous substances, wastes, and certain chemicals used or generated in our manufacturing processes, workplace health and safety labeling, or other notifications with respect to the content, or other aspects of our processes, products or packaging, restrictions on the use of certain materials in or on design aspects of our products or packaging, and responsibility for disposal of products or packaging. New liabilities could arise, and we may have unavoidably inherited certain pre-existing environmental liabilities, generally based on successor liability doctrines. Although we have never been involved in any environmental matter that has had a material adverse impact on our overall operations, there can be no assurance that in connection with any past or future operation, acquisition or otherwise, we will not be obligated to address environmental matters that could have a material adverse impact on our operations. In addition, more stringent environmental regulations may be enacted in the future, and we cannot presently determine the modifications, if any, in our operations that any such future regulations might require, or the cost of compliance with these regulations. Our credit facilities subject us to financial and operating restrictions.

We maintain revolving credit agreements and term loans with banks that we use, or may use, for working capital, acquisition financing, and other purposes. These credit facilities subject us to certain restrictions which may affect, and in some cases significantly limit or prohibit, among other things, our ability to:

- borrow additional funds;
- pay dividends or make other distributions;
- repurchase our common stock;
- make investments, including capital expenditures;
- complete acquisitions;
- engage in transactions with affiliates or subsidiaries; or
- create liens on our assets.

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Our primary credit facility requires us to maintain certain financial ratios. If we fail to comply with the covenant restrictions contained in the credit facility, that failure could result in termination of the facility, and all amounts outstanding could become immediately payable.

Unexpected events, such as a natural disaster, could disrupt our operations and adversely affect our results of operations.

We have manufacturing and other facilities in countries around the world. Unexpected events, including fires or explosions at facilities; natural disasters, such as flooding, hurricanes, and earthquakes; war or terrorist activities; unplanned outages; supply disruptions; and failures of equipment or systems at any of our facilities could adversely affect our results of operation. If adverse conditions were to arise with respect to any of our facilities as a result of a natural disaster or other unexpected event, they may result in customer disruption, physical damage to one or more key operating facilities, the temporary closure of one or more key operating facilities, the temporary disruptions of information systems, and/or an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Changes in our tax rate or exposure to additional income tax liabilities could affect our profitability. In addition, audits by tax authorities could result in additional tax payments for prior periods.

We are subject to income taxes in the U.S. and in various foreign jurisdictions. Domestic and international tax liabilities are subject to the allocation of income among various tax jurisdictions. Our effective tax rate can be affected by changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates (including as a result of business acquisitions and dispositions), changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, accruals related to contingent tax liabilities, the results of audits and examinations of previously filed tax returns, and changes in tax laws.

Any of these factors may adversely affect our tax rate and decrease our profitability. The amount of income taxes we pay is subject to audit by U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign tax authorities. If these tax audits result in assessments, our future results may be unfavorably impacted.

As a global business, we have a complex tax structure, and there is a risk that the tax authorities will disagree with our transfer pricing.

We are subject to complex transfer pricing regulations in the U.S. and foreign countries in which we operate. Transfer pricing regulations generally require that transactions between related companies be determined comparable to transactions on an arm's length basis and that contemporaneous documentation be maintained to support the pricing used. Although transfer pricing standards are generally similar in many of the countries in which we operate, there is still a relatively high degree of uncertainty and inherent subjectivity in complying with these requirements. This topic has received additional scrutiny in recent years, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project. To the extent that any tax authority disagrees with our transfer pricing practices, we could incur significant costs to defend our position and could be subject to significant additional tax liabilities, interest, and penalties.

We may not be able to realize our deferred tax assets which would adversely impact tax expense in future periods. We regularly assess the ability to realize deferred tax assets in each jurisdiction in which we operate based on a number of factors, including historic operating results, estimates of future earnings, the economic environment, the nature and character of the income, and the existence of cost effective tax planning strategies. This assessment requires significant judgment. If we determine that deferred tax assets are not more likely than not to be realized, we record a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets to a level that is expected to be realized. If we subsequently determine that realization becomes more likely than not, a valuation allowance will be reversed. Any increase or decrease in our valuation allowances could have a significant impact on our financial results.

Approximately 90% of our cash and cash equivalents and short-term investment balances were held by our non-U.S. subsidiaries.

We generate a significant amount of cash and profits from our non-U.S. subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2015, \$56.6 million of our cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments were held in countries outside of the United States. At the present time, we expect the cash and profits generated by our foreign subsidiaries will be indefinitely reinvested outside of the United States. Accordingly, no provision has been made for foreign withholding taxes or U.S. federal and state income taxes on these foreign earnings. Our ability to repatriate cash to the United States from a foreign country may be limited by foreign country laws regulating the distribution of cash and earnings. If we decide

to repatriate cash to the United States and are able to do so, we could be subject to additional U.S., state, and foreign income taxes, and withholding taxes.

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We use the mark Vishay under license from Vishay Intertechnology, which could result in product and market confusion.

We use the mark Vishay as part of our name and in connection with many of our products. Our use of the Vishay mark is governed by an agreement between us and Vishay Intertechnology, giving us a perpetual, royalty-free, worldwide license for the use of the mark. We believe that it is important that we continue the use of the Vishay name, to a certain extent, in order to benefit from the reputation of the Vishay brand, which was first used in connection with our foil resistors and strain gages when Vishay Intertechnology was founded 50 years ago.

There are risks associated with our use of the Vishay mark, however, both for us and for Vishay Intertechnology. Because both we, and Vishay Intertechnology, use the Vishay mark, confusion could arise in the market regarding the products offered by the two companies, and there could be a misplaced perception of our continuing to be associated with Vishay Intertechnology. Also, any negative publicity associated with one of the two companies in the future could adversely affect the public image of the other. Finally, Vishay Intertechnology will have the right to terminate the license agreement, in certain extreme circumstances, if we are in material and repeated breach of the terms of the agreement, which would likely have an adverse effect on us and our business.

Risks relating to our operations outside the United States

We obtain substantial benefits by operating in Israel, but these benefits may not continue.

We have substantial operations in Israel. The low tax rates in Israel applicable to earnings of our operations in that country, compared to the rates in the United States, have the general effect of increasing our net earnings. Any significant increase in the Israeli tax rates could have an adverse impact on our results of operations. There can also be no assurance that, in the future, the Israeli government will offer new tax incentive programs applicable to us or that, if it does, such programs will provide the same level of benefits we have historically received prior to 2015, or that we will be eligible to benefit from them.

We attempt to improve profitability by operating in countries in which manufacturing efficiencies may be achieved, but the shift of operations to these regions may entail considerable expense.

