CAPSTONE TURBINE Corp Form PRE 14A June 30, 2011

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

## **SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.

)

Filed by the Registrant  $\acute{\mathrm{y}}$ 

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- ý Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- o Definitive Proxy Statement
- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

#### CAPSTONE TURBINE CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

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- 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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  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:
  - (4) Date Filed:

## **CAPSTONE TURBINE CORPORATION**

21211 Nordhoff Street Chatsworth, California 91311

July [ ], 2011

Dear Capstone Turbine Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Capstone Turbine Corporation (the "Company") to be held at the Company's corporate offices located at 21211 Nordhoff Street, Chatsworth, California, 91311 on August 26, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time. We look forward to meeting you and discussing the accomplishments of the Company for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011.

Details of the business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting are provided in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement.

In accordance with rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are mailing to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability instead of a paper copy of the Proxy Statement and our 2011 Annual Report to Stockholders. The Notice of Internet Availability contains instructions on how stockholders can access the documents over the Internet as well as how stockholders can receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, including the Proxy Statement, the 2011 Annual Report to Stockholders and a proxy card.

Whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting, it is important that your shares be represented and voted. Therefore, I urge you to vote by proxy as soon as possible over the Internet or by phone as instructed in the Notice of Internet Availability or, if you receive paper copies of the proxy materials by mail, you can also vote by mail by following the instructions on the proxy card. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may withdraw your proxy and vote your shares personally.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation for your continued interest in the Company.

Sincerely,

Darren R. Jamison President and Chief Executive Officer

Chatsworth, California

#### YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

PLEASE VOTE OVER THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE AS INSTRUCTED IN THESE MATERIALS OR COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN A PROXY CARD AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE.

## **CAPSTONE TURBINE CORPORATION**

21211 Nordhoff Street Chatsworth, California 91311

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS To Be Held August 26, 2011

The Capstone Turbine Corporation (the "Company" or "Capstone") 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") will be held at the Company's corporate offices located at 21211 Nordhoff Street, Chatsworth, California, 91311, on August 26, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time, for the following purposes:

1.	To elect nine members to Capstone's Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting or until their successors have been elected and qualified;
2.	To approve the Rights Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2005, with Mellon Investor Services LLC, as amended;
3.	To hold a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation;
4.	To hold a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of the vote on executive compensation;
5.	To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012; and
6.	

To transact any other business that is properly brought before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the accompanying Proxy Statement. The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on June 30, 2011 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Only holders of record of the Company's Common Stock at the close of business on that date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. In the event there are not sufficient shares to be voted in favor of any of the foregoing proposals at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies.

# Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote over the Internet or by telephone as instructed in these materials or complete, sign, date and return a proxy card promptly. The proxy is being solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Capstone for use at the Annual Meeting.

Please note that space limitations make it necessary to limit attendance to stockholders. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Annual Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Each stockholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. We will admit you if we are able to verify that you are a Capstone stockholder. Stockholders holding stock in brokerage accounts will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement reflecting stock ownership as of the record date. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

Directions to the Company's corporate offices can be obtained by contacting the Company at (818) 734-5300.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Edward I. Reich Secretary

Chatsworth, California July [ ], 2011

## **CAPSTONE TURBINE CORPORATION**

21211 Nordhoff Street Chatsworth, California 91311

#### PROXY STATEMENT

For Annual Meeting Of Stockholders To Be Held August 26, 2011

#### Information About the 2011 Annual Meeting

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Capstone Turbine Corporation (the "Company" or "Capstone") from holders of issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share ("Common Stock"), to be voted at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"), to be held at the Company's corporate offices located at 21211 Nordhoff Street, Chatsworth, California, 91311, at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time on August 26, 2011, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying notice and herein, and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

#### **Voting Procedures**

If you were a stockholder of record of the Company's Common Stock at the close of business on June 30, 2011, you are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. As of the record date, [12] shares of Common Stock were outstanding.

Proxies properly executed, duly returned to us and not revoked will be voted in accordance with the instructions given. Where no instructions are given, such proxies will be voted: FOR the election as directors of the nominees listed in this proxy statement; FOR approval of the Rights Agreement, as amended; FOR the approval of the compensation of our Named Executive Officers; FOR an annual vote on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers; and FOR the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012. If any matter not described in this proxy statement (the "Proxy Statement") is properly presented for action at the Annual Meeting, the persons named on the proxy card will have discretionary authority to vote on the action according to their best judgment. Each stockholder of record on June 30, 2011 is entitled to one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such stockholder on that date. The required quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting is a majority of the shares of our Common Stock eligible to be voted on the record date.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting, and abstentions, but not broker non-votes, as to particular proposals will be treated as shares entitled to vote. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker holding shares for a beneficial holder does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that proposal and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

Without your instructions, your broker or nominee is permitted to use its own discretion and vote your shares on certain routine matters (such as Proposal 5), but it is not permitted to use discretion and vote your shares on other matters (such as Proposals 1, 2, 3 and 4). We urge you to give voting instructions to your broker on all five proposals. Broker non-votes are not considered votes for or against a proposal and, therefore, will have no direct impact on any proposal. Concerning the election of directors, you may: (a) vote for all of the director nominees as a group; (b) withhold authority to vote for all director nominees as a group; or (c) vote for all director nominees as a group except those nominees you identify on the appropriate line. For Proposals 2 and 5, abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against these proposals. For Proposals 1, 3 and 4, abstentions will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

A copy of Capstone's 2011 Annual Report to Stockholders (the "2011 Annual Report") and the Proxy Statement and accompanying proxy card were first mailed or made available to stockholders on or about July [ ], 2011. The 2011 Annual Report includes Capstone's audited consolidated financial statements.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually voted at the Annual Meeting by: (i) delivering written notice of revocation to the Secretary of Capstone at our address above; (ii) submitting a later dated proxy; or (iii) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, constitute revocation of the proxy.

