

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INC
Form DEF 14A
July 12, 2010

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

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary proxy statement.
- Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).
- Definitive Proxy Statement.
- Definitive Additional Materials.
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12.

Microchip Technology Incorporated
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5)

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

August 20, 2010

TIME: 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time

PLACE: Microchip Technology Incorporated
At its subsidiary, Silicon Storage Technology, Inc. located at
1020 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, California 94086

ITEMS OF BUSINESS: (1) To elect five directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(2) To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Microchip for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

(3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof.

The Microchip Board of Directors recommends that you vote for each of the foregoing items.

RECORD DATE: Holders of Microchip common stock of record at the close of business on June 21, 2010 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT: Microchip's fiscal 2010 Annual Report, which is not a part of the proxy soliciting material, is enclosed.

PROXY: It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the annual meeting. You can vote your shares by completing and returning the proxy card sent to you. Stockholders may have a choice of voting their shares over the Internet or by telephone. If Internet or telephone voting is available to you, voting instructions are printed on the proxy card sent to you. You can revoke your proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the annual meeting by following the instructions in the accompanying proxy statement.

Kim van Herk
Secretary

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting

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of Stockholders to be Held on August 20, 2010

The Microchip Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 are available at www.microchip.com/annual_reports.

Chandler, Arizona

July 12, 2010

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED
2355 West Chandler Boulevard
Chandler, Arizona 85224-6199

PROXY STATEMENT

You are cordially invited to attend our annual meeting on Friday, August 20, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Pacific Time. The annual meeting will be held at the offices of our subsidiary, Silicon Storage Technology, Inc. ("SST"), located at 1020 Kifer Road, Sunnyvale, California 94086.

We are providing these proxy materials in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Microchip Technology Incorporated ("Microchip") of proxies to be voted at Microchip's 2010 annual meeting of stockholders and at any adjournment(s) thereof.

Our fiscal year begins on April 1 and ends on March 31. References in this proxy statement to fiscal 2010 refer to the 12-month period from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, and references to fiscal 2009 refer to the 12-month period from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

We anticipate first mailing this proxy statement and accompanying form of proxy on July 12, 2010 to holders of Microchip's common stock on June 21, 2010, the Record Date for the annual meeting.

PROXIES AND VOTING PROCEDURES

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. Because many stockholders cannot attend the annual meeting in person, it is necessary that a large number of stockholders be represented by proxy. Stockholders may have a choice of voting over the Internet, by using a toll-free telephone number or by completing a proxy card and mailing it in the postage-paid envelope provided. Please refer to your proxy card or the information forwarded by your bank, broker or other holder of record to see which options are available to you. Under Delaware law, stockholders may submit proxies electronically. Please be aware that if you vote over the Internet, you may incur costs such as telephone and Internet access charges for which you will be responsible.

You can revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by timely delivery of a properly executed, later-dated proxy (including an Internet or telephone vote if these options are available to you) or by voting by ballot at the annual meeting.

The method by which you vote will in no way limit your right to vote at the annual meeting if you later decide to attend in person. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other holder of record, you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the holder of record, to be able to vote at the annual meeting.

All shares entitled to vote and represented by properly completed proxies received prior to the annual meeting and not revoked will be voted at the annual meeting in accordance with the instructions on such proxies. IF YOU DO NOT INDICATE HOW YOUR SHARES SHOULD BE VOTED ON A MATTER, THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY YOUR PROPERLY COMPLETED PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS.

If any other matters are properly presented at the annual meeting for consideration, including, among other things, consideration of a motion to adjourn the annual meeting to another time or place, the persons named as proxies and acting thereunder will have discretion to vote on those matters according to their best judgment to the same extent as the person delivering the proxy would be entitled to vote. At the date this proxy statement went to press, we did not anticipate that any other matters would be raised at the annual meeting.

Stockholders Entitled to Vote

Stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date, June 21, 2010, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. Each share is entitled to one vote on each of the five director nominees and one vote on each other matter properly brought before the annual meeting. On the Record Date, there were 185,894,984 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding.

In accordance with Delaware law, a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be available at the annual meeting on August 20, 2010, and for 10 days prior to the annual meeting at 2355 West Chandler Boulevard, Chandler, Arizona, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mountain Standard Time.

Required Vote

Quorum, Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes

The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote at the annual meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum at the annual meeting. Abstentions and broker "non-votes" are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker "non-vote" occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner (i.e., in "street name") does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), which apply to NYSE member brokers trading in non-NYSE stock, brokers have discretionary authority to vote shares on certain routine matters if customer instructions are not provided. Proposal Two to be considered at the annual meeting may be treated as a routine matter. Consequently, if you do not return a proxy card, your broker may have discretion to vote your shares on such matter.