Our strategy is aimed at achieving significant production cost savings through the transfer and expansion of manufacturing operations to and in countries in which we have existing capacity, as well as countries with lower production costs or other benefits, such as India, Israel, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan). During this process, we may experience under-utilization of certain plants and factories in higher-cost regions, and capacity constraints in plants and factories located in lower-cost regions. Also, we may experience delays in the expected transition from a higher-cost location to a lower-cost one that results in greater than expected use of the higher-cost facility. This transitional utilization may result initially in production inefficiencies and higher costs. These costs include those associated with compensation in connection with workforce reductions and plant closings in the higher-cost regions, start-up expenses, manufacturing and construction delays, and increased depreciation costs in connection with the initiation or expansion of production in lower-cost regions. In addition, as we implement transfers of certain of our operations, we may experience strikes or other types of labor unrest as a result of layoffs or termination of our employees in higher-cost countries.

In connection with the transfer of manufacturing operations to lower-cost countries, and upgrading of existing facilities in higher-cost countries, we are also increasing the level of automation in our plants to optimize our capital and labor resources in production, inventory management, quality control, and warehousing. Although we have substantial experience with automation in several of our plants in higher-cost countries, there are risks in automating plants which previously did not use a significant amount of automation, including the possibility of inefficiencies and higher operating costs in the transition from manual to automated operations. If the transition extends longer than anticipated, we could suffer product yield inefficiencies, contributing to higher product costs and increasing the time it will take for us to achieve a return on our investment in the capital equipment involved in the automation process. Furthermore, any layoffs or termination of our employees as a result of increased automation may lead to strikes or other types of labor unrest. If we experience these types of inefficiencies, they could have an adverse effect on our operating results, customer relationships, and financial condition.

We are subject to the risks of political, economic, and military instability in countries outside the United States in which we operate.

Some of our products are produced in Israel, India, China, and other countries which are particularly subject to risks of political, economic, and military instability. This instability could result in wars, riots, nationalization of industry, currency fluctuations, and labor unrest. These conditions could have an adverse impact on our ability to operate in these regions and, depending on the extent and severity of these conditions, could materially and adversely affect our overall financial condition and operating results.

Our business has been in operation in Israel for over 40 years. We have never experienced any material interruption in our operations attributable to these factors, in spite of several Middle East crises, including wars. However, we might be adversely affected if events were to occur in the Middle East that interfered with our operations in Israel.

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We are subject to foreign currency exchange rate risks which may impact our results of operations.

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risks, particularly due to market values of transactions in currencies other than the functional currencies of certain subsidiaries.

Our significant foreign subsidiaries are located in the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Israel, Japan, and India. Our operations in Europe, Canada and certain locations in Asia primarily generate and expend cash in local currencies. Our operations in Israel and certain locations in Asia primarily generate cash in U.S. dollars, but these subsidiaries also have significant transactions in local currencies. Our exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk is mitigated to the extent that the costs incurred, and the revenues earned, in a particular currency offset one another. Our exposure to foreign currency exchange rate risk is more pronounced in situations where, for example, production labor costs are predominantly paid in local currencies while the sales revenue for those products is denominated in U.S. dollars. This situation in particular applies to our operations in Canada, India, Israel, China, and Taiwan. As of December 31, 2015, we did not have in place any arrangements to mitigate or hedge against exposures relating to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rate.

A change in the mix of the currencies in which we transact our business could have a material effect on results of operations. Furthermore, the timing of cash receipts and disbursements could have a material effect on our results of operations, particularly if there are significant changes in exchange rates in a short period of time.

#### Risks Relating to Our Common Stock

Our smaller size may affect the trading market for our shares.

We are considered a “microcap” company and our trading volume is likely to fluctuate. Also, it is possible that there will be less market and institutional interest in our shares, and that we will not attract substantial coverage in the analyst community. As a result, the trading market for our shares may be less liquid, making it more difficult for investors to dispose of their shares at favorable prices, and investors may have less independent information and analysis available to them concerning our company.

Our stock price could become more volatile and investments could lose value.

The market price of our common stock, and the number of shares traded each day, has experienced significant fluctuations and may continue to fluctuate significantly. The market price for our common stock may be affected by a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

- shortfalls in our expected net revenue, earnings or key performance metrics;
- changes in recommendations or estimates by securities analysts;
- the announcement of new products by us or our competitors;
- quarterly variations in our or our competitors’ results of operations;
- a change in our dividend or stock repurchase activities;
- developments in our industry or changes in the market for technology stocks;
- changes in rules or regulations applicable to our business; and
- other factors, including economic instability and changes in political or market conditions.

A significant drop in our stock price could expose us to costly and time consuming litigation, which could result in substantial costs, and divert management’s attention and resources, resulting in an adverse effect on our business.

The holders of Class B convertible common stock have effective voting control of our company.

We have two classes of common stock: common stock and Class B convertible common stock. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held, while the holders of Class B convertible common stock are entitled to 10 votes for each share held. The ownership of Class B convertible common stock is highly concentrated, and holders of Class B convertible common stock effectively can cause the election of directors, and approve other actions as stockholders, without the approval of our other stockholders. Mrs. Ruta Zandman, the wife of the late founder of our technology, Dr. Felix Zandman, controls, or shares control of, the voting of approximately 76.8% of our Class B convertible common stock, representing 34.3% of the total voting power of our capital stock as of December 31, 2015.

Your percentage ownership of our common stock may be diluted in the future.

Your percentage ownership of our common stock may be diluted in the future because of equity awards that we expect will be granted to our directors, officers, and employees, as well as due to certain convertible or exchangeable debt instruments. The Vishay Precision Group, Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Program provides for the grant of equity-based

awards, including restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options, and other equity-based awards to our directors, officers, and other employees, advisors and consultants.

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Certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws may reduce the likelihood of any unsolicited acquisition proposal or potential change of control that you might consider favorable.

Our bylaws contain provisions that could be considered “anti-takeover” provisions because they make it harder for a third party to acquire us without the consent of our incumbent board of directors. Under these by-law provisions: stockholders may not change the size of the board of directors or, except in limited circumstances, fill vacancies on the board of directors;

• stockholders may not call special meetings of stockholders;

• stockholders must comply with advance notice provisions for nominating directors or presenting other proposals at stockholder meetings; and

- our Board of Directors, may without stockholder approval, issue preferred shares and determine their rights and terms, including voting rights, or adopt a stockholder rights plan.

These provisions could have the effect of discouraging an unsolicited acquisition proposal or delaying, deferring, or preventing a change of control transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be considered favorable by our stockholders.

Item 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Item 2. PROPERTIES

Our business has approximately 21 principal locations. Our facilities include owned locations and locations leased from third parties. The principal locations, along with available space including administrative offices, are listed below:

	Reporting segment	Approx. Available Space (square feet)
<b>Owned Locations</b>		
Wendell, North Carolina USA	Foil Technology Products	147,000
Chennai, India <sup>(a)</sup>	Force Sensors	129,000
Holon, Israel	Foil Technology Products	97,000
Karmiel, Israel	Force Sensors	80,000
Bradford, United Kingdom	Weighing and Control Systems	75,000
Kent, Washington	Weighing and Control Systems	47,000
Akita, Japan <sup>(b)</sup>	Foil Technology Products	46,000
Chartres, France	Force Sensors	11,000
Basingstoke, United Kingdom	Force Sensors/Foil Technology Products	11,000
Alajuela, Costa Rica	Foil Technology Products	8,000
<b>Third-Party Leased Locations</b>		
Toronto, Canada	Weighing and Control Systems	91,000
Tianjin, People's Republic of China	Force Sensors	67,000
Rancho Cucamonga, California USA	Force Sensors/Weighing and Control Systems	54,000
Omer, Israel	Foil Technology Products	24,000
Beijing, People's Republic of China	Force Sensors	16,000
Holon, Israel	Foil Technology Products	16,000
Taipei, Republic of China (Taiwan)	Force Sensors/Weighing and Control Systems	13,000
Degerfors, Sweden	Weighing and Control Systems	8,000
Malvern, Pennsylvania USA	Corporate	8,000
Teltow, Germany	Foil Technology Products	6,000
Alajuela, Costa Rica	Foil Technology Products	2,000

(a) The Chennai building is owned and the land is held under a 99 year lease (which began in 2012).

