

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

SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

AQUA METALS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

PHILOTIMO FUND, LP
KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC
DAVID L. KANEN
ANTHONY AMBROSE
ALAN B. HOWE
PADNOS
JEFFREY S. PADNOS
S. SHARIQ YOSUFZAI

(Name of Persons(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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

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

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

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

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION
DATED APRIL 10, 2018**

KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

_____, 2018

Dear Fellow Aqua Metals Stockholders:

Kanen Wealth Management, LLC, (together with its affiliates, “Kanen” or “we”) is one of the largest stockholders of Aqua Metals, Inc. (“Aqua Metals,” or the “Company”) (NASDAQ: AQMS), with aggregate ownership of approximately 8.0% of the Company’s outstanding shares. Our interests are aligned with the interests of all Aqua Metals stockholders, and, after years of substantial underperformance by the Company, our goal is to help drive value creation for the benefit of all stockholders.

We believe opportunities exist within the control of management and the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) to substantially improve value for stockholders, but such opportunities can only be achieved through a substantial change to the composition of the Board. We are appreciative of the dialogue we have had with the Board, but unfortunately we remain skeptical that our thoughts have been fully heard and that stockholder interests are being appropriately prioritized in the boardroom.

We are also incredibly disappointed by the prolonged and severe underperformance at Aqua Metals. The Company’s stock price has precipitously declined by more than 85% in the past year alone. We believe that meaningful Board change is required to protect the best interests of all unaffiliated stockholders. Until recently, forty percent of the Company’s Board was composed of non-independent, management co-founders. While the Board’s recent plan to implement a transition of Dr. Clarke from his current position as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Aqua Metals represents progress, it is disappointing that Aqua Metals’ Board acted only in response to our nomination of director candidates. We have lost confidence in their ability to enhance or maximize stockholder value. Our proxy contest will seek to refresh the Board with highly-qualified independent directors and provide just the type of pressure and impetus this Company needs to try to get back on track. Aqua Metals must now prove commitment to stockholders by adding qualified Board candidates with stockholder input to insure stockholder voices are truly heard in the boardroom.

The Board’s primary responsibilities to stockholders are to set the Company’s strategy, select a management team, oversee management in operating the Company’s business, and, in particular, hold management accountable for driving stockholder value. It is our strong belief that the current Aqua Metals Board is failing stockholders in these tasks. As such, we believe that substantial change to the Board is required in order to provide the investment management skills desperately needed for proper oversight, establish renewed accountability to stockholders, introduce the objectivity necessary to make decisions without attachment to past practices and people, and, importantly, eliminate the apparent priority of self-preservation over stockholders’ interests.

The upcoming election is a critical opportunity to ensure that we, as stockholders, have the best possible Board to drive the level of change necessary to improve performance and value at Aqua Metals.

We urge you to carefully consider the information contained in this Proxy Statement and then support our efforts by signing, dating and returning the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card today. The attached Proxy Statement and the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card are first being furnished to the stockholders on or about April [], 2018.

If you have already voted for the incumbent management slate, you have every right to change your vote by signing, dating and returning a later dated **WHITE** proxy card or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with your vote, please contact Alliance Advisors LLC, which is assisting us, at its address and toll-free numbers listed below.

Thank you for your support.

/s/ David L. Kanen

David L. Kanen
Kanen Wealth Management, LLC

*If you have any questions, require assistance in voting your **WHITE** proxy card, or need additional copies of Kanen's proxy materials, please contact Alliance Advisors at the phone number or email address listed below.*



AllianceTM

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**PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION
DATED APRIL 10, 2018**

**2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
OF
AQUA METALS, INC.**

**PROXY STATEMENT
OF
KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED WHITE PROXY CARD TODAY

Philotimo Fund, LP (“Philotimo”), Kanen Wealth Management, LLC (“KWM”), David L. Kanen, Anthony Ambrose, Alan B. Howe, PADNOS, Jeffrey S. Padnos, and S. Shariq Yosufzai (collectively, “Kanen” or “we”) are significant stockholders of Aqua Metals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“AQMS” or the “Company”), who, together with the other participants in this solicitation, beneficially own approximately 9.1% of the outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the “Common Stock”), of the Company. We are seeking representation on the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) because our involvement at AQMS over the past year has made it clear to us that the Board must be reconstituted to ensure that the interests of the stockholders, the true owners of the Company, are appropriately represented in the boardroom. We have nominated highly qualified and capable candidates with relevant backgrounds and who are committed to fully exploring all opportunities to unlock stockholder value. We are seeking your support at the Company’s 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders scheduled to be held on _____, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. local time, at the Waterfront Hotel, 10 Washington Street, Oakland, California 94607 (including any adjournments or postponements thereof and any meeting which may be called in lieu thereof, the “Annual Meeting”), for the following:

1. To elect Kanen’s director nominees, Anthony Ambrose, Alan B. Howe, Jeffrey S. Padnos, David L. Kanen and S. Shariq Yosufzai, (each a “Nominee” and, collectively, the “Nominees”) to hold office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “2019 Annual Meeting”) and until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the appointment of Armanino LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

This Proxy Statement is soliciting proxies to elect only our Nominees. Accordingly, the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card may only be voted for our Nominees and does not confer voting power with respect to any of the Company’s director nominees. See “Voting and Proxy Procedures” on page [] for additional information. You can only vote for the Company’s director nominees by signing and returning a proxy card provided by the Company. Stockholders should refer to the Company’s proxy statement for the names, backgrounds, qualifications, and other information concerning the Company’s nominees.

As of the date hereof, the members of Kanen and the Nominees collectively beneficially own 2,606,878 shares of Common Stock, (the “Kanen Group Shares”). We intend to vote all of the Kanen Group Shares that are eligible to vote **FOR** the election of the Nominees and **[FOR]** the ratification of the appointment of Armanino LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm.

The Company has set the close of business on April 25, 2018 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"). The mailing address of the principal executive offices of the Company is 1010 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, California 945101. Stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. According to the Company, as of the Record Date, there were 28,694,210 shares of Common Stock outstanding.

THIS SOLICITATION IS BEING MADE BY KANEN AND NOT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT. SHOULD OTHER MATTERS, WHICH KANEN IS NOT AWARE OF A REASONABLE TIME BEFORE THIS SOLICITATION, BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING, THE PERSONS NAMED AS PROXIES IN THE ENCLOSED **WHITE** PROXY CARD WILL VOTE ON SUCH MATTERS IN OUR DISCRETION.

KANEN URGES YOU TO SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE **WHITE** PROXY CARD IN FAVOR OF THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT A PROXY CARD FURNISHED BY COMPANY MANAGEMENT OR THE BOARD, YOU MAY REVOKE THAT PROXY AND VOTE ON EACH OF THE PROPOSALS DESCRIBED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT BY SIGNING, DATING AND RETURNING THE ENCLOSED **WHITE** PROXY CARD. THE LATEST DATED PROXY IS THE ONLY ONE THAT COUNTS. ANY PROXY MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING BY DELIVERING A WRITTEN NOTICE OF REVOCATION OR A LATER DATED PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OR BY VOTING IN PERSON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting—This Proxy Statement and our **WHITE proxy card are available at**

IMPORTANT

Your vote is important, no matter how few shares of Common Stock you own. Kanen urges you to sign, date, and return the enclosed WHITE proxy card today to vote FOR the election of the Nominees and in accordance with Kanen's recommendations on the other proposals on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

- If your shares of Common Stock are registered in your own name, please sign and date the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card and return it to Kanen, c/o Alliance Advisors LLC ("Alliance Advisors") in the enclosed postage-paid envelope today.
- If your shares of Common Stock are held in a brokerage account or bank, you are considered the beneficial owner of the shares of Common Stock, and these proxy materials, together with a **WHITE** voting form, are being forwarded to you by your broker or bank. As a beneficial owner, you must instruct your broker, trustee or other representative how to vote. Your broker cannot vote your shares of Common Stock on your behalf without your instructions.
- Depending upon your broker or custodian, you may be able to vote either by toll-free telephone or by the Internet. Please refer to the enclosed voting form for instructions on how to vote electronically. You may also vote by signing, dating and returning the enclosed voting form.

Since only your latest dated proxy card will count, we urge you not to return any proxy card you receive from the Company. Even if you return the management proxy card marked "withhold" as a protest against the incumbent directors, it will revoke any proxy card you may have previously sent to us. Remember, you can vote for our five (5) Nominees only on our **WHITE** proxy card. So please make certain that the latest dated proxy card you return is the **WHITE** proxy card.

