

SMITH JOHN ALEXANDER  
 Form 4  
 February 27, 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 \*  
 SMITH JOHN ALEXANDER

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 MKS INSTRUMENTS INC [MKSI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 2 TECH DRIVE  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/27/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Sr. VP, ASG

ANDOVER, MA 01810  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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

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 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. De |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|-------|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|-------|

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| (Instr. 3)            | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8)  | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |                  |                 |            |              |                            |  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|
|                       |                              |                  | Code        | V (A) (D)  | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title      |              | Amount or Number of Shares |  |
| Restricted Stock Unit | <u>(1)</u>                   | 02/27/2012       | <u>J(2)</u> |  | 119.92           | <u>(3)</u>      | <u>(3)</u> | Common Stock | 119.92                     |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |             |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer     | Other |
| SMITH JOHN ALEXANDER<br>2 TECH DRIVE<br>ANDOVER, MA 01810 |               |           | Sr. VP, ASG |       |

## Signatures

/s/Renee M. Donlan POA 02/25/2012

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 the contingent right to receive one share of common stock of MKS Instruments, Inc.
- (2) This transaction reflects the forfeiture of RSUs due to performance criteria
- (3) These RSUs are subject to the achievement of performance criteria determined in the first year of the grant and thereafter vests in equal annual installments over three years.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.