(b) A facility on the campus is leased to Vishay Intertechnology. Approximate available space reported above excludes the area leased.

In the opinion of management, our properties and equipment generally are in good operating condition and are adequate for our present needs. We do not anticipate difficulty in renewing leases as they expire, or in finding alternative facilities.

Our corporate headquarters are located at 3 Great Valley Parkway, Suite 150, Malvern, PA 19355.

Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are subject to various legal proceedings that constitute ordinary, routine litigation incidental to our business. In our opinion, the disposition of these proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our business or our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

Item 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.





## PART II

## Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol VPG. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices for our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange composite tape for the indicated fiscal quarters. The Board of Directors may only declare dividends or other distributions with respect to the common stock or the Class B convertible common stock if it grants such dividends or distributions in the same amount, per share, with respect to the other class of stock. Stock dividends or distributions, on any class of stock, are payable only in shares of stock of that class. Shares of either common stock or Class B convertible common stock cannot be split, divided, or combined unless the other is also split, divided, or combined equally. Holders of record of our common stock totaled approximately 856 at March 9, 2016.

	2015		2014	
	High	Low	High	Low
Fourth Quarter	\$13.02	\$10.96	\$17.95	\$14.76
Third Quarter	\$15.55	\$10.25	\$17.21	\$14.10
Second Quarter	\$16.18	\$12.74	\$18.29	\$15.01
First Quarter	\$17.65	\$14.52	\$17.89	\$13.63

We have two classes of common stock: common stock and Class B convertible common stock. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held, while the holders of Class B convertible common stock are entitled to 10 votes for each share held. At March 9, 2016 we had outstanding 1,025,158 shares of Class B convertible common stock, par value \$0.10 per share. Currently, the holders of VPG's Class B convertible common stock hold approximately 45.8% of the voting power of our Company. Mrs. Ruta Zandman, the wife of the late founder of our technology, Dr. Felix Zandman, controls, or shares control of, the voting of approximately 76.8% of our Class B convertible common stock, representing 34.3% of the total voting power of our capital stock as of December 31, 2015.

## Stock Performance Graph

The graph and table below compare the cumulative total stockholder return on the Company's common stock over a sixty month period, with the returns on the Russell 2000 Stock Index, and a peer group of companies selected by our management. The peer group is made up of six publicly held manufacturers of sensors, sensor-based equipment, and sensor-based systems. Management believes that the product offerings of the companies contained in the peer group are more similar to our product offerings than those of the companies contained in any published industry index. The return of each peer issuer has been weighted according to the respective issuer's stock market capitalization. The graph and table assume that \$100 had been invested at December 31, 2010, and that all dividends were reinvested. The graph and table are not necessarily indicative of future investment performance.

		12/31/10	12/31/11	12/31/12	12/31/13	12/31/14	12/31/15
Vishay Precision Group, Inc.	Cumulative \$	100.00	84.82	70.17	79.03	91.08	60.08
Russell 2000 Index	Cumulative \$	100.00	95.82	111.49	154.78	162.35	155.18
Peer Group *	Cumulative \$	100.00	94.44	126.45	159.45	184.71	179.31

\*The management selected peer group includes: MTS Systems, Kyowa Electronic Instruments, Mettler – Toledo, Spectris, Sensata Technologies, CTS Corp.

## Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table presents our selected historical financial data. The statements of operations data for each of the five years ended December 31, 2015 and the balance sheet data as of December 31, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements.

The data should be read in conjunction with our historical financial statements and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included elsewhere in this document.

(in thousands, except per share amounts)	As of and for the years ended December 31,				
	2015	2014 <sup>(a)</sup>	2013 <sup>(a)</sup>	2012 <sup>(a)</sup>	2011 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Net revenues	\$232,178	\$250,028	\$238,589	\$217,616	\$238,107
Costs of products sold	147,949	159,254	155,134	142,567	155,181
Gross profit	84,229	90,774	83,455	75,049	82,926
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	71,282	77,034	74,059	63,692	66,666
Acquisition costs	185	—	794	275	—
Impairment of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles	4,942	5,579	—	—	—
Restructuring costs	4,461	668	538	—	—
Operating income	3,359	7,493	8,064	11,082	16,260
<b>Other income (expense):</b>					
Interest expense	(771 )	(882 )	(967 )	(266 )	(276 )
Other	(2,082 )	(740 )	(1,354 )	331	(1,734 )
Other (expense) income - net	(2,853 )	(1,622 )	(2,321 )	65	(2,010 )
Income before taxes	506	5,871	5,743	11,147	14,250
Income tax expense (benefit)	13,500	2,613	1,251	(1,144 )	4,258
Net (loss) earnings	(12,994 )	3,258	4,492	12,291	9,992
Less: net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	14	178	56	73	23
Net (loss) earnings attributable to VPG stockholders	\$(13,008 )	\$3,080	\$4,436	\$12,218	\$9,969
<b>(Loss) earnings per share data:</b>					
Basic	\$(0.96 )	\$0.22	\$0.33	\$0.91	\$0.75
Diluted	\$(0.96 )	\$0.22	\$0.32	\$0.88	\$0.72
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic	13,485	13,755	13,563	13,367	13,343
Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted	13,485	13,977	13,944	13,889	13,834
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$62,641	\$79,642	\$72,809	\$93,839	\$80,828
Total assets	264,301	286,923	294,702	264,331	257,671
Long-term debt, less current portion	31,591	17,713	22,936	11,154	11,463
Working capital	121,065	131,714	137,391	153,642	141,216
Total VPG stockholders' equity	172,256	199,651	206,046	197,879	185,551

(a) As described in more detail in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements included herein, the prior period amounts reported above have been restated to correct certain immaterial errors within our Indian subsidiary's financial statements and for other minor adjustments.