*If you have any questions, require assistance in voting your **WHITE** proxy card, or need additional copies of Kanen's proxy materials, please contact Alliance Advisors at the phone number or email address listed below.*



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Background to the Solicitation

The following is a chronology of material events leading up to this proxy solicitation:

- On February 22, 2018, Kanen filed an initial statement on Schedule 13D with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) disclosing its and its affiliates’ beneficial ownership of approximately 6.5% of the Company’s outstanding shares stating that it intends to consider plans and/or make proposals with respect to, among other things, the Company’s operations, Board composition, strategy and plans, and to communicate with the Company’s management and Board about a broad range of operational and strategic matters.
- On March 6, 2018, a representative of Kanen, David L. Kanen, expressed his intent to work constructively and amicably with management and the Board. Mr. Kanen scheduled a telephone call with Stephen Clarke, the Company’s CEO, and Thomas Murphy, the Company’s CFO, to discuss a transition for Dr. Clarke and a search for a new CEO. Mr. Kanen mentioned Stephen Cotton, the Company’s former CCO, as a potential successor to Dr. Clarke, and Dr. Clarke abruptly hung up on Mr. Kanen.
- On March 7, 2018, Mr. Kanen called and left a voicemail for Vincent DiVito, an independent board member of the Company. In his message, Mr. Kanen requested an opportunity to speak with Mr. DiVito.
- On March 8, 2018, Mr. Kanen discussed with Mr. DiVito the need for a new CEO and expressed concern regarding the excessive director compensation. Mr. Kanen reiterated that he would like to work amicably to reconstitute the board.
- On March 12, 2018, Mr. Kanen received an email from Dr. Clarke, which specified that Dr. Clarke and Mr. Murphy would be Mr. Kanen’s “point of contact” moving forward.
- On March 16, 2018, Mr. Kanen emailed Dr. Clarke and Mr. Murphy stating that he would like to continue their conversations. Dr. Clarke responded via email, and a brief conversation occurred with Mr. Kanen, Mr. Murphy, Greg Falesnik, the Company’s IR representative, and Jason C. Smith, an equity analyst for KWM, where the parties discussed the new CEO search and Kanen gaining representation on the Board.
- On March 20, 2018, Mr. Kanen received an email from Mr. DiVito and Mark Slade, a board member of the Company, stating that while the Board agreed to Dr. Clarke and Mr. Murphy serving as Mr. Kanen’s point of contacts for further negotiations, upon further reflection the Board decided Mr. DiVito and Mr. Slade would now be a joint point of communication for Mr. Kanen. To the representatives of Kanen, this again demonstrated that the Board had procrastinated in diminishing the authority of Dr. Clarke and searching for a new CEO.

- On March 22, 2018, Mr. Kanen had a telephone call with Mr. DiVito and Mr. Slade, reiterating the need for a new CEO and a reconstitution of the Board. Mr. Kanen expressed his concern that the Board should be moving on the matter with a sense of urgency in light of the performance of the Company.
- On March 23, 2018, Kanen delivered a letter (the “Nomination Letter”) to the Company nominating four (4) highly qualified director candidates, including Mr. Kanen, for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting.
- On March 23, 2018, the Company’s counsel privately confirmed receipt of the Nomination Letter.
- On March 26, 2018, Kanen issued a press release announcing that it had nominated four highly qualified director candidates for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting in opposition to the Board’s director nominees.
- On March 27, 2018, the Company issued a press release announcing that the Board has approved and is implementing a plan to transition Dr. Clarke from his current position as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board. Given the information Mr. Kanen received on March 12, 2018, the announcement perplexed Kanen because just a week and a half prior, Dr. Clarke was the “point of contact” in negotiations. To Kanen, it seemed that the Company’s management was contradicting themselves by saying a “transition was in the works from late 2017.” Furthermore, it begs the question as to whether or not the incumbent Board would have affected the needed change absent the pressure from Kanen.
- On March 27, 2018, Dr. Clarke, informed the Board that he does not intend to stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting. On March 28, 2018, Mr. Selwyn Mould, the Company’s Chief Operating Officer and a Director, informed the Board that he does not intend to stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting. Based upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board has nominated Thomas Murphy, the Company’s Chief Financial Officer, and Eric A. Prouty for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting to replace Dr. Clarke and Mr. Mould as directors of the Company.
- On March 28, 2018, Mr. Kanen requested a brief meeting with Mr. DiVito and Mr. Slade where they discussed Dr. Clarke’s transition and the urgency of appointing an interim CEO. Mr. Kanen also expressed his belief that Mr. Cotton would be highly capable of succeeding Dr. Clarke and that Mr. Cotton would institute quick measures that will better align the Company’s interest with stockholder values.
- On April 3, 2018, Kanen delivered a supplemental notice to the Company notifying the Company of its additional nomination of former Chevron executive and proven business leader S. Shariq Yosufza for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting.
- On April 10, 2018, Kanen initiated a phone call with Mr. DiVito and Mr. Slade where Mr. Kanen expressed his view towards an amicable resolution. Mr. Kanen indicated a need for leadership and problem solving and reiterated that Mr. Cotton should be appointed interim CEO. Mr. Kanen expressed flexibility in the reconstitution of the Board to retain some of the incumbents to maintain continuity and shared his view that if the Board and Kanen are unable to reach a resolution and avoid a proxy contest that it would reflect poorly on the incumbents.

REASONS FOR THE SOLICITATION

WE BELIEVE THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW

We are concerned that the Board, as currently composed, will not take the necessary steps to reverse Aqua Metals' underperformance and maximize its opportunities for value creation. Notwithstanding recent changes at Aqua Metals, we believe further change is needed on the Board to ensure that the interests of all stockholders are appropriately represented in the boardroom. Therefore, we are soliciting your support at the Annual Meeting to elect our Nominees, who we believe would bring significant and relevant experience to the Board along with a commitment to work with their fellow Board members, if elected, to realize Aqua Metals' true potential.

We are Concerned with the Destruction of Stockholder Value

We believe stockholders should be seriously concerned with the Company's poor stock price performance. The Company's stock price has precipitously declined by more than 85% in the past year alone. It is evident to us that the significant destruction of stockholder value that has persisted over the near and long term under the leadership of the incumbent Board warrants an overhaul in the boardroom. (see figure 1)

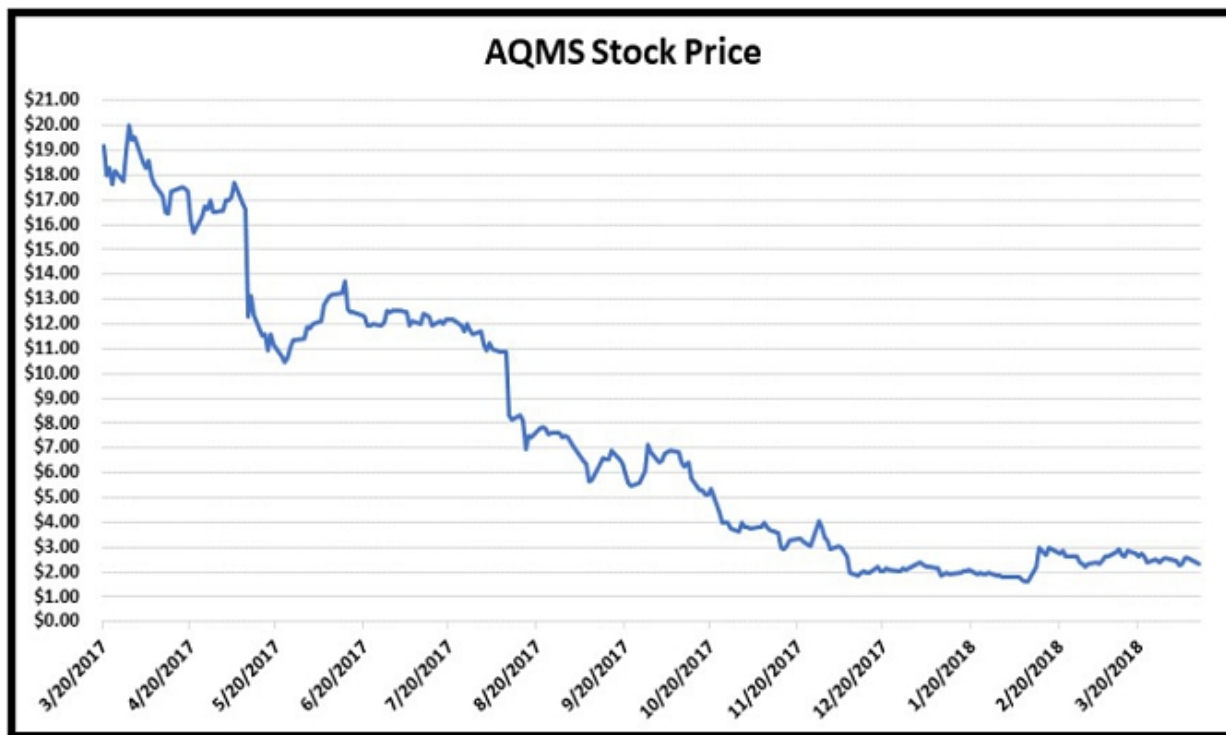


Figure 1

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

We are Concerned by Aqua Metals' Unusual and Excessive Compensation Practices

We believe that the Board's failure to provide effective oversight on behalf of stockholders is reflected in excessive and unconventional compensation arrangements for insiders. Compensation for each of the two (2) incumbent directors, Vincent DiVito and Mark Slade, has increased 100% despite the Company's continued under-performance. We believe that the Board is earning too much for a tiny, unprofitable company. The Company's independent Board members are currently earning approximately \$150,000 (including grants of options), whereby companies' board members this size typically make \$25,000 to \$40,000. As such, we believe that substantial change is required and warranted on the Board in order to provide renewed accountability to stockholders.

