

ESTERLINE TECHNOLOGIES CORP
Form DEF 14A
January 29, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only

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Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12

Esterline Technologies Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND PROXY STATEMENT

ESTERLINE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

500 108th Avenue NE

Bellevue, Washington 98004

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held March 11, 2015

To the Shareholders of Esterline Technologies Corporation:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders for ESTERLINE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. (local time), at the Seattle offices of Perkins Coie LLP, 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900, Seattle, Washington, for the following purposes:

- (1) to elect as directors of the Company the three nominees named in the attached proxy statement;
- (2) to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2014;
- (3) to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 2, 2015; and

(4) to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on January 13, 2015, as the record date for determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. Members of the Company's management will not make any formal presentations as part of the annual meeting, but will be available to address questions from shareholders, as appropriate.

The Company's Annual Report for fiscal year 2014 is provided for your convenience.

By order of the Board of Directors

/s/ AMY L. WATSON

AMY L. WATSON
Associate General Counsel and

Corporate Secretary

January 29, 2015

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held March 11, 2015

This proxy statement, which is first being provided to shareholders on or about January 29, 2015, has been prepared in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Esterline Technologies Corporation (the Company) of proxies in the accompanying form to be voted at the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders of the Company to be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. (local time), at the Seattle offices of Perkins Coie LLP, 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900, Seattle, Washington 98101, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. The Company's principal executive office is at 500 108 Avenue NE, Suite 1500, Bellevue, Washington 98004.

Shareholders are being asked to vote on three proposals at the 2015 annual meeting:

- (1) to elect as directors of the Company three nominees: Delores M. Etter, Mary L. Howell and Gary E. Pruitt to the class of directors whose term will expire at the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders;
- (2) to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2014; and
- (3) to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 2, 2015.

In addition, you may be asked to consider any other business properly presented at the 2015 annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the annual meeting. Members of the Company's management will not make any formal presentations as part of the 2015 annual meeting, but will be available to address questions from shareholders, as appropriate.

The cost of this solicitation will be borne by the Company. In addition to solicitation by mail, officers and employees of the Company may, without additional compensation, solicit the return of proxies by telephone, messenger, facsimile transmission or personal interview. Arrangements may also be made with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to send proxies and proxy material to their principals and the Company may reimburse such persons for their expenses in so doing. The Company has retained MacKenzie Partners, Inc. to provide proxy solicitation services for a fee of \$10,000, plus reimbursement of its out-of-pocket expenses.

Registered shareholders can vote in person, by Internet, by telephone or by mail, as described below. If you are a beneficial shareholder, please refer to the information forwarded by your broker, bank or other holder of record to see what options are available to you. Registered shareholders may cast their vote by:

- (1) Attending and voting in person at the annual meeting;
- (2) Accessing the Internet website specified in the Notice of Internet Availability and following the instructions provided on the website (or if printed copies of the proxy materials were requested, as specified in the printed proxy card);
- (3) Calling the telephone number specified in the Notice of Internet Availability and voting by following the instructions provided on the phone line (or if copies of the proxy materials were requested, as specified in the printed proxy card); or

(4) Requesting a printed proxy card and completing, signing, dating and promptly mailing the proxy card in the envelope provided. Any proxy given pursuant to the solicitation may be revoked at any time prior to being voted. A proxy may be revoked by the record holder or other person entitled to vote (a) by attending the meeting in person and voting the shares, (b) by executing another proxy dated as of a later date, or (c) by notifying the Secretary of the Company in writing, at the Company's address set forth on the notice of the meeting, provided that such notice is received by the Secretary prior to the meeting date. All shares represented by valid proxies will be voted at the meeting. Proxies will be voted in accordance with the specification made therein or, in the absence of specification, in accordance with the provisions of the proxy.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on January 13, 2015, as the record date for determining the holders of common stock of the Company (the Common Stock) entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. The Common Stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange. At the close of business on the record date there were outstanding and entitled to vote 31,279,909 shares of Common Stock, which are entitled to one vote per share on all matters which properly come before the annual meeting.