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## Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### Overview

VPG is an internationally recognized designer, manufacturer and marketer of sensors, and sensor-based measurement systems, as well as specialty resistors and strain gages based upon our proprietary technology. We provide precision products and solutions, many of which are “designed-in” by our customers, specializing in the growing markets of stress, force, weight, pressure, and current measurements. A significant portion of our products and solutions are primarily based upon our proprietary foil technology and are produced as part of our vertically integrated structure. We believe this strategy results in higher quality, more cost effective and focused solutions for our customers. Our products are marketed under a variety of brand names that we believe are characterized as having a very high level of precision and quality. Our global operations enable us to produce a wide variety of products in strategically effective geographic locations that also optimize our resources for specific technologies, sensors, assemblies, and systems. The Company also has a long heritage of innovation in precision foil resistors, foil strain gages, and sensors that convert mechanical inputs into an electronic signal for display, processing, interpretation, or control by our instrumentation and systems products. Our advanced sensor product line continues this heritage by offering high-quality foil strain gages produced in a proprietary, highly automated environment. Precision sensors are essential to the accurate measurement, resolution and display of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, or acceleration, especially in the legal-for-trade, commercial, and industrial marketplaces. This expertise served as a foundation for our expansion into strain gage instrumentation, load cells, transducers, weighing modules, and complete systems for process control and on-board weighing. Although our products are typically used in the industrial market, we believe our advanced sensors may find application outside the industrial market.

The precision sensor market is integral to the development of intelligent products across a wide variety of end markets upon which we focus, including medical, agricultural, transportation, industrial, avionics, military, and space applications. We believe that as original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”) continue a drive to make products “smarter,” they will integrate more sensors and related systems into their solutions to link the mechanical/physical world with digital control and/or response. We believe this offers a substantial growth opportunity for our products and expertise. VPG reports in three product segments: the Foil Technology Products segment, the Force Sensors segment, and the Weighing and Control Systems segment. The Foil Technology Products reporting segment is comprised of the foil resistor and strain gage operating segments. The Force Sensors reporting segment is comprised of transducers, load cells, and modules. The Weighing and Control Systems reporting segment is comprised of instruments, complete systems for process control, and on-board weighing applications.

As previously reported in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 27, 2015, the Company determined that transactions at one of its Indian subsidiaries had been recorded in their local currency, the Indian rupee, instead of their functional currency, the U.S. dollar, in prior periods. Consequently, the Company has restated prior period amounts to correct these errors, as well as certain other immaterial errors related to prior periods. All periods presented in this report reflect the impact of this restatement.

Net revenues for the year ended December 31, 2015 were \$232.2 million versus \$250.0 million for the prior year. Net (loss) earnings attributable to VPG stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2015 were \$(13.0) million, or \$(0.96) per diluted share, versus \$3.1 million, or \$0.22 per diluted share, for the prior year. Foreign currency exchange rates for the year ended December 31, 2015 as compared to the prior year period had a negative impact on net earnings of \$2.0 million, or \$0.15 per diluted share.

The results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 include items affecting comparability as listed in the reconciliations below. The reconciliations below include certain financial measures which are not recognized in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), including adjusted gross profits, adjusted gross profit margin, adjusted net earnings (loss), and adjusted net earnings (loss) per diluted share. These non-GAAP measures should not be viewed as an alternative to GAAP measures of performance. Non-GAAP measures such as adjusted gross profit margin, adjusted net earnings (loss), and adjusted net earnings (loss) per diluted share do not have uniform definitions. These measures, as calculated by VPG, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. Management believes that these measures are meaningful because they provide insight with respect to intrinsic operating results. The reconciling items presented below represent significant

charges or credits which are important to understanding our intrinsic operations.

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The items affecting comparability are (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts):

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014		
Gross profit	\$84,229	\$90,774		
Gross profit margin	36.3	% 36.3		%
Reconciling items affecting gross profit margin				
Acquisition purchase accounting adjustments <sup>(a)</sup>	172	75		
Adjusted gross profit	\$84,401	\$90,849		
Adjusted gross profit margin	36.4	% 36.3		%
			Years ended December 31,	
			2015	2014
Net (loss) earnings attributable to VPG stockholders			\$(13,008	) \$3,080
Reconciling items affecting operating margin				
Acquisition purchase accounting adjustments <sup>(a)</sup>	172	75		
Acquisition costs	185	—		
Impairment of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangibles	4,942	5,579		
Restructuring costs	4,461	668		
Less: reconciling items affecting income tax expense				
Tax effect of adjustments for purchase accounting, acquisition costs, impairment charges and restructuring costs, and discrete tax items	(10,980	) (356	)	)
Adjusted net earnings attributable to VPG stockholders	\$7,732	\$9,758		
Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted	13,485	13,977		
Adjusted net earnings per diluted share	\$0.57	\$0.70		

<sup>(a)</sup> Acquisition purchase accounting adjustments include fair market value adjustments associated with inventory and advance customer payments.

#### Financial Metrics

We utilize several financial measures and metrics to evaluate the performance and assess the future direction of our business. These key financial measures and metrics include net revenues, gross profit margin, end-of-period backlog, book-to-bill ratio, and inventory turnover.

Gross profit margin is gross profit shown as a percentage of net revenues. Gross profit is generally net revenues less costs of products sold, but could also include certain other period costs. Gross profit margin is clearly a function of net revenues, but also reflects our cost-cutting programs and our ability to contain fixed costs.

End-of-period backlog is one indicator of potential future sales. We include in our backlog only open orders that have been released by the customer for shipment in the next twelve months. If demand falls below customers' forecasts, or if customers do not control their inventory effectively, they may cancel or reschedule the shipments that are included in our backlog, in many instances without the payment of any penalty. Therefore, the backlog is not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for future periods.

Another important indicator of demand in our industry is the book-to-bill ratio, which is the ratio of the amount of product ordered during a period compared with the product that we ship during that period. A book-to-bill ratio that is greater than one indicates that demand is higher than current revenues and manufacturing capacities, and it indicates that we may generate increasing revenues





in future periods. Conversely, a book-to-bill ratio that is less than one is an indicator of lower demand compared to existing revenues and current capacities and may foretell declining sales.

We focus on our inventory turnover as a measure of how well we are managing our inventory. We define inventory turnover for a financial reporting period as our costs of products sold for the four fiscal quarters ending on the last day of the reporting period divided by our average inventory (computed using each quarter-end balance) for this same period. A higher level of inventory turnover reflects more efficient use of our capital.

