

HURCO COMPANIES INC  
Form DEF 14A  
January 25, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, DC 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 Pursuant to § Rule 240.14a-12**

**Hurco Companies, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in this Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4)Date Filed:

**HURCO COMPANIES, INC.**

ONE TECHNOLOGY WAY

P.O. BOX 68180

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46268

(317) 293-5309

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

To Be Held March 10, 2016

The 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Hurco Companies, Inc., will be held at our corporate headquarters, One Technology Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 10, 2016, for the following purposes:

1. To elect eight directors to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualify;
2. To approve, in an advisory (non-binding) vote, the compensation paid to our named executive officers;
3. To approve the Hurco Companies, Inc. 2016 Equity Incentive Plan;
4. To approve the Hurco Companies, Inc. Cash Incentive Plan;
5. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2016; and
6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The persons named as proxies will use their discretion to vote on any other matters that may properly arise at the annual meeting.**

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in our proxy statement accompanying this notice. Please read our proxy statement carefully.

If you do not expect to attend the annual meeting, please mark, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it in the enclosed return envelope which requires no postage if mailed in the United States or vote your shares via the Internet or by telephone as described in the proxy statement.

Only shareholders of record as of the close of business on January 8, 2016, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting or any adjournments thereof. In the event there are not sufficient votes for approval of one or more of the above matters at the time of the annual meeting, the annual meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Sonja K. McClelland, *Secretary*

Indianapolis, Indiana

January 25, 2016

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**—Even if you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to mark, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the enclosed envelope or vote your shares via the Internet or by telephone as described in the proxy statement.

#### **Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials**

In accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are advising our shareholders of the availability on the Internet of our proxy materials related to our forthcoming annual meeting. These rules allow companies to provide access to proxy materials in one of two ways. Because we have elected to utilize the "full set delivery" option, we are delivering to all shareholders paper copies of all of the proxy materials, as well as providing access to those proxy materials on a publicly accessible website.

**The notice of annual meeting of shareholders, proxy statement, form of proxy card and our most recent annual report on Form 10-K are available at [www.hurco.com/proxymaterials](http://www.hurco.com/proxymaterials). If you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, you may obtain directions to the meeting site by written request directed to Sonja K. McClelland, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Hurco Companies, Inc., One Technology Way, P. O. Box 68180, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268 or by telephone at (317) 293-5309.**

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**HURCO COMPANIES, INC.**

**One Technology Way**

**P. O. Box 68180**

**Indianapolis, Indiana 46268**

**Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

**March 10, 2016**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

This proxy statement and accompanying proxy are being furnished to the holders of common stock of Hurco Companies, Inc. (the "Company," "Hurco," "we" or "us") in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at our corporate headquarters at One Technology Way, Indianapolis, Indiana, and at any adjournments thereof. This proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are being mailed to our shareholders on or about January 25, 2016.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING**

**Who is entitled to vote at the meeting and what are my voting rights?**

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on January 8, 2016 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting or any adjournments thereof. As of that date, there were 6,593,638 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share with respect to each matter submitted to a vote. There is no cumulative voting on election of directors or any other matter.

**How many shares must be present to hold the meeting?**



The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at the annual meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**What matters will be voted on at the meeting?**

There are five matters to be considered at the meeting, as follows:

1. Election of eight directors to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualify;
2. An advisory vote to approve the compensation paid to our named executive officers, also referred to as the "say-on-pay" vote;
  3. Approval of the Hurco Companies, Inc. 2016 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2016 Equity Plan");
  4. Approval of the Hurco Companies, Inc. Cash Incentive Plan (the "Cash Incentive Plan"); and
5. Ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2016.

**How are votes counted?**

All shares that have been properly voted, and not revoked, will be voted at the meeting in accordance with the instructions of the voting shareholders.

Brokers are not entitled to exercise discretion to vote shares on any of the matters to be voted on at the meeting other than the ratification of the appointment of the auditor unless the shareholder gives voting instructions to the broker. Accordingly, if you hold your shares in "street name" and wish your shares to be voted by your broker on the election of directors, the say-on-pay vote, the 2016 Equity Plan or the Cash Incentive Plan, you must give your broker voting instructions.

### What vote is required to approve each proposal?

To approve each of the proposals, the following votes are required from the holders of voting shares. Except as set forth below, abstentions and broker non-votes will not count as votes cast on the proposals below and will not affect the outcome of the votes.

#### Proposal

#### Vote Required

1 Election of directors

The election of director nominees will be determined by a plurality of the shares voting on such election, which means that the director nominees receiving the most **FOR** votes will be elected up to the maximum number of directors to be elected at the annual meeting. Broker non-votes and abstentions will not affect the determination of whether any nominee is elected.

2 Say-on-pay vote

More votes are cast **FOR** than **AGAINST**.

3 Approval of the 2016 Equity Plan

The 2016 Equity Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. In other words, approval of the 2016 Equity Plan will be determined where the number of shares voted **FOR** the 2016 Equity Plan exceeds the number of shares voted **AGAINST** or **ABSTAIN**. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against the approval of the 2016 Equity Plan. Broker non-votes will not affect the determination of whether the 2016 Equity Plan will be approved.

4 Approval of the Cash Incentive Plan

The Cash Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. In other words, approval of the Cash Incentive Plan will be determined where the number of shares voted **FOR** the Cash Incentive Plan exceeds the number of shares voted **AGAINST** or **ABSTAIN**. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against the approval of the Cash Incentive Plan. Broker non-votes will not affect the determination of whether the Cash Incentive Plan will be approved.

5 Ratification of auditors

More votes are cast **FOR** than **AGAINST**.



### **How can I vote my shares without attending the meeting?**

Whether you hold your shares directly as a registered shareholder or beneficially in street name, you may vote without attending the meeting. If you are a shareholder of record, you can vote your shares by granting a proxy via the Internet, over the telephone or by mailing your signed proxy card. If you hold your shares in street name, your broker, bank or other nominee will provide you with materials and instructions on voting your shares.

### **How do I vote my shares in person at the meeting?**

Proof of stock ownership and some form of government issued photo identification (such as a valid driver's license or passport) will be required for admission to the meeting. **Only shareholders who owned our common stock as of the close of business on January 8, 2016 are entitled to attend the meeting.**

If you are a shareholder of record, you must bring some form of photo identification to be admitted to the meeting. You may vote your shares in person at the meeting by completing a ballot at the meeting.

If your shares are held in street name, you must request a proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee that holds your shares. If you do not obtain a proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee, you will not be entitled to vote your shares at the meeting, but you can still attend the meeting if you bring a recent bank or brokerage statement showing that you owned shares of common stock on January 8, 2016.

Even if you currently plan to attend the meeting, we recommend that you vote by proxy, either via the Internet, by telephone or by mail, so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

### **What can I do if I change my mind after I submit my proxy?**

If you are a shareholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the meeting by: (1) giving timely written notice of the revocation to our Secretary, or (2) submitting a later-dated proxy in person at the meeting, via the Internet, by telephone or by mail. If your shares are held in street name, you may submit new voting instructions by contacting your broker, bank or other nominee holder. You may also vote in person at the annual meeting if you obtain a legal proxy as described above.

**What are the Board's recommendations on how I should vote my shares?**

The Board recommends that you vote your shares as follows:

- **FOR** the election of the eight nominees as directors.
- **FOR** the say-on-pay vote.
- **FOR** the approval of the 2016 Equity Plan.
- **FOR** the approval of the Cash Incentive Plan.