We are Concerned by Aqua Metals' Operational Failures

Highlighted below is a list of management's guidance from various company presentations and earnings calls:

Pre-IPO Presentation dated July 2015

- Management projecting 80T/day, 40T/day ultra pure lead and 40T/day of grid lead (see figure 2)
- Modules designed to refine 2.5T/day
- AquaRefineries are profitable at 40T/day output

Executive Summary

- Lead is a growing \$22B market opportunity
 - Lead acid batteries are critical to many high growth industries
 - Smelting is antiquated, polluting, and costly
- AquaRefining makes high purity lead at a lower cost, without pollution
 - We intend to use this to fundamentally change the lead industry
- We are starting this change with an 80T*/day AquaRefinery in Nevada
 - We are projecting a 38% IRR for this facility on a \$28.5MM investment
 - Then we intend to roll-out a series of regional facilities
- We are managing risks and building supplier, customer and strategic investor relationships
 - Feedstock: Strategic affiliations with established battery distributors
 - Off-take: Strategic affiliations; LME-traded commodity
 - Equipment: Supplier relationship with Wirtz Manufacturing
 - Equity investors: Wirtz, PADNOS, Inc. (large scrap metal recycler)
 - Potential Debt: Green Bank/USDA, large Private Equity, industrials

AquaMetals * Throughout this presentation, T = tonnes or metric tons
(approx. 2204.6 pounds) 3

Figure 2

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

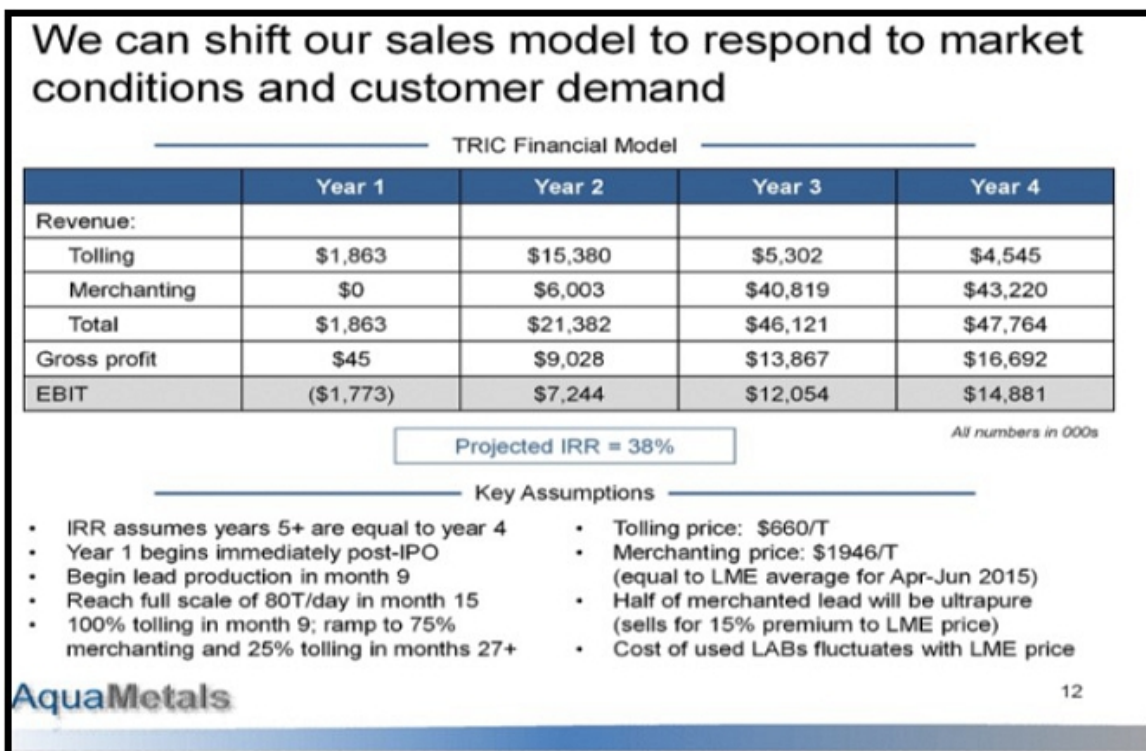


Figure 3

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

March 7, 2016 Press Release

- “Upon completion of our first AquaRefinery in the second quarter of 2016, we will begin recycling lead-acid batteries and plan to increase production to 80 metric tons of lead per day by the end of 2016,” Clarke continued

August 10, 2016 Press Release

- “Our key focus has remained on commercializing the world’s first AquaRefinery, which is now largely complete,” said Dr. Stephen Clarke, Chairman and CEO of Aqua Metals.
- 2016 Milestone Update - Four AquaRefining modules shipped and in place and 12 currently in production and lead production projected to scale quickly during the fourth quarter, reaching 80 metric tons per day by the of 2016

November 7, 2016 Press Release

- “While working to bring the AquaRefinery online, we incorporated several process and other improvements, and consequently, we now expect to ramp to a capacity of 120 T/day in early 2017, which will provide greater revenue and earnings potential.
- Upcoming Milestones - Initial sales of lead in the 4th Quarter of 2016 and providing AquaRefining technology and equipment on a serviced licensing model, which is expected to commence in 2017
- Aqua Metals will begin selling lead in the fourth quarter of 2016. Due to process and other improvements, the Company expects to reach initial capacity of 120 T/day in early 2017, representing a 50% increase to the previously announced capacity of 80 T/day of lead output.

Q4 2016 Earnings Presentation and Call

- Went from 80T/day to now being able to do 120T-160T/day (see figure 4).
- Plan on 5 facilities that can do 160T/day for a total capacity of 800T/day
- Stephen Clarke stated, “One of the headlines today is that the first-ever AquaRefinery located at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center has moved from commissioning to operational. That means that we are breaking batteries and making lead from the batteries that we've broken both from – both metallic lead and AquaRefined lead. It's continuing to ramp up. We're not at full scale yet, and there's more work to be done.”
- So, AquaRefinery, number one at Tahoe-Reno Industrial Complex is starting out with a plant capacity of 120 tonnes of lead per day. And we're expecting to expand that to 160 tonnes a day.”
- We've mentioned in the last earnings call that we have expanded that potential capacity from 80 tonnes to 120 tonnes a day. And we're now looking at expanding from 120 tonnes to 160 tonnes a day. We're producing validated 99.99% pure lead.”

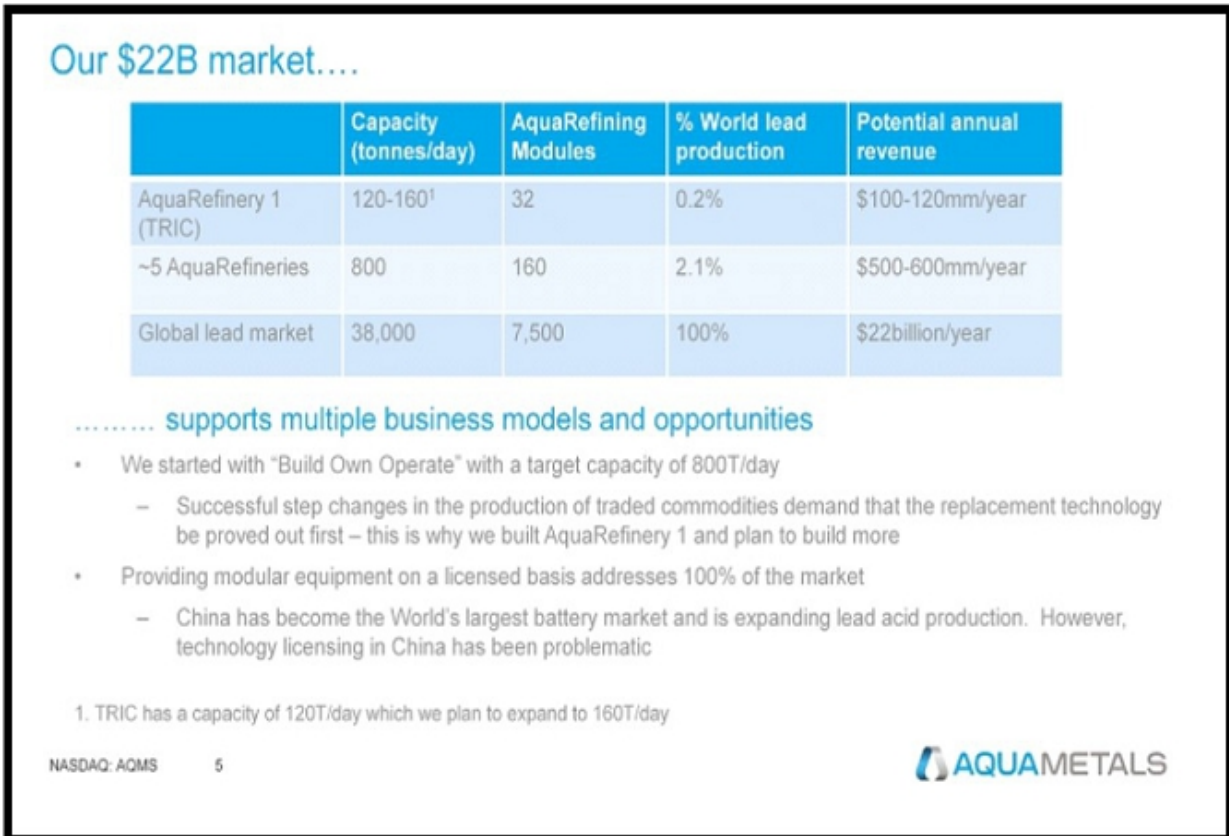


Figure 4

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

Roth Conference March 2017 Presentation

- “Successfully commissioned and in the process of scaling up production of AquaRefined lead at Aquarefinery 1 in McCarran, NV at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC), capacity to produce >120T/day of lead which we plan to expand to 160T/day”
- Evaluating non-dilutive debt financing for 4 –5 facilities totaling ~800T/day

Q1 2017 Earnings Presentation and Call

- Ramping production to >120mT/day of lead by the end of 2017 (see figure 5)

Strategic relationships helped de-risk our start-up.....

