

LUNA INNOVATIONS INC
Form DEF 14A
April 09, 2019

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

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 § 240.14a-12

LUNA INNOVATIONS INCORPORATED
(Name of Registrant as Specified in its 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.

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(1)

Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(2)

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Amount Previously Paid:

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Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(2)

Filing Party:

(3)

Date Filed:

(4)

301 1st Street SW, Suite 200
Roanoke, Virginia 24011

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON MAY 14, 2019

To the Stockholders of Luna Innovations Incorporated:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Luna Innovations Incorporated (the “Company”) will be held at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, 110 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24016 on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. EDT for the following purposes:

1. To elect the board’s two nominees named herein to serve as Class I members of the Company’s board of directors to hold office until the 2022 annual meeting of stockholders.
2. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement.
3. To indicate, on an advisory basis, the preferred frequency of stockholder advisory votes on the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers.
4. To ratify the appointment, by the Audit Committee of the Company’s board of directors, of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019.
5. To transact any other business that is properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Please refer to the attached proxy statement, which forms a part of this Notice and is incorporated herein by reference, for further information with respect to the business to be transacted at the annual meeting.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on April 1, 2019 (the “Record Date”) are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. The presence, in person or by proxy, of shares of the Company’s common stock representing a majority of shares of the Company’s common stock issued and outstanding on the Record Date will be required to establish a quorum at the annual meeting.

Your vote is important. Please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible, or vote by telephone or on the Internet as instructed in these materials, to make sure that your shares are represented at the annual meeting. If you are a stockholder of record of the Company’s common stock, you may cast your vote by proxy or in person at the annual meeting. If your shares are held of record by a brokerage firm, bank or other nominee, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from that record holder and should instruct the record holder as to how to vote your shares.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Scott A. Graeff
Scott A. Graeff
President, Chief Executive Officer, Treasurer and Secretary
Roanoke, Virginia
April 9, 2019

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend in person, please complete, sign, date and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed envelope, or vote by telephone or on the Internet as instructed in these materials, as promptly as possible in order to ensure your representation at the meeting. Even if you have voted by proxy, you may still vote in person if you attend the meeting.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 14, 2019: The Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders are available at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/550351>.

LUNA INNOVATIONS INCORPORATED

PROXY STATEMENT
FOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
MAY 14, 2019

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

General

This proxy statement is furnished to the stockholders of Luna Innovations Incorporated (the “Company,” “we,” “us,” or “our”) in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at our annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. EDT at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, 110 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24016 for the purposes set forth in the accompanying “Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders.” Directions to the annual meeting may be found at http://www.hotelroanoke.com/southwest_va_hotel/directions/. Information on how to vote in person at the annual meeting is discussed below.

A copy of our Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, together with this proxy statement and accompanying proxy card, is expected to be mailed on or about April 9, 2019 to our stockholders of record as of the close of business on the Record Date. Those materials are also available at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/550351>. This solicitation is made on behalf of our board of directors, and we will pay the costs of solicitation. We will reimburse banks, brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending our proxy material to our stockholders. Our principal executive offices are located at 301 1st Street SW, Suite 200, Roanoke, Virginia 24011, and our telephone number is (540) 769-8400.

Shares Entitled to Vote and Quorum Requirement

Our outstanding common stock constitutes the only class of securities entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Stockholders of record of our common stock at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, our 2019 annual meeting of stockholders. A list of our stockholders will be available for review at our principal executive offices during regular business hours for a period of ten days prior to the annual meeting. As of the close of business on April 1, 2019, 29,378,703 shares of our common stock were issued and 28,125,593 shares of our common stock were outstanding; therefore, the presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of at least 14,062,768 shares of common stock will constitute a quorum. Each share of common stock owned as of the Record Date is entitled to one vote. If there is no quorum, holders of a majority of shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy may adjourn the meeting to another date.

Voting Procedures

The procedures for voting differ depending on whether you are a stockholder of record (that is, if your shares are registered directly in your own name with the Company’s transfer agent) or you hold your shares in “street name” (that is, your shares are held in an account at a brokerage, bank, dealer or other similar organization rather than in your own name, in which case you are considered to be the “beneficial owner” of those shares).