**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2016.

**How would my shares be voted if I do not specify how they should be voted?**

If you sign and return a proxy card without indicating how you want your shares to be voted, the persons named as proxies will vote your shares as follows:

- **FOR** the election of the eight nominees as directors.
  
- **FOR** the say-on-pay vote.
  
- **FOR** the approval of the 2016 Equity Plan.
  
- **FOR** the approval of the Cash Incentive Plan.

**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2016.

**What is the effect of the say-on-pay vote?**

The say-on-pay vote is advisory and not binding on the Company, the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee. We could, if the Board or the Compensation Committee concluded it was in our best interests to do so, choose not to follow or implement the outcome of the advisory vote.

**What happens if additional matters are presented at the annual meeting?**

We know of no other matters other than the items of business described in this proxy statement that will be presented at the meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxy holders will have discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the meeting in accordance with Indiana law and our By-Laws.

**Who will count the votes?**

Our Corporate Secretary will count the votes.

**Can I review the list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting?**

A list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available at the meeting and for ten days prior to the meeting, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at our offices at One Technology Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268. If you would like to view the shareholder list, please contact our Corporate Secretary to schedule an appointment.

**Who pays for the cost of proxy preparation and solicitation?**

We will pay the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing this proxy statement and form of proxy. We will also request banks, brokers and other holders of record to send the proxy materials to, and obtain proxies from, beneficial owners and will reimburse them for their reasonable expenses in doing so.

**Is this proxy statement the only way that proxies are being solicited?**

Our directors, officers and other employees may also solicit proxies personally by telephone, facsimile, electronic mail, personal contact or otherwise. They will not be specifically compensated for doing so.

**Can I receive future proxy statements and annual reports electronically?**

Yes. If you are a shareholder of record, you may request and consent to electronic delivery of future proxy statements, annual reports and other shareholder communications by following the instructions on the proxy card to vote using the Internet and when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access shareholder communications electronically in future years. You may also contact our Transfer Agent, Computershare Investor Services, by calling (781) 575-2879 or toll-free at (877) 282-1169 or by writing: Computershare Investor Services P.O. Box 30170, College Station, TX 77842. If your shares are held beneficially in street name, please contact your bank, broker or other nominee and ask about the availability of electronic delivery.

**Are you planning on making the proxy materials only available by Internet this year, unless paper copies are requested?**

No. Although many public companies are mailing a notice to their shareholders so they can provide proxy materials through the Internet, we have again elected to use the "full set delivery" option and so are providing paper copies of proxy materials to all of our shareholders. Our proxy materials and Annual Report on Form 10-K are also available via the Internet at [www.hurco.com/proxymaterials](http://www.hurco.com/proxymaterials). We may decide not to use the "full set delivery" option in the future; however, you will still have the right to request a free set of proxy materials by mail.



## PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors currently consists of eight members. The Board, acting on the recommendation of our Nominating and Governance Committee, has nominated the eight incumbents for election as directors. Each nominee who is elected will serve for a term of one year, which expires at our next annual meeting of shareholders or such later date as his or her successor has been elected and qualifies.

No fees were paid to any third parties to identify or evaluate potential nominees. Unless authority is specifically withheld, the shares voting by proxy will be voted in favor of these nominees.

If any of these nominees becomes unable to serve, we expect that the persons named in the proxy will exercise their voting power in favor of other such person or persons as the Board may recommend. All of the nominees have consented to being named in this proxy statement and to serve if elected. The Board of Directors knows of no reason why any of the nominees would be unable to serve.

The names of the persons who are nominees for election and their current positions and offices with Hurco, if any, are set forth below. There are no family relationships among any of our directors or officers.

	<b>Positions and Offices</b>
<b>Nominees</b>	
	<b>Held with Hurco</b>
Thomas A. Aaro	Director
Robert W. Cruickshank	Presiding Independent Director
Michael Doar	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Jay C. Longbottom	Director
Andrew Niner	Director
Richard Porter	Director
Janaki Sivanesan	Director
Ronald Strackbein	Director

### **Business Experience and Qualifications of Nominees**

**Thomas A. Aaro**, age 58, has been a member of the Board of Directors since March 2015. Mr. Aaro was the founder and has been the Managing Partner since 2002 of BlueBlack LLC, an independent integrated/shopper marketing

agency that provides strategic and promotional consulting, training and implementation to consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies, marketing agencies, marketing services and digital marketing companies. Previously, he served as the Partner/Chief Executive Officer of Marketing Drive-MGR, an integrated promotional marketing agency and as Chief Marketing Officer/Consultant for a number of technology-oriented companies, including Supermarkets Online, a division of Catalina, a CPG internet savings site, and Wavetel, a startup wireless Internet Service Provider in North Carolina.

Mr. Aaro brings to our Board of Directors extensive knowledge of marketing and entrepreneurship. His 30 years of experience leading marketing strategy for numerous CPG/technology companies and experience as an entrepreneur provides valuable insight to our Board.

**Robert W. Cruickshank**, age 70, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2000 and Presiding Independent Director since June 2012. Mr. Cruickshank has been a consultant since 1981. Mr. Cruickshank was a director of Calgon Carbon Corporation, a producer of products and services for the purification, reparation and concentration of liquids and gases, until March 2013.

Mr. Cruickshank brings to our Board of Directors expertise in finance and investments. Mr. Cruickshank also has experience serving as an independent director of several public companies.

**Michael Doar**, age 60, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2000. Mr. Doar was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and our Chief Executive Officer in fiscal 2001. He also served as our President from November 2009 to March 2013. Prior to joining Hurco, Mr. Doar served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing of Ingersoll Contract Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Ingersoll International, an international engineering and machine tool systems business, having previously held various management positions with Ingersoll International from 1989. Mr. Doar also serves as a director of Twin Disc, Incorporated, a manufacturer of marine and heavy duty off-highway power transmission equipment.

Mr. Doar has led Hurco for more than fourteen years. As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Doar brings to our Board of Directors his in-depth knowledge of our business, strategy, people, operations, competition and financial position. Mr. Doar also provides leadership and vision for the development and execution of our strategic plans and the achievement of our business goals and objectives.

**Jay C. Longbottom**, age 62, has been a member of the Board of Directors since March 2015. Mr. Longbottom has been the Chief Executive Officer of Robert Family Holdings, a privately held company that manages a portfolio of specialty manufacturers, since 2013, and has been a member of its Board of Directors since 2008 and the Chair of its Audit Committee since 2009. Prior to Robert Family Holdings, Mr. Longbottom served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Trostel, LLC, a rubber products company, for a period of one year. Additionally, from 2002 to 2012, Mr. Longbottom was an executive of Haldex AB, a Swedish publicly traded company that provides proprietary and innovative solutions to improve safety, vehicle dynamics and environmental sustainability in the global commercial vehicle industry. Mr. Longbottom served as the CEO and President of Haldex AB from 2011 to 2012. Prior to 2011, he was the Executive Vice President and Head of the Commercial Vehicle Systems Division and the President of the Hydraulics Division of Haldex Group.

Mr. Longbottom brings to our Board of Directors significant knowledge in finance, mergers and acquisitions and international manufacturing operations. His experience as a CEO of a Swedish publicly traded company is especially relevant to understanding regulations and capital market requirements. Mr. Longbottom currently serves as a director of Robert Family Holdings and has served as a director of several other international corporations.