- AquaRefinery 1 (McCarran, NV) operating and in revenue
 - Began production in Q1 – truckloads of feedstock crushed
 - Sales to strategic partner in Q2 – truckloads of product shipped
 - Ramping production to >120mT/day of lead by the end of 2017
 - Validating our economic projections and incorporating lessons learned
- Now planning AquaRefineries 2-5 and learning from chemical industry and datacenter operators
 - Moving away from opportunistic build-out of small stand-alone facilities and evaluating “clusters” centered on logistics nodes
- Equipment licensing has started
 - Working with JCI to plan the retrofit of an existing facility, as the blueprint for others
- Acquisition of Ebonex should accelerate development of higher value products

....and provide the stability to optimize our business expansion

NASDAQ: AQMS 3

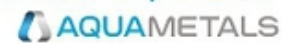


Figure 5

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

- Moving away from stand-alone facilities and evaluating “clusters” centered on logistics nodes
- Working with retrofitting JCI facility
- “And what we'll be talking about is that, we're making a little bit of a departure, and we're moving away from the opportunistic build out a small standalone facilities that we started out with, if you recall, those here and at the beginning of our IPO, we were talking and -- talking about and contemplating the build out of 10 or more 40 tonne to 80 tonne a day facilities located in various parts around the US.”
- “I'm going to start off with an update on our AquaRefinery 1, where we are, lessons learned, what it all means. Then I'm going to talk about the planning for AquaRefineries 2 through 5 and our licensing rollout.” (see figure 6)

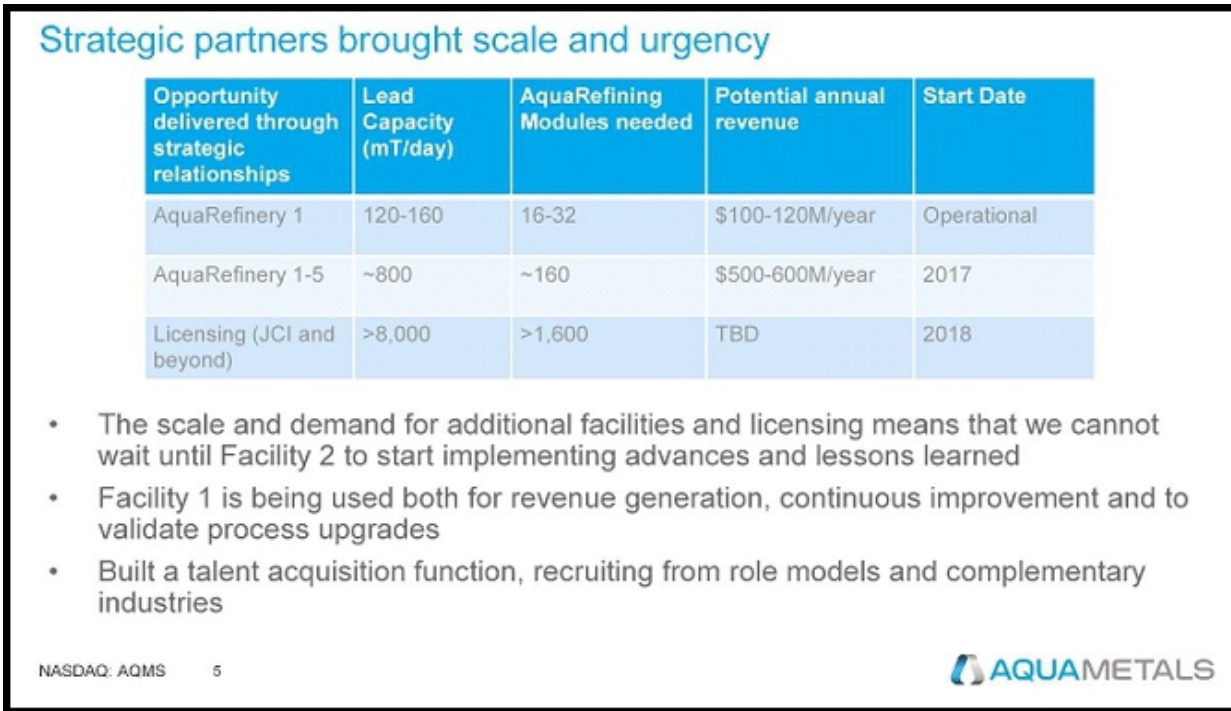


Figure 6

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

- “So, if you look at AquaRefinery number 1, we're planning on having a production capacity of 120 metric tonnes a day by the end of the year and then expanding it to a 160 metrics tonnes a day in 2018. And that essentially means that we will have 60 in AquaRefining Modules on-site and operational at a 120 tonnes a day, and 32 modules on-site and operational, a 160 tonnes a day and so the mathematicians among you, that does not help, and I'll show you why in a couple of slides time.”
- “We started production in Q1, and we have started actually moving out into sales in Q2, that few weeks later then we wanted we'd set a target to actually ship some of that product in Q1 but for a number of reasons we weren't able to do that shipped and we're continuing to produce and are continuing to ship.” (see figure 7)

AquaRefinery 1 is running and we are scaling output

- Started production in Q1 and sales in Q2
- Status
 - Breaking and separation: commissioned and operating
 - Aqua Preparation: process operating – adding capacity and streamlining operations
 - Aqua Refining: Module 1 operational, Modules 2-4 in-start-up, Modules 5-16 being updated to latest specification
 - Ingot production: being commissioned
 - Metallic lead being shipped pre-ingot
 - Plant staffing
 - A & B shifts: fully staffed, C & D shifts: recruiting to full complement in next month
- The focus of process development has moved from Alameda to Reno
- Implementing next year's improvements now

NASDAQ: AQMS 6



Figure 7

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

- “So that process is now operating. We are adding capacity to it and streamlining operations. AquaRefining itself, module 1 is operating, modules 2 to 4 are on-site and in startup mode and modules 5 to 16 are being updated to latest specifications and will be installed over the coming weeks and months. Ingot production, where we take metallic lead, melt it, pour it into ingots and ship as ingots is currently being commissioned. So our sales now don't include ingots, they do include metallic lead that hasn't been through the ingoting stage.”
- “And last but not least, again, same theme here, we were struggling to commission the ingot casting process, because, again, of intermittent supply of processed lead that – we've now got all of that and the ingot commissioning is underway.”

- Explosive growth in 2018 and explosive build outs

June 2017 Corporate Presentation

- The world’s first AquaRefinery is now in commercial production
- Ramping production to >120mT/day of lead by the end of 2017
- On track for 120mT/day by Dec 2017

Q3 2017 Earnings Presentation and Call

- “Limited production of AquaRefined lead is underway and expected to continue with initial quantities produced in 2017 and ramp-up continue into 2018.”
- Capacity now 80T/day (see figure 8)
- “The fifth and final stage of production involves processing AquaRefined lead and the metallic lead recovered from batteries through an ingot production line. As we've noted previously, we have successfully produced our first ingots.”