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote is required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting. The inspector of elections, who determines whether or not a quorum is present at the annual meeting, will count abstentions and broker non-votes, which are discussed further below, as shares of Common Stock that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. There must be a quorum for the meeting to be held. The Company has appointed Computershare as the inspector of elections for the annual meeting. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the annual meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the annual meeting.

For Proposal One regarding the election of directors, each nominee must receive an affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast, either in person or represented by proxy at the meeting, to be elected to the Board of Directors. Shareholders are not entitled to cumulate votes in electing directors. For Proposal Two (regarding the advisory vote on the executive compensation of the Company s named executive officers) and Proposal Three (regarding the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2015), the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast will be required for approval of the proposals. The votes on Proposal Two (regarding executive compensation) and Proposal Three (regarding the ratification of our independent auditors) are advisory in nature and are nonbinding.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be considered votes cast with respect to Proposals One, Two and Three and as a result, they will have no effect on the vote relating to those proposals. Broker non-votes occur when a person holding shares through a bank or brokerage account does not provide instructions as to how his or her shares should be voted and the broker does not exercise discretion to vote those shares on a particular matter. Brokers may not exercise discretion to vote shares as to non-routine matters, which at the 2015 annual meeting include the election of directors or the advisory votes on executive compensation. Brokers may exercise discretion to vote shares as to which instructions are not given with respect to routine matters, which at the 2015 annual meeting include the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company s independent registered public accounting firm.

PROPOSAL ONE:

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company s Amended and Restated Bylaws provide for a board of directors that consists of not less than seven (7) or more than twelve (12) members, as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Company s Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that the directors will be divided into three classes, with the classes serving for staggered, three-year terms such that approximately one-third of the directors are elected each year.

Effective October 28, 2013, Mr. Curtis C. Reusser was appointed as the Company s President and CEO, succeeding Mr. R. Bradley Lawrence who continued as Executive Chairman until immediately following the Company s 2014 annual meeting. Also effective October 28, 2013, the Board increased the size of the board to eleven directors and elected Mr. Reusser to fill the vacancy. Upon the effectiveness of Mr. Lawrence s retirement on March 5, 2014, by resolution of the Board of Directors, the number of authorized members of the Board of Directors was reduced to ten, and Mr. Reusser was named Chairman of the Board.

Mandatory Retirement

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines require directors to tender their resignation prior to the annual meeting of shareholders following their 72nd birthday. In accordance with this policy, Mr. Jerry D. Leitman will retire as a director to be effective at the conclusion of the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders. By resolution of the Board of Directors effective at the end of the 2015 annual meeting, the Board of Directors will accept Mr. Leitman's resignation and reduce the number of authorized members of the Board of Directors to nine.

Majority Voting in Director Elections

Pursuant to the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws, a director nominee is elected to the Board if the votes cast for the nominee exceed the votes cast against the nominee. Abstentions will have no effect on the election of directors since only votes For or Against a nominee will be counted.

Under the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board will nominate only those persons who tender, in advance, irrevocable resignations, which are effective upon a director's failure to receive the required vote at any annual meeting at which they are nominated for re-election and Board acceptance of the resignation. The Board will act on the resignation, taking into account the recommendation of the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee, and publicly disclose its decision within 90 days from the date of the certification of the election results. Any director who tenders such a resignation in accordance with the Corporate Governance Guidelines will not participate in the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee recommendation or Board decision on the resignation. If the Board does not accept the resignation, the director will continue to serve until the next annual meeting and until his or her successor is duly elected, or until his or her earlier resignation or removal. If the Board accepts the resignation, then the Board, in its sole discretion, may fill any resulting vacancy or may decrease the size of the Board as provided for and in accordance with the Bylaws.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR its director nominees named below.

Information as to each nominee and each director whose term will continue after the 2015 annual meeting is provided below. Unless otherwise instructed, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote shares represented by properly executed proxies FOR the election of the nominees named below. The Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of its nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve. If any nominee becomes unavailable to serve, the Board of Directors intends for the persons named as proxies to vote for the election of such other persons, if any, as the Board of Directors may recommend.