**Andrew Niner**, age 38, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. Mr. Niner is President of Niner Wine Estates in Paso Robles, California. Prior to Niner Wine Estates, Mr. Niner was a partner at Pacific Legacy Capital, a California based private equity group focused on investing in lower middle market companies. Additionally, Mr. Niner was a restructuring advisor at a global distribution company and a strategy manager at Levi Strauss & Company. Mr. Niner earned his Masters of Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley and is a CFA Charterholder.

Mr. Niner brings to our Board of Directors knowledge and experience in strategic business development, operations and capital market transactions.

**Richard Porter**, age 60, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. Mr. Porter has managed a private equity portfolio of manufacturing companies since 2007. Previously, he was President of CB Manufacturing, a cutting tool company, and President of Ingersoll Contract Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Ingersoll International.

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Mr. Porter brings to the Board of Directors extensive experience in the machine tool industry, particularly in product and contract manufacturing. Mr. Porter also has experience serving on the boards of a number of private companies with annual revenues ranging from \$40 million to \$480 million.

**Janaki Sivanesan**, age 44, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2008. Ms. Sivanesan is a practicing attorney and founding principal of a private equity firm focused on middle market investments. She previously served as a partner at a large, New York law firm. She was admitted to the bars of the States of New York and Georgia in 2007 and 1996, respectively. Ms. Sivanesan has experience in a wide range of corporate transactions, from mergers and acquisitions to corporate finance, including private debt, equity investments and venture capital transactions. Ms. Sivanesan also has experience in cross-border transactions related to manufacturing and outsourcing, and is particularly knowledgeable with respect to business operations in India.

Ms. Sivanesan provides to the Board of Directors and Audit Committee thorough knowledge and understanding of complex legal and capital markets transactions as well as corporate mergers and acquisitions.

**Ronald Strackbein**, age 74, has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. Mr. Strackbein has been a self-employed private investor for more than twenty years.

Mr. Strackbein provides to the Board of Directors significant experience in corporate operations, management and finance. Mr. Strackbein also has experience serving as a director of several other public and private corporations.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" each of the nominees for director.**

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### **Policies on Corporate Governance**

Our Board believes that good corporate governance is important to ensure that our company is managed for the long-term benefit of our shareholders. The Board or one of its committees periodically reviews our Corporate Governance Principles, the written charters for each of the standing committees of the Board and our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and amends them as appropriate to reflect new policies or practices.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

Our Board is currently led by Mr. Doar, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Doar has held these positions since 2001 and has experience in leading the Company through a range of changes in business environments. The Board of Directors believes that it is most efficient and effective for a single individual to fulfill these two leadership roles at this time. Combining the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles facilitates clear leadership responsibility and accountability, effective decision-making, and a cohesive corporate strategy. Our Board of Directors possesses considerable experience and knowledge of the challenges and opportunities that we face as a company. We feel the Board is well qualified to evaluate our current and future needs and to judge how the capabilities of our senior management can be most effectively organized to meet those needs.

Our Board of Directors currently has seven independent directors. We have three standing committees and one of our independent directors serves as our Presiding Independent Director as required by our Corporate Governance Principles. The independent directors have designated Mr. Cruickshank to serve as Presiding Independent Director. The Presiding Independent Director oversees executive sessions of the independent directors and plays an active role in setting Board agendas and facilitating interactions between the independent directors and management. The Board of Directors evaluates the appropriateness of its leadership structure on an ongoing basis and may change it as circumstances warrant. We believe that each of these measures counter-balances any risk that may exist in having Mr. Doar serve as both Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. For these reasons, our Board of Directors believes this leadership structure is effective for our Company.

### **Board Role in Risk Oversight**

Our Board regularly receives reports from our Chief Executive Officer and other members of our senior management team regarding areas of significant risk to us, including strategic, operational, financial, legal, regulatory and

reputational risks. However, management is responsible for assessing and managing our various risk exposures on a day-to-day basis. In this regard, management, with the assistance, where appropriate, of its counsel, has established functions that focus on particular risks, such as legal matters, regulatory compliance, treasury management, research and development, supply chain and quality control, and has developed a systemic and integrated approach to overall risk management, which includes the identification of risks and mitigation plans in the strategic planning process.

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Our Board's role is primarily one of oversight. Our Board oversees our risk management processes to determine whether those processes are functioning as intended and are consistent with our business and strategy. Our Board conducts this oversight primarily through the Audit Committee, although some aspects of risk oversight are performed by the full Board or another committee. The Audit Committee is assigned with, among other things, oversight of our risks relating to accounting matters, financial reporting and legal and regulatory compliance. The Audit Committee meets regularly with our Chief Financial Officer, external auditors, internal auditors and management to discuss our major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including our risk assessment and risk management policies. The Audit Committee also receives regular reports regarding issues such as the status and findings of audits being conducted by our independent auditors, the status of material litigation and material accounting changes or proposed audit adjustments that could affect our financial statements. Our Audit Committee has standing items on its quarterly meeting agendas relating to these responsibilities. The Audit Committee members, as well as all other directors, have access to our Chief Financial Officer, internal auditors and any other member of our management for discussions between meetings as warranted. The Audit Committee provides reports to the full Board on risk-related items.

The activities of the Compensation Committee with respect to risks relating to our compensation policies and procedures are discussed below in the Executive Compensation section of this proxy statement.

### **Director Independence and Board Meetings**

The Board of Directors has determined that each of our non-employee directors, Messrs. Aaro, Cruickshank, Longbottom, Niner, Porter and Strackbein and Ms. Sivanesan, is an "independent director" as defined by the listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market (the market in which our common stock trades), or Nasdaq, and the director independence rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. The Board has affirmatively determined that none of the persons who served as independent directors during fiscal 2015 have any relationship with us that would impair their independence.

Directors are expected to attend Board meetings, meetings of committees on which they serve and our annual meeting of shareholders, and to spend the time needed and meet as frequently as necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities. The Board of Directors held five regular meetings during fiscal 2015. All directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and the committees on which they served during fiscal 2015, and all directors, except Mr. Strackbein who was ill, attended the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders.

### **Board Committees and Committee Meetings**



The Board of Directors has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee. The members of the committees, as of the date of this proxy statement, are identified in the following table.

<b>Director</b>	<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Compensation Committee</b>	<b>Nominating and Governance Committee</b>
Thomas A. Aaro	X		
Robert W. Cruickshank		X	Chair
Michael Doar			
Jay C. Longbottom	X		
Andrew Niner			X
Richard Porter		Chair	X
Janaki Sivanesan	X		
Ronald Strackbein	Chair	X	

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee oversees our accounting, financial reporting, and internal audit activities. It appoints our independent registered public accounting firm and meets with that firm, our internal audit team, and our Chief Financial Officer to review the scope, cost and results of our annual audit and to review our internal accounting controls, policies and procedures. The Report of the Audit Committee is included on page 60 of this proxy statement.

All members of the Audit Committee are "independent" as such term is defined for audit committee members under the Nasdaq rules and SEC Rule 10A-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. The Board has determined that Mr. Strackbein qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert," as defined in Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act.

The Audit Committee held fifteen meetings during fiscal 2015.

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com).

### **Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee reviews and recommends to the Board the compensation of our officers and managers and guidelines for the general wage structure of the entire workforce. The Compensation Committee also oversees the administration of our employee benefit plans and discusses with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and, if appropriate, recommends its inclusion in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and proxy statement. In determining the compensation of the named executive officers other than our Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee considers the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer. The Report of the Compensation Committee is included on page 28 of this proxy statement.

All members of the Compensation Committee are "independent" as such term is defined for compensation committee members under the Nasdaq rules and SEC Rule 10C-1 promulgated under the Exchange Act.