The quarter-to-quarter trends in these financial metrics can also be an important indicator of the likely direction of our business. The following table shows net revenues, gross profit margin, the end-of-period backlog, the book-to-bill ratio, and the inventory turnover for our business as a whole during the five quarters beginning with the fourth quarter of 2014 and through the fourth quarter of 2015 (dollars in thousands):

	4th Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2015	
Net revenues	\$60,224	\$56,608	\$59,508	\$57,149	\$58,913	
Gross profit margin	34.0	% 37.1	% 35.3	% 37.5	% 35.2	%
End-of-period backlog	\$58,500	\$59,200	\$54,600	\$52,200	\$48,800	
Book-to-bill ratio	1.00	1.05	0.91	0.97	0.95	
Inventory turnover	2.97	2.60	2.75	2.54	2.77	
	4th Quarter 2014	1st Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2015	4th Quarter 2015	
Foil Technology Products						
Net revenues	\$26,397	\$25,061	\$26,155	\$27,000	\$26,244	
Gross profit margin	37.3	% 41.4	% 39.6	% 42.0	% 36.5	%
End-of-period backlog	\$26,300	\$28,500	\$25,900	\$23,400	\$22,500	
Book-to-bill ratio	1.02	1.12	0.90	0.90	0.97	
Inventory turnover	3.36	2.88	2.99	2.83	2.99	
Force Sensors						
Net revenues	\$17,408	\$15,237	\$15,645	\$14,580	\$15,586	
Gross profit margin	21.9	% 21.8	% 19.0	% 21.0	% 20.2	%
End-of-period backlog	\$12,100	\$11,600	\$11,300	\$11,600	\$11,500	
Book-to-bill ratio	0.97	0.98	0.98	1.03	1.00	
Inventory turnover	2.32	1.98	2.04	1.82	2.06	
Weighing and Control Systems						
Net revenues	\$16,419	\$16,310	\$17,708	\$15,569	\$17,083	
Gross profit margin	41.6	% 44.6	% 43.6	% 45.4	% 47.0	%
End-of-period backlog	\$20,100	\$19,100	\$17,400	\$17,200	\$14,800	
Book-to-bill ratio	1.01	1.00	0.88	1.05	0.89	
Inventory turnover	3.82	3.91	4.38	3.84	4.15	

Net revenues for the fourth quarter of 2015 increased 3% from the net revenues reported in the third quarter of 2015, and decreased 2.2% from \$60.2 million of net revenues for the comparable prior year period. Higher net revenues in the Force Sensors and Weighing and Control Systems segments were due to higher volumes in each segment, partially offset by a decrease in net revenues in our Foil Technology Products segment, where we experienced lower volume. Net revenues for the fourth quarter of 2015 were negatively impacted by the effect of foreign exchange rates of \$3.6 million as compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. Exchange rates had minimal impact on net revenues from the third quarter of 2015 to the fourth quarter of 2015.

The gross profit margin in the fourth quarter of 2015 increased 1.2% as compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. Higher gross profit margin in the Weighing and Control Systems segment was partially offset by declines in the gross profit margins in the Foil Technology Products and Force Sensors segments. The gross profit margin in the fourth quarter of 2015 decreased 2.3% from the third quarter of 2015. Higher gross profit margin in the Weighing and Control Systems segment was offset by declines in the gross profit margins in the Foil Technology Products and Force Sensors segments.

The Foil Technology Products segment revenues were \$26.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2015, down 0.6% from \$26.4 million in the fourth quarter last year, and down 2.8% from \$27.0 million in the third quarter of 2015. The decrease was mainly due to lower volume from the test and measurement market sector coming mainly from the Americas and Europe. The gross profit margin decreased from the comparable prior year period primarily due to negative effects of exchange rates. The sequential gross profit margin decrease was due to lower volume and additional costs for expansion of our advanced sensor platform.

The Force Sensors segment net revenues of \$15.6 million improved 6.9% compared to revenues of \$14.6 million in the prior quarter due to higher volume across all regions, predominantly in the precision weighing market sector. Revenues in the fourth quarter of 2015 were down 10.5% compared to \$17.4 million in the fourth quarter last year. Decreased year-over-year revenues are attributable primarily to lower volume. The gross profit margin for the quarter decreased from the comparable prior year period primarily due to lower volume. Despite an increase in revenues, the sequential gross profit margin decreased due to reduction of inventory.

The Weighing and Control Systems segment net revenues improved to \$17.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2015, up 4.0% from \$16.4 million in the fourth quarter last year, and up 9.7% from \$15.6 million in the third quarter of 2015. Increased year-over-year and sequential revenues are attributable primarily to higher volume from our steel industry business and from our precision weighing business in Asia and Europe. The gross profit margin for the segment was 47.0% in the fourth quarter of 2015 (47.8% excluding the KELK acquisition purchase accounting adjustments of \$0.1 million) versus 41.6% in the fourth quarter of 2014 and 45.4% in the third quarter of 2015. The year-over-year and sequential increases in gross profit margin are primarily due to higher volume.

#### Optimize Core Competence

The Company's core competency and key value proposition is providing customers with proprietary foil technology products and precision measurement sensors and sensor-based systems. Our foil technology resistors and strain gages are recognized as global market leading products that provide high precision and high stability over extreme temperature ranges, and long life. Our force sensor products and our weighing and control systems products are also certified to meet some of the highest levels of precision measurements of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, and acceleration. While these competencies form a solid basis for our products, we believe there are several areas that can be optimized, including: increasing our technical sales efforts; continuing to innovate in product performance and design; and refining our manufacturing processes.

Our foil technology research group continues to provide innovations that enhance the capability and performance of our strain gages, while simultaneously reducing their size and power consumption as part of our advanced sensors product line. We believe this new foil technology will create new markets as customers "design in" these next generation products in existing and new applications. Our development engineering team is also responsible for creating new processes to further automate manufacturing, and improve productivity and quality. Our advanced sensors manufacturing technology offers us the capability to produce high-quality foil strain gages in a highly automated environment, which we expect to result in reduced manufacturing and lead times, and increased margins. The expected benefits of this highly automated approach are the basis for a significant portion of the restructuring efforts we undertook in 2015, and which we expect to continue in 2016.

Our design, research, and product development teams, in partnership with our marketing teams, drive our efforts to bring innovations to market. We intend to leverage our insights into customer demand to continually develop and roll out new, innovative products within our existing lines and to modify our existing core products in ways that make them more appealing, addressing changing customer needs and industry trends in terms of form, fit, and function. We also seek to achieve significant production cost savings through the transfer, expansion, and construction of manufacturing operations in countries such as India and Israel, where we can benefit from lower labor costs, improved efficiencies, or available tax and other government-sponsored incentives. For example, we continue to relocate our force sensor manufacturing from leased

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locations with higher labor cost to the owned facility we constructed in India. This consolidation of operations is part of our global restructuring and cost reduction program announced in November 2015.

#### Acquisition Strategy

We expect to continue to make strategic acquisitions where opportunities present themselves to grow our segments. Historically, our growth and acquisition strategy has been largely focused on vertical product integration, using our foil strain gages in our force sensor products, and incorporating those products into our weighing and control systems. The acquisitions of Stress-Tek and KELK, each of which employ our foil strain gages to manufacture load cells for their systems, continue this strategy. Additionally, the KELK acquisition resulted in the acquisition of certain optical sensor technology. Along with our recent success in MEMS technology for on-board weighing, we expect to expand our expertise, and our acquisition focus, outside our traditional vertical approach to other precision sensor solutions in the fields of measurement of force, weight, pressure, torque, tilt, motion, and acceleration. We believe acquired businesses will benefit from improvements we implement to reduce redundant functions and from our current global manufacturing and distribution footprint.