Election of Directors (Proposal One)

A plurality of the votes duly cast is required for the election of directors (i.e., the five nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected). Abstentions and broker "non-votes" will not affect the election of directors.

Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (Proposal Two)

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting is required for ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of Microchip for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. An abstention will have the same effect as voting against this proposal. Broker "non-votes" are not counted for purposes of approving the ratification of our accounting firm, and thus will not affect the outcome of the voting on this proposal.

Electronic Access to Proxy Statement and Annual Report

This proxy statement and our fiscal 2010 Annual Report are available at www.microchip.com/annual_reports.

We will post our future proxy statements and annual reports on Form 10-K on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). All such filings on our website are available free of charge. The information on our website is not incorporated into this proxy statement. Our Internet address is www.microchip.com.

Cost of Proxy Solicitation

Microchip will pay its costs of soliciting proxies. Proxies may be solicited on behalf of Microchip by its directors, officers or employees in person or by telephone, facsimile or other electronic means. We may also reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their expenses incurred in sending proxies and proxy materials to beneficial owners of Microchip common stock.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors met ten times in fiscal 2010. During fiscal 2010, each of Mr. Day and Mr. Meyercord attended 100% of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Chapman, Mr. Hugo-Martinez and Mr. Sanghi attended 9 of the 10 meetings of the Board of Directors. Each director attended 100% of the meetings of the committees on which such director served, other than Mr. Hugo-Martinez who attended 8 of the 9 Compensation Committee meetings. The Board of Directors has a practice of meeting in executive session on a periodic basis without management or management directors (i.e., Mr. Sanghi) present. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Day, Mr. Hugo-Martinez and Mr. Meyercord is an independent director as defined by applicable SEC rules and NASDAQ listing standards.

Board Leadership Structure

The Board of Directors believes that Microchip's Chief Executive Officer, Steve Sanghi, is best situated to serve as Chairman because he is the director most familiar with Microchip's business and industry, and most capable of effectively identifying strategic priorities and leading the discussion and execution of strategy. The Board's independent directors have different perspectives and roles in strategic development. In particular, Microchip's independent directors bring experience, oversight and expertise from outside the company and the industry, while the Chief Executive Officer brings company-specific experience and expertise. The Board of Directors believes that the combined role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer promotes strategy development and execution, and facilitates information flow between management and the Board of Directors, which are essential to effective governance. Microchip does not have a lead independent director.

The Board of Directors and the Board committees oversee risk management in a number of ways. The Audit Committee oversees the management of financial and accounting related risks as an integral part of its duties. Similarly, the Compensation Committee considers risk management when setting the compensation policies and programs for Microchip's executive officers. The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee regularly receive reports on various risk related items including risks related to manufacturing operations, intellectual property, taxes, products and employees. The Board and the Audit Committee also receive periodic reports on Microchip's efforts to manage such risks through safety measures, insurance or self-insurance.

Communications from Stockholders

Stockholders may communicate with the Board of Directors or individual members of the Board of Directors, provided that all such communication is submitted in writing to the attention of the Secretary at Microchip Technology Incorporated, 2355 West Chandler Boulevard, Chandler, Arizona 85224-6199, who will then forward such communication to the appropriate director or directors.

Committees of the Board of Directors

The following table lists our three Board committees, the directors who served on them and the number of committee meetings held in fiscal 2010:

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Membership on Board Committees in Fiscal 2010

Name	Audit Compensation		Nominating and Governance
Mr. Chapman	C		.
Mr. Day		C	.
Mr. Hugo-Martinez	.	.	.
Mr. Meyercord	.	.	C
Meetings held in fiscal 2010	8	9	1

C = Chair
• = Member

Audit Committee

The responsibilities of our Audit Committee are to appoint, compensate, retain and oversee Microchip's independent registered public accounting firm, oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of Microchip and audits of its financial statements, and provide the Board of Directors with the results of such monitoring. These responsibilities are further described in the committee charter. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter, as last amended on May 13, 2007, is available at the Corporate/Investors section under Mission Statement/Corporate Governance on www.microchip.com.

Our Board of Directors has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable SEC rules and NASDAQ listing standards. The Board of Directors has also determined that each of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Hugo-Martinez and Mr. Meyercord meet the requirements for being an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by applicable SEC rules.

In fiscal 2005, our Audit Committee adopted a policy with respect to (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and (iii) the prohibition of harassment, discrimination or retaliation arising from submitting concerns regarding questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters or participating in an investigation regarding questionable accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters. This policy, called "Legal Compliance," was created in accordance with applicable SEC rules and NASDAQ listing requirements. A copy of this policy is available at the Corporate/Investors section under Mission Statement/Corporate Governance on www.microchip.com.

Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee has oversight responsibility for the compensation and benefit programs for our executive officers and other employees, and for administering our equity incentive and employee stock purchase plans adopted by our Board of Directors. The responsibilities of our Compensation Committee are further described in the committee charter as adopted on January 29, 2007. A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter is available at the Corporate/Investors section under Mission Statement/Corporate Governance on www.microchip.com.

The Board of Directors has determined that the members of our Compensation Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable SEC rules and NASDAQ listing standards. For more information on our Compensation Committee, please refer to the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" at page 13.

Nominating and Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Governance Committee has the responsibility of ensuring that our Board is properly constituted to be able to meet its fiduciary obligations to our stockholders. In so doing, the Nominating and Governance Committee identifies and recommends director candidates, develops and recommends governance principles, and recommends director nominees to serve on committees of the Board of Directors. The responsibilities of our Nominating and Governance Committee are further described in the committee charter which is available at the Corporate/Investors section under Mission Statement/Corporate Governance on www.microchip.com. The Board of Directors has determined that all of the members of the Nominating and Governance Committee are independent directors as defined by applicable SEC rules and NASDAQ listing standards.

When considering a candidate for a director position, the Nominating and Governance Committee looks for demonstrated character, judgment, relevant business, functional and industry experience, and a high degree of skill. The Nominating and Governance Committee does not have a formal policy with respect to diversity; however, the Board of Directors and the Nominating and Governance Committee believe that it is important that the members of the Board of Directors represent diverse viewpoints. Accordingly, the Nominating and Governance Committee considers issues of diversity in identifying and evaluating director nominees, including differences in education, professional experience, viewpoints, technical skills and individual expertise. The Nominating and Governance Committee evaluates director nominees recommended by a stockholder in the same manner as it would any other nominee. The Nominating and Governance Committee will consider nominees recommended by stockholders provided such recommendations are made in accordance with procedures described in this proxy statement under "Requirements, Including Deadlines, for Receipt of Stockholder Proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders; Discretionary Authority to Vote on Stockholder Proposals" at page 33. We do not pay any third party to identify or assist in identifying or evaluating potential nominees for director.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders

All directors are encouraged, but not required, to attend our annual meeting of stockholders. All directors attended our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (1)

Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter setting out the purposes and responsibilities of the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee review and assess the adequacy of the charter on an annual basis. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter, as last amended on May 13, 2007, is available at the Corporate/Investors section under Mission Statement/Corporate Governance on www.microchip.com.

Each of the directors who serves on the Audit Committee meets the independence and experience requirements of the SEC rules and NASDAQ listing standards. What this means is the Microchip Board of Directors has determined that no member of the Audit Committee has a relationship with Microchip that may interfere with such member's independence from Microchip and its management, and that all members have the required knowledge and experience to perform their duties as committee members.

We have received from Ernst & Young LLP the written disclosure and the letter required by Rule 3526 of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence) and have discussed with Ernst & Young LLP their independence from Microchip. We also discussed with Ernst & Young LLP all matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (Professional Standards). We have considered whether and determined that the provision of the non-audit services rendered to us by Ernst & Young LLP during fiscal 2010 was compatible with maintaining the independence of Ernst & Young LLP.

We have reviewed and discussed with management the audited annual financial statements included in Microchip's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 and filed with the SEC, as well as the unaudited financial statements filed with Microchip's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. We also met with both management and Ernst & Young LLP to discuss those financial statements.

Based on these reviews and discussions, we recommended to the Board of Directors that Microchip's audited financial statements be included in Microchip's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 for filing with the SEC.

By the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors:

Matthew W. Chapman (Chairman)
Hugo-Martinez Wade F. Meyercord

Albert J.

Director Compensation

Procedures Regarding Director Compensation

The Board of Directors sets non-employee director compensation. Microchip does not pay employee directors for services provided as a member of the Board of Directors. Our program of cash and equity compensation for non-employee directors is designed to achieve the following goals: compensation should fairly pay directors for work required for a company of Microchip's size and scope; compensation should align directors' interests with the long-term interests of stockholders; compensation should be competitive so as to attract and retain qualified non-employee directors; and the structure of the compensation should be simple, transparent and easy for stockholders to understand. Non-employee director compensation is typically reviewed once per year to assess whether any adjustment is needed to further such goals. The Board of Directors has not used outside consultants in setting

non-employee director compensation.