The Compensation Committee held five meetings and acted by written consent in lieu of a meeting one time during fiscal 2015.

The Compensation Committee operates under a written charter, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com).

No member of our Compensation Committee was, at any time during fiscal 2015 or at any other time before fiscal 2015, an officer or an employee of the Company. In addition, none of the members of the Compensation Committee were involved in a relationship requiring disclosure as an interlocking executive officer or director under Item 407(e)(4) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act. None of our executive officers served as a member of the Compensation Committee at any time during or before fiscal 2015.

### **Nominating and Governance Committee**

The Nominating and Governance Committee assists the Board by identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, maintains our Corporate Governance Principles and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, leads the Board in an annual self-evaluation, recommends members and chairs for each standing committee, and determines and evaluates succession plans for our Chief Executive Officer.

All members of the Nominating and Governance Committee are independent directors as defined by Nasdaq rules.

The Nominating and Governance Committee held three meetings during fiscal 2015.

The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for identifying potential Board members. The committee examines, among other things, the following qualifications and skills of director candidates: their business or professional experience, their integrity and judgment, their records of public service, their ability to devote sufficient time to the affairs of the Company, the diversity of backgrounds and experience they will bring to the Board, and the needs of the Board for certain skills or experiences. The Nominating and Governance Committee also believes that all nominees should be individuals of substantial accomplishment with demonstrated leadership capabilities. The committee does not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying nominees for director.

The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider candidates for director who are recommended by shareholders. A shareholder who wishes to recommend a director candidate for consideration by the committee should send such recommendation to our Secretary at One Technology Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268, who will forward it to the committee. Any such recommendation should include a description of the candidate's qualifications for Board service and contact information for the shareholder and the candidate.

A shareholder who wishes to nominate an individual as a candidate for director without the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee must comply with the advance notice and informational requirements set forth in our By-Laws, which are more fully explained later in this proxy statement under "Shareholder Proposals for our 2017 Annual Meeting."

The Nominating and Governance Committee operates under a written charter, a copy of which is available on our website at [www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com).

### **Shareholder Communications**

The Board of Directors has implemented a process whereby shareholders may send communications to its attention. The process for communicating with the Board is set forth in our Corporate Governance Principles, which are available on our website at [www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com).

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock, to file reports of ownership with the SEC and Nasdaq. Such persons are also required to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on our review of the copies of such forms received by us, and written representations from certain reporting persons that they were not required to file a Form 5 to report previously unreported ownership or changes in ownership, we believe that, during our fiscal year ended October 31, 2015, all of our officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners complied with all filing requirements under Section 16(a).

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### **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which applies to all of our directors, officers and employees, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer. If we grant any waiver to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, we will disclose the nature of such waiver in a Current Report on Form 8-K that we will file with the SEC. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at *[www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com)*. We will disclose any amendments or updates to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by posting such amendments or updates on our website.

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## PROPOSAL 2. ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The second proposal to be considered at the annual meeting is the annual advisory vote to approve the compensation paid to our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement pursuant to the SEC's compensation disclosure rules (which disclosure includes the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the narrative discussion following the compensation tables) or say-on-pay vote. Consistent with the preference expressed by shareholders at the 2011 annual meeting, we are conducting "say-on-pay" votes on an annual basis.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 15 of this proxy statement describes our executive compensation program in detail and explains the philosophy of the program, the elements of compensation and the factors considered by the Compensation Committee in determining the compensation of our executive officers during fiscal 2015.

At our 2015 annual meeting of shareholders, approximately 97% of the votes cast on the annual say-on-pay vote were voted to approve the proposal, which was consistent with the percentage of votes cast in favor of the say-on-pay proposal at our 2014 annual meeting of shareholders. The Compensation Committee believes that the high levels of shareholder support at those meetings indicates that the changes made to our executive compensation in 2014 to align with contemporary practices and strengthen the pay-for-performance alignment of the executive compensation program were responsive to earlier shareholder concerns.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors recommends that our shareholders vote **FOR** the following resolution at the Annual Meeting:

"Resolved, that the compensation paid to Hurco Companies, Inc.'s named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion in this proxy statement, is approved."

Because it is advisory, the results of the say-on-pay vote are not binding upon the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee. However, as was the case with the results of the say-on-pay vote at prior annual meetings of shareholders, we expect that the Compensation Committee, which is responsible for designing and administering our executive compensation program, will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" the advisory proposal to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement.**

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This section and the tables that follow it provide information regarding our compensation program and practices as they relate to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the two other executive officers identified in the Summary Compensation Table on page 30, and are referred to as the "named executive officers" in this analysis. We currently do not have any executive officers who are not also named executive officers.

The responsibilities of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (referred to as the Committee in this section) include administering our compensation programs and approving or ratifying all compensation related decisions for the named executive officers.

### **Philosophy**

The goals of our executive compensation program are to foster the creation of shareholder value while, at the same time, motivating and retaining managerial personnel. Our executive compensation program has been designed to hold executives accountable for the financial and operational performance of the Company, as well as reflecting the value of the Company's stock. Therefore, a substantial amount of an executive's compensation is at risk and tied to the performance of the Company on both a short-term and long-term basis. Our compensation program includes the use of Company common stock and stock ownership guidelines that serve to align the interests of our executives with the interests of our shareholders. Our compensation program is designed to reward executives at levels comparable to our peers to promote fairness and success in attracting and retaining executives. We believe that our compensation program does not promote excessive risk taking and various elements of our policies are in place, such as capped incentive opportunities, use of capital return metrics, stock ownership guidelines, recoupment policy and governance processes, that serve to mitigate excessive risk. The employment agreements with our named executive officers include a change in control severance benefit that has a "double-trigger" (requires both a change in control and termination of the executive's employment in order to receive that benefit).

### **2015 Overview**

We are an industrial technology company that designs, produces, and sells computerized machine tools. During fiscal 2015, our sales were \$219.4 million, a decrease of \$2.9 million, or 1%, compared to fiscal 2014. Excluding the

negative currency impact of \$21.2 million, sales and service fees for fiscal 2015 reflected growth of \$18.3 million, or 8%, over fiscal 2014. The year-over-year growth was due primarily to the increased shipments of higher performance machines in Europe and contributions from products related to our July 2015 acquisitions of the assets of the machine tool businesses of Milltronics Manufacturing, Inc. (“Milltronics”), a U.S. business, and Takumi Machinery Co., Ltd. (“Takumi”), a Taiwanese business. Operating income for fiscal 2015 was \$23.8 million, or 11% of sales, compared to \$22.0 million, or 10% of sales, in fiscal 2014. The year-over year improvement in operating income was primarily attributable to increased sales of higher-performance machines across all regions. The total compensation paid to the named executive officers reflected achievements of performance goals and strategic objectives set for fiscal 2015.

**Consideration of 2014 and 2015 Say-on-Pay Votes**

During fiscal 2014, the Committee approved the following changes to the executive compensation program:

o adopted the 2014 short-term incentive compensation plan pursuant to which awards were based on pre-established performance metrics consisting of operating income margin and certain strategic objectives;

o introduced performance-based equity and adjusted the mix and vesting of equity awards, as follows:

· 25% time-based restricted shares, which vest in equal installments over three years;

· 40% performance shares, which vest at the end of three years based on the satisfaction of pre-established goals related to our total shareholder return relative to our peer group;

· 35% performance shares, which vest at the end of three years based on the satisfaction of pre-established goals related to our average return on invested capital;

o developed a peer group of similar companies and used reputable surveys based on manufacturing companies to evaluate the competitiveness of our executive compensation program;

o amended the Corporate Governance Principles to establish stock ownership guidelines for executive officers and outside directors, and to prohibit hedging of our stock;

o amended the Corporate Governance Principles to establish a written incentive compensation recoupment policy that applies to all executive officers;

o engaged Pay Governance LLC to advise the Committee on compensation matters; and

o adopted target annual incentive opportunities, including defined threshold and maximum payout opportunities.

