

Rueda Maria
 Form 4
 December 26, 2012

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
 Rueda Maria

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC [HPY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Chief Financial Officer

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC., 90 NASSAU STREET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/22/2012

(Street)
 PRINCETON, NJ 08542

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

(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 Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share | 12/22/2012 | | J ⁽¹⁾ | 1,592 A | 6,369 ⁽²⁾ | D | |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share | 12/24/2012 | | F ⁽³⁾ | 525 D | \$ 29.4 5,844 | D | |

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Common
 Stock, par value 12/26/2012 S⁽⁴⁾ 1,067 D \$ 29.4364 4,777 D
 \$0.001 per share (5)

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

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SEC 1474
 (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 (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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Rueda Maria C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC. 90 NASSAU STREET PRINCETON, NJ 08542 | | | Chief Financial Officer | |

Signatures

/s/ Maria Rueda 12/26/2012
 **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)

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Shares acquired upon vesting of restricted stock units granted to the Reporting Person on December 22, 2011 and reported on a Form 4 filed on December 23, 2011.

- The Reporting Person reported all restricted stock units granted to the Reporting Person on December 22, 2011 in Table I of the Form 4
- (2) filed on December 23, 2011. As such, no adjustment to the Reporting Person's beneficial ownership needs to be made to reflect this vesting event.
 - (3) Shares were withheld from the Reporting Person, in an exempt transaction under Rule 16b-3, solely to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of the restricted stock described in this Form 4.
 - (4) The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on September 10, 2012.

This price is the weighted average price of the 1,067 shares sold. The prices actually paid for the shares of the Common Stock of Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. (the "Issuer") sold ranged from \$29.39 to \$29.46. The Reporting Person will provide to the Issuer, any security holder of the Issuer or the SEC Staff, upon request, information regarding the number of shares sold at each price within the range of prices actually paid.
 - (5)

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.