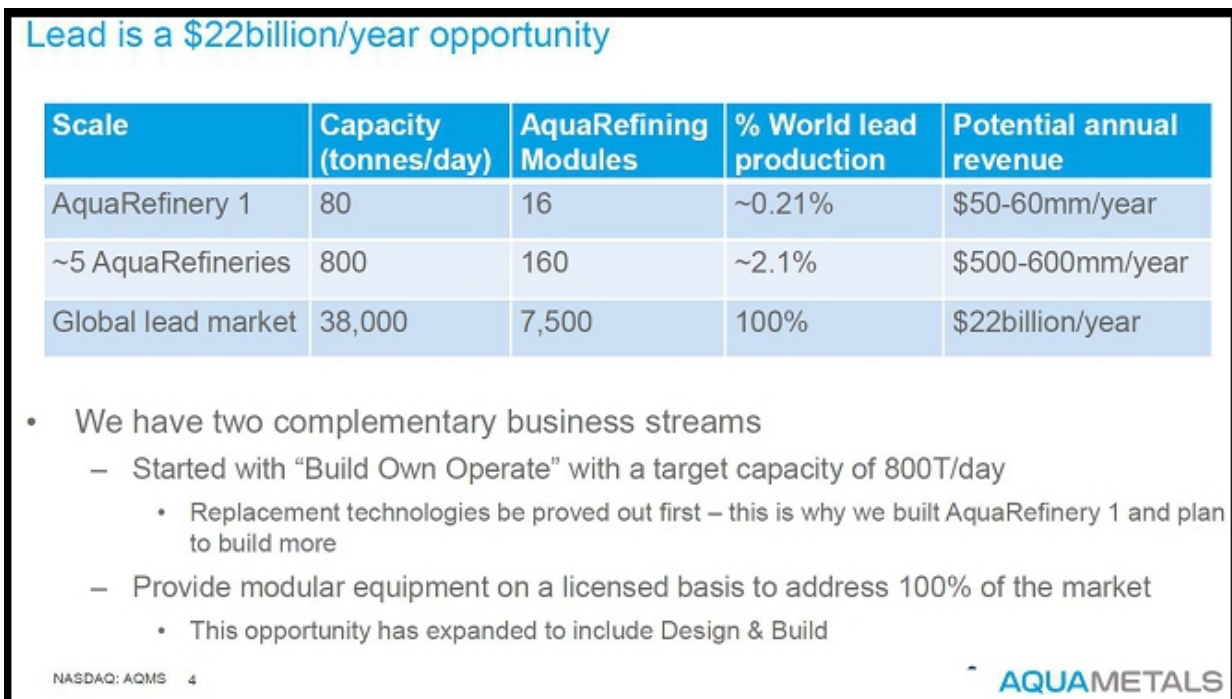


Figure 8

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

- Capacity at 40T/day (see figure 9)
- Revenue in 4th quarter 2017 expected to come from metallic lead, lead compounds, recovered plastic, and shipping lead ingots

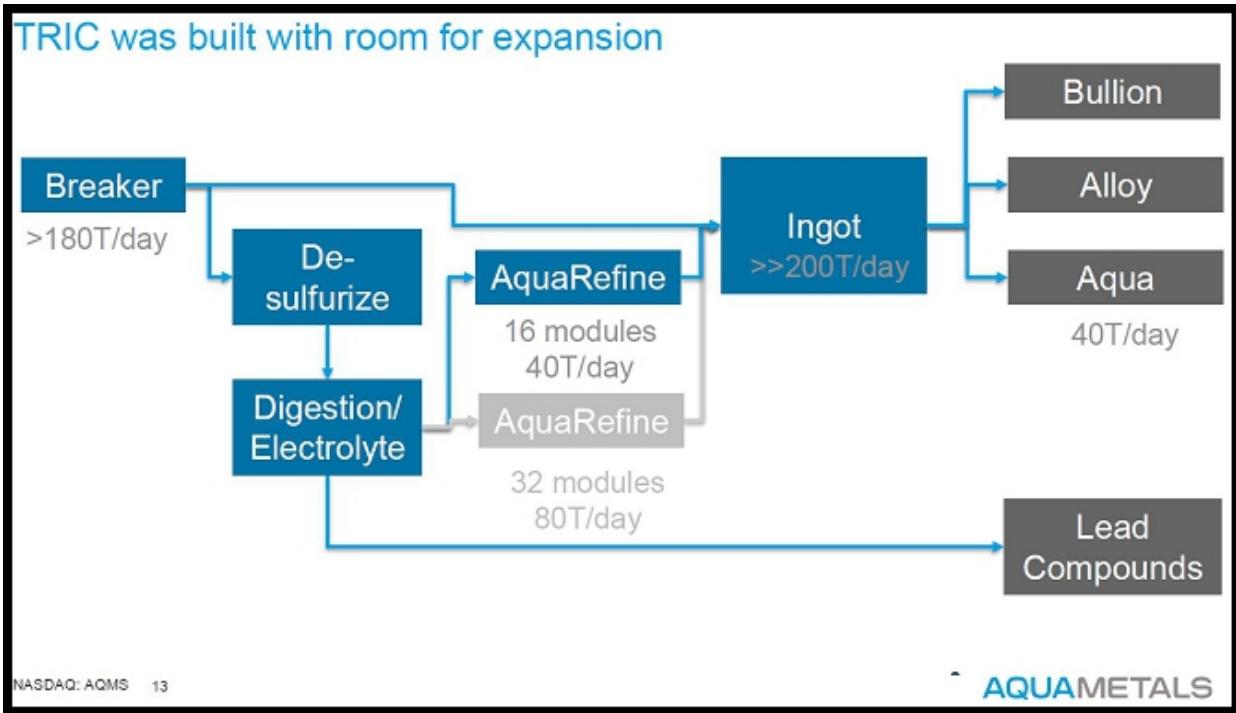


Figure 9

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

December 2017 Corporate Presentation

- On track to reach full-scale production in 2018
- Encountered “sticky” lead issue
- Increases AquaRefined lead production from 40mT/day to 80mT/day

Q4 2017 Earnings Presentation and Call

- Still Ramping Production (see figure 10)
- Bring 4 modules online
- The Company plans to bring 16 retro-fitted modules on-line in groups of 4. The first group is expected to begin initial operation by the end of March 2018 and our plan is to ramp up AquaRefining production during Q2

AquaRefining retro-fit & ramp-up

- Retro-fit
 - All 16 modules on site and in-place
 - Fix-kit consists of new manifolds and modified exit chute with pneumatic tilt feature
 - All key parts for the 16 fix-kits on-site
 - 1 module retro-fitted and running since late January and fix-kit validated
 - Total focus on retrofitting all modules by the end of March
- Production ramp-up
 - 16 modules organized in 2 “trains” of 8 modules
 - Plan is to bring groups of 4 modules on-line
 - Train 1 – modules 1-4, then 5-8
 - Train 2 – modules 9-12 then 13-16
 - We expect to bring the first group of 4 into initial production by the end of March and Ramp AquaRefining production during Q2

NASDAQ: AQMS 7




Figure 10

Source: Aquametals website and Bloomberg

To date management has made either insignificant or no progress on the aforementioned!

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board is currently composed of five (5) directors, each with terms expiring at the Annual Meeting. We are seeking your support at the Annual Meeting to elect our five (5) Nominees.

THE NOMINEES

The following information sets forth the name, age, business address, present principal occupation, and employment and material occupations, positions, offices, or employments for the past five years of each of the Nominees. The nominations were made in a timely manner and in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Company's governing instruments. The specific experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills that led us to conclude that the Nominees should serve as directors of the Company are set forth below. This information has been furnished to us by the Nominees. All of the Nominees are citizens of the United States.

Anthony Ambrose, age 56, joined Data I/O Corporation (NASDAQ: DAIO) on October 2012 and has served as President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to Data I/O Corporation, Mr. Ambrose was Owner and Principal of Cedar Mill Partners, LLC, a strategy consulting firm from 2011 to 2012. From 2007 to 2011, he was Vice President and General Manager at RadiSys Corporation (NASDAQ: RSYS), a leading provider of embedded wireless infrastructure solutions, where he led three product divisions and worldwide engineering. At RadiSys Corporation, he established the telecom platform business and grew it to over \$125M in annual revenues. Until 2007, he was general manager and held several other progressively responsible positions at Intel Corporation (NASDAQ: INTC), a technology company, where he led development and marketing of standards based telecommunications platforms, and grew the industry standard server business to over \$1B in revenues. Mr. Ambrose was appointed a director of Data I/O Corporation effective October 2012. He is a member of the EvergreenHealth Foundation Board of Trustees. Mr. Ambrose has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University. Mr. Ambrose's extensive operating experience coupled with his significant executive experience in strategy development, business management, marketing, engineering, and new product development would make him a well-qualified addition to the Board.

Alan B. Howe, age 57, has served as co-founder and managing partner of Broadband Initiatives, LLC, a boutique corporate advisory and consulting firm, since 2001, and provides various strategic and operational consulting services to multiple corporate clients in that role. He served as Vice President of Strategic and Wireless Business Development for Covad Communications, Inc., a national broadband telecommunications company from May 2005 to October 2008. He served as Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Corporate Development for Teletrac, Inc., a software as a service company and subsidiary of Fortive Corporation (NYSE: FTV) from April 1995 to April 2001. Previously, he held various executive management positions for Sprint Corporation (NYSE: S), a telecommunications company (from December 1991 to April 1995), and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company (n/k/a JPMorgan Chase & Co.) (NYSE: JPM), a banking and financial services company (from June 1987 to November 1991). He has served on the board of directors of Magicjack Vocaltec Ltd. (NASDAQ: CALL), an internet services provider, since April 2017; Chairman of Data I/O Corporation (NASDAQ: DAIO), a manufacturer of programming and automated device handling systems for programmable circuits, since 2013; Vice Chairman of the board of directors of Determine, Inc. (NASDAQ: DTRM), a software as a service, source-to-pay and enterprise contract lifecycle management (ECLM) solutions provider, since 2009; a board member of Widepoint (NYSE MKT: WYY), a provider of telecommunications solutions, since 2017, and a board member of CafePress (NASDAQ: PRSS), a provider of online customizable products, since 2018. He has also served on a number of private and public boards including in the past five years former reporting companies Qualstar Corporation (NASDAQ: QBAK), a manufacturer of magnetic tape data storage products, from June 2013 to June 2014, and Urban Communications (TSE.V: UBN), a fiber telecommunications company, from June 2016 to November 2017. He has a M.B.A. in Finance from Indiana University and a B.S. – Business Administration and Marketing from University of Illinois. Mr. Howe's experience in providing board and C-level leadership working with small-cap and micro-cap companies (both public and private) particularly in turnaround situations would make him a well-qualified addition to the Board.