The Committee believes the significant changes made to the fiscal 2014 executive compensation program strongly support its philosophy and objectives of aligning executive compensation with Company performance. The Committee considered the results of the say-on-pay vote in 2014 and 2015 and, based on the strong level of

shareholder support in each of those years, the Committee made no material changes to the executive compensation program for fiscal year 2016.

### **Alignment of Pay-for-Performance**

In January 2014, the Committee made several changes to our executive compensation program to create an even stronger, more direct link between the compensation of our named executive officers and Company performance. As discussed in more detail below, with respect to fiscal 2015 executive compensation, the Committee utilized operating income margin and strategic objective performance goals for the fiscal 2015 cash short-term incentive compensation element, and utilized relative total shareholder return and return on invested capital as the performance goals for the three-year performance share vesting requirements. Based on the strong level of shareholder support for our executive compensation program for fiscal 2015, the Committee determined to maintain a similar executive compensation program for fiscal 2016.

An analysis of the operating income trend compared to total executive compensation (summarized in the Summary Compensation Table on page 30) of the named executive officers, including all equity awards, during each of the last three years is shown below.

## **Operating Income Compared to Total Executive Compensation**

### **Elements of Compensation**

The compensation package of our named executive officers consists primarily of a base salary, short-term incentive compensation and long-term incentive compensation. As part of the Committee's continuous effort to strengthen the executive compensation program, from time to time the Committee engages its independent compensation consultant, Pay Governance, to conduct a competitive market assessment for each executive position using publicly available data from the peer group and executive compensation surveys. The assessment focuses on the competitiveness of compensation delivered to each executive by compensation elements (base salary, target annual incentive, target total cash compensation, expected value of long-term incentives and target total direct compensation). The objectives of the assessment are to understand changes in market compensation from year to year, to analyze the competitiveness of current pay levels relative to the market and to serve as an input for making compensation adjustments if necessary.

The charts below display the total compensation mix, based on target compensation for fiscal 2015, for our named executive officers.

### **2015 Executive Compensation Mix**

**Base Salaries.** Our industry is highly cyclical and we believe that offering competitive base salaries is a key factor in attracting and retaining talent. In deciding on the appropriate base salary for each named executive officer, the Committee takes into consideration the results of the competitive market assessment, as well as the individual's performance, his or her roles and responsibilities and related experience in the role.

**Short-Term Incentive Compensation.** For fiscal 2015, the Committee employed the same methodology adopted for the 2014 short-term incentive compensation plan that provided cash incentives tied to the achievement of targets for objective performance measures that are based on our fiscal 2015 operating income margin and certain strategic objectives. The Committee determined to maintain the same features of the short-term incentive compensation plan for fiscal 2016 since the Committee believes those features appropriately align executive compensation with Company performance. See "Compensation Decisions for Fiscal 2016."

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation.** The Company has a shareholder-approved plan that permits the Committee to grant several types of equity-based awards. The Committee believes that equity-based awards that include three-year vesting requirements provide our executive officers with an ownership stake in the Company and promote executive retention. The Committee also believes that grants of restricted shares are an effective means to align the interests of executives more closely with those of our shareholders and that grants of performance shares directly link executive compensation with performance. In fiscal 2015, the Committee awarded a combination of restricted shares and performance shares to its executives which have a three-year vesting or performance period. The Committee determined to also maintain the same structure and metrics for the long-term incentive compensation awards for fiscal 2016. See "Compensation Decisions for Fiscal 2016."

***Stock Ownership Guidelines and Hedging Prohibitions.*** Our Corporate Governance Principles include stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers and independent directors. The Committee is responsible for interpreting and reviewing compliance with the stock ownership guidelines as they relate to the executive officers. The Committee believes that the executive stock ownership guidelines align executives' interests with those of stockholders through equity-based incentives and stock ownership guidelines that facilitate a culture of ownership. The guidelines provide that the executive officers are expected to acquire and maintain ownership of shares of our common stock (including unvested restricted stock awards) having an aggregate market value that is at least equal to five times annual base salary for the Chief Executive Officer, three times annual base salary for the President and two times annual base salary for the other named executive officers. The executive officers are expected to retain ownership of all net shares (shares of common stock acquired as a result of the exercise or vesting of equity incentive awards granted, reduced by any shares sold, tendered or retained to pay exercise price or tax withholding requirements related to such awards) acquired with respect to awards granted under the Company's equity incentive plan, until the requisite ownership has been achieved. If an executive officer fails to comply with the guidelines, the Committee may determine that such person is not eligible for awards under the Company's equity incentive plan until such time when he or she is in compliance. Any shares of stock subject to pledges or security interests will not be considered as owned in determining compliance with the stock ownership guidelines. In addition, our Corporate Governance Principles prohibit executive officers from hedging the economic risk of ownership of our common stock. Our Corporate Governance Principles can be accessed through our website at:  
[http://www.hurco.com/en-us/about-hurco/investors/Documents/Hurco\\_Corporate\\_Governance\\_Principles.pdf](http://www.hurco.com/en-us/about-hurco/investors/Documents/Hurco_Corporate_Governance_Principles.pdf).

***Medical, Disability and Life Insurance.*** All full-time employees, including the named executive officers, participate in insurance benefits coverage to help manage the financial impact of ill health, disability and death. In addition, all named executive officers are provided supplemental disability benefits and our Chief Executive Officer is also provided a split-dollar life insurance benefit.

***Retirement Benefits.*** We sponsor a 401(k) plan in which all full-time employees are eligible to participate. The purpose of the plan is to provide an incentive for employees to save for their retirement income needs and to assist in our attraction and retention of employees. Our named executive officers participate in the 401(k) plan on the same basis as other eligible employees. We currently match 100% of the first 6% of a participant's annual earnings that he or she contributes, up to the maximum permitted by law. We also maintain a deferred compensation program in which our named executive officers and other senior management employees may voluntarily participate. For additional information regarding the deferred compensation program see "Nonqualified Deferred Compensation."

***Perquisites.*** The Committee believes that, even though the level of perquisites provided to the named executive officers is relatively minimal, perquisites are an integral component in establishing the competitiveness of our overall compensation program. Perquisites offered to the named executive officers include the use of company leased vehicles. For additional information regarding perquisites, see "Tabular Compensation Information."

## **Employment Agreements**

We have employment agreements with each of the named executive officers. Information regarding these employment agreements is found in this section under the heading "Employment Agreements" on page 40. Under the heading "Potential Payments Upon Termination" on page 41 we also estimate the benefits that we would have paid to these executives if their employment had terminated on October 31, 2015, under various scenarios.

The Committee believes that these agreements are an important part of the overall compensation arrangements for the executives by helping to secure for us the continued employment and dedication of the executives while providing a reasonable amount of assurance to them of continued employment.