#### Voting Electronically via the Internet or by Telephone

Whether you hold shares directly as the stockholder of record or through a broker, trustee or other nominee, as the beneficial owner you may direct how your shares are voted without attending the Annual Meeting. Stockholders are encouraged to vote their proxies by Internet, telephone or completing, signing, dating and returning a proxy card, but not by more than one method. If you vote by Internet or telephone, you do not need to return a proxy card. If you vote by more than one method, only the last vote that is submitted will be counted and each previous vote will be disregarded. Please refer to the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability or proxy card provided to you for information on the available voting methods.

#### **Solicitation of Proxies**

We will pay the expense of soliciting proxies and the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing material in connection with the solicitation of proxies. In addition, we have retained Phoenix Advisory Partners, a division of American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, LLC ("Phoenix Advisory") to assist in the solicitation. We will pay Phoenix Advisory approximately \$8,500 for their assistance in the solicitation of proxies. Our directors, officers or employees may solicit proxies by mail, e-mail, telephone, facsimile or other means. These individuals will not receive any additional compensation for these efforts.

#### Proposals of Stockholders for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Stockholder proposals or nominations for directors intended to be presented at the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders (the "2012 Annual Meeting") must be in writing and received at Capstone's executive offices no later than the date listed below and must comply with Capstone's bylaws and the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). If appropriate notice of a stockholder proposal is not received at Capstone's executive offices of business on March [ ], 2012, the proposal will be deemed untimely. Pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") and the Company's bylaws, an untimely proposal will not be included in the Company's proxy statement or proxy card for the 2012 Annual Meeting and cannot be brought before the 2012 Annual Meeting by the proponent.

In addition to stockholder nominations made in accordance with the procedures described above, Capstone's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider stockholder recommendations of candidates for election to the Board of Directors if such recommendations are submitted by the date and in accordance with the policies described in the "Director Recommendation and Nomination Process" section elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

The date of this Proxy Statement is July [ ], 2011.

#### **PROPOSAL 1**

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Capstone's Board of Directors currently consists of nine members, all of whom the Company proposes for re-election at the Annual Meeting. The Company believes that each of its directors possess unique qualifications, skills and attributes that complement the performance of the full Board of Directors. The experiences that each has obtained from their respective professional backgrounds, as set forth below, have qualified them to serve on Capstone's Board of Directors.

The proxies cannot vote for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy holders will vote the proxies received by them for the nine nominees of the Board of Directors named below, all of whom are currently directors of the Company.

If any nominee is unable or declines to serve as a director at the time of the Annual Meeting, the proxies will be voted for any nominee designated by the present Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. The Company does not expect that any nominee will be unable or will decline to serve as a director. The term of office of each person elected as a director will continue until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until the director's successor has been elected and qualified, or the earlier of the director's resignation or removal. The table and text below set forth information about each nominee as of June 30, 2011.

Nominees	Age	Director Since
Gary D. Simon(1)	62	2005
Richard K. Atkinson	60	2005
John V. Jaggers	60	1993
Darren R. Jamison	45	2006
Noam Lotan	59	2005
Gary J. Mayo	57	2007
Eliot G. Protsch	58	2002
Holly A. Van Deursen	52	2007
Darrell J. Wilk	66	2006

(1)

Chairman of the Board of Directors.

**Gary D. Simon.** Mr. Simon has been a director since August 2005 and has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since August 2010. Mr. Simon has served as the President of Sigma Energy Group, a clean energy investment and business development firm, since October 2003. He has also served as the Chairman of CleanStart, a business accelerator associated with the non-profit Sacramento Area Regional Technology Alliance, since October 2005. From July 2004 until January 2010, Mr. Simon was the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Acumentrics Corporation ("Acumentrics"), a privately-held manufacturer of innovative power supply equipment. He continues to serve as a member of the Acumentrics Board of Directors. Since July 2006, Mr. Simon has been a limited partner in Velocity Venture Capital and a director of Jadoo Power, a privately held manufacturer of small (less than 1,000 watt) portable power generators and solar hot water heaters. From October 2002 to October 2003, Mr. Simon served as a consultant to several start-up businesses involved with clean energy technologies and as an advisor to the Connecticut and Massachusetts clean energy funds. From April 1998 to October 2002, Mr. Simon served as Senior Vice President, Strategy and Development at Northeast Utilities (NYSE: NU), a utility holding company. From 1998 to 2002, Mr. Simon served as a member of the Board of Directors of Northeast Optic Network, a public company that operated a high-speed fiber optic network from Boston to Washington, D.C. Mr. Simon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Microbiology from Indiana University and a Master of Science degree in Ecology from the University of California, Davis. Mr. Simon brings to the Board of Directors substantial executive and

governance experience along with expertise in marketing, sales, management consulting and raising capital in both public and private markets and assists the Board of Directors in the areas of strategy and corporate governance.

**Richard K. Atkinson.** Mr. Atkinson has been a director since December 2005. Mr. Atkinson is the Chief Financial Officer of Gradient Resources, a company engaged in the exploration and development of geothermal resources as well as the construction, ownership and operation of geothermal power plants. He has been in this position since May 2010. From June 2006 until April 2008, Mr. Atkinson was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of US BioEnergy Corporation (Nasdaq: USBE), a company that built and operated large, efficient ethanol plants. He previously was Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary of Pope & Talbot, a wood and pulp products business, from December 2003 to June 2006. Before joining Pope & Talbot, Mr. Atkinson worked for Sierra Pacific Resources beginning in 1980, most recently as its Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Atkinson received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. Among his other skills and expertise, Mr. Atkinson's financial expertise, decades of experience in corporate governance and ongoing executive experience aid the Board of Directors in matters of finance, accounting and risk management.