Stockholders of Record

Stockholders of record may vote by (i) completing and returning the enclosed proxy card prior to the meeting, (ii) voting over the telephone, (iii) voting on the Internet, (iv) voting in person by ballot at the meeting, or (v) submitting a signed proxy card at the meeting.

A proxy card is enclosed for your use. We ask that you carefully review, complete, sign, date and return the proxy card in the accompanying envelope, which is postage prepaid if mailed in the United States.

Instead of submitting your vote in person or by mail, you may vote by telephone or over the Internet. In order to vote by telephone or over the Internet, please have the enclosed proxy card available for reference, and call the number or visit the website listed on the proxy card and follow the instructions. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the enclosed proxy card. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m., EDT on

Monday, May 13, 2019 to be

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counted. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders' identities, to allow stockholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that stockholders' instructions have been recorded properly.

If you are a stockholder of record and do not vote by completing your proxy card, by telephone, by mail, over the Internet or in person at the annual meeting, your shares will not be voted.

Beneficial Owners

If your shares are held in street name, the organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the annual meeting. If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank, or other agent, you should have received a voting instruction form with these proxy materials from that organization rather than from the Company. As a beneficial owner, you still have the right to direct your broker or other agent regarding how to vote the shares in your account. Simply complete and mail the voting instruction form to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may vote by telephone or over the Internet as instructed by your broker or bank.

You are also invited to attend the annual meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy form.

If you are a beneficial owner and do not instruct your broker, bank, or other agent how to vote your shares, the question of whether your broker or nominee will still be able to vote your shares depends on whether the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), deems the particular proposal to be a "routine" matter. Even though our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market, the NYSE rules apply to brokers who are NYSE members voting on matters being submitted to stockholders at our annual meeting. Brokers and nominees can use their discretion to vote "uninstructed" shares with respect to matters that are considered to be "routine," but not with respect to "non-routine" matters. Under the rules and interpretations of the NYSE, "non-routine" matters are matters that may substantially affect the rights or privileges of stockholders, such as mergers, stockholder proposals, elections of directors (even if not contested), executive compensation and certain corporate governance proposals, even if supported by management. Accordingly, your broker or nominee may not vote your shares on Proposals No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3 without your instructions, but may vote your shares on Proposal No. 4.

We provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. There is no cost associated with casting your vote online. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.

The persons named as attorneys-in-fact to vote the proxies, Scott A. Graeff and Dale E. Messick, were selected by the board of directors and are executive officers of the Company. All properly executed proxies returned in time to be counted at the annual meeting will be voted.

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking voting selections, then unless there are different instructions on the proxy card, your shares will be voted at the meeting FOR the election of the two director nominees listed in Proposal No. 1, FOR the advisory approval of executive compensation in Proposal No. 2, for One Year as the preferred frequency of advisory votes to approve executive compensation in Proposal No. 3 and FOR the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm in Proposal No. 4. With respect to any other business that may properly come before the annual meeting and be submitted to a vote of stockholders, proxies will be voted in accordance with the best judgment of the designated proxy holders.

All votes cast at the annual meeting will be tabulated by the person or persons appointed by our board of directors to act as inspectors of election for the meeting. The inspectors of election will separately count, for Proposal No. 1, the election of directors, votes "For," "Withhold" and "broker non-votes," with respect to the proposal regarding frequency of stockholder advisory votes to approve executive compensation, votes for frequencies of one year, two years or three years, abstentions and broker non-votes, and with respect to other proposals, votes "For" and "Against," abstentions and

“broker non-votes.” Broker non-votes occur when a beneficial owner of shares held in “street name” does not give instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed “non-routine,” in which case the broker or nominee cannot vote the shares, as described above.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Abstentions will be counted towards the vote total for each of Proposals No. 2 and 4 and will have the same effect as “Against” votes. For Proposal No. 3, abstentions will have no effect and will not be counted

towards the vote total. Broker non-votes have no effect and are not included in the tabulation of voting results on any proposals.

The director nominees listed in Proposal No. 1 will be elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors. The two nominees receiving the most "For" votes will be elected.