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**Compensation Decisions for Fiscal 2015**

Details of the compensation payable to the named executive officers for fiscal 2015 are disclosed in the tables and related discussion that follow this Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

**Base Salaries.** On November 12, 2014, employing the methodology described above under "Elements of Compensation," the Committee established annual base salaries for the named executive officers for fiscal 2015. The salary increases for Messrs. Doar and Donlon were approximately 3%, the average merit increase for all U.S.-based employees of the Company, as their salaries were within the market competitive range. Ms. McClelland received a 43% salary increase in recognition of her increased responsibilities as a result of her appointment to the office of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer and to better align her salary with the market competitive range. Mr. Volovic received an 8% salary increase in recognition of his increased responsibilities and to better align his salary with the market competitive range.

The following table sets forth the annual base salary of each of the named executive officers for fiscal 2014 and the annual base salary established by the Committee for each of those officers for fiscal 2015, as well as the percentage increase between the two years:

	<b>Fiscal 2014</b>	<b>Fiscal 2015</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	
	<b><u>Base Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Base Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	
Michael Doar	\$ 423,000	\$ 436,000	3	%
Sonja K. McClelland	\$ 175,000	\$ 250,000	43	%
John P. Donlon	\$ 223,000	\$ 230,000	3	%
Gregory S. Volovic	\$ 325,000	\$ 350,000	8	%

**Short-Term Incentive Compensation.** On January 6, 2015, the Committee approved the short-term incentive compensation plan for fiscal 2015, with payout to occur thereunder in January 2016, if certain performance goals were attained during fiscal 2015. The performance goals related to our fiscal 2015 operating income margin and certain strategic objectives for the named executive officers, and payouts were based on the relative weightings set forth below:

Name	Performance Metric	Weighting	
Michael Doar	Operating Income Margin	70	%
	Strategic Objectives	30	%
Sonja K. McClelland	Operating Income Margin	70	%

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	Strategic Objectives	30	%
John P. Donlon	Operating Income Margin	50	%
	Strategic Objectives	50	%
Gregory S. Volovic	Operating Income Margin	70	%
	Strategic Objectives	30	%

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Operating income margin was chosen as a performance metric as the Committee believes it most directly correlates to our executives' performance. An executive could earn a short-term incentive award due to success in achieving individual strategic objectives, even if performance fell below threshold on the operating income margin, however, the weighting of the two performance metrics encourages decisions that should benefit our overall profitability. Further, if fiscal 2015 operating income margin had been zero or negative, then no amounts would have been paid under the 2015 short-term incentive plan, even if all or a portion of the performance goals under the strategic objectives component were attained. Participants had the ability to earn between 50% of a target amount for achieving threshold performance and 200% of target for achieving maximum performance for each metric.

In January 2015, the Committee established the following payout levels that would be associated with the degree to which the operating income margin was attained for fiscal 2015:

Operating Income Margin	Threshold	Target	Exceeds	Maximum
Actual Results	7 %	10 %	12 %	14 %
Percentage Payout Level	50 %	100 %	150 %	200 %

Payout levels interpolated for results between 7% and 14%

In January 2015, the Committee also approved the strategic objectives set for each executive officer and the associated payout level for fiscal 2015. Participants had the ability to earn between 50% and 200% of the target amount based on the overall achievement of the applicable 2015 strategic objectives set for each participant. The strategic objectives approved by the Committee for each of the named executive officers and the related performance categories, were as follows:

	<b><u>Performance Categories</u></b>	<b><u>Objective</u></b>
Michael Doar	Strategic Initiatives/Asset Management	Execute strategic plan for incremental revenue growth and improved return on corporate assets
	Business Review/Development	Evaluate strategic initiatives and products for target markets
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Assess and improve sales & marketing strategies to increase market share and operating profit
	Board Governance	Assist in the evaluation and recruitment of Board of Directors
	Investor Relations	Shareholder outreach
	Customer Service	Customer relationship management
	Resource Allocation and Planning	Risk assessment, development and succession planning for Executive Management
Sonja K. McClelland	Cost Reduction/Profit Improvement	Implement a plan to control costs of domestic manufacturing expansion
	Asset Management	Improve inventory turns
	Asset Management	

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		Balance company strategies to improve the return on corporate assets
	Cost Reduction/Profit Improvement	Reduce operating expenses as a % of sales
	Asset Management/Profit Improvement	Improve the return on corporate assets
John P. Donlon	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Execute Asia development plan measured against four strategic objectives
	Cost Reduction/Profit Improvement	Improve operating profit in Asia
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Increase revenue in Asia
Gregory S. Volovic	Production Capacity/Utilization	Improve U.S. based manufacturing capacity to accommodate increased production requirements
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Improvement in the U.S. market share “percentage”
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Increase unit volume
	Technology Improvement	Identify R&D investment opportunities
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Operating performance improvement – Hurco USA
	Cost Reduction/Profit Improvement	Operating performance improvement – Hurco Italy
	Strategic Initiatives/Market Share	Identify acquisition candidates

In January 2016, the Committee determined the degree to which the operating income margin metric and the strategic objectives were attained, and the resulting payout level relative to the target amount for each metric. For fiscal 2015, the Company achieved a 10.85% operating income margin, and therefore the Committee determined that the resulting percentage payout level relative to the target amount for that metric would be 121.3%. The Committee also assessed the level of achievement of the above strategic objectives in fiscal 2015 for each of the named executive officers, and determined that the resulting percentage payout level relative to the target amount for that metric was: for Mr. Doar - 200%, for Ms. McClelland - 200%, for Mr. Donlon - 100% and for Mr. Volovic - 200%.

The weightings applicable to each of the operating income margin metric and the 2015 strategic objectives metric set forth above for each executive were then applied to the percentage payout level for each metric as determined by the Committee, resulting in a weighted-average percentage payout level relative to the target amount for each executive.

The weighted-average percentage payout level applicable to each officer was then multiplied by his or her target amount, which was determined by multiplying the base salary of the applicable officer paid during fiscal 2015 by the target amount set forth below:

Name	Target Amount of 2015 Base Salary	
Michael Doar	85	%
Sonja K. McClelland	50	%
John P. Donlon	40	%
Gregory S. Volovic	75	%

The Committee retained the discretion to adjust downward, but not upward, the amount of compensation that would otherwise be payable under the 2015 short-term incentive compensation plan. The Committee did not exercise that discretion with respect to the amounts payable under the 2015 short-term incentive compensation plan.

The following table sets forth the total short-term incentive compensation amounts awarded to each named executive officer related to fiscal 2015:

	Operating Income Margin	Strategic Objectives	Total Short-Term Compensation
Michael Doar	\$ 314,547	\$ 222,360	\$ 536,907
Sonja K. McClelland	\$ 106,094	\$ 75,000	\$ 181,094
John P. Donlon	\$ 55,775	\$ 46,000	\$ 101,775
Gregory S. Volovic	\$ 222,797	\$ 157,500	\$ 380,297

***Long-Term Incentive Compensation.*** On January 6, 2015, the Committee approved a long-term incentive compensation arrangement for the named executive officers in the form of restricted shares and performance shares awarded under the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2008 Plan"). The awards were weighted as 25% time-based vesting (in equal installments over three years) and 75% performance based vesting (at the end of a three-year period, to the extent performance metrics are satisfied). The three-year performance period is fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2017.