**John V. Jaggers.** Mr. Jaggers has been a director since 1993. Mr. Jaggers is General Partner of Sevin Rosen Funds, a venture capital firm, and has held this position since 1988. Mr. Jaggers served as Chief Financial Officer of Sevin Rosen Funds from 1995 to 2000 and has served as Managing General Partner from 2006 to date. Mr. Jaggers received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Rice University. He received his Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University. Mr. Jaggers is on the board of directors of two private companies: Fourth Wall Media, Inc., a provider of software to the pay television industry and Market6, Inc., a provider of information services to retailers and consumer packaged goods suppliers. Mr. Jaggers brings to the Board of Directors substantial executive experience and expertise in raising capital. His long service as one of our directors adds institutional knowledge about our business, operations and long-term stockholders.

**Darren R. Jamison.** Mr. Jamison joined Capstone in December 2006 as President and Chief Executive Officer and has been a director since December 2006. Mr. Jamison joined Capstone from Northern Power Systems, Inc., a company that designs, manufactures and sells wind turbines into the global marketplace, where he served as President from September 2005 to December 2006 and Chief Operating Officer from December 2004 to December 2006. Prior to that time, he held the position of Executive Vice President of Operations from February 2004 to December 2004. Prior to joining Northern Power Systems, Inc., Mr. Jamison was Vice President and General Manager of Distributed Energy Solutions for Stewart & Stevenson Services, Inc., a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of specialized engine driven power generation equipment to the oil and gas, renewable and energy efficiency markets, from 1994 to 2003. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Finance from Seattle University. Among his other skills and expertise, Mr. Jamison brings to the Board of Directors his unique perspective as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and substantial executive and industry experience within the Company's major market verticals.

**Noam Lotan.** Mr. Lotan has been a director since June 2005. Mr. Lotan is the President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of Resonate Industries, a development stage company in the clean energy sector. He has held his position since November 2010. Prior to Resonate, Mr. Lotan served as Chief Executive Officer and a director of MRV Communications, Inc. ("MRV"), a global supplier of communications solutions to telecommunications service providers, enterprises and governments throughout the world, from May 1990 through June 2010. Mr. Lotan also served as President of MRV

from May 1990 until he relinquished that title in July 2009 in conjunction with the naming of two Co-Presidents. Additionally, he served as MRV's Chief Financial Officer from October 1993 through June 1995. From March 1987 to January 1990, he served as Managing Director of Fibronics (UK) Ltd., the United Kingdom subsidiary of Fibronics International Inc., a manufacturer of fiber optic communication networks. From January 1985 to March 1987, Mr. Lotan served as a Director of the European Operations of Fibronics. Prior to such time, Mr. Lotan held a variety of sales and marketing positions with Fibronics and Hewlett-Packard Company. Mr. Lotan was an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces prior to working for Hewlett-Packard Company. Mr. Lotan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from INSEAD (the European Institute of Business Administration, Fontainebleau, France). Among his other skills and expertise, Mr. Lotan brings to the Board of Directors decades of executive experience with a publicly traded technology company and a unique perspective on the Asian and European markets.

**Gary J. Mayo.** Mr. Mayo has been a director since October 2007. Mr. Mayo is the Founding Principal of Sustainability Excellence Associates, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning for sustainability and environmental strategy development. He is also a Director and Corporate Secretary/Treasurer of Education Resource Strategies, Inc., a privately held company, providing web-based marketing services to educational institutions. He is the former Vice President of Corporate Sustainability Strategies in the Energy and Environmental Services Division of MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM), one of the world's leading global hospitality companies, serving in that capacity from November 2006 to October 2008. Prior to MGM Resorts International, Mr. Mayo held a number of senior leadership positions with Ford Motor Company (NYSE: F) and its spun-off subsidiary Visteon Corporation from January 1977 until his retirement in November 2006. Mr. Mayo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from C.W. Post College of Long Island University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. He also successfully completed the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management, Director Education and Certification Program in May 2009. Mr. Mayo brings to the Board of Directors more than a decade of expertise in strategic planning and the development of complex corporate initiatives along with extensive experience in sustainability, as well as sales, marketing and operations management.

**Eliot G. Protsch.** Mr. Protsch has been a director since April 2002 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors from October 2002 through August 2010. From January 2009 until his retirement in January 2010, Mr. Protsch was Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Alliant Energy Corporation (NYSE: LNT), an energy holding company. He previously was Chief Financial Officer of Alliant Energy Corporation from 2003 to 2008 and Executive Vice President Energy Delivery of Alliant Energy Corporation from 1998 to 2003, and President from 1998 to 2003 of Interstate Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of Alliant. Mr. Protsch currently serves on the Board of Directors for American Family Insurance, Universal Silencer and Emissions Company and HR Green Companies. Mr. Protsch is an active Angel Investor in energy technology and is President of Wapsie Investment and Advisory, LLC, a personal investment and advisory vehicle specializing in energy technology investments and advisory services. He received his Master of Business Administration degree and his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Economics and Finance from the University of South Dakota. Mr. Protsch is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Mr. Protsch brings to the Board of Directors his unique perspective as a former executive officer of a utilities company, financial expertise and insight into sales, marketing and corporate governance.

Holly A. Van Deursen. Ms. Van Deursen has been a director since October 2007. Ms. Van Deursen has served as a director for Actuant Corporation (NYSE: ATU) since 2008, Bemis Company, Inc. (NYSE: BMS) since 2008, Anson Industries (private) since 2006 and Petroleum Geo-Services (OSE: PGS) since 2006. Prior to her current roles, Ms. Van Deursen was employed by BP p.l.c. / Amoco Corporation from 1989 to 2005 and served on the Top-Forty Executive Team as

Group Vice President, Petrochemicals from 2003 to 2005 and Group Vice President, Strategy from 2001 to 2003. Ms. Van Deursen received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kansas and her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan. Among her other skills and expertise, Ms. Van Deursen brings to the Board of Directors decades of experience in the energy and chemical industries, a unique perspective on the Asian and European markets and substantial experience in strategic and annual planning, corporate governance and risk management. In addition, her diverse experience on other boards of both public and private companies is of significant benefit to the Company.