Proposal No. 2, advisory approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, will be considered to be approved if it receives "For" votes from the holders of a majority of shares either present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote.

For Proposal No. 3, the advisory vote on the frequency of stockholder advisory votes on executive compensation, the frequency receiving the highest number of votes from the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be considered the frequency preferred by the stockholders.

The appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm listed in Proposal No. 4 will be ratified if a majority of shares present or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote thereon vote "For" such proposal. Your vote is important. Accordingly, please carefully review, complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card, or vote over the telephone or Internet, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person.

If you receive more than one set of proxy materials, your shares may be registered in more than one name or in different accounts. Please follow the voting instructions on the proxy cards in the proxy materials to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

Changing Your Vote

If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually voted at the meeting either by signing and submitting a new proxy card with a later date or by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. You may also grant a subsequent proxy by telephone or over the Internet. Your most recently submitted proxy card or telephone or Internet proxy is the one that will be counted. Merely attending the meeting, however, will not revoke your submitted proxy unless you vote at the meeting, which will have the effect of revoking your proxy. You may also send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to our Corporate Secretary at 301 1st Street SW, Suite 200, Roanoke, Virginia 24011.

If you hold shares through a bank or brokerage firm, you should have received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials, and you must contact the bank or brokerage firm directly to revoke any prior voting instructions.

Results of Voting

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the annual meeting. In addition, final voting results will be published in a current report on Form 8-K that we expect to file within four business days after the annual meeting. If final voting results are not available to us in time to file a Form 8-K within four business days after the annual meeting, we intend to file a Form 8-K to publish preliminary results and, within four business days after the final results are known to us, file an additional Form 8-K to publish the final results.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

General Information

Our board of directors is divided into three classes (Class I, Class II and Class III) with staggered three-year terms. Each class consists, as nearly as possible, of one-third of the total number of directors. Vacancies on the board of directors may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the board of directors to fill a vacancy in a class, including vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified.

The board of directors currently has eight members, including two Class I directors, Richard W. Roedel and Gary Spiegel, whose terms expire at the 2019 annual meeting. Mr. Roedel and Mr. Spiegel were both previously elected by our stockholders. The terms of the Class II and Class III directors will expire at the 2020 and 2021 annual meetings of the stockholders, respectively.

Our board of directors has nominated Mr. Roedel and Mr. Spiegel to serve as Class I directors for a three-year term expiring at the 2022 annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, or, if sooner, until the director's death, resignation or removal. Mr. Roedel is currently a Class I director, Chairman of the board of directors and chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee. Mr. Spiegel is currently a Class I director, a member of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. In February 2019, Mr. Spiegel resigned as a Class II director and was immediately reappointed as a Class I director whose term was scheduled to expire at the 2019 annual meeting, in order to switch board classes with John B. Williamson, III, whose term was scheduled to expire at the 2019 annual meeting but had expressed to the board an inability to commit to serving another full three-year term if reelected.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors. Proxies cannot be voted for more than two nominees. The two nominees receiving the highest number of "For" votes will be elected. Only votes "For" and "Withheld" will affect the outcome. Broker non-votes will have no effect on this proposal. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted "For" the election of the two nominees recommended by the board of directors unless the proxy is marked in such a manner so as to withhold authority to vote. If any of the nominees is unable or unexpectedly declines to serve as director, the board of directors may designate another nominee to fill the vacancy, and the proxy will be voted for that nominee. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and we have no reason to believe that either nominee will be unable to serve.

The names of the two nominees for director and of our other directors whose terms will continue after the annual meeting, their ages as of April 1, 2019, and certain other information about them are set forth below. There are no family relationships among our directors or executive officers.