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The Committee granted the awards of restricted shares and target number of performance shares to the named executive officers effective as of January 6, 2015, as follows:

	<b>Restricted Shares</b>	<b>Performance Shares – TSR</b>	<b>Performance Shares – ROIC</b>
Michael Doar	4,966	7,440	6,952
Sonja K. McClelland	2,173	3,255	3,042
John P. Donlon	931	1,395	1,304
Gregory S. Volovic	3,104	4,650	4,345

The performance shares designated as "Performance Shares-TSR" were weighted as 40% of the overall long-term incentive compensation arrangement and will vest and be paid based on our total shareholder return over the three-year period, relative to the total shareholder return over that period of the companies in our peer group. The companies comprising the peer group for the purposes of this award are the same as the companies comprising the peer group utilized for fiscal 2015 executive compensation determinations described below under "The Committee's Processes and Analyses – Use of Peer Group Data". The performance and payout standards for the Performance Shares - TSR are as follows:

<b>Performance Shares -TSR</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Performance Range	30 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	55 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Payout Range	50% of Target Shares	100% of Target Shares	200% of Target Shares

Awards will be interpolated for results between the 30<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles

The performance shares designated as "Performance Shares-ROIC" were weighted as 35% of the overall long-term incentive compensation arrangement and will vest and be paid based on the achievement of pre-established goals related to our average return on invested capital over the three-year period. Average return on invested capital may be hereafter adjusted by the Committee to exclude the effects of unanticipated material transactions or events such as acquisitions, divestitures, accounting changes, restructurings and special charges or gains (determined according to objective criteria established by the Committee), but only to the extent permitted by Code Section 162(m). Participants will have the ability to earn between 50% of the target number of shares for achieving threshold performance and 200% of the target number of shares for achieving maximum performance. The performance and payout standards for the Performance Shares - ROIC are as follows:

<b>Performance Shares - ROIC</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Average ROIC	7%	9%	13%
Payout Range	50% of Target Shares	100% of Target Shares	200% of Target Shares

Awards will be interpolated for results between 7% and 13%

**Compensation Decisions for Fiscal 2016**

**Base Salaries.** On November 11, 2015, employing the methodology described above under "Elements of Compensation," the Committee established annual base salaries for the named executive officers for fiscal 2016. The salary increases for Messrs. Doar and Volovic were approximately 3%, the average merit increase for all U.S.-based employees of the Company, as their salaries are within the current market competitive range for their roles and responsibilities. Ms. McClelland received a 4% salary increase to better align her salary with the current market competitive range. Mr. Donlon's salary remained the same as his salary is within the current market competitive range for his roles and responsibilities.

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The following table sets forth the annual base salary of each of the named executive officers for fiscal 2015 and the annual base salary established by the Committee for each of those officers for fiscal 2016, as well as the percentage increase between the two years:

	Fiscal 2015 Base Salary	Fiscal 2016 Base Salary	Percentage Increase	
Michael Doar	\$ 436,000	\$ 450,000	3	%
Sonja K. McClelland	\$ 250,000	\$ 260,000	4	%
John P. Donlon	\$ 230,000	\$ 230,000	0	%
Gregory S. Volovic	\$ 350,000	\$ 361,000	3	%

**Short-Term Incentive Compensation.** As there were no material changes made to the short-term incentive plan for fiscal 2016, on January 4, 2016, the Committee approved the short-term incentive compensation plan for fiscal 2016, with payout to occur thereunder in January 2017, if the performance goals are attained during fiscal 2016. Following the end of fiscal 2016, the Committee will determine the degree to which the operating income margin goals and the strategic objectives were attained, and the resulting payout level relative to the target amount for each metric. Again, the Committee retains the discretion to adjust downward, but not upward, the amount of compensation that would otherwise be payable under the 2016 short-term incentive compensation plan.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation.** Similar to the short-term incentive compensation plan, there were no material changes made to the long-term incentive arrangement for fiscal 2016 as compared to fiscal 2015. Therefore, effective January 4, 2016, the Committee granted the awards below of restricted shares and target number of performance shares to the named executive officers. The restricted shares will vest in equal installments over three years and the three-year performance period for the performance shares will be fiscal 2016 through fiscal 2018.

	Restricted Shares	Performance Shares - TSR	Performance Shares - ROIC
Michael Doar	7,873	10,694	11,022
Sonja K. McClelland	3,456	4,695	4,839
John P. Donlon	1,363	1,852	1,909
Gregory S. Volovic	4,992	6,782	6,989

The performance shares designated as "Performance Shares-TSR" were weighted as 40% of the overall long-term incentive compensation arrangement and will vest and be paid based on our total shareholder return over the three-year period, relative to the total shareholder return over that period of the companies in our peer group.

The companies comprising the peer group for the purposes of this award are the same as the companies comprising the 2016 peer group described below under "The Committee's Processes and Analyses – Use of Peer Group Data." The performance and payout standards for the Performance Shares - TSR are as follows:

<b>Performance Shares – TSR Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Performance Range	30 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Payout Range	50% of Target Shares	200% of Target Shares

Awards will be interpolated for results between the 30<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles

The performance shares designated as "Performance Shares-ROIC" were weighted as 35% of the overall long-term incentive compensation arrangement and will vest and be paid based on the achievement of pre-established goals related to our average return on invested capital over the three-year period. Average return on invested capital may be hereafter adjusted by the Committee to exclude the effects of unanticipated material transactions or events such as acquisitions, divestitures, accounting changes, restructurings and special charges or gains (determined according to objective criteria established by the Committee), but only to the extent permitted by Code Section 162(m). Participants will have the ability to earn between 50% of the target number of shares for achieving threshold performance and 200% of the target number of shares for achieving maximum performance.

### **The Committee's Processes and Analyses**

***Role of Committee and Input from Management.*** The Committee is responsible for determining our executive compensation philosophy, objectives, policies and programs and approves or ratifies all compensation related decisions for the named executive officers. When making executive compensation decisions, the Committee considers the input of its independent compensation consultant and, for all executives other than our Chief Executive Officer, the recommendation of our Chief Executive Officer. Our Chief Executive Officer recommends salary levels, short-term incentive compensation awards, equity-based compensation awards and perquisites for our other named executive officers. Our Chief Executive Officer's compensation is determined solely by the Committee with the assistance of the Committee's independent compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee applies the same principles for executive compensation in determining our Chief Executive Officer's compensation that it applies in determining the compensation of our other executive officers.

***Role of Compensation Consultant.*** In 2014 and 2015, the Committee engaged an independent compensation consultant, Pay Governance LLC, to advise and assist the Committee related to executive compensation matters. Pay Governance is retained directly by the Committee, reports directly to the Committee and participates in certain Committee meetings. In this regard, Pay Governance advises and assists the Compensation Committee:

- in determining the appropriate objectives and goals of our executive compensation program;
- in designing compensation programs that fulfill those objectives and goals;
- in reviewing the primary components of that compensation;
- in evaluating the effectiveness of our compensation programs;
- in identifying appropriate pay positioning strategies and pay levels in our executive compensation program; and
- in identifying comparable companies and compensation surveys for the Committee to use to benchmark the appropriateness and competitiveness of our executive compensation program.

Pay Governance may, from time to time, contact our executive officers for information necessary to fulfill its assignment and may make reports and presentations to and on behalf of the Committee that our executive officers also receive.

Pay Governance and its affiliates did not provide any other services to us or our affiliates during 2014 or 2015. In addition, the Committee has determined that the work of Pay Governance and its employees has not raised any conflict of interest.