Nominees to the class of directors whose term will expire at the 2018 annual meeting:

Delores M. Etter

Director, Caruth Institute for Engineering Education and Texas Instruments

Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education, Southern Methodist University. Age 67.

Dr. Etter has been the Director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education and the Texas Instruments Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education at Southern Methodist University since June 2008. She is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society for Engineering Education. She is also a director of LORD Corporation and Stantec Inc. She has been a director of the Company since 2010.

Dr. Etter has had multiple, substantive experiences within the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as serving on the faculty at public and private institutions, including the U.S. Naval Academy. This experience, coupled with her deep technical knowledge, and her familiarity with the Joint Strike Fighter and other military aircraft, enable Dr. Etter to provide insight and guidance to management and the Board.

Mary L. Howell

Executive Vice President (Retired), Textron, Inc. Age 62.

Prior to January 2010, Ms. Howell was the Executive Vice President of Textron, Inc. (a multi-industry company serving aircraft, automotive, defense, industrial, and finance businesses), having held such position since August 1995. Ms. Howell is also a board member of the Atlantic Council of the United States and Vectrus, Inc. She has been a director of the Company since 2011.

Ms. Howell has had extensive experience in the commercial and military markets. She has deep expertise in marketing, sales and business development. She served on the boards of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Aerospace Industries Association. Further, her former experience as a board member of FM Global has given her insight to sophisticated risk management practices.

Gary E. Pruitt

Chairman (Retired), Univar Inc. Age 64.

Prior to November 2010, Mr. Pruitt was the Chairman of Univar Inc. (a leading chemical distributor), having held such position since June 2002. In addition, he also served as Chief Executive Officer from June 2002 to October 2009. He is also a director of Itron, Inc., Premera Blue Cross, and PS Business Parks, Inc., and is a trustee of Public Storage, Inc. He has been a director of the Company since 2009.

Mr. Pruitt brings extensive knowledge of growing and directing a large, complex, global company. Mr. Pruitt also is familiar with the nuances of international taxation, as he has significant experience in capital structure and treasury management. This unique set of skills is valuable to the Board, as the Company has material portions of the business located outside of the U.S., as well as a complex organizational tax structure.

Continuing directors:

Anthony P. Franceschini

President and Chief Executive Officer (Retired), Stantec Inc. Age 63.

Prior to May 2009, Mr. Franceschini was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Stantec Inc. (an engineering, architecture and related professional services design firm), having held such positions since June 1998. He has served and continues to serve as a director of Stantec Inc. since March 1994. He is chairman of the board for ZCL Composites Inc. and also a director of Aecon Group Inc. and two other private companies. He has been a director of the Company since 2002 and his current term expires in 2017.

Mr. Franceschini has substantive experience in the area of mergers and acquisitions, having guided Stantec Inc. through a period of significant growth facilitated through many successful acquisitions. His understanding of the acquisition process and post-acquisition integration is beneficial to the Board and management. Additionally, as a Canadian citizen, Mr. Franceschini's familiarity with Canadian business and banking practices is supportive of Esterline's investments in Canada.

Paul V. Haack

Senior Partner (Retired), Deloitte & Touche LLP. Age 64.

Prior to 2006, Mr. Haack was a Senior Partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP (a public accounting firm) in their Chicago office, primarily serving companies in the aerospace and defense industry. He is currently a trustee of the University of Montana Foundation. He has been a director of the Company since 2006, and his current term expires in 2016.

Mr. Haack has extensive financial and accounting expertise gained from his many years with Deloitte & Touche LLP. He also has experience in complex mergers and acquisitions and capital structure issues gained from involvement in transactions during his career. Also, he has experience in the aerospace and defense industry, having worked with many companies in the industry as one of Deloitte's practice leaders in aerospace and defense.

Scott E. Kuechle

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Retired), Goodrich Corporation. Age 55.