**Darrell J. Wilk.** Mr. Wilk has been a director since June 2006. Mr. Wilk has been President of Ace Label Systems, a company that manufactures custom prime and durable labels, since 2007. Mr. Wilk has taught an executive sales seminar at the University of Wisconsin Madison since 2005. Previously, Mr. Wilk was a Strategic Planning and Marketing Instructor at Concordia University and Argosy University from 2005 to 2007. From 2003 to December 2005, Mr. Wilk was Vice President and Director of Sales and Marketing Worldwide for the Electronics Components Division of ITT Industries (NYSE: ITT), a global engineering and manufacturing company. Mr. Wilk also held the position of Vice President and Director of Marketing and Sales Worldwide for the Switch Products division of ITT Industries from 1981 to 2003. From 1972 to 1981, Mr. Wilk served in Sales and Marketing Manager roles in North America at 3M Company (NYSE: MMM), a diversified technology company. He also held the position of Application Engineer of North America from 1968 to 1972. Mr. Wilk holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Loyola University of Chicago and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Detroit. Mr. Wilk's substantial executive experience and expertise in sales and marketing provide a unique perspective to the Board of Directors.

#### Required Vote for Approval; Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Assuming the presence of a quorum, the nine nominees for director receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to Capstone's Board of Directors. Information regarding the method by which votes will be counted appears on page one of this Proxy Statement under the heading "Voting Procedures."

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

#### **PROPOSAL 2**

#### APPROVAL OF THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED

The Company is currently a party to a Rights Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2005, with Mellon Investor Services LLC, as amended (the "Rights Agreement"). Pursuant to a "sunset provision," the Rights Agreement will expire on the 30th day after the 2011 Annual Meeting unless continuation of the Rights Agreement is approved by the stockholders of the Company at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors adopted an amendment to the Rights Agreement on June 9, 2011 to make certain changes recommended by its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee before submitting the agreement to the stockholders for approval. The amendment adds an additional "sunset provision," which provides that the Rights Agreement will expire on the 30th day after the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders unless continuation of the Rights Agreement is approved by the stockholders at that meeting. The amendment also updates the definition of "Beneficial Owner" to include derivative interests in the calculation of a stockholder's ownership. In addition, the amendment clarifies the manner in which the exchange provision of the Rights Agreement would be effected if exercised. The full text of the Rights Agreement, as amended by the amendment adopted by the Board of Directors on June 9, 2011, can be found attached to this proxy statement as *Appendix A*.

The Board of Directors believes that maintaining the Rights Agreement is an important tool with which it can protect stockholder value. The rights to purchase preferred stock as set forth in the Rights Agreement (the "Rights") are intended to protect the stockholders of the Company in the event of an unfair or coercive offer to acquire the Company and to provide the Board of Directors with adequate time to evaluate unsolicited offers. The Rights may have anti-takeover effects. The Rights will cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire the Company without conditioning its offer on a substantial number of shares being acquired. The Rights, however, should not inhibit any prospective offeror willing to make an offer at a fair price and otherwise in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, as determined by the Board of Directors. The Rights should also not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **Description of the Rights Agreement**

The following is a summary of the material terms of the Rights Agreement, as amended. The statements below are only a summary, and we refer you to the full text of the Rights Agreement, as amended, which can be found attached hereto as *Appendix A*.

#### General

Under the terms of the Rights Agreement, each share of Common Stock outstanding has one Right attached to it, so that the purchase of a share of Common Stock is also a purchase of the attached Right. Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company a unit consisting of one one-hundredth of a share (a "Unit") of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Series A Preferred Stock") at a Purchase Price of \$10.00 per Unit, subject to adjustment. The terms of the Rights are set forth in the Rights Agreement.

#### Exercisability and Termination

Initially, the Rights will be attached to all Common Stock certificates, and no separate Rights certificates will be distributed. Subject to certain exceptions specified in the Rights Agreement, the Rights will separate from the Common Stock and a "Distribution Date" will occur upon the earlier of (i) 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (an "Acquiring Person") has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (the "Stock Acquisition Date"), other than as a



result of repurchases of stock by the Company or certain inadvertent actions by institutional or certain other stockholders, or (ii) 10 days (or such later date as the Board of Directors shall determine) following the commencement of a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person or group beneficially owning 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date and will expire at 5:00 P.M. (Pacific Time) on July 18, 2015, unless such date is extended or the Rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by the Company as described below (including by virtue of the sunset provision described above). Pursuant to the sunset provision, the Rights Agreement will terminate unless approved by a vote of the Company's stockholders at the Annual Meeting. If the Rights Agreement is not approved by the stockholders, the Rights Will automatically terminate and the holders of Rights will be entitled only to receive the \$0.0001 redemption price described below. If the Rights Agreement is approved by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting, then the Rights Agreement will continue until 2014 at which time the Rights Agreement must again be approved by the stockholders of the Company at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders if it is to remain in effect.

As soon as practicable after the Distribution Date, Rights certificates will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Stock as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and, thereafter, the separate Rights certificates alone will represent the Rights. Except as otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, only shares of Common Stock issued prior to the Distribution Date will be issued with Rights.

#### Triggering Events and Adjustment

In the event that any person or any group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, in lieu of the fractional shares of Series A Preferred Stock, that number of shares of Common Stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right. Notwithstanding the foregoing, following the occurrence of the event set forth in this paragraph, all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement) were, beneficially owned by any Acquiring Person will be null and void. However, Rights are not exercisable following the occurrence of the event set forth above until such time as the Rights are no longer redeemable or exchangeable by the Company as set forth below.

In the event that, at any time following the Stock Acquisition Date, (i) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is not the surviving corporation, (ii) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is the surviving corporation and the Common Stock of the Company is changed or exchanged, or (iii) 50% or more of the Company's assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each holder of a Right (except Rights which have previously been voided as set forth above) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, Common Stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right.

At any time after a person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by such person or group of fifty percent (50%) or more of the outstanding Common Stock, the Company may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by such person or group which have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of Common Stock, or one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock (or of a share of a class or series of the Company's preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per Right (subject to adjustment).

