

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO INC
Form 8-K
May 04, 2012

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 4, 2012

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana

0-362

35-0827455

(State of incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS employer identification no.)

400 E. Spring Street

Bluffton, IN

46714

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip code)

(260) 824-2900

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Franklin Electric Co., Inc. 2012 Stock Plan

On May 4, 2012, the shareholders of Franklin Electric Co., Inc. (the “Company”) approved the Franklin Electric Co., Inc. 2012 Stock Plan. The Board of Directors of the Company (the “Board”) had approved the Plan on February 24, 2012 subject to shareholder approval.

The Plan is a stock-based compensation plan that provides for discretionary grants of stock options, stock awards and stock unit awards to key employees and non-employee directors. The purpose of the Plan is to recognize contributions made to the Company and its subsidiaries by key employees and non-employee directors and to provide them with additional incentive to expand and improve the profits of the Company and achieve the objectives of the Company.

The material terms of the Plan are:

Number of Shares of Common Stock. The number of shares of the Company's common stock that may be issued under the Plan is 1,200,000. Of these 1,200,000 shares: (i) the maximum number of shares issuable as stock options (either incentive stock options or nonqualified stock options) is 840,000; (ii) the maximum number of shares as to which a key employee may receive stock options in any calendar year is 200,000 (or 400,000 in the calendar year in which the employee's employment commences); (iii) the maximum number of shares that may be used for stock awards and/or stock unit awards is 360,000; and (iv) the maximum number of shares issuable as stock awards and/or stock unit awards intended to qualify as “performance-based” under Section 162(m) of the Code to any single key employee in any calendar year is 200,000.

Shares issuable under the Plan may be authorized but unissued shares or treasury shares. If there is a lapse, forfeiture, expiration, termination or cancellation of any award made under the Plan for any reason, the shares subject to the award will not again be available for issuance. In addition, any shares subject to an award that are used by a participant as payment for an award or payment of withholding taxes due in connection with an award will not again be available for issuance, and all such shares will count toward the number of shares issued under the Plan. The number of shares of common stock issuable under the Plan is subject to adjustment in the event of certain changes in the capital structure of the Company or similar transactions, and in each case, the Board has the discretion to make adjustments it deems necessary to preserve the intended benefits under the Plan. No award granted under the Plan may be transferred, except by will, the laws of descent and distribution.

Administration. The Plan is administered by the Board, which has delegated administration to the Management Organization and Compensation Committee (the “Committee”). All members of the Committee qualify as “non-employee directors” under Rule 16b-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and “outside directors” under Section 162(m) of the Code. The Committee has full authority to select the individuals who will receive awards under the Plan, determine the form and amount of each of the awards to be granted, and establish the terms and conditions of awards. The Committee may delegate to an officer of the Company its authority to grant awards to employees who are not subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act or who are not covered employees under Section 162(m) of the Code. (If the Committee is not comprised of at least two members who are non-employee directors and outside directors, then the Board will administer the Plan.)

Eligibility. All employees of the Company designated as key employees for purposes of the Plan and all non-employee directors of the Company are eligible to receive awards under the Plan.

Awards to Participants. The Plan provides for discretionary awards of stock options, stock awards and stock unit awards to participants. Each award made under the Plan will be evidenced by a written award agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the award as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion, consistent with the terms of the Plan.

Stock Options. The Committee has the discretion to grant non-qualified stock options or incentive stock options to participants and to set the terms and conditions applicable to the options, including the type of option, the number of shares subject to the option and the vesting schedule; provided that the exercise price of each stock option shall be the closing sales price of the Company's common stock on the date which the option is granted ("fair market value") and each option shall expire 10 years from the date of grant and no dividend equivalents may be paid with respect to stock options. Additional rules apply to incentive stock options. It is intended that stock options qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code and thus be fully deductible by the Company for federal income tax purposes, to the extent permitted by law.

Stock Awards. The Committee has the discretion to grant stock awards to participants. Stock awards will consist of shares of common stock granted without any consideration from the participant or shares sold to the participant for appropriate consideration as determined by the Committee. The number of shares awarded to each participant, and the restrictions, terms and conditions of the award, will be at the discretion of the Committee. Subject to the restrictions, a participant will be a shareholder with respect to the shares awarded to him or her and will have the rights of a shareholder with respect to the shares, including the right to vote the shares and receive dividends on the shares; provided that dividends otherwise payable on any performance-based stock award shall be held by the Company and shall be paid only to the holder of the stock award to the extent the restrictions on such stock award lapse, and the Committee in its discretion can accumulate and hold such amounts payable on any other stock awards until the restrictions on the stock award lapse.

Stock Units. The Committee has the discretion to grant stock unit awards to participants. Each stock unit entitles the participant to receive, on a specified date or event set forth in the award agreement, one share of common stock of the Company or cash equal to the fair market value of one share on such date or event, as provided in the award agreement. The number of stock units awarded to each participant, and the terms and conditions of the award, will be at the discretion of the Committee. Unless otherwise specified in the award agreement, a participant will not be a shareholder with respect to the stock units awarded to him prior to the date they are settled in shares of common stock. The award agreement may provide that until the restrictions on the stock units lapse, the participant will be paid an amount equal to the dividends that would have been paid had the stock units been actual shares; provided that dividend equivalents otherwise payable on any performance-based stock units will be held by the Company and paid only to the extent the restrictions lapse, and the Committee in its discretion can accumulate and hold such amounts payable on any other stock units until the restrictions on the stock units lapse.

The Committee has the discretion to establish restrictions on the stock awards that qualify the awards as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code so that they are fully deductible by the Company for federal income tax purposes. In such case, the Committee may establish performance goals for certain performance periods and targets for achievement of the performance goals, and the restrictions on the stock subject to the award will lapse if the performance goals and targets are achieved for the designated performance period. The performance goals will be based on one or more of the following criteria: (i) net earnings or net income (before or after taxes); (ii) earnings per share; (iii) net sales or revenue growth; (iv) net operating profit or income (including as a percentage of sales); (v) return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, capital, invested capital, equity, sales, or revenue); (vi) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on equity, and cash flow return on investment); (vii) earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation, and/or amortization; (viii) gross or operating margins; (ix) productivity ratios; (x) share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total shareholder return); (xi) cost control; (xii) margins; (xiii) operating efficiency; (xiv) market share; (xv) customer satisfaction or employee satisfaction; (xvi) working capital; (xvii) economic value added (net operating profit after tax minus the sum of capital multiplied by the cost of capital); (xviii) taxes; (xix) depreciation and amortization; (xx) total shareholder return; (xxi) low cost region labor percent of total labor; and (xxii) top customer concentration percent of sales. Performance goals may be absolute in their terms or measured against or in relationship to the performance of other companies or indices selected by the Committee. The performance goals may be particular to one or more lines of business or subsidiaries or may be based on the performance of the Company and its subsidiaries as a whole. The performance goals may be identical for all participants for a given performance period

or, at the discretion of the Committee, may differ among participants. In addition, performance goals may be adjusted for any events or occurrences (including acquisition expenses, extraordinary charges, losses from discontinued operations, restatements and accounting charges and restructuring expenses), as may be determined by the Committee.

Provisions Relating to a “Change in Control” of the Company. In the event of a “Change in Control” of the Company (as defined in Section 8.2 of the Plan), the Committee has the discretion to provide that all outstanding awards shall become fully exercisable, all restrictions applicable to all awards will terminate or lapse, and performance goals applicable to any stock awards shall be deemed satisfied at the highest target level. In addition, upon such Change in Control, the Committee has sole discretion to provide for the purchase of any outstanding stock option for cash equal to the difference between the exercise price and the then fair market value of the common stock subject to the option had the option been currently exercisable, make such adjustment to any award then outstanding as the Committee deems appropriate to reflect such Change in Control and cause any such award then outstanding to be assumed by the acquiring or surviving corporation after such Change in Control.

Amendment of Award Agreements; Amendment and Termination of the Plan; Term of the Plan. The Committee may amend any award agreement at any time, provided that no amendment shall adversely affect the right of any participant under any agreement in any material way without the written consent of the participant, unless such amendment is required by applicable law, regulation or stock exchange rule.

The Board may terminate, suspend or amend the Plan without the approval of the shareholders, unless such approval is required by applicable law, regulation or stock exchange rule, and provided that no amendment shall adversely affect the right of any participant under any outstanding award in any material way without the written consent of the participant, unless such amendment is required by applicable law, regulation or rule of any stock exchange on which the shares of the Company's common stock are listed.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither the Plan nor any outstanding award agreement can be amended in a way that results in the repricing of a stock option without shareholder approval. Repricing is broadly defined to include reducing the exercise price of a stock option or cancelling a stock option in exchange for cash, other stock options with a lower exercise price or other stock awards. (This prohibition on repricing without shareholder approval does not apply in case of an equitable adjustment to the awards to reflect changes in the capital structure of the Company or similar events.)

Term of Plan. No awards may be granted under the Plan on or after February 24, 2022.

Forms of Award Agreements

On May 3, 2012, the Committee approved the forms of award agreements for use under the Plan (subject to the Plan's approval by shareholders, which as described above, occurred at the May 4, 2012 annual meeting). These forms are filed with this Current Report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits:

Exhibit Number	Description
10.1	Franklin Electric Co., Inc. 2012 Stock Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit A to the Company's 2012 Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting held on May 4, 2012).
10.2	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Non-Director Employees.
10.3	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Director Employees.
10.4	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for Non-Director Employees.
10.5	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement for Director Employees.
10.6	Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for Non-Director Employees.
10.7	Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for Director Employees.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC.
(Registrant)

Date: May 4, 2012

By /s/ John J. Haines
John J. Haines
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Secretary
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

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