(1) The Report of the Audit Committee is not "soliciting" material and is not deemed "filed" with the SEC, and is not incorporated by reference into any filings of Microchip under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date of this proxy statement and irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filings.

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Director Fees

During fiscal 2010, non-employee directors received an annual retainer of \$28,500, paid in quarterly installments, \$3,000 for each meeting attended in person and did not receive any additional amounts for serving as a committee chair. Also, directors did not receive any compensation for telephonic meetings of the Board of Directors or for meetings of committees of the Board.

Equity Compensation

Under the terms of our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan prior to its amendment on May 5, 2010, each non-employee director is automatically granted:

- upon the date that the individual first is appointed or elected to the Board of Directors as a non-employee director:
- an option to purchase 6,000 shares of common stock which shall vest as to 1/48th of the shares subject to such grant each month following the grant date so as to be 100% vested on the four-year anniversary of the grant date,
- that number of restricted stock units ("RSUs") equal to \$60,000 divided by the fair market value of our common stock which shall vest in equal 25% annual installments on each of the four anniversaries of the first business day of the second month of our fiscal quarter in which the grant is made, and
- upon the date of our annual meeting, provided that the individual has served as a non-employee director for at least three months on that date and has been elected by the stockholders to serve as a member of the Board of Directors at that annual meeting,
- an option to purchase 3,000 shares of common stock which shall vest as to 1/12th of the shares subject to such grant each month following the grant date so as to be 100% vested on the one-year anniversary of the grant date, and
- that number of RSUs equal to \$30,000 divided by the fair market value of our common stock which shall vest in equal 50% annual installments on each of the two anniversaries of the first business day of the second month of our fiscal quarter in which the grant is made, and

In addition, upon the date of our 2009 annual meeting, each non-employee director who was elected by the stockholders to serve as a member of the Board of Directors at that annual meeting, and had served as such for at least five years on that date, received a one-time grant of that number of RSUs equal to \$100,000 divided by the fair market value of our common stock which shall vest in equal 25% annual installments on each of the four anniversaries of the first business day of the second month of our fiscal quarter in which the grant is made.

All vesting of the above grants is contingent upon the non-employee director maintaining his or her continued status as a non-employee director through the applicable vesting date.

In accordance with the foregoing, on August 14, 2009, each of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Day, Mr. Hugo-Martinez and Mr. Meyercord was granted an option to acquire 3,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$27.03 per share, an annual award of 1,109 RSUs and a one-time award of 3,699 RSUs.

On May 5, 2010, our Board of Directors approved our amended and restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan which, among other things, would change the equity compensation for our non-employee directors to provide (a) on first appointment as a director, an initial grant of \$160,000 in RSUs (based on the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date), each subject to four-year vesting, and (b) an annual grant of \$80,000 in RSUs (based on the fair

market value of our common stock on the grant date) subject to two-year vesting. Our Board of Directors no longer receives grants of options to purchase common stock under our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan.

The following table details the total compensation for Microchip's non-employee directors for fiscal 2010.

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DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	Option Awards (1)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	All Other Compensation	Total
Steve Sanghi (2)	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---
Matthew W. Chapman	40,500	109,107	17,707	---	---	167,314
L.B. Day	40,500	109,107	17,707	---	---	167,314
Albert J. Hugo-Martinez	40,500	109,107	17,707	---	---	167,314
Wade F. Meyercord	40,500	109,107	17,707	---	---	167,314

(1) The amounts shown in the column labeled Option Awards represent the aggregate grant date fair value of awards made in fiscal 2010 computed in accordance with ASC 718 Compensation – Stock Compensation. In fiscal 2010, each non-employee director was granted an option to purchase 3,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$27.03 pursuant to our 2004 Equity Incentive Plan. Each option vests in 12 equal and successive monthly installments following the grant date. For information on the valuation assumptions made with respect to the foregoing option grants, please refer to the assumptions for fiscal years ended March 31, 2010 stated in Note 15, "Equity Incentive Plans" to Microchip's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2010, included in Microchip's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 2, 2010.

(2) Mr. Sanghi, our Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, does not receive any additional compensation for his services as a member of the Board of Directors.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The Compensation Committee is currently comprised of Mr. Day (Chair), Mr. Hugo-Martinez and Mr. Meyercord, three of our independent directors. None of Mr. Day, Mr. Hugo-Martinez nor Mr. Meyercord had any related-party transaction with Microchip during fiscal 2010 other than service as a director. In addition, none of such directors has a relationship that would constitute a compensation committee interlock under applicable SEC rules. During fiscal 2010, no Microchip executive officer served on the compensation committee (or equivalent) or the board of directors, of another entity whose executiv