#### Redemption of the Rights

At any time until the Distribution Date, the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.0001 per Right (payable in cash, Common Stock or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors). Immediately upon the action of the Board of Directors authorizing redemption of the Rights, the Rights will terminate and the holders of Rights will be entitled only to receive the \$0.0001 redemption price.

The Rights Agreement further provides that in the event the Company receives a Qualifying Offer (that has not been terminated prior thereto and which continues to be a Qualifying Offer), stockholders representing at least 10% of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding may request that the Board of Directors call a special meeting of the stockholders to vote to exempt the Qualifying Offer from the operation of the Rights Agreement not earlier than 90, nor later than 120, business days following the commencement of such offer. The Board of Directors must then call and hold a special meeting of the stockholders for a vote on exempting such offer from the terms of the Rights Agreement within the 90th business day following receipt of the stockholder demand for the meeting; provided that such period may be extended if, prior to the vote, the Company enters into an agreement (that is conditioned on the approval by the holders of not less than a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock) with respect to a merger, recapitalization, share exchange or a similar transaction involving us or the direct or indirect acquisition of more than 50% of our consolidated total assets (a "Definitive Acquisition Agreement"), until the time of the meeting at which the stockholders will be asked to vote on the Definitive Acquisition Agreement. If no Acquiring Person has emerged, the offer continues to be a Qualifying Offer and if stockholders representing at least a majority of the shares of Common Stock represented at the meeting at which a quorum is present vote in favor of redeeming the rights, then such Qualifying Offer shall be deemed exempt from the Rights Agreement on the date that the vote results are certified. If no Acquiring Person has emerged and no special meeting is held by the date required, the Rights will be redeemed, without the need for action by the Board of Directors, at the close of business on the tenth business day following that date.

A Qualifying Offer, in summary terms, is an offer determined by the Board of Directors to have each of the following characteristics which are generally intended to preclude offers that are coercive, abusive or clearly illegitimate:

is an all-cash tender offer or stock exchange offer or combination thereof for any and all of the outstanding shares of Common Stock of the Company;

is an offer that has commenced within the meaning of Rule 14d-2(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is made by an offeror (including its affiliates or associates) that beneficially owns no more than 1% of the outstanding Common Stock of the Company as of the date of such commencement;

is an offer whose per-share price represents a reasonable premium over the highest market price of our Common Stock in the preceding 24 months, with, in the case of an offer that includes shares of common stock of the offeror, such per-share offer price being determined using the lowest reported market price for common stock of the offeror during the five trading days immediately preceding and the five trading days immediately following the commencement of the offer;

is an offer which, within 20 business days after the commencement date of the offer (or within 10 business days after any increase in the offer consideration), does not result in a nationally recognized investment banking firm retained by the Board of Directors rendering an opinion to the Board of Directors that the consideration being offered to the Company's stockholders is either unfair or inadequate;

is subject only to the minimum tender condition described below and other customary terms and conditions, which conditions shall not include any requirements with respect to the offeror or its agents being permitted to conduct any due diligence with respect to the books, records, management, accountants and other outside advisers of the Company;

is accompanied by an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror to the Company that the offer will remain open for at least 120 business days and, if a special meeting is duly requested by Capstone's stockholders with respect to the offer, at least 10 business days after the date of the special meeting or, if no special meeting is held within 90 business days following receipt of the notice of the special meeting, for at least 10 business days following that 90-day period;

is accompanied by an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror to the Company that, in addition to the minimum time periods specified above, the offer will be extended for at least 15 business days after any increase in the price offered, and after any bona fide alternative offer is made;

is conditioned on a minimum of a majority of the shares of Capstone Common Stock being tendered and not withdrawn as of the offer's expiration date;

is accompanied by an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror to the Company to consummate promptly upon successful completion of the offer a second-step transaction whereby all shares of Capstone Common Stock not tendered into the offer will be acquired at the same consideration per share actually paid pursuant to the offer, subject to stockholders' statutory appraisal rights, if any;

is accompanied by an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror to the Company that no amendments will be made to the offer to reduce the offer consideration or otherwise change the terms of the offer in a way that is adverse to a tendering stockholder; and

is accompanied by certifications of the offeror and its chief executive officer and chief financial officer (in their individual capacities) that all information that may be material to an investor's decision to accept the offer have been disclosed, and will continue to be promptly for the pendency of the offer, fully and accurately disclosed.

Any offers that have cash as all or partial consideration are subject to further conditions for qualification as "qualifying offers," as set forth in the Rights Agreement. These conditions generally require assurance that the offer is fully financed and that the offer or has sufficient committed resources to consummate the offer. Any offers that have acquiror common stock as all or partial consideration are subject to further conditions for qualification as "qualifying offers," as set forth in the Rights Agreement. These conditions generally require certain safeguards regarding, and access to information about, the acquiror to allow an informed determination as to the value of and risks associated with the stock, including safeguards against developments that adversely affect the value of the stock, that the acquiror's stock (which may not have subordinated voting rights nor may its ownership be heavily concentrated in one person or group) is listed on a national exchange, that the acquiror meets certain seasoned issuer standards under the Securities Act of 1933 and that no acquiror stockholder approval of the issuance of the consideration to the Company's stockholders is necessary after commencement of the offer.

#### Required Vote for Approval; Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Assuming the presence of a quorum, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required for approval of this proposal. Information regarding the method by which votes will be counted appears on page one of this Proxy Statement under the heading "Voting Procedures."

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED.

#### **PROPOSAL 3**

#### NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act") enables the Company's stockholders to vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers as described in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section and the executive compensation tables contained in this Proxy Statement. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee; however, the Compensation Committee will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

As described in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section beginning on page 26 of this Proxy Statement, the Company's executive compensation program for its Named Executive Officers is designed to attract, motivate and retain a highly qualified group of executives and maintain a close correlation between the rewards to the Company's executives and the strategic success of the Company and the performance of its stock price. The Company believes that its executive compensation programs have been effective at promoting the achievement of positive results in its performance criteria, appropriately aligning pay and performance and enabling the Company to attract and retain talented executives within its industry.

The Company is asking its stockholders to indicate their support for the compensation of the Named Executive Officers disclosed in this Proxy Statement, which is described in the Summary Compensation Table on page 34 of this Proxy Statement and under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The disclosures in the Proxy Statement are made in accordance with SEC regulations (including Item 402 of SEC Regulation S-K). This proposal, commonly known as the "say-on-pay" proposal, gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on the Company's executive compensation. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of the Named Executive Officers and the policies and practices described in this Proxy Statement. Accordingly, the Company is asking its stockholders to vote "FOR" the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Company's stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to SEC regulations in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2011 annual meeting of stockholders.

#### Required Vote for Approval; Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Although the results of this vote are not binding on the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation. Information regarding the method by which votes will be counted appears on page one of this Proxy Statement under the heading "Voting Procedures."

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

#### **PROPOSAL 4**

#### NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF THE VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Act requires the Company to include, at least once every six years, an advisory vote regarding the frequency of the non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation. In casting their advisory vote, the Company's stockholders may choose among four options: (1) an annual vote, (2) a vote every two years, (3) a vote every three years or (4) to abstain from voting.

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors has determined that an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer compensation that occurs annually is the most appropriate alternative for the Company at this time. The Board of Directors believes that an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer compensation every year will allow the Company's stockholders to provide regular feedback on the Company's compensation philosophy, policies and practices as disclosed in the Proxy Statement. Additionally, an annual vote will enhance stockholder communication by providing a clear, simple means for the Company to obtain information on investor sentiment about its Named Executive Officer compensation philosophy.

#### Required Vote for Approval; Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Although this advisory vote is non-binding, the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee will review and give consideration to the results of this vote when making a determination as to the frequency of future stockholder votes on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. Information regarding the method by which votes will be counted appears on page one of this Proxy Statement under the heading "Voting Procedures."

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR AN ANNUAL VOTE ON THE COMPENSATION OF THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

#### PROPOSAL 5

#### **RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012 (the "2012 Fiscal Year"). Deloitte & Touche LLP is considered by management to be well-qualified. Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have an opportunity to make any statement they consider appropriate and to respond to any appropriate stockholders' questions at that time.

#### Required Vote for Ratification; Recommendation of the Board of Directors

Stockholder ratification of the Audit Committee's selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm is not required by the Company's bylaws or otherwise; however, the Board of Directors has elected to submit the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP to the Company's stockholders for ratification. The Company is seeking an affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, if a quorum is present, in order to ratify the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm. If the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP is not ratified by the stockholders, the selection of an independent registered public accounting firm will be determined by the Audit Committee after careful consideration of any information submitted by the stockholders. Information regarding the method by which votes will be counted appears on page one of this Proxy Statement under the heading "Voting Procedures."

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM.

#### GOVERNANCE OF THE COMPANY AND PRACTICES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **Board of Directors; Leadership Structure**

As of the date hereof, the Board of Directors consists of nine directors: Gary D. Simon (Chair), Richard K. Atkinson, John V. Jaggers, Darren R. Jamison, Noam Lotan, Gary J. Mayo, Eliot G. Protsch, Holly A. Van Deursen and Darrell J. Wilk. The Board of Directors has determined that all of the members of the Board of Directors, other than Mr. Jamison, are "independent directors" as defined by Nasdaq rules.

The Board of Directors met eight (8) times during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011 (the "2011 Fiscal Year"), and each of the directors attended or participated in more than 75% of the aggregate of (i) the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and (ii) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board of Directors on which such director served. The Company strongly encourages each member of the Board of Directors to attend each annual meeting of stockholders. All of the directors met in executive session, without members of the Company's management present, at all six (6) in-person meetings of the Board of Directors in the 2011 Fiscal Year.

The Board of Directors is committed to having a sound governance structure that promotes the best interests of all of the Company's stockholders. To that end, the Board of Directors has evaluated and actively continues to examine emerging corporate governance trends and best practices. Stockholder perspectives play an important role in that process. The level of importance afforded to stockholder perspectives by the Board of Directors is evident upon a closer review of the Board of Director's governance structure. Some key points regarding that structure are as follows:

The Board of Directors is predominantly independent. Of our nine directors, only one (our President and Chief Executive Officer) is an employee of the Company. Further, the Board of Directors has affirmatively determined that eight of our nine directors are independent under SEC and Nasdaq corporate governance rules, as applicable.

Our board committees are comprised exclusively of independent directors.

Our independent directors meet in executive session at every in-person board meeting.

We have separated the roles of Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer. Our Chairman focuses on board oversight responsibilities, strategic planning, setting board agendas and mentoring company officers, as well as facilitating communications between the Board of Directors and management.

Our Board of Directors is very active. Each of our directors attended more than 75% of the 2011 Fiscal Year board meetings and meetings of the committees on which such director served.

We believe our Board of Directors structure serves the interests of stockholders by balancing board continuity and the promotion of long-term thinking with the need for director accountability.

#### **Board Committees**

The Board of Directors has designated an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

#### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee currently consists of Messrs. Lotan (Chair), Atkinson and Protsch. Each member of the Audit Committee is an "independent director" pursuant to Nasdaq rules and is "financially literate" within the meaning of Nasdaq rules. The Audit Committee is constituted to

comply with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act and is responsible, among other items, for: (i) monitoring the Company's financial reporting and overseeing accounting practices; (ii) annually retaining the independent public accountants as auditors of the books, records and accounts of the Company; (iii) monitoring the scope of audits made by the independent public accountants and the audit reports submitted by the independent public accountants; (iv) overseeing the systems of internal control which management and the Board of Directors have established; and (v) discussing with management and the independent and internal auditors the Company's major financial risk exposure and the steps taken to monitor and control such exposure. In addition, the Audit Committee has the duties of a "qualified legal compliance committee," including monitoring and reviewing stockholder complaints, and also reviews and approves all related-party transactions. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which is available on the Company's website at *www.capstoneturbine.com*. During the 2011 Fiscal Year, the Audit Committee held four (4) meetings. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Noam Lotan, Richard Atkinson and Eliot Protsch is an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is defined by rules adopted by the SEC.

#### Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee currently consists of Messrs. Mayo (Chair), Jaggers and Wilk and Ms. Van Deursen. The Compensation Committee is comprised solely of "independent directors" as defined by Nasdaq rules in accordance with the committee's charter. The functions of the Compensation Committee include: (i) for the purposes of compensation, reviewing the performance and development of the Company's senior management in achieving corporate goals and objectives; (ii) determining the salary, benefits and other compensation of the executive officers and reviewing the compensation programs for the Company; (iii) adopting and monitoring a succession plan for the Company's senior management; and (iv) administering the following benefit plans of Capstone: the 1993 Incentive Stock Option Plan, the 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the Amended and Restated 2000 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Incentive Plan"), and the Executive Performance Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which is available on the Company's website at *www.capstoneturbine.com*. During the 2011 Fiscal Year, the Compensation Committee held four (4) meetings. Processes and procedures for determining executive compensation are discussed elsewhere in this Proxy Statement in the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis."

#### Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee currently consists of Ms. Van Deursen (Chair) and Messrs. Mayo, Simon and Wilk. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised solely of "independent directors" as defined by Nasdaq rules in accordance with the committee's charter. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for, among other things, (i) monitoring corporate governance matters; (ii) recommending to the full Board of Directors candidates for election to the Board of Directors; and (iii) coordinating the Board of Directors, a copy of which is available on the Company's website at *www.capstoneturbine.com*. During the 2011 Fiscal Year, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held five (5) meetings. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held five (5) meetings. The Nominating and Corporate Governance to the end of the 2011 Fiscal Year to recommend to the full Board of Directors each of the nominees for election to the Board of Directors as presented herein.

#### **Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors oversees an enterprise-wide approach to risk management, designed to support the achievement of organizational objectives, including strategic objectives, to improve long-term organizational performance and to enhance stockholder value. A fundamental part of risk management is not only understanding the risks a company faces and what steps management is taking to manage those risks, but also understanding what level of risk is appropriate for the company. The involvement of the full Board of Directors in setting the Company's business strategy is a key part of its assessment of management's appetite for risk and also a determination of what constitutes an appropriate level of risk for the Company. The full Board of Directors participates in an annual enterprise risk management assessment.

While the Board of Directors has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, various committees of the Board of Directors also have responsibility for risk management. In particular, the Audit Committee focuses on financial risk, including internal controls, and receives an annual risk assessment report from the Company's internal auditors. In addition, in setting compensation, the Compensation Committee strives to create incentives that encourage a level of risk-taking behavior consistent with the Company's business strategy and is responsible for oversight with respect to succession planning risks. Finally, the Company's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducts an annual assessment of the risk management process and reports its findings to the full Board of Directors.

#### **Board of Directors and Committee Performance Evaluations**

The charter of each of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee requires an annual performance evaluation, and the Company's Corporate Governance Principles also mandate an annual evaluation of the Board of Directors. Such performance evaluations are designed to assess whether the Board of Directors and its committees function effectively and make valuable contributions to the Company. In April 2011, all members of the Company's Board of Directors were asked to assess the performance of the Board of Directors and each committee on which they serve and identify areas for improvement through the completion of a detailed questionnaire for each such committee and the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and counsel for the Company reviewed the completed questionnaires, consolidated the responses and reported findings to the Board of Directors in June 2011. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board of Directors discussed the results of the performance evaluations and asked the appropriate committees to each discuss the consensus suggestions and put a follow-up process in place. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has reviewed the results, identified the key areas for improvement and created a strategy for addressing the areas most in need of improvement. Each member of the Board of Directors was also asked to complete a peer review and assess, on a confidential basis, the service and contributions of each other member of the Board of Directors by completing a confidential board member evaluation form. Counsel for the Company reviewed and consolidated the responses to the confidential board member evaluation form and presented the responses, on an anonymous basis, to the chairs of the Board of Directors and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, who presented a summary to the Board of Directors in June 2011.

#### **Director Recommendation and Nomination Process**

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has a policy for the consideration of director candidates recommended by stockholders and will consider all bona fide recommended candidates for director if submitted in accordance with the policy. The policy provides that any

stockholder recommendation must include the specific information required by the policy, must be submitted in writing to:

Capstone Turbine Corporation 21211 Nordhoff Street Chatsworth, CA 91311 Attention: Chair of Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Care of: Edward I. Reich, Secretary

and must be received by the committee at least 180 days prior to that year's annual meeting of stockholders. All such recommendations should include the following: (i) the name, age, business address and residence address of the prospective candidate and the name and record address of the stockholder submitting the recommendation, as well as the number of shares of stock of the Company which are owned of record or beneficially by that stockholder; (ii) a statement from the prospective candidate consenting to being named in the proxy and proxy card if selected as a nominee and to serving on the Board of Directors if elected; (iii) a statement explaining whether the prospective candidate is "independent" under applicable laws, Nasdaq rules and otherwise; (iv) biographical data of the prospective candidate, including former and current service on other boards of directors, business experience and current occupation, and any other information relating to the prospective candidate and the recommending stockholder that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors; (v) transactions and relationships between the recommended candidate and the recommending stockholder, on the one hand, and the Company or Company management, on the other hand, as well as a description of all arrangements or understandings between the recommending stockholder and the prospective candidate and any other person pursuant to which the nomination is being made by the stockholder; (vi) the prospective candidate's Company stock trading history; (vii) any material proceedings to which the prospective candidate or his or her associates is a party that are adverse to the Company; (viii) the prospective candidate's involvement in any past or present legal proceedings, including any involvement in legal proceedings involving the Company; (ix) information regarding whether the recommending stockholder or the recommended candidate, or affiliates of either of those parties, have any plans or proposals for the Company; (x) an explanation as to whether the recommending stockholder and the prospective candidate intend to use the nomination to redress personal claims or grievances against the Company or others or to further personal interests or special interests not shared by the Company's stockholders at large; (xi) whether the prospective candidate is proposed to be nominated at the annual meeting of stockholders or is provided solely as a recommendation for consideration by the committee; and (xii) any other relevant information concerning the prospective candidate. The committee reserves the right to request additional information as it deems appropriate.