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**Use of Peer Group Data.** With the assistance of its consultant, in 2014 and 2015, the Committee approved the composition of a peer group of publicly-traded companies that were selected on the basis of industry, revenue, global operations, employee size and market capitalization for use in the Committee's 2015 fiscal year and 2016 fiscal year analyses of executive compensation. The following companies made up the peer group utilized for fiscal 2015 executive compensation determinations:

- Ampco-Pittsburgh Corporation
- Douglas Dynamics, Inc.
- Dynamic Materials, Corp.
- The Eastern Company
- Electro Scientific Industries, Inc.
- FARO Technologies, Inc.
- Graham Corporation
- GSI Group, Inc.
- Hardinge Inc.
- Kadant Inc.
- Key Technology, Inc.
- Key Tronic Corporation
- The L.S. Starrett Company
- Nanometrics Incorporated
- NN, Inc.
- PDF Solutions, Inc.
- Proto Labs, Inc.
- QAD Inc.
- Sun Hydraulics Corp.
- Transcat, Inc.

For the 2016 fiscal year analysis, at the recommendation of its consultant and after discussions with management, the committee approved the removal of NN, Inc. from the peer group used for the 2016 fiscal year analysis because its revenue has exceeded our peer group range as a result of NN Inc.'s acquisitions. As a result, the following companies made up the peer group utilized for fiscal 2016 executive compensation determinations:

- Ampco-Pittsburgh Corporation
- Douglas Dynamics, Inc.
- Dynamic Materials, Corp.
- The Eastern Company
- Electro Scientific Industries, Inc.
- FARO Technologies, Inc.
- Graham Corporation
- GSI Group, Inc.
- Hardinge Inc.
- Kadant Inc.
- Key Technology, Inc.
- Key Tronic Corporation
- The L.S. Starrett Company
- Nanometrics Incorporated
- PDF Solutions, Inc.
- Proto Labs, Inc.
- QAD Inc.
- Sun Hydraulics Corp.
- Transcat, Inc.

The Committee uses the peer group data as one of several inputs when making compensation determinations. Periodically, the Committee also reviews trends data for the manufacturing industry from Towers Watson to obtain a general understanding of current compensation practices in that industry as part of its analysis of executive compensation. In addition to the market data, the Committee may consider other factors such as an executive's individual performance, experience in his or her position and responsibilities that may not necessarily be benchmarked in market data.

**Recoupment Policy**

Our Corporate Governance Principles contain a compensation recoupment policy. Our Corporate Governance Principles are available on our website at [www.hurco.com](http://www.hurco.com).

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The recoupment policy provides that in the event that the Company restates previously released financial results, the Compensation Committee shall determine whether any incentive compensation (defined as all equity-based and non-equity based compensation, the amount, payment and/or vesting of which was determined based wholly or in part on the value of the Company's financial results or the achievement of specified performance measures) paid or awarded to executive officers during the three years preceding the restatement should be recovered by the Company. If the Committee determines that the amount of any incentive compensation paid to executive officers (the "Awarded Compensation") during the three-year period preceding the date of restatement exceeded the amount that would have been paid based on the restated financial results (the "Adjusted Compensation"), and the restatement resulted from the Company's material noncompliance, due in whole or part to intentional fraud or ethical misconduct, with any financial reporting requirement under the federal securities laws, then the Committee shall determine whether the Company should, except as provided below, recover the after-tax portion of the difference between the Awarded Compensation and the Adjusted Compensation for the affected executive officer.

In making the determination whether the Company should recover any incentive compensation, the Committee will take any appropriate considerations into account, including the role the executive officer played in contributing to the events that caused the restatement, the likelihood of success in recovering the amounts under applicable law, the costs of seeking recovery, and whether the assertion of a claim may prejudice the interests of the Company in any related proceeding or investigation relating to the circumstances giving rise to the restatement.

In addition, the Compensation Committee is monitoring regulatory developments with respect to compensation recoupment policies and will recommend to the Board any changes to the current policy that are necessary or appropriate in light of future SEC guidance.

### **Taxes and Accounting Considerations**

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the deductibility of compensation that is not "performance-based compensation" paid to certain of our executives to \$1,000,000. The deductibility of some types of compensation payments can depend upon the timing of the vesting or an executive's exercise of previously granted equity awards. Interpretations of and changes in applicable tax laws and regulations as well as other factors beyond our control also can affect deductibility of compensation. The Committee considers the anticipated tax treatment to the Company when determining executive compensation. However, for the above reasons, and in order to maintain the flexibility to be able to compensate our named executive officers in a manner designed to promote varying corporate goals, the Committee has determined to not adopt a strict policy that all executive compensation must be deductible under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our 2008 Plan contains performance-based conditions and has been approved by our shareholders, such that certain awards under the plan can qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). The 2015 Equity Plan,

if approved by our shareholders at the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders, will also permit the grant of certain awards that can qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). Although the 2015 and 2016 short-term incentive compensation plans contain performance-based conditions, they were not approved by our shareholders and therefore awards under those plans do not qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). The Cash Incentive Plan, if approved by our shareholders at the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders, will permit us to make short-term incentive compensation awards that can qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m).

Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code affects the payments of certain types of deferred compensation to key employees and includes requirements relating to when payments under such arrangements can be made, acceleration of benefits, and timing of elections under such arrangements. Failure to satisfy these requirements will generally lead to an acceleration of the timing for including deferred compensation in an employee's income, as well as certain penalties and interest. We believe that our nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements meet the effective requirements of Section 409A as required by law or regulation.



Report of the Compensation Committee

*The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material," to be "filed" with the SEC, or to be subject to Regulation 14A or Regulation 14C (other than as provided in Item 407 of Regulation S-K) or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in future filings with the SEC except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, or the Exchange Act.*

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on that review and those discussions, the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that this Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement on Schedule 14A and incorporated by reference in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for its 2015 fiscal year.

Richard Porter, *Chairman*  
Robert Cruickshank  
Ronald Strackbein

### Assessment of Compensation-Related Risks

On an ongoing basis as part of our strategic business planning process, the named executive officers and key senior management conduct an assessment of the current risks arising from our compensation policies and practices. This team reviews and discusses the characteristics and approval policies of compensation programs for all employees, including salaries, equity awards, and cash bonuses, to determine whether any of these policies or programs could create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

In November 2015, we reviewed and discussed all components of our compensation policies and practices with our Board of Directors as part of our business plan review and approval process. In addition, the Compensation Committee met separately to review the management team's assessment of the risks that could arise from our compensation policies and practices. As part of their review, the Compensation Committee specifically considered factors that reduce the likelihood of excessive risk-taking such as our overall compensation levels being competitive with the market, the balance between fixed components like salary and benefits and short- and long-term incentive compensation. The Committee has discretion to adjust downward the amount of compensation that would otherwise be payable under the short-term incentive compensation program, which it could do if it determines that an executive caused the Company to incur unnecessary or excessive risk. The compensation mix of cash (salary and short-term incentive) and equity incentives align with the market and the Company's peers and are linked to business performance. The short-term and long-term incentive plans are linked to specific formulas and have payout ceilings. The 2016 short-term incentive compensation plan also provides that no amounts will be paid under the strategic objectives component if our operating income margin is negative. Our stock ownership guidelines link executives' and non-employee directors' interests to the interests of shareholders and our incentive compensation recoupment policy would permit us to recover incentive compensation paid to executive officers in the event of wrongdoing on the part of the executives.

Based on such assessments, we believe that any risks arising from our compensation policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

## Tabular Compensation Information

The following table summarizes the compensation information for each of our named executive officers for the fiscal years ended October 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013:

**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus <sup>1</sup> (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>2</sup> (\$)	Option Awards <sup>3</sup> (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation <sup>4</sup> (\$)	All Other Compensation <sup>5</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
Michael Doar	2015	433,500	-	640,008	-	536,907		