David L. Kanen, age 52, has served as the Portfolio Manager and President of Kanen Wealth Management, LLC, an investment advisory firm, since 2016. From 2012 to 2016, Mr. Kanen was the Senior Vice President of Investments of Aegis Capital Corporation, a boutique investment bank and broker-dealer. Prior to that, from 2004 to 2012, he served as a Financial Advisor for a few financial firms, including Pointe Capital Management LLC, First Midwest and Williams Financial Group. He served as the Senior Vice president of Investments of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., a securities broker-dealer and subsidiary of A.G. Edwards, Inc., from 1992 to 2004. He began his career in the financial services industry in 1988 where he worked as investment broker for David Lerner Associates, a securities broker-dealer, until 1992. He received his B.S. from Jacksonville University in 1988. Mr. Kanen's extensive experience in the financial sector including his time as a seasoned investment professional as the President of Kanen Wealth Management, LLC, would make him a valuable addition to the Board.

Jeffrey S. Padnos, age 69, has served as the Chairman of PADNOS, a provider of scrap processing and management services, since 2016. He joined the family-owned scrap processing and recycling business in 1979 and was promoted to President in 1988. Prior to his service at PADNOS, Mr. Padnos worked as a consultant for McKinsey and Company, a management consulting firm, from 1974 to 1978 where he spent four years with the international management consulting company in the Chicago and New York offices, working on a broad variety of engagements for leading US clients of the firm. He also worked at the New York City Environmental Protection Administration, from 1970 to 1972, where he worked with others to develop practical policies and legislation very early in the environmental movement and implemented the first trial runs in what has become the nation's largest municipally-run recycling program. He has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including Wausau Insurance, Grand Rapids Symphony, the World Affairs Council, the Alliance for Health, and the Holland Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Padnos received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and his A.B. from Harvard College. Mr. Padnos' extensive experience in operations, including his experience as President of PADNOS, where he helped build the company from one location in Holland, Michigan, to 20 locations in Michigan and northern Indiana, with over 600 employees and sales which have exceeded \$500M, would make him a valuable addition to the Board.

S. Shariq Yosufzai, age 65, was most recently the Vice President, Global Diversity for the Chevron Corporation ("Chevron") (NYSE: CVX), a multinational energy corporation, from 2013 to March 2018. He held a number of positions at Chevron and its various affiliates, including Vice President (from 2010 to 2013); President of Chevron Global Marketing, a business unit within Chevron (from 2004 to 2010); Co-President of Chevron Products Company, North America, Chevron's North America Refining & Marketing operations (from 2003 to 2004); and President of Chevron Texaco Global Lubricants (from 2001 to 2003). Prior to that, he worked at Caltex Corporation, a joint venture between Chevron and Texaco, Inc., as the Corporate Vice President, Caltex Corporation & President, Caltex Lubricants & New Business Development (from 2000 to 2001) and held a number of other senior level management positions at Caltex Corporation from 1998 to 2000. From 1991 to 1998, he worked at Texaco Inc., a subsidiary of Chevron, and served as the President of Texaco Lubricants Company from 1994 to 1998. As part of a joint enterprise between Texaco, Inc. and Saudi Aramco, Mr. Yosufzai was employed at Star Enterprise from 1988 to 1991 where he held a number of positions and prior to that began his career at Texaco, Inc., from 1975 to 1983. His past board memberships include Chairman of the Board of Directors of Caltex Lubricants Lanka Ltd.; Member of the Board of Directors of Caltex Australia Limited; and Member of the Management Committee of Star Enterprise. Mr. Yosufzai currently serves as Chair of the AIChE Foundation (The American Institute of Chemical Engineers) since November 2017, Chair of the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce and is an Executive Committee Member of the San Francisco Opera's Board of Directors. He previously served as Chair of the Board of the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M. Mr. Yosufzai also serves as Executive Sponsor of Chevron's University Partnership Program for the University of California, Berkeley, and Texas A&M University, and on the Advisory Board of Texas A&M's Dwight Look College of Engineering and on the Chancellor's Century Council of the Texas A&M University System. Named a Distinguished Graduate of the Chemical Engineering Department of Texas A&M University in 1998, in 1999 he became the first person to be honored by the school as both an Outstanding International Alumnus and a Distinguished Alumnus. In 2011, he served as Chair of the Board of the California Chamber of Commerce and was named an Outstanding Alumnus of the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M. He attended Extensive Education schools at both Columbia University, Graduate School of Business at Arden House and McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia and received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. Mr. Yosufzai's extensive managerial, operational and financial experience makes him a well-qualified addition to the Board.

The address of the principal office of each of Philotimo, KWM and Mr. Kanen is 5850 Coral Ridge Drive, Suite 309, Coral Springs, Florida 33076. The principal business address of Mr. Ambrose is c/o Data I/O Corporation, 6645 185th Ave. N.E., Suite 100, Redmond, Washington 98052. The principal business address of Mr. Howe is 10755 Scripps Poway Pkwy, #302, San Diego, California 92131. The principal business address of each of PADNOS and Mr. Padnos is 185 W. 8th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423. The principal business address of Mr. Yosufzai is 171 Alpine Terrace, Oakland, California 94618.

As of the date hereof, Messrs. Ambrose, Howe and Yosufzai do not directly or beneficially own any securities of the Company.

As of the date hereof, Mr. Kanen beneficially owns 2,283,678 shares of Common Stock of the Company. Mr. Kanen directly beneficially owns 116,082 shares of Common Stock of the Company. Philotimo Fund, LP (“Philotimo”) beneficially owns 300,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company. KWM beneficially owns 2,167,596 shares of Common Stock of the Company. KWM as the general partner of Philotimo, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 300,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Philotimo. Mr. Kanen, as the managing member of KWM may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 2,167,596 shares of Common Stock owned by KWM and the 300,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Philotimo.

As of the date hereof, Mr. Padnos beneficially owns 323,200 shares of Common Stock of the Company. Mr. Padnos directly beneficially owns 118,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company. PADNOS beneficially owns 205,200 shares of Common Stock of the Company. Mr. Padnos, as the Chairman of PADNOS, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 205,200 shares of Common Stock of the Company owned by PADNOS.

Each of the Nominees, as a member of a “group” for the purposes of Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of Common Stock owned in the aggregate by the other members of the group. Each of the Nominees disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares of Common Stock, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein. For information regarding purchases and sales during the past two years by the Nominees and by the members of the Group (defined below) of securities of the Company that may be deemed to be beneficially owned by the Nominees, see Schedule I.

On April 3, 2018, Philotimo, KWM, David L. Kanen, Anthony Ambrose, Alan B. Howe, PADNOS, Jeffrey S. Padnos, and S. Shariq Yosufzai the Nominees (collectively the “Group”) entered into a Joint Filing and Solicitation Agreement in which, among other things, (a) the Group agreed to the joint filing on behalf of each of them of statements on Schedule 13D, and any amendments thereto, with respect to the securities of the Company, and (b) the Group agreed to solicit proxies or written consents for the election of the persons nominated by the Group to the Board at the Annual Meeting (the “Solicitation”).

Other than as stated herein, there are no arrangements or understandings between members of Kanen and any of the Nominees or any other person or persons pursuant to which the nomination of the Nominees described herein is to be made, other than the consent by each of the Nominees to be named in this Proxy Statement and to serve as a director of the Company if elected as such at the Annual Meeting. None of the Nominees is a party adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or has a material interest adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in any material pending legal proceedings.

Kanen believes that each Nominee presently is, and if elected as a director of the Company, each of the Nominees would be, an “independent director” within the meaning of (i) applicable NASDAQ listing standards applicable to board composition, including Rule 5605(a)(2), and (ii) Section 301 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. No Nominee is a member of the Company’s Board or any committee thereof.

We do not expect that any of the Nominees will be unable to stand for election, but, in the event any Nominee is unable to serve or for good cause will not serve, the shares of Common Stock represented by the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card will be voted for substitute nominee(s), to the extent this is not prohibited under the Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws, as amended (the “Bylaws”) and applicable law. In addition, we reserve the right to nominate substitute person(s) if the Company makes or announces any changes to the Bylaws or takes or announces any other action that has, or if consummated would have, the effect of disqualifying any Nominee, to the extent this is not prohibited under the Bylaws and applicable law. In any such case, shares of Common Stock represented by the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card will be voted for such substitute nominee(s). We reserve the right to nominate additional person(s), to the extent this is not prohibited under the Bylaws and applicable law, if the Company increases the size of the Board above its existing size or increases the number of directors whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations made pursuant to the preceding sentence are without prejudice to the position of Kanen that any attempt to increase the size of the current Board or to reconstitute or reconfigure the classes on which the current directors serve constitutes an unlawful manipulation of the Company’s corporate machinery.