#### Research and Development

Research and development will continue to play a key role in our efforts to introduce innovative products to generate new sales and to improve profitability. We expect to continue to expand our position as a leading supplier of precision foil technology products. We believe our R&D efforts should provide us with a variety of opportunities to leverage technology, products, and our manufacturing base in order to ultimately improve our financial performance. The amount charged to expense for research and development aggregated \$9.6 million, \$10.1 million, and \$9.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

#### Cost Management

To be successful, we believe we must seek new strategies for controlling operating costs. Through automation in our plants, we believe we can optimize our capital and labor resources in production, inventory management, quality control, and warehousing. We are in the process of moving some manufacturing from higher-cost countries to lower-cost countries. This may enable us to become more efficient and cost competitive, and also maintain tighter controls of the operation.

Production transfers, facility consolidations, and other long-term cost-cutting measures require us to initially incur significant severance and other exit costs. We have begun to realize the benefits of our restructuring through lower labor costs and other operating expenses, and expect to continue reaping these benefits in future periods. However, these programs to improve our profitability also involve certain risks which could materially impact our future operating results, as further detailed in Part I, Item 1A “Risk Factors” of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The Company recorded restructuring costs of \$4.5 million, \$0.7 million, and \$0.5 million during the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. Restructuring costs were comprised of employee termination costs, including severance and statutory retirement allowances, and were incurred in connection with various cost reduction programs.

We are evaluating plans to further reduce our costs by consolidating additional manufacturing operations. These plans may require us to incur restructuring and severance costs in future periods. While streamlining and reducing fixed overhead, we are exercising caution so that we will not negatively impact our customer service, or our ability to further develop products and processes.

#### Foreign Currency

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risks, particularly due to transactions in currencies other than the functional currencies of certain subsidiaries. U.S. GAAP requires that entities identify the “functional currency” of each of their subsidiaries and measure all elements of the financial statements in that functional currency. A subsidiary’s functional currency is the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates. In cases where a subsidiary is relatively self-contained within a particular country, the local currency is generally deemed to be the functional currency. However, a foreign subsidiary that is a direct and integral component or extension of the parent company’s operations generally would have the parent company’s currency as its functional currency. We have subsidiaries that fall into each of these categories.

Foreign Subsidiaries which use the Local Currency as the Functional Currency

Our operations in Europe, Canada, and certain locations in Asia primarily generate and expend cash using local currencies, and accordingly, these subsidiaries utilize the local currency as their functional currency. For those subsidiaries where the local currency is the functional currency, assets and liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets have been translated at the rate of exchange as of the balance sheet date. Translation adjustments do not impact the results of operations and are reported as a separate component of equity.

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For those subsidiaries where the local currency is the functional currency, revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rate for the year. While the translation of revenues and expenses into U.S. dollars does not directly impact the consolidated statements of operations, the translation effectively increases or decreases the U.S. dollar equivalent of revenues generated and expenses incurred in those foreign currencies.

#### Foreign Subsidiaries which use the U.S. Dollar as the Functional Currency

Our operations in Israel and certain locations in Asia primarily generate cash in U.S. dollars, and accordingly, these subsidiaries utilize the U.S. dollar as their functional currency. For those foreign subsidiaries where the U.S. dollar is the functional currency, all foreign currency financial statement amounts are remeasured into U.S. dollars. Exchange gains and losses arising from remeasurement of foreign currency-denominated monetary assets and liabilities are included in the results of operations. While these subsidiaries transact most business in U.S. dollars, they may have significant costs, particularly related to payroll, which are incurred in the local currency.

#### Effects of Foreign Exchange Rate on Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2015, exchange rate impacts reduced net revenues by \$17.5 million, and reduced costs of products sold and selling, general, and administrative expenses by \$16.4 million, when compared to the prior year. For the year ended December 31, 2014, exchange rate impacts reduced net revenues by \$0.8 million, and costs of products sold and selling, general, and administrative expenses by \$1.2 million, when compared to the prior year. For the year ended December 31, 2013, exchange rate impacts reduced net revenues by \$2.1 million, and costs of products sold and selling, general, and administrative expenses by \$0.6 million, when compared to the prior year.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

#### Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements. We identify here a number of policies that entail significant judgments or estimates by management.

#### Revenue Recognition

We recognize revenue on product sales during the period when the sales process is complete. This generally occurs when products are shipped to the customer in accordance with terms of an agreement of sale, title and risk of loss have been transferred, collectability is reasonably assured, and pricing is fixed or determinable. For a small percentage of sales where title and risk of loss pass at the point of delivery, we recognize revenue upon delivery to the customer, assuming all other criteria for revenue recognition are met.

Some of our larger systems products have post-shipment obligations, such as customer acceptance, training, or installation. In such circumstances, revenue is deferred until the obligation has been completed, unless such obligation is deemed inconsequential and perfunctory.

Given the specialized nature of our products, we generally do not allow product returns.

#### Accounts Receivable

Our receivables represent a significant portion of our current assets. We are required to estimate the collectability of our receivables and to establish allowances for the amount of receivables that will prove uncollectible. We base these allowances on our historical collection experience, the length of time our receivables are outstanding, the financial circumstances of individual customers, and general business and economic conditions.

#### Inventories

We value our inventories at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined under the first-in, first-out method, and market based upon net realizable value. The valuation of our inventories requires our management to make market estimates. For work in process goods, we are required to estimate the cost to completion of the products and the prices at which we will be able to sell the products. For finished goods, we must assess the prices at which we believe the inventory can be sold. Inventories are also adjusted for estimated obsolescence and written down to net realizable value based upon estimates of future demand, technology developments, and market conditions.





#### Estimates of Restructuring and Severance Costs

To maintain our cost competitiveness, we are shifting manufacturing emphasis to more advanced automation in higher-cost regions and relocating production to regions with skilled workforces and relatively lower labor costs. We could also incur similar costs after we acquire companies.

These production transfers, facility consolidations, and other long-term cost-cutting measures require us to initially incur significant severance and other exit costs. We anticipate that we will realize the benefits of our restructuring efforts through lower labor costs and other operating expenses in future periods.

Restructuring and severance costs are expensed during the period in which we become obligated to pay those costs and all other requirements for accrual are met. Because transfers of manufacturing operations sometimes occur incrementally over a period, the expense initially recorded is often based on estimates.

Because these costs are recorded based on estimates, our actual expenditures for restructuring activities may differ from the initially recorded costs. If this happens, we will need to adjust our estimates in future periods, either by recording additional expenses in future periods if our initial estimates were too low, or by reversing part of the charges that we recorded initially if our initial estimates were too high.

#### Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill, indefinite-lived trademarks, and in-process research and development ("IPRD") assets are tested for impairment at least annually, and whenever events or changes in circumstances occur indicating that a possible impairment may have been incurred. We have the option to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining if it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment test. However, if we conclude otherwise, then we are required to perform the first step of the two-step impairment test by calculating the fair value of the reporting unit and comparing it against its carrying amount. We estimate the fair value of our reporting units by considering both an income approach and a market approach to valuation. The income approach to valuation uses our estimates of the future cash flows of the reporting unit discounted to their net present value using a discount rate determined using the capital asset pricing model and adjusted for the forecast risk inherent in our projections of future cash flows. The income approach to valuation is dependent on inputs from management such as expected revenue growth, profitability, capital expenditures, and working capital requirements. The market approach to valuation uses the market capitalization of public companies similar to the reporting unit to calculate an implied EBITDA multiple, and we apply that calculated EBITDA multiple to the expected EBITDA of the reporting unit to estimate the fair value of the reporting unit, after consideration of appropriate control premiums. We weigh the results of the income approach and the market approach to arrive at the estimated fair value of the reporting unit. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, then we are required to perform the second step of the goodwill impairment. To measure the amount of the impairment, we determine the implied fair value of goodwill in the same manner as if we had acquired those reporting units. Specifically, we must allocate the fair value of the reporting unit to all of the assets of that unit, including any unrecognized intangible assets, in a hypothetical calculation that would yield the implied fair value of goodwill. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the book value of the goodwill and the implied fair value of the goodwill computed in step two.

The indefinite-lived trade names are tested for impairment by comparing the carrying value to the fair value based on current revenue projections of the related operations, under the relief from royalty method. Any excess carrying value over the applicable fair value is recognized as impairment. Any impairment would be recognized in the reporting period in which it has been identified.

We estimate the fair value of our IPRD asset using an income approach to valuation, whereby we estimate the future cash flows associated with the IPRD and discount those cash flows back to their net present value using a discount rate determined using the capital asset pricing model, and adjusted for the forecast risk inherent in our projections of cash flows associated with this asset. Our estimates of cash flows include revenues to be generated by the products supported by the IPRD and the expected profits on those product sales.

Definite-lived assets, such as customer relationships, patents and acquired technology, non-competition agreements, and certain trade names are amortized on a straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. Patents and acquired technology are being amortized over useful lives of seven to twenty years. Customer relationships are being amortized over useful lives of five to eighteen years. Trade names are being amortized over useful lives of seven to ten years. Non-competition agreements are being amortized over periods of five to ten years. We continually evaluate the reasonableness of the useful lives of these assets. Additionally, we review the carrying values of these assets for possible impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable based on undiscounted estimated cash flows expected to result from its use and eventual disposition.

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During 2015 and 2014, we recognized impairment losses associated with the goodwill and indefinite lived intangible assets from the KELK acquisition, which were recognized in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 and the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014. The impairments were driven principally by the impacts of excess steel manufacturing capacity, particularly in China, on our current and forecasted sales of product manufactured and sold by the reporting unit with the impairment losses. After considering the impact of the impairment charges, the carrying value of goodwill, indefinite-lived trade names, and IPRD of this reporting unit as of December 31, 2015 was \$6.2 million, \$1.0 million, and \$0.1 million, respectively. The carrying values of goodwill, indefinite-lived trade names, and IPRD of this reporting unit as of December 31, 2014 were \$12.8 million, \$1.4 million, and \$0.1 million, respectively. Additional impairments could be recognized in the future to the extent that actual future operating results of the reporting unit are less favorable than those included in the forecasts used to derive our estimates of the fair value of the reporting unit, trade name, and IPRD. We believe that our estimates of the future operating performance of the reporting unit are reasonable in the circumstances and were based on the best available information as of the dates of our impairment tests.

#### Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

We assess the impairment of our long-lived assets, other than goodwill and other intangible assets, including property and equipment, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors we consider important, which could trigger an impairment review, include significant changes in the manner of our use of the asset, changes in historical or projected operating performance, and significant negative economic trends.

#### Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits

Accounting for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans involves numerous assumptions and estimates. The discount rate at which obligations could effectively be settled and the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets are two critical assumptions in measuring the cost and benefit obligations of our pension and other postretirement benefit plans. Other important assumptions include the anticipated rate of future increases in compensation levels, estimated mortality, and for postretirement medical plans, increases or trends in health care costs. Management reviews these assumptions at least annually. We use independent actuaries to assist us in formulating assumptions and making estimates. These assumptions are updated periodically to reflect the actual experience and expectations on a plan-specific basis, as appropriate.

Our defined benefit plans are concentrated in the United States and the United Kingdom. Plans in these countries comprise approximately 88% of our retirement obligations at December 31, 2015. We utilize published long-term high-quality bond indices to determine the discount rate at the measurement date. We utilize bond yields at various maturity dates to reflect the timing of expected future benefit payments. We believe the discount rates selected are the rates at which these obligations could effectively be settled.

For benefit plans which are funded, we establish strategic asset allocation percentage targets and appropriate benchmarks for significant asset classes with the aim of achieving a prudent balance between return and risk. We set the expected long-term rate of return based on the expected long-term average rates of return to be achieved by the underlying investment portfolios. In establishing this rate, we consider historical and expected returns for the asset classes in which the plans are invested, advice from pension consultants and investment advisors, and current economic and capital market conditions. The expected return on plan assets is incorporated into the computation of pension expense. The difference between this expected return and the actual return on plan assets is deferred. We believe that the current assumptions used to estimate plan obligations and annual expense are appropriate in the current economic environment. However, if economic conditions change, we may be inclined to change some of our assumptions, and the resulting change could have a material impact on the consolidated statements of operations and on the consolidated balance sheets.

#### Income Taxes

Our income tax expense, deferred tax assets and liabilities, and reserves for unrecognized tax benefits are based on our best assessment of estimated current and future taxes to be paid and our ability to realize deferred tax assets. We are subject to income taxes in the United States and numerous foreign jurisdictions. Significant judgments and estimates must be made to determine our consolidated income tax expense as presented in our financial statements.

Deferred income taxes arise from temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements, which will result in taxable or deductible amounts in the future. In assessing our ability to realize deferred tax assets, we consider a number of factors including historic operating results, availability of future earnings, the economic environment, the nature and character of the income and the existence of cost effective tax planning strategies. This assessment requires significant judgment. If we determine that deferred tax assets are not more likely than not to be realized, we record a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets to a level that is expected to be realized. If we subsequently determine that

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realization of a deferred tax asset becomes more likely than not, a valuation allowance will be reversed. Any increase or decrease in our valuation allowances could have a significant impact on our financial results.

Future changes in tax laws and tax rates can also affect recorded deferred tax assets and liabilities. We are not aware of any imminent changes that would have a material effect on our results of operations, cash flows, or financial position.

The calculation of our tax liabilities involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax laws and regulations in a multitude of jurisdictions. Under Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 740, Income Taxes, a benefit from an uncertain tax position may be recognized when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation based on the technical merits of the position.

We record unrecognized tax benefits as liabilities in accordance with ASC 740 and adjust any liability when our judgment changes as a result of the evaluation of new information. Because of the complexity associated with uncertain tax positions, the ultimate determination of the tax due in a jurisdiction may result in a payment that is materially different from our most recent estimate of the liability. Any difference will increase or decrease income tax expense in periods before the final determination is made.

As of December 31, 2015, we believe that we will reverse approximately \$0.3 million to \$0.5 million of our current unrecognized tax benefits within the calendar year due to the expiration of the statute of limitations in certain jurisdictions. In addition, we believe we will recognize approximately \$0.1 million to \$0.3 million of current unrecognized tax benefits within the calendar year as a result of cash payments made to the taxing authorities.