Names of Nominees	Age	Position(s)	Director Since
Richard W. Roedel	69	Chairman of the Board of Directors	2005
Gary Spiegel	68	Director	2015
Names of the Incumbent Directors with Terms Continuing After 2019 Annual Meeting	Age	Position(s)	Director Since
John B. Williamson, III	64	Director	2010
Michael W. Wise	68	Director	2011
Warren B. Phelps, III	72	Director	2017
N. Leigh Anderson	69	Director	2017
Donald Pastor	65	Director	2015
Scott A. Graeff	52	Director	2017

Our Nominating and Governance Committee seeks to assemble a board of directors that, as a whole, possesses the appropriate balance of professional and industry knowledge, financial expertise and high-level management experience necessary to oversee and direct our business. To that end, the committee has identified and evaluated nominees in the broader context of the board's overall composition, with the goal of recruiting members who complement and strengthen the skills of other members and who also exhibit integrity, collegiality, sound business judgment and other qualities that the committee views as critical to effective functioning of the board. The biographies below include information, as of the date of this proxy statement, relating to the specific and particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each director or nominee that led the committee to believe that the nominee or director should serve or continue to serve, as applicable, on the board.

However, each of the members of the committee may have a variety of reasons why he believes a particular person would be an appropriate nominee for the board, and these views may differ from the views of other members.

Class I Director Nominees for Election for a Three Year Term Expiring at the 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Richard W. Roedel has served as a member of our board of directors since 2005 and as Chairman of our board of directors since January 2010. Mr. Roedel also serves as a director of publicly held companies IHS Markit Inc., Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, BrightView Holdings, Inc. and LSB Industries, Inc. Mr. Roedel serves as a Chairman of LSB and Chairman of its audit committee. Mr. Roedel is a member of the audit committee of Six Flags and IHS Markit and Chairman of the Risk Committee of IHS Markit. Mr. Roedel served as a director of Broadview Network Holdings, Inc., a private company with publicly traded debt until 2012. Mr. Roedel was a director of Lorillard, Inc. from 2008 to 2015, when it was acquired by Reynolds American Inc. Mr. Roedel was a director of Sealy Corporation from 2006 to 2013, when Sealy was acquired by Tempur-Pedic International Inc. Mr. Roedel was a director of BrightPoint, Inc. from 2002 until 2012, when BrightPoint was acquired by Ingram Micro. Mr. Roedel served on the Board of Directors of Dade Behring Holdings, Inc. from 2002 until 2007 when Dade was acquired by Siemens AG. Mr. Roedel served in various capacities at Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. from 2002 until 2005, including chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Roedel is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Risk Oversight Advisory Council. Mr. Roedel served a three year term, ending in 2017, on the Standing Advisory Group of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). From 1971 through 2000, he was employed by BDO Seidman LLP, becoming an audit partner in 1980, later being promoted in 1990 to managing partner in Chicago and then managing partner in New York in 1994, and finally, in 1999, to chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Roedel holds a B.S. degree in accounting from The Ohio State University and is a Certified Public Accountant. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Roedel's public accounting experience and his status as an authority on issues facing audit committees, his extensive service on public company boards and committees and his deep familiarity with our company make him a valuable member of the board of directors.

Gary Spiegel has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2015. He has more than 40 years of experience in the photonics industry. He held various positions, including vice president, sales and marketing, senior vice president, sales and business development, and senior vice president, business development at Newport Corporation from 2002 to 2013. Mr. Spiegel retired from Newport Corporation in 2014 and is currently a business development consultant. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Marketing from Baruch College of the City University of New York. He also sits on the board of directors of Telescent Inc., an early stage technology company focused on software defined network cross connect technology and Alio Industries, a small technology company serving a variety of high technology markets. He served as Secretary and Treasurer of the SPIE from 2015 through 2018, where he chaired the Financial Advisory Committee, as well as the Compensation Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Spiegel's extensive experience in the photonics industry enables him to continue to make valuable contributions to the board of directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS YOU VOTE "FOR" EACH NAMED NOMINEE.

Class II Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Michael W. Wise has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2011. In May 2015, Mr. Wise retired from his role as the Chief Financial Officer of Corvesta, Inc., an insurance and technology holding company, and Chief Financial Officer of its subsidiary Delta Dental of Virginia. Mr. Wise also served on the boards of directors and as treasurer of additional Corvesta portfolio companies, including Corvesta Life Insurance Company, a life and health insurance company. Prior to joining Delta Dental of Virginia as its Chief Financial Officer in 1996, Mr. Wise owned and managed several small businesses. He currently serves and has in the past served on numerous boards of directors of local non-profit organizations. He received a B.S. degree in Business Administration - Accounting from West Virginia University and was previously a Certified Public Accountant. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Wise's accounting and financial background, his experience in funding and managing technology companies through growth periods, his experience as an entrepreneur and his local and community leadership make him a valuable member of our board of directors. Mr. Wise is also one of our largest stockholders, which the

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes evidences his commitment to the long-term interest of our stockholders.