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES ON THE ENCLOSED WHITE PROXY CARD.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

As discussed in further detail in the Company's proxy statement, the Audit Committee has appointed Armanino LLP ("Armanino") as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 and the Board has directed that management submit the appointment of Armanino as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting.

Stockholder ratification of the selection of Armanino as the Company's independent registered public accountants is not required by the Company's Bylaws or otherwise. However, the Board is submitting the appointment of Armanino to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain Armanino. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accountant at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be in the Company's and the stockholders' best interests.

[WE MAKE NO RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ARMANINO LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF THE COMPANY FOR ITS FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND INTEND TO VOTE OUR SHARES "FOR" THIS PROPOSAL.]

VOTING AND PROXY PROCEDURES

Stockholders are entitled to one vote for each share of Common Stock held of record on the Record Date with respect to each matter to be acted on at the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record on the Record Date will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Stockholders who sell their shares of Common Stock before the Record Date (or acquire them without voting rights after the Record Date) may not vote such shares of Common Stock. Stockholders of record on the Record Date will retain their voting rights in connection with the Annual Meeting even if they sell such shares of Common Stock after the Record Date. Based on publicly available information, Kanen believes that the only outstanding class of securities of the Company entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is the Common Stock.

Shares of Common Stock represented by properly executed **WHITE** proxy cards will be voted at the Annual Meeting as marked and, in the absence of specific instructions, will be voted **FOR** the election of the Nominees, [**FOR**] the ratification of Armanino LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, and in the discretion of the persons named as proxies on all other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting, as described herein.

According to the Company's proxy statement for the Annual Meeting, the current Board intends to nominate five (5) candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. This Proxy Statement is soliciting proxies to elect only our Nominees. Accordingly, the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card may only be voted for our Nominees and does not confer voting power with respect to the Company's nominees. The participants in this solicitation intend to vote the Kanen Group Shares in favor of the Nominees. Stockholders should refer to the Company's proxy statement for the names, backgrounds, qualifications and other information concerning the Company's nominees. In the event that some of the Nominees are elected, there can be no assurance that the Company nominee(s) who get the most votes and are elected to the Board will choose to serve as on the Board with the Nominees who are elected.

QUORUM; DISCRETIONARY VOTING

A quorum is the minimum number of shares of Common Stock that must be represented at a duly called meeting in person or by proxy in order to legally conduct business at the meeting. For the Annual Meeting, the presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of at least a majority in voting power of all of the shares entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting must be present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting. Shares that abstain from voting on any proposal will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

If you are a stockholder of record, you must deliver your vote by mail or attend the Annual Meeting in person in order to be counted in the determination of a quorum.

If you are a beneficial owner, your broker will vote your shares pursuant to your instructions, and those shares will count in the determination of a quorum. Brokers do not have discretionary authority to vote on any of the proposals at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, unless you vote via proxy card or provide instructions to your broker, your shares of Common Stock will count for purposes of attaining a quorum, but will not be voted on the proposals.

VOTES REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL

Election of Directors — The Company has adopted a majority vote standard for non-contested director elections and a plurality standard for contested director elections. As a result of our nomination of the Nominees, the director election at the Annual Meeting will be contested, so the five (5) nominees for director receiving the highest vote totals will be elected as directors of the Company. With respect to the election of directors, only votes cast "FOR" a nominee will be counted. Proxy cards specifying that votes should be withheld with respect to one or more nominees will result in those nominees receiving fewer votes but will not count as a vote against the nominees. An abstention will not count as a vote cast "FOR" or "AGAINST" a director nominee. Therefore, abstentions will have no direct effect on the outcome of the election of directors.

Ratification of the Selection of Accounting Firm — According to the Company's proxy statement, assuming that a quorum is present, for the ratification of Armanino LLP, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is required for approval. The Company has indicated that abstentions will not be counted either for or against this proposal.

REVOCAION OF PROXIES

Stockholders of the Company may revoke their proxies at any time prior to exercise by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (although, attendance at the Annual Meeting will not in and of itself constitute revocation of a proxy) or by delivering a written notice of revocation. The delivery of a subsequently dated proxy which is properly completed will constitute a revocation of any earlier proxy. The revocation may be delivered either to Kanen in care of Alliance Advisors at the address set forth on the back cover of this Proxy Statement or to the Company at 1010 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, California 94501 or any other address provided by the Company. Although a revocation is effective if delivered to the Company, we request that either the original or photostatic copies of all revocations be mailed to Kanen in care of Alliance Advisors at the address set forth on the back cover of this Proxy Statement so that we will be aware of all revocations and can more accurately determine if and when proxies have been received from the holders of record on the Record Date of a majority of the shares entitled to be voted at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, Alliance Advisors may use this information to contact stockholders who have revoked their proxies in order to solicit later dated proxies for the election of the Nominees.

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD, PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY THE ENCLOSED WHITE PROXY CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

The solicitation of proxies pursuant to this Proxy Statement is being made by Kanen. Proxies may be solicited by mail, facsimile, telephone, telegraph, Internet, in person and by advertisements.

KWM has entered into an agreement with Alliance Advisors for solicitation and advisory services in connection with this solicitation, for which Alliance Advisors will receive a fee not to exceed \$[____], together with reimbursement for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, and will be indemnified against certain liabilities and expenses, including certain liabilities under the federal securities laws. Alliance Advisors will solicit proxies from individuals, brokers, banks, bank nominees, and other institutional holders. Kanen has requested banks, brokerage houses, and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward all solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of the shares of Common Stock they hold of record. Kanen will reimburse these record holders for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in so doing. It is anticipated that Alliance Advisors will employ approximately [] persons to solicit stockholders for the Annual Meeting.

The entire expense of soliciting proxies is being borne by Kanen. Costs of this solicitation of proxies are currently estimated to be approximately \$[____] (including, but not limited to, fees for attorneys, solicitors and other advisors, and other costs incidental to the solicitation). Kanen estimates that through the date hereof its expenses in connection with this solicitation are approximately \$[____]. Kanen intends to seek reimbursement from the Company of all expenses it incurs in connection with this solicitation. Kanen does not intend to submit the question of such reimbursement to a vote of security holders of the Company.

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Philotimo, KWM, David L. Kanen, Anthony Ambrose, Alan B. Howe, PADNOS, Jeffrey S. Padnos, and S. Shariq Yosufzai are members of a group (the “Group”) formed in connection with this proxy solicitation and are deemed participants in this proxy solicitation. The principal business of Philotimo is investing in securities. The principal business of KWM is investing in securities. The principal occupation of Mr. Kanen is serving as the managing member of KWM. The principal occupation of Mr. Ambrose is serving as Chief Executive Officer of Data I/O Corporation. The principal occupation of Mr. Howe is serving as Managing Partner of Broadband Initiatives, LLC. The principal business of PADNOS is as a recycling company. The principal occupation of Mr. Padnos is serving as Chairman of PADNOS. Mr. Yosufzai is retired.

Each participant in this solicitation, as a member of a “group” with the other participants for the purposes of Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, may be deemed to beneficially own the 2,606,878 shares of Common Stock owned in the aggregate by all of the participants in this solicitation. Each participant in this solicitation disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock he or it does not directly own. For information regarding purchases and sales of securities of the Company during the past two years by the participants in this solicitation, see [Schedule I](#).

The shares of Common Stock purchased by each of Philotimo, KWM, Mr. Kanen, PADNOS, and Jeffrey S. Padnos were purchased with working capital (which may, at any given time, include margin loans made by brokerage firms in the ordinary course of business).

Except as set forth in this Proxy Statement (including the Schedules hereto), (i) during the past 10 years, no participant in this solicitation has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors); (ii) no participant in this solicitation directly or indirectly beneficially owns any securities of the Company; (iii) no participant in this solicitation owns any securities of the Company which are owned of record but not beneficially; (iv) no participant in this solicitation has purchased or sold any securities of the Company during the past two years; (v) no part of the purchase price or market value of the securities of the Company owned by any participant in this solicitation is represented by funds borrowed or otherwise obtained for the purpose of acquiring or holding such securities; (vi) no participant in this solicitation is, or within the past year was, a party to any contract, arrangements or understandings with any person with respect to any securities of the Company, including, but not limited to, joint ventures, loan or option arrangements, puts or calls, guarantees against loss or guarantees of profit, division of losses or profits, or the giving or withholding of proxies; (vii) no associate of any participant in this solicitation owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of the Company; (viii) no participant in this solicitation owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of any parent or subsidiary of the Company; (ix) no participant in this solicitation or any of his or its associates was a party to any transaction, or series of similar transactions, since the beginning of the Company’s last fiscal year, or is a party to any currently proposed transaction, or series of similar transactions, to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was or is to be a party, in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000; (x) no participant in this solicitation or any of his or its associates has any arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any future employment by the Company or its affiliates, or with respect to any future transactions to which the Company or any of its affiliates will or may be a party; and (xi) no participant in this solicitation has a substantial interest, direct or indirect, by securities holdings or otherwise, in any matter to be acted on at the Annual Meeting.