We consider the earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries to be indefinitely invested outside the United States based on our estimates that future domestic cash generation will be sufficient to meet future domestic cash needs and our plans for reinvestment of foreign subsidiary earnings. Withholding taxes of approximately \$14.5 million would be payable upon remittance of all previously unremitted earnings at December 31, 2015. If we decide to distribute earnings to the United States from a foreign country, we would adjust our income tax provision in the period we determine that the earnings are no longer indefinitely invested outside the United States.

On July 6, 2010, we entered into a Tax Matters Agreement with Vishay Intertechnology under which Vishay Intertechnology will be responsible for all income taxes for periods before the date of the spin-off other than those taxes for which a liability was recorded on our books at the time of the spin-off. Vishay Intertechnology is also principally responsible for managing any income tax audits by the various tax jurisdictions for pre-spin-off periods. Additional information about income taxes is included in Note 6 to our consolidated financial statements.

Results of Operations – Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013

Statement of operations' captions as a percentage of net revenues and the effective tax rates were as follows:

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	
Costs of products sold	63.7	% 63.7	% 65.0	%
Gross profit	36.3	% 36.3	% 35.0	%
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	30.7	% 30.8	% 31.0	%
Operating income	1.4	% 3.0	% 3.4	%
Income before taxes	0.2	% 2.3	% 2.4	%
Net (loss) earnings	(5.6)	)% 1.3	% 1.9	%
Net (loss) earnings attributable to VPG stockholders	(5.6)	)% 1.2	% 1.9	%
Effective tax rate	2,668.0	% 44.5	% 21.8	%

Net Revenues

Net revenues were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net revenues	\$232,178	\$250,028	\$238,589
Change versus prior year	\$(17,850)	) \$11,439	
Percentage change versus prior year	(7.1	)% 4.8	%
Changes in net revenues were attributable to the following:		2015 vs. 2014	2014 vs. 2013
Change attributable to:			
Change in volume		(0.1	)% 5.3
Change in average selling prices		(0.1	)% (0.2)
Foreign currency effects		(7.0	)% (0.3)
Other		0.1	% —
Net change		(7.1	)% 4.8

During the year ended December, 31, 2015, revenues decreased 7.1% over the prior year, mainly due to exchange rate effects, which impacted all segments. The primary currencies contributing to this impact were the British pound, Canadian dollar, euro, Japanese yen, and Swedish krona.

During the year ended December, 31, 2014, revenues increased 4.8% over the prior year, mainly due to an increase in volume from both the Foil Technology Products and Force Sensors segments. The increase was partially offset by the decline in revenues in the Weighing and Control Systems segment, coming mainly from a decline in our steel industry business, related to excess capacity at steel mills.

Gross Profit Margin

Gross profit as a percentage of net revenues was as follows:

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	
Gross profit margin	36.3	% 36.3	% 35.0	%

The gross profit margin for the year ended December 31, 2015 remained flat when compared with the prior year. An increase in gross profit margin in the Foil Technology Products segment was offset by decreases in gross profit margin in the Force Sensors and Weighing and Control Systems segments, as compared to the prior year.

The gross profit margin for the year ended December 31, 2014 increased compared to the prior year. However, after adjusting for the KELK acquisition purchase accounting adjustments recorded in 2013, the gross profit margin is down slightly from the prior year. The KELK acquisition purchase accounting adjustments increased costs of products sold during 2013 by \$4.9 million, thereby impacting the gross profit margin. Excluding these adjustments, the gross profit margin would have been 36.9% for the year ended December 31, 2013. Higher manufacturing costs in the Foil Technology Products segment have kept the overall gross profit margin fairly flat as compared to the prior year.

Segments

Analysis of revenues and gross profit margins for our reportable segments is provided below.

Foil Technology Products

Net revenues of the Foil Technology Products segment were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net revenues	\$104,460	\$107,758	\$97,045
Change versus prior year	\$(3,298)	) \$10,713	
Percentage change versus prior year	(3.1	)% 11.0	%

Changes in Foil Technology Products segment net revenues were attributable to the following:

	2015 vs. 2014		2014 vs. 2013	
Change attributable to:				
Change in volume	2.8	% 12.3	%	%
Change in average selling prices	0.1	% (0.4	)%	)%
Foreign currency effects	(5.8	)% (0.6	)%	)%
Other	(0.2	)% (0.3	)%	)%
Net change	(3.1	)% 11.0	%	%

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the impact of improved volume was offset by foreign currency effects, primarily relating to the euro and the Japanese yen.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the volume improvement over the prior year reflects higher shipments in 2014, primarily in the Americas and Asia, as this segment recovered from the effects of the ERP implementation in 2013, which led to lower shipments during that year.

Gross profit as a percentage of net revenues for the Foil Technology Products segment was as follows:

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	
Gross profit margin	39.9	% 39.0	% 38.4	%

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the gross profit margin improved as compared to the prior year. Volume increases and lower variable costs helped to offset the impact of negative exchange rate effects.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, despite the significant improvement in revenues, the gross profit margin increased less than 1% when compared to the prior year. This is mainly due to higher manufacturing costs within this segment, including additional costs associated with the expansion of our advanced sensors platform.

#### Force Sensors

Net revenues of the Force Sensors segment were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net revenues	\$61,048	\$68,301	\$64,846
Change versus prior year	\$(7,253)	) \$3,455	
Percentage change versus prior year	(10.6	)% 5.3	%

Changes in Force Sensors segment net revenues were attributable to the following:

	2015 vs. 2014		2014 vs. 2013	
Change attributable to:				
Change in volume	(6.5	)% 4.8	%	
Change in average selling prices	(0.1	)% (0.1	)%	
Foreign currency effects	(4.4	)% 0.8	%	
Other	0.4	% (0.2	)%	
Net change	(10.6	)% 5.3	%	

For the year ended December 31, 2015, revenues decreased from the prior year. The decrease in volume, coupled with negative foreign currency effects, primarily relating to the euro and the British pound, were the main drivers of the decline. The reduction in volume is primarily due to weakness in the precision weighing market sector.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, revenues increased from the prior year period due to increased volume in our sales of load cell products to OEMs and distributors, as well as the positive effect of foreign currency exchange rates.

Gross profit as a percentage of net revenues for the Force Sensors segment was as follows:

	Years ended December 31,			
	2015	2014	2013	
Gross profit margin	20.5	% 21.8	% 21.1	%

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the gross profit margin decreased when compared to the prior year primarily due to the volume decrease and negative foreign currency impacts described above.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the gross profit margin increased when compared to the prior year due to the volume increase described above, as well as operating efficiencies resulting from the movement of production to our production facility in India.



Weighing and Control Systems

Net revenues of the Weighing and Control Systems segment were as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net revenues	\$66,670	\$73,969	\$76,698
Change versus prior year	\$(7,299)	\$(2,729)	
Percentage change versus prior year	(9.9)%	(3.6)%	

Changes in Weighing and Control Systems segment net revenues were attributable to the following: