

NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CORP /DE/  
 Form 4  
 May 02, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**CARLTON DONALD M**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CORP /DE/ [NATI]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**05/01/2012**

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

**C/O NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION, 11500 NORTH MOPAC, BLDG B**

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**AUSTIN, TX 78759**

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | Price |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/01/2012                           |  | M                              |   | 5,305   | A     | 35,030  | D  |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Units                     | <u>(1)</u>   | 05/01/2012                           |  | M                              | 2,001   | <u>(2)</u> 05/01/2024                                    | Common Stock  | 2,001                         |
| Restricted Stock Units                     | <u>(1)</u>   | 05/01/2012                           |  | M                              | 1,860   | <u>(3)</u> 05/01/2025                                    | Common Stock  | 3,720                         |
| Restricted Stock Units                     | <u>(1)</u>   | 05/01/2012                           |  | M                              | 1,444   | <u>(4)</u> 05/01/2026                                    | Common Stock  | 4,332                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CARLTON DONALD M<br>C/O NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION<br>11500 NORTH MOPAC, BLDG B<br>AUSTIN, TX 78759 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

David G. Hugley as attorney-in-fact for Donald M. Carlton 05/02/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock.

(2) The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the vesting commencement date, May 1, 2009.

(3) The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the vesting commencement date, May 1, 2010.

(4) The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments on the anniversary of the vesting commencement date, May 1, 2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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