Prior to July 2012, Mr. Kuechle was the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Goodrich Corporation (an aerospace and defense company) since August 2005. He is also a director of Kaman Corporation and Wesco Aircraft Holdings, Inc. He has been a director of the Company since December 2012, and his current term expires in 2016.

Mr. Kuechle's extensive experience within the aerospace & defense industry, coupled with his deep financial expertise, provide the Board with a powerful skillset to draw upon as the Company continues to execute its strategic plan with a focus on organic sales growth and good-fit mergers and acquisitions.

James J. Morris

Vice President, Engineering and Manufacturing (Retired), The Boeing Company. Age 66.

Prior to 2007, Mr. Morris was the Vice President, Engineering and Manufacturing, of The Boeing Commercial Airplane Company (a global aircraft manufacturing company), having held such position since 2005. He is a Principal at J2 Ventures and is a director of Héroux-Devtek Inc., JURA Corporation, and LORD Corporation. He has been a director of the Company since 2007 and his current term expires in 2017.

Mr. Morris' experience in supply chain management, engineering, and manufacturing at The Boeing Commercial Airplane Company and within Boeing's helicopter business, as well as his continuing involvement in the aerospace industry, adds a depth of knowledge of the aerospace business, as well as a global perspective to the Board that is difficult to replicate. Mr. Morris has a solid understanding of the complexities involved in the dynamics of a low volume, high mix manufacturing environment found in many of Esterline's operations.

Curtis C. Reusser

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Esterline Technologies Corporation. Age 54

Mr. Reusser has been Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since March 2014. Prior to that time, he was President and Chief Executive Officer from October 2013 to March 2014. Previously, he was President, Aircraft Systems of UTC Aerospace Systems for United Technologies Corporation (a provider of a broad range of high-technology products and services to the global aerospace and building systems industries) from July 2012 to October 2013. Prior to that time, he was President of the Electronic Systems segment of Goodrich Corporation (an aerospace and defense company) from January 2008 to July 2012. He has been a director of the Company since October 2013 and his current term expires in 2016.

Mr. Reusser brings to the Board over 30 years of experience in the aerospace and defense industry. With his engineering background and substantive leadership experience at Goodrich Corporation and United Technologies Corporation, Mr. Reusser adds a hands-on dynamic to the Board. Mr. Reusser has direct experience in growing and leading businesses that are complementary to Esterline's, including sensors and systems, power systems, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. As Chairman, President and CEO of Esterline, these experiences add significantly to the Company's operations and marketing strategy deployment.

Henry W. Winship IV

Principal and Senior Managing Director, Relational Investors LLC. Age 47.

Mr. Winship has been Principal and Senior Managing Director of Relational Investors LLC (an investment advisory firm) since April 2011. Prior to that time, he was a Principal and Managing Director since 2004. Mr. Winship is also a member of Relational Investors' Investment Committee. He has been a director of the Company since December 2012 and his current term expires in 2017.

Mr. Winship has over 20 years of experience in investment management, accounting and financial management. Mr. Winship adds the perspective of a large shareholder to the Board, as well as diverse industry experience and expertise in capital allocation. Mr. Winship has extensive experience in financial analysis of industrial and aerospace companies and possesses significant knowledge of business strategy development and merger and acquisition valuation and analysis.

OTHER INFORMATION AS TO DIRECTORS

Director Compensation

The following table describes the compensation earned by persons who served as non-employee directors during fiscal 2014. Employees of the Company serving on the Board or committees received no additional compensation for such service.

Name	Fees Earned or			Total
	Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	All Other Compensation	
	(\$) (1)	(\$) (2)	\$	(\$)
Delores M. Etter	\$ 70,000	\$ 100,000	\$	\$ 170,000
Anthony P. Franceschini	67,500	100,000		167,500
Paul V. Haack	92,500	100,000		192,500
Mary L. Howell	82,500	100,000		182,500
Scott E. Kuechle	75,000	100,000		175,000
Jerry D. Leitman	65,000	100,000		165,000
James J. Morris	80,000	100,000		180,000
Gary E. Pruitt	77,500	100,000		177,500
Henry W. Winship IV	62,500	100,000		162,500

(1) Amounts in this column represent retainers and chair fees.

(2) Amounts in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value of awards granted during fiscal 2014, computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (ASC 718).

For the first three quarters of fiscal 2014, the Company paid the following cash fees to non-employee directors:

Non-Employee Director Annual Retainer	\$ 45,000
Lead Independent Director Additional Annual Retainer	25,000
Audit Committee Member Annual Retainer	12,500
Audit Committee Chair Additional Annual Retainer	12,500
Compensation Committee Member Annual Retainer	7,500
Compensation Committee Chair Additional Annual Retainer	7,500
Regulatory Compliance Subcommittee Member Annual Retainer	7,500
Regulatory Compliance Subcommittee Committee Chair Additional Annual Retainer	7,500
Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee Member Annual Retainer	5,000
Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee Chair Additional Annual Retainer	5,000
Strategy & Technology Committee Member Annual Retainer	5,000
Strategy & Technology Committee Chair Additional Annual Retainer	7,500

The Compensation Committee reviews director remuneration regularly, and seeks information and advice from its compensation consultant, Semler Brossy, to assist the Committee's consideration. Pursuant to such a review, the Committee recommended and the Board approved changes in the fee amounts in June 2014. The fee increases were based on updated market benchmark information concerning practices common among the 18-company peer group the Company references for purposes of making executive pay comparisons, and based on public company practices more generally. Further information about the peer group can be found in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement starting on page 12. In summary, the changes in director remuneration were made to: (1) increase the total amount of director remuneration to a more competitive level; and (2) retain a sound balance between equity-based compensation and cash fees. For these reasons, the annual retainer for non-employee directors was increased from \$45,000 to \$55,000 and the amount of annual stock compensation was also increased by \$10,000 as described further below.

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All annual retainers are paid quarterly in arrears. The Company also reimburses non-employee directors for reasonable expenses incurred in attending Board and committee meetings.

In addition, the Company makes an annual issuance of fully-paid Common Stock to each non-employee director serving on the Board the day after each annual meeting of shareholders. In fiscal 2014, each non-employee director was issued \$100,000 of fully-paid Common Stock. Due to the increase in stock compensation approved by the Board in June 2014, the annual issuance increased to \$110,000 worth of fully-paid Common Stock, which will be paid in March 2015 to non-employee directors whose service will continue past the 2015 annual meeting. The number of shares of Common Stock issued is determined based on the closing price of our Common Stock on the date of the annual meeting, as reported in the Wall Street Journal the following day. During fiscal 2014, shares to non-employee directors were issued under the Company's 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. Board policy requires non-employee directors to acquire and hold shares of the Company's Common Stock that are equal to or greater in value than five times the amount of the annual cash retainer for Board service, which is currently \$55,000, as described above. All non-employee directors, other than Mr. Kuechle and Mr. Winship, are to achieve this stock ownership level by the end of the second fiscal quarter of 2017, and met the share ownership requirement as of the end of fiscal 2014. Mr. Kuechle and Mr. Winship are to achieve the required ownership level by the fifth anniversary of their election to the Board, or December 2017, and have made substantial progress toward the ownership requirement as of the end of fiscal 2014.

Board and Board Committees

There were eight meetings of the Board of Directors during fiscal 2014. During fiscal 2014, each director attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and Board committees of which he/she was a member.

The Board recognizes that there is no single best approach to the structure of Board leadership and therefore, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that there shall be a Chairman of the Board who may or may not be a member of management. In the event the Chairman is a member of management, a Lead Independent Director shall be selected from among the non-management directors. This gives the Board the flexibility to structure the Board's leadership in the best interests of the Company. Currently, Mr. Reusser serves as the Chairman of the Board, and due to Mr. Reusser's current position with the Company, Mr. Haack currently serves as the Lead Independent Director.

The Chairman of the Board, if a non-management director, presides over executive sessions of non-management directors, which are held on a regular basis, generally at each scheduled Board meeting. Because the Chairman of the Board is an employee of the Company, the Lead Independent Director, Mr. Haack, presides over the sessions. Non-management directors who are considered independent under the NYSE independence listing standards also meet in executive session at least once annually. In addition, the Audit Committee has adopted the practice of reserving time at each meeting to meet without members of Company management present. The Compensation Committee and the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee also have adopted a similar practice of meeting periodically without members of Company management present.

Board's Role in Risk Oversight. The Company has traditionally identified and evaluated risk as part of its annual strategic planning process (carried out through its business units) and will continue to do so. Beginning in 2009, the Company developed and implemented an enterprise risk management program (ERM) which incorporates the business unit risk assessments. The Company's ERM program is a systematic approach to risk assessment and mitigation, which is designed to measure, manage and aggregate risks on an enterprise-wide basis. Under the Company's ERM program, management identifies various risks facing the Company and assesses such risks by likelihood of occurrence and potential impact on earnings. Management has the responsibility for developing an action plan to address, mitigate or monitor such risks. Management updates the ERM program annually to reassess existing risk profiles and to identify new risks that may need to be incorporated into the assessment.

The Board of Directors has chosen to retain overall responsibility for overseeing risk assessment in light of the interrelated nature of the elements of risk, rather than delegating this responsibility to a Board committee. As described below, the Board receives assistance from certain of its committees for the identification and monitoring of those risks that are related to the committees' areas of focus as described in each committee charter. The Board and its committees exercise their risk oversight function by carefully evaluating management reports and making inquiries of management regarding material risk exposures and the steps taken to control such exposure.

The Audit Committee reviews risks related to internal controls, disclosure, financial reporting, and legal and compliance activity. Among other processes, the Audit Committee meets regularly in executive sessions with our internal and external auditors as well as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer. In addition, the

Audit Committee formed a Regulatory Compliance Subcommittee in August 2013 to support and enhance the Audit Committee's oversight of the Company's risk management and related activities associated with trade compliance. More specifically, the Subcommittee was delegated the authority to oversee the Company's compliance activities and program development resulting from its obligations under the Consent Agreement entered into in March 2014 with the U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance (DDTC) to resolve alleged International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) civil violations.

The Compensation Committee reviews risks associated with the Company's compensation programs, to ensure that incentive compensation arrangements for employees do not encourage inappropriate risk taking, as described more fully under the Statement Regarding Compensation Practices section in this proxy statement on page 34.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors currently does not have a policy with regard to director attendance at the Company's annual shareholders meeting; however, it schedules the second fiscal quarter meeting of the Board of Directors on the same date as the annual shareholders meeting to facilitate director attendance at the annual meeting. All but one of the Company's directors then-serving as a director attended the annual shareholders meeting in 2014.

Board Independence. The Board has reviewed the relationships between the Company and each director and has determined that a majority of the directors are independent for purposes of the NYSE corporate governance listing standards. In accordance with these listing standards, the Board adopted its own set of specified criteria, identified in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines which are posted on the Company's website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab, to assist it in determining whether any relationship between a director and the Company impairs independence. Using the adopted criteria, the Board affirmatively determined that all of the directors, other than Mr. Reusser, are independent under the NYSE listing standards. Mr. Reusser does not meet NYSE independence listing standards due to his current positions as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Lawrence, the Company's former Executive Chairman and Senior Advisor, served as a director until March 2014, and was not independent because he was an executive officer of the Company during his tenure as Executive Chairman.

The Audit Committee currently consists of directors Pruitt (Chairman), Haack, Howell, Kuechle and Morris, each of whom is independent in accordance with applicable rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and NYSE listing standards. The Audit Committee selects and retains the independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Company's annual financial statements, approves the terms of the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm and reviews and approves the fees charged for audits and for any non-audit assignments. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, a copy of which is posted on the Company's website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab. The Audit Committee's responsibilities also include, among others, overseeing (1) the integrity of the Company's financial statements, which includes reviewing the scope and results of the annual audit by the independent registered public accounting firm, any recommendations of the independent registered public accounting firm resulting therefrom and management's response thereto and the accounting principles being applied by the Company in financial reporting, (2) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (3) the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence, (4) the performance of the Company's internal auditors and the independent registered public accounting firm, and (5) such other related matters as may be assigned to it by the Board of Directors. The Audit Committee met eight times during fiscal 2014.

The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Haack, Kuechle and Pruitt each qualify as an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 407 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC and that each Audit Committee member has accounting and financial management literacy under NYSE listing standards.

In August 2013, the Audit Committee formed a Regulatory Compliance Subcommittee to support and enhance the Audit Committee's oversight of the Company's risk management and related activities associated with trade compliance. The Subcommittee's oversight is focused on the Company's compliance activities resulting from its obligations under the Consent Agreement. The Regulatory Compliance Subcommittee currently consists of directors Howell (Chair), Etter, Kuechle and Morris.

The Compensation Committee currently consists of directors Franceschini (Chairman), Etter, Haack, Leitman and Winship, each of whom is independent in accordance with applicable NYSE listing standards. The Compensation Committee develops, evaluates and recommends to the independent members of the Board for its approval corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer; evaluates the Chief Executive Officer's performance and that of other corporate officers in light of corporate goals and objectives; develops, evaluates and decides the form and level of compensation for the CEO and other officers of the Company; recommends compensation for Board members; oversees the Company's succession planning process; and is responsible for performing the other related responsibilities set forth in its written charter, which is posted on the Company's website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab. The Compensation Committee also administers the Company's equity and incentive compensation plans for officers and senior corporate management, which includes recommending amendments to such plans. When appropriate, the Compensation Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees, or may delegate authority to one or more designated members of the Board or to corporate officers. The Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President Human Resources, and the Vice President & General Counsel are non-voting advisors to the Compensation Committee from whom the Compensation Committee solicits and considers recommendations as to compensation for the other executive officers as well as other matters related to the Company's executive compensation program.

The Compensation Committee has the sole authority from the Board of Directors for the appointment, compensation, and oversight of the Company's outside executive and director compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee has engaged Semler Brossy, an independent executive compensation consultant, to: (1) review and develop compensation program recommendations for Company executives and directors; (2) provide and analyze benchmark compensation data for executive officers and directors from peer companies and from general compensation surveys; (3) advise the Committee on compensation levels for executive officers and directors; and (4) provide analysis and recommendations related to the design of executive incentive plans. Semler Brossy does no other work for and has no other business relationships with Esterline. The firm reports directly to the Committee, and the Committee may replace the firm or hire additional consultants at any time. A representative of the firm attends meetings of the Committee, upon request, and communicates with the Committee chair between meetings. The Compensation Committee met seven times and acted by unanimous consent in lieu of a meeting once during fiscal 2014.

The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee currently consists of directors Leitman (Chairman), Franceschini, and Pruitt, each of whom is independent in accordance with applicable NYSE listing standards. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee recommends director candidates to the entire Board, oversees the evaluation of the Board of Directors and Company management, develops and monitors corporate governance principles, practices and guidelines for the Board of Directors and the Company, and is responsible for performing the other related responsibilities set forth in its written charter, which is posted on the Company's website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee met four times during fiscal 2014.

The Executive Committee currently consists of directors Reusser (Chairman), Franceschini, Haack, and Pruitt. The Executive Committee reviews situations that might, at some future time, become items for consideration of the entire Board of Directors and acts on behalf of the entire Board of Directors between its meetings.

The Strategy & Technology Committee currently consists of directors Morris (Chairman), Etter, Howell, Kuechle and Winship. The Strategy & Technology Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding business and technology acquisition opportunities, monitors and evaluates the execution and performance of significant new product and technology launches, and monitors and evaluates the Company's research and development programs.

Director Nominations and Qualifications

In accordance with the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws, any shareholder entitled to vote for the election of directors at the annual meeting may nominate persons for election as directors at the 2016 annual shareholders meeting only if the Corporate Secretary receives written notice of any such nominations no earlier than September 14, 2015, and no later than October 13, 2015. Such nominations should be sent to: Esterline Technologies Corporation, Attn: Corporate Secretary, 500 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1500, Bellevue, WA 98004 and comply with the requirements set forth in our Bylaws.