There are no material proceedings to which any participant in this solicitation or any of his or its associates is a party adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or has a material interest adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries. With respect to each of the Nominees, none of the events enumerated in Item 401(f)(1)-(8) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act occurred during the past 10 years.

OTHER MATTERS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kanen is unaware of any other matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting. However, should other matters, which Kanen is not aware of a reasonable time before this solicitation, be brought before the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies on the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card will vote on such matters in their discretion consistent with Rule 14a-4(c)(3) promulgated under the Exchange Act.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Proposals of stockholders intended to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "2019 Annual Meeting") must, in order to be included in the Company's proxy statement and the form of proxy for the 2018 Annual Meeting, be delivered to the Company's Corporate Secretary at 1010 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda, California 94501 on or before January 1, 2018.

The information set forth above regarding the procedures for submitting stockholder proposals for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting is based on information contained in the Company's proxy statement and the Bylaws. The incorporation of this information in this proxy statement should not be construed as an admission by Kanen that such procedures are legal, valid or binding.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

WE HAVE OMITTED FROM THIS PROXY STATEMENT CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COMPANY'S PROXY STATEMENT RELATING TO THE ANNUAL MEETING. THIS DISCLOSURE INCLUDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CURRENT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY'S DIRECTORS, INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SEE SCHEDULE II FOR INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS WHO BENEFICIALLY OWN MORE THAN 5% OF THE SHARES AND THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SHARES BY THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY.

The information concerning the Company contained in this Proxy Statement and the Schedules attached hereto has been taken from, or is based upon, publicly available information.

KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

_____, 2018

SCHEDULE I

**TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY
DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS**

<u>Nature of the Transaction</u>	<u>Amount of Securities Purchased/(Sold)</u>	<u>Date of Purchase/Sale</u>
<u>PHILOTIMO FUND, LP</u>		
Purchase of Common Stock	150,000	02/12/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	73,961	02/13/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	26,039	02/14/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	50,000	02/15/2018
<u>KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC</u>		
Purchase of Common Stock	27,895	02/12/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	1,402,355	02/13/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	3,500	02/20/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	1,600	02/28/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	371,456	03/05/2018
Sale of Common Stock	(42,831)	03/05/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	13,400	03/06/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	33,849	03/07/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	24,000	03/16/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	7,130	04/02/2018
<u>DAVID L. KANEN</u>		
Purchase of Common Stock	41,984	02/12/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	27,645	02/13/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	19,000	02/27/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	20,000	02/28/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	10,906	03/05/2018
Sale of Common Stock	(6,230)	03/05/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	1,500	03/06/2018
Purchase of Common Stock	1,277	03/07/2018
<u>JEFFREY S. PADNOS</u>		
Sale of Common Stock	(2,000)	04/04/2016
Sale of Common Stock	(1,300)	04/15/2016
Sale of Common Stock	(5,414)	05/23/2016
Purchase of Common Stock	1,886	07/21/2016
Purchase of Common Stock	1,300	08/10/2016
Purchase of Common Stock	5,500	11/16/2016
Sale of Common Stock	(6,800)	02/09/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(2,500)	02/14/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(2,500)	02/15/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(2,000)	03/09/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(2,500)	03/10/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(1,000)	03/14/2017
Purchase of Common Stock	60,000	12/08/2017
Sale of Common Stock	(16,500)	02/13/2018

SCHEDULE II

The following table is reprinted from the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on _____.

IMPORTANT

Tell the Board what you think! Your vote is important. No matter how many shares of Common Stock you own, please give Kanen your proxy FOR the election of the Nominees and in accordance with Kanen's recommendations on the other proposals on the agenda for the Annual Meeting by taking three steps:

- SIGNING the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card;
- DATING the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card; and
- MAILING the enclosed **WHITE** proxy card TODAY in the envelope provided (no postage is required if mailed in the United States).

If any of your shares of Common Stock are held in the name of a brokerage firm, bank, bank nominee or other institution, only it can vote such shares of Common Stock and only upon receipt of your specific instructions. Depending upon your broker or custodian, you may be able to vote either by toll-free telephone or by the Internet. Please refer to the enclosed voting form for instructions on how to vote electronically. You may also vote by signing, dating and returning the enclosed **WHITE** voting form.

If you have any questions or require any additional information concerning this Proxy Statement, please contact Alliance Advisors at the address set forth below.

*If you have any questions, require assistance in voting your **WHITE** proxy card, or need additional copies of Kanen's proxy materials, please contact Alliance Advisors at the phone number or email address listed below.*



AllianceTM
ADVISORS

Alliance Advisors LLC
200 Broadacres Drive, 3rd floor
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Toll Free: 833.786.5514
Email: info@allianceadvisorsllc.com

WHITE PROXY CARD

**PRELIMINARY COPY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION
DATED APRIL 10, 2018**

AQUA METALS, INC.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF KANEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AQUA METALS, INC.
IS NOT SOLICITING THIS PROXY**

P R O X Y

The undersigned appoints David L. Kanen as an attorney and agent with full power of substitution to vote all shares of common stock of Aqua Metals, Inc. (the "Company") which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company scheduled to be held on _____, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. local time, at the Waterfront Hotel, 10 Washington Street, Oakland, California 94607 (including any adjournments or postponements thereof and any meeting called in lieu thereof, the "Annual Meeting").

The undersigned hereby revokes any other proxy or proxies heretofore given to vote or act with respect to the shares of common stock of the Company held by the undersigned, and hereby ratifies and confirms all action the herein named attorneys and proxies, their substitutes, or any of them may lawfully take by virtue hereof. If properly executed, this Proxy will be voted as directed on the reverse and in the discretion of the herein named attorneys and proxies or their substitutes with respect to any other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting that are unknown to Kanen Wealth Management, LLC ("Kanen") a reasonable time before this solicitation.

IF NO DIRECTION IS INDICATED WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSALS ON THE REVERSE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED "FOR" PROPOSAL 1, AND ["FOR"] PROPOSAL 2.

This Proxy will be valid until the completion of the Annual Meeting. This Proxy will only be valid in connection with Kanen's solicitation of proxies for the Annual Meeting.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY!

CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON REVERSE SIDE

WHITE PROXY CARD

[X] Please mark vote as in this example

KANEN STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINEES LISTED BELOW IN PROPOSAL 1. KANEN RECOMMENDS A VOTE ["FOR"] PROPOSAL 2.

1. Kanen's proposal to elect Anthony Ambrose, Alan B. Howe, David L. Kanen, Jeffrey S. Padnos and S. Shariq Yosufzai as directors.

	FOR ALL NOMINEES	WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES	FOR ALL EXCEPT NOMINEE(S) WRITTEN BELOW
Nominees: Anthony Ambrose	[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	[<input type="checkbox"/>]
Alan B. Howe			_____
David L. Kanen			_____
Jeffrey S. Padnos			_____
S. Shariq Yosufzai			

Kanen does not expect that any of the nominees will be unable to stand for election, but, in the event that any nominee is unable to serve or for good cause will not serve, the shares of common stock represented by this proxy card will be voted for substitute nominee(s), to the extent this is not prohibited under the Bylaws and applicable law. In addition, Kanen has reserved the right to nominate substitute person(s) if the Company makes or announces any changes to the Bylaws or takes or announces any other action that has, or if consummated would have, the effect of disqualifying any nominee, to the extent this is not prohibited under the Bylaws and applicable law. In any such case, shares of common stock represented by this proxy card will be voted for such substitute nominee(s).

If no direction is indicated, Kanen intends to use this proxy to vote (i) "FOR" Messrs. Ambrose, Howe, Kanen, Padnos, and Yosufzai. The names, backgrounds and qualifications of the candidates who have been nominated by the Company, and other information about them, can be found in the Company's proxy statement. There is no assurance that any of the candidates who have been nominated by the Company will serve as directors if Kanen's nominees are elected.

Note: If you do not wish for your shares to be voted "FOR" a particular nominee, mark the "FOR ALL EXCEPT NOMINEE(S) WRITTEN BELOW" box and write the name(s) of the nominee(s) you do not support on the line below. Your shares of common stock will be voted for the remaining nominee(s).

WHITE PROXY CARD

2. To ratify the appointment of Armanino LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTAIN

DATED: _____

(Signature)

(Signature, if held jointly)

(Title)

WHEN SHARES ARE HELD JOINTLY, JOINT OWNERS SHOULD EACH SIGN. EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, ETC., SHOULD INDICATE THE CAPACITY IN WHICH SIGNING. PLEASE SIGN EXACTLY AS NAME APPEARS ON THIS PROXY.