John B. Williamson, III has served as a member of our board of directors since January 2010. He served as Chief Executive Officer of RGC Resources, Inc., a publicly held energy distribution and services holding company from 1999 to

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2014. He continues to serve as Chairman of the Board of RGC Resources, Inc. Mr. Williamson is a member of the boards of directors of Bank of Botetourt, Inc., a publicly held local bank, where he serves as chairman of the nominating and corporate governance committee, Optical Cable Corporation, a publicly held optical fiber manufacturer, where he serves as the chairman of the audit committee and a member of the compensation committee, and Corning Natural Gas Corporation, a publicly held natural gas company, where he serves as chairman of the audit committee and serves on the compensation committee. He was formerly a board member of NTELOS, Inc., a publicly held telecommunications company, where he also served as chairman of the audit committee. Mr. Williamson also formerly served in government executive capacities, including as County Administrator for Botetourt and Nelson Counties in Virginia. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Virginia Commonwealth University and an M.B.A. degree from the College of William and Mary. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Williamson's public company chief executive officer experience, his experience as audit committee chairman of other public companies and his local and community leadership will enable him to continue to make valuable contributions to the board of directors.

Warren B. Phelps, III has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2017. He has served as Executive Chairman of Empower RF Systems, a developer and manufacturer of high power RF amplifiers for the defense and commercial markets, since January 2013. From 2009 until December 2012, Mr. Phelps served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Empower. Mr. Phelps serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the audit committee of U.S. Auto Parts Network, Inc., a public company. From 2000 until his retirement in 2006, Mr. Phelps served in several executive positions for Spirent plc, a leading communications technology company, most recently as President of the Performance Analysis Broadband division. From 1996 to 2000, Mr. Phelps was at Netcom Systems, a provider of network test and measurement equipment, most recently as President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Phelps held executive positions, including Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, at MICOM Communications and in various financial management roles at Burroughs/Unisys Corporation. Mr. Phelps currently serves on the board of directors of a privately held company and on the Board of Trustees of St. Lawrence University. Mr. Phelps holds a B.S. degree in mathematics from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York and an M.B.A. from The University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Phelps's prior experience as a Chief Executive officer and with the defense and commercial industries enables him to make valuable contributions to the board of directors.

Class III Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Scott A. Graeff was appointed as our President, Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors in October 2017. Mr. Graeff has served as our Treasurer since 2005, and our Secretary since May 2015. Mr. Graeff previously served as our Chief Strategy Officer from July 2012 to October 2017 and as our Chief Commercialization Officer from 2010 to July 2012. He also served as our interim Chief Financial Officer during the period from 2010 to 2011. He previously served as our Chief Operating Officer from 2009 to 2010, as our Chief Commercialization Officer from 2006 to 2009, and as our Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, Corporate Development, from 2005 to 2006. Mr. Graeff was also a member of our board of directors from 2005 until 2006. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Graeff served as Chief Financial Officer of Liquidity Link, a software development company. From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Graeff served as President and Chief Financial Officer of Autumn Investments. From 2002 until 2005, Mr. Graeff served as a Managing Director for Gryphon Capital Partners, a venture capital investment group. From 2003 until July 2005, Mr. Graeff also served as the Acting Chief Financial Officer of Luna Technologies, Inc., which we acquired in September 2005. Mr. Graeff holds a B.S. degree in commerce from the University of Virginia. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Graeff's position as our President and Chief Executive Officer and his prior management experience will enable him to continue to make valuable contributions to our board of directors. Donald Pastor has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2015. Prior to our merger with Advanced Photonix, Inc. ("API"), he served as a director of API from July 2005 to May 2015 and served as the non-executive chairman of the board of directors beginning in October 2012. Mr. Pastor is also the President of DP Business Services, a consulting firm which he founded in January 2012. From 1986 through June 2012, he was employed at Telephonics Corporation. From 2006 through 2012, he served as the president - electronics systems division of

Telephonics Corporation. In addition, Mr. Pastor previously served as the chief executive officer of TLSI, a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephonics Corporation, and as the chief financial officer of Telephonics Corporation. For the past thirty years, Mr. Pastor has held a variety of financial, administrative and operational positions in high technology and defense related industries. Mr. Pastor holds a B.S. degree in marine engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and an M.B.A. from Loyola University Maryland. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Mr. Pastor's extensive experience in financial, administrative and operational positions in high technology and defense related industries enables him to continue to make valuable contributions to the board of directors.

N. Leigh Anderson has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2017. Dr. Anderson has served as Chief Executive Officer of SISCAPA Assay Technologies, a developer of diagnostic testing technology, of which he was a co-founder, since 2011, and has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Plasma Proteome Institute, a non-profit biomedical scientific research institute in Washington, D.C., of which he is also a founder, since 2002. From 2001 to 2002, Dr. Anderson served as the Chief Scientific Officer and a member of the board of directors of Large Scale Biology Corporation, a public biotechnology company. Dr. Anderson also served as a member of the board of directors and a member of the audit committee of Dade Behring Holdings, Inc., a publicly held medical diagnostics equipment manufacturer, from 2002 until its acquisition by Siemens AG in 2007. Dr. Anderson earned a B.A. degree in physics from Yale University and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from Cambridge University. The Nominating and Governance Committee believes that Dr. Anderson's scientific background in critical areas and pertinent executive and director experience in the biotechnology and biomedical industries enable him to bring significant value to the board of directors.

Independence of the Board of Directors

As required under the Nasdaq Stock Market (“Nasdaq”) listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company’s board of directors must qualify as “independent,” as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. Our board of directors consults with legal counsel to ensure that the board’s determinations are consistent with relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of “independent,” including those set forth in pertinent Nasdaq listing standards, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant identified transactions or relationships between each director or director nominee, or any of his family members, and the Company, its senior management and its independent auditors, our board of directors has affirmatively determined that the following seven current directors and director nominee are independent within the meaning of the applicable Nasdaq listing standards: Mr. Wise, Mr. Pastor, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Spiegel, Mr. Roedel, Mr. Phelps, and Dr. Anderson. In making these determinations, the board found that none of these current or former directors had a material or disqualifying relationship with the Company. Mr. Graeff is not independent, as he is currently employed as our President and Chief Executive Officer.

Board Leadership Structure

In January 2010, our board of directors designated an independent non-executive Chairman, Mr. Roedel, who has authority, among other things, to call and preside over board meetings, including meetings of the independent directors, to set meeting agendas and to determine materials to be distributed to the board. Accordingly, the non-executive Chairman has substantial ability to shape the work of the board. We believe that separation of the positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer reinforces the independence of the board in its oversight of our business and affairs. In addition, we believe that having an independent non-executive Chairman creates an environment that is more conducive to objective evaluation and oversight of management’s performance, increasing management accountability and improving the ability of the board to monitor whether management’s actions are in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders. As a result, we believe that having an independent non-executive Chairman can enhance the effectiveness of the board as a whole.

Role of the Board in Risk Oversight

One of the board’s key functions is informed oversight of our risk management process. The board does not have a standing risk management committee, but rather administers this oversight function directly through the board as a whole, as well as through its standing committees that address risks inherent in their respective areas of oversight. Our Audit Committee has the responsibility to consider and discuss our major financial risk exposures and the steps our management has taken to monitor and control these exposures, including guidelines and policies to govern the process by which risk assessment and management is undertaken. The Audit Committee also monitors compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Our Nominating and Governance Committee monitors the effectiveness of our corporate governance policies, including whether they are successful in preventing illegal or improper liability-creating conduct.

Our Compensation Committee assesses and monitors whether any of our compensation policies and programs have the potential to encourage excessive risk-taking.

Information Regarding Certain Committees of the Board of Directors

Our board of directors has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Governance Committee. Our board of directors and its c