The Chairman of the Board, other directors or senior management of the Company may also recommend director nominees. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate recommended director nominees, including those that are submitted to the Company by a shareholder, taking into consideration certain criteria such as business or community leadership experience, policy-making experience, record of accomplishments, personal integrity and high moral responsibility, capacity to evaluate strategy and reach sound conclusions and current Board composition. In addition, prospective directors must have time available to devote to Board activities and be able to work well with the Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Board. Although there is no formal diversity policy in place, the Company and the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee value board members with varying viewpoints, backgrounds, and experiences. They consider candidates diverse backgrounds as a favorable asset in identifying nominees for director.

The Company did not receive any shareholder nominations for directors to be considered by the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee for the 2015 annual shareholders meeting.

Communications with the Board

Shareholders, and other interested parties, may contact Mr. Reusser, as the Chairman, Mr. Haack, as the Lead Independent Director, the non-management directors as a group, the Board of Directors as a group or an individual director by the following means:

Email: boardofdirectors@esterline.com

Mail: Board of Directors

Attn: Lead Independent Director or Corporate Secretary

Esterline Technologies Corporation

500 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1500

Bellevue, WA 98004

Each communication should clearly specify the name of the individual director or group of directors to whom the communication is addressed. Communications sent by email are delivered directly to the Lead Independent Director and to the Corporate Secretary, who will promptly forward such communications to the specified director addressees. Communications sent by mail will be promptly forwarded by the Corporate Secretary to the specified director addressee or, if such communication is addressed to the full Board of Directors, to the Chairman of the Board and the Lead Independent Director, who will promptly forward such communication to the full Board of Directors. Shareholders wishing to submit proposals for inclusion in the proxy statement relating to the 2016 annual shareholders meeting should follow the procedures specified under Shareholder Proposals for 2016 in this proxy statement. Shareholders wishing to nominate or recommend directors should follow the procedures specified under the Other Information as to Directors Director Nominations and Qualifications section above.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to its accounting and financial employees, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. This code of ethics, which is included as part of the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to the Company's employees and directors, is posted on the Company's website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab. The Company intends to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to or waiver from application of the code of ethics provisions of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer, and any other applicable accounting and financial employee, by posting such information on its website at www.esterline.com under the Corporate Governance tab.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information regarding beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock as of January 13, 2015, by (i) each person or entity who is known by the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the Common Stock, (ii) each of the Company's directors, (iii) each of the Company's Named Executive Officers who are further defined in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement on page 12 ("NEOs") and (iv) all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1)	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (2)	Percent of Class
FMR LLC 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02109	2,835,226(3)	9.1%
BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022	2,759,399(4)	8.8%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP Palisades West Bldg. One, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746	2,645,492(5)	8.5%
Henry W. Winship IV	2,480,853(6)	7.8%
Relational Investors LLC 12400 High Bluff Drive, Suite 600, San Diego, CA 92130	2,478,543(7)	7.9%
Wellington Management Company LLP 280 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210	1,791,597(8)	5.7%
MSD Capital, L.P. 645 Fifth Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10022	1,624,578(9)	5.2%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 100 Vanguard Boulevard., Malvern, PA 19355	1,595,648(10)	5.1%
R. Bradley Lawrence	224,841(11)	*
Robert D. George	140,072(11)	*
Frank E. Houston	61,475(11)	*
Jerry D. Leitman	28,102	*
Albert S. Yost	22,783(11)	*
Paul V. Haack	20,781	*
Anthony P. Franceschini	16,022	*
James J. Morris	13,248	*
Delores M. Etter	8,285	*
Gary E. Pruitt	6,460	*
Mary L. Howell	5,850	*
Alain M. Durand	2,718(11)	*
Scott E. Kuechle	2,310	*
Curtis C. Reusser	16,722(11)	*
Directors, nominees and executive officers as a group (17 persons)	3,093,650(11)	9.7%

* Less than 1%