In addition to stockholder recommendations as described above, the Company's bylaws permit stockholders to nominate directors at a meeting of the stockholders. Any stockholder nomination must comply with the applicable provisions of the Company's bylaws and the SEC's proxy rules and will be handled in accordance with the Company's bylaws and applicable laws.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews the composition and size of the Board of Directors and determines the criteria for Board of Directors membership. In addition, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews the qualifications of prospective candidates to determine whether they will make good candidates for membership on the Company's Board of Directors. This consideration includes, at a minimum, a review of each prospective candidate's character, judgment, experience, expertise, age, diversity, independence under applicable law and freedom from other conflicts, as well as other factors that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee deems relevant in light of the needs of the Board of Directors and the Company and/or that are in the best interests of the Company, including relevant experience, the ability to dedicate

sufficient time, energy and attention to performance of Board of Directors duties, financial expertise, experience with a company that has introduced a new, technologically advanced product or service to the marketplace and existing relationships within target industries or public policy institutions that may benefit the Company and whether the prospective candidate is a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee-selected prospective candidate or a stockholder-recommended prospective candidate. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee selects qualified candidates and recommends those candidates to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors then decides if it will invite the candidates to be nominees for election to the Board of Directors.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also considers issues of diversity, such as diversity of education, professional experience and differences in viewpoints and skills. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not have a formal diversity policy in terms of considering nominees for directors, but it actively considers all relevant factors, including the factors outlined above, when evaluating potential nominees to the Board of Directors. For example, when its two newest directors, Ms. Van Deursen and Mr. Mayo, were added to the Board of Directors in 2007, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee developed a matrix of all relevant qualifications, skills and experience possessed by the incumbent members of the Board of Directors and identified certain areas where the Board of Directors needed additional attributes including, but not limited to, diversity. As a direct result of this process, Ms. Van Deursen and Mr. Mayo joined the Board of Directors, substantially increasing its depth, range of experience and diversity. The Board of Directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believe that it is essential that members of the Board of Directors represent diverse viewpoints.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee uses the following process to identify prospective candidates for the Board of Directors and to evaluate all candidates, including candidates recommended by stockholders in accordance with the Company's policy regarding stockholder recommendations and the director nominations process. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee: (i) reviews the composition and size of the Board of Directors and determines the criteria for Board of Directors membership; (ii) evaluates the Board of Directors for effectiveness and makes a verbal presentation of its findings to the Board of Directors; (iii) determines whether the current members of the Board of Directors who satisfy the criteria for Board of Directors membership are willing to continue in service; if the current members of the Board of Directors are willing to continue in service, the committee evaluates the performance of such board members and considers those current members for re-nomination, and if the current members of the Board of Directors are not willing to continue in service or if there will be an increase in the number of directors on the Board of Directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers candidates who meet the criteria for Board of Directors membership; (iv) if necessary, engages a search firm to assist with the identification of potential candidates; (v) compiles a list of potential candidates; (vi) evaluates the prospective candidates, including candidates recommended by stockholders, to determine which of the prospective candidates, if any, will best represent the interests of all stockholders and determines whether any conflicts of interest exist; (vii) holds committee meetings to narrow the list of prospective candidates; (viii) along with the Chairman of the Board of Directors and management, interviews a select group of prospective candidates; (ix) approves the candidate or candidates who are most likely to advance the best interests of the stockholders; and (x) recommends the selected candidates to the Board of Directors and the stockholders for approval. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which may request the assistance of Board members who are not on the committee in the execution of its duties, carefully documents the selection and evaluation process.

#### **Stockholder Communications**

The Company has a policy whereby stockholders may communicate directly with the Company's Board of Directors, or individual members of the Board of Directors, by writing to the Company at:

Capstone Turbine Corporation 21211 Nordhoff Street Chatsworth, CA 91311 Attention: Edward I. Reich, Secretary

and indicating prominently on the outside of any envelope that the communication is intended for: (i) the Board of Directors; (ii) the Chairman of the Board of Directors; (iii) a specific committee of the Board of Directors; (iv) the non-management directors; or (v) any other director or subset of directors of the Board of Directors. The Secretary of the Board of Directors reviews all correspondence and regularly forwards to the appropriate director, directors or the Board of Directors, copies of all communications that, in the opinion of the Secretary, deal with the functions of or otherwise require the attention of individual directors, the Board of Directors or committees or subsets thereof. Unless, in the opinion of the Secretary, a communication is improper or irrelevant, a communication will not be withheld from its intended recipient(s) without the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Chair of the appropriate committee or the director who presides during non-management executive sessions.

#### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

From April 1, 2010 to the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders on August 26, 2010, the Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. Jaggers (Chair), Lotan, Mayo and Simon. Following the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Compensation Committee has consisted of Messrs. Mayo (Chair), Jaggers and Wilk and Ms. Van Deursen. None of the committee members have at any time been an officer or employee of the Company nor have any of the members had any relationship with the Company requiring disclosure by the Company during the 2011 Fiscal Year. During the 2011 Fiscal Year, none of the Company's executive officers served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity, an executive officer of which served on the Compensation Committee of Capstone; none of the Company's executive officers served as a director of another entity, an executive officer of which served on the compensation committee of another entity, an executive officers served as a member of the company's executive officer of which served as a director of another entity, an executive officer of the compensation committee of another entity, an executive officer served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity, an executive officer of which served as a director of capstone; and none of the compensation committee of another entity, an executive officer of which served as a director of Capstone.