

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
Form DEF 14A
June 13, 2008

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

SCHEDULE 14A
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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
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NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

1319 Marquette Drive

Romeoville, Illinois 60446

June 13, 2008

Dear Stockholder:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite you to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nanophase Technologies Corporation to be held at Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois, on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., Chicago time. The formal notice of the Annual Meeting appears on the following page.

This year we are pleased to take advantage of the new Securities and Exchange Commission rule allowing companies to furnish proxy materials to their stockholders over the Internet. On June 13, 2008, we mailed to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our 2008 Proxy Statement and Annual Report and vote online, by phone, in person or by mail.

The attached Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement describes the matters that we expect to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. Management will be available to answer any questions you may have immediately after the Annual Meeting.

Whether or not you choose to attend the Annual Meeting, it is important that your shares be represented. Regardless of the number of shares you own, please vote your shares via telephone, over the Internet or sign and date a paper copy of the proxy card and promptly return it to us in the enclosed postage paid envelope. If you sign and return your proxy card without specifying your choices, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors contained in the Proxy Statement.

You are welcome to attend the July 24, 2008 meeting, and I urge you to vote via telephone, over the Internet or by paper proxy as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ JOSEPH E. CROSS
Joseph E. Cross
President and Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JULY 24, 2008

To the Stockholders of

Nanophase Technologies Corporation:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nanophase Technologies Corporation (the Company) will be held at 9:00 a.m., Chicago time, on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect two Class II directors to the Company's Board of Directors;
- (2) To ratify the appointment by the Company's Audit and Finance Committee of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as the independent auditors of the Company's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008; and
- (3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the accompanying Proxy Statement.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on May 29, 2008 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ JESS JANKOWSKI
Jess Jankowski
Secretary

Romeoville, Illinois

June 13, 2008

ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON OR BY PROXY. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN AND DATE THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE FURNISHED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD JULY 24, 2008.

The SEC has adopted new rules to allow proxy materials to be posted on the Internet and to provide only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders. For this Proxy Statement, we have chosen to follow the SEC's notice and access option, and therefore, we have sent our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and posted the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Company's Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 online at <http://ww3.ics.adp.com/streetlink/nanx>.

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

1319 Marquette Drive

Romeoville, Illinois 60446

(630) 771-6708

PROXY STATEMENT

The accompanying proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors (the **Board of Directors**) of Nanophase Technologies Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the **Company**), for use at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the **Annual Meeting**) to be held at 9:00 a.m., Chicago time, Thursday, July 24, 2008, at Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois, and any adjournments thereof. This Proxy Statement and accompanying form of proxy are first being mailed or made available via the Internet to stockholders on or about June 13, 2008.

Record Date and Outstanding Shares The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on May 29, 2008, as the record date (the **Record Date**) for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. As of the Record Date, the Company had outstanding 21,130,697 shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share (the **Common Stock**). Each outstanding share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote on all matters to come before the Annual Meeting.

Notice of Electronic Availability of Proxy Statement and Annual Report As permitted by rules recently adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Company is making this Proxy Statement and its annual report available to its stockholders electronically via the Internet at <http://ww3.ics.adp.com/streetlink/nanx>. On June 13, 2008, we mailed to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our 2008 Proxy Statement and Annual Report and vote online, by phone, in person or by mail. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials, unless specifically requested. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

Voting of Proxies Joseph E. Cross and Jess Jankowski, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card accompanying this Proxy Statement, were selected by the Board of Directors to serve in such capacity. Messrs. Cross and Jankowski are executive officers of the Company and Mr. Cross is also a director of the Company. The shares represented by each executed and returned proxy will be voted in accordance with the directions indicated thereon, or, if no direction is indicated, such proxy will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors contained in this Proxy Statement. Each stockholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before the shares it represents are voted. Revocation of a proxy is effective upon receipt by the Secretary of the Company of either (1) an instrument revoking the proxy or (2) a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. Additionally, a stockholder may change or revoke a previously executed proxy by voting in person at the Annual Meeting (attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy).

Required Vote The vote of a plurality of the shares of Common Stock voted in person or by proxy is required to elect the nominees for Class II director. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Common Stock represented in person or by proxy is required to ratify the appointment of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008. Stockholders will not be allowed to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

Quorum; Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes The required quorum for transaction of business at the Annual Meeting will be a majority of the shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of the Record Date. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the election inspectors appointed for the meeting and will determine whether or not a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be included in determining the presence of a quorum. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote for directors. Abstentions will be considered present and entitled to vote with respect to ratifying the appointment of the Company's independent auditors and will have the same effect as votes against such proposal. Broker non-votes will not be considered present and entitled to vote with respect to ratifying the appointment of the Company's independent auditors and will have no effect on such proposal.

Annual Report to Stockholders The Company's Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2007, containing financial and other information pertaining to the Company, is being furnished to stockholders simultaneously with this Proxy Statement. Electronically printed copies will be made available upon request.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company's Board of Directors currently consists of eight directors. Article VI of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation provides that the Board of Directors shall be classified with respect to the terms for which its members shall hold office by dividing the members into three classes. At the Annual Meeting, two directors of Class II will be elected for a term of three years expiring at the Company's 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Company prepared the following director summaries using information furnished to the Company by the director. The nominees are presently serving as directors of the Company. See "Nominees" below.

The six directors whose terms of office do not expire in 2008 will continue to serve after the Annual Meeting until such time as their respective terms of office expire or their successors are duly elected and qualified. See "Other Directors" below.

If at the time of the Annual Meeting the nominees should be unable or decline to serve, the persons named in the proxy will vote for such substitute nominee as the Board of Directors recommends, or vote to allow the vacancy created thereby to remain open until filled by the Board of Directors, as the Board of Directors recommends. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that the nominees will be unable or decline to serve as a director if elected.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES NAMED BELOW.

NOMINEES

The names of the nominees for the office of director, together with certain information concerning such nominees, is set forth below:

| Name | Served as Director Since | Age | Position with Company |
|--------------------------|---|------------|---|
| Richard W. Siegel, Ph.D. | 1989 | 71 | Director |
| Joseph E. Cross | 1998 | 60 | Director, President and Chief Executive Officer |

Dr. Siegel is a co-founder of the Company and has served as a director of the Company since 1989. Dr. Siegel served as a consultant to the Company from 1990 to 2002 with regard to the application and commercialization of nanomaterials. Dr. Siegel is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of nanomaterials. During his tenure on the research staff at Argonne National Laboratory from July 1974 to May 1995, he was the principal scientist engaged in research with the laboratory-scale synthesis process that was the progenitor of the Company's physical-vapor-synthesis production system. Dr. Siegel has been the Robert W. Hunt Professor in Materials Science and Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute since June 1995, and served as Department Head from 1995 to 2000. In April 2001, Dr. Siegel became the founding Director of the newly created Rensselaer Nanotechnology Center at the Institute. During 1995-1998, he was also a visiting professor at the Max Planck Institute for Microstructure Physics in Germany on an Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize received in 1994. During 2003-2004 he was a visiting professor in Japan on a RIKEN Eminent Scientist Award. He chaired the World Technology Evaluation Center worldwide study of nanostructure science and technology for the U.S. government, has served on the Council of the Materials Research Society and as Chairman of the International Committee on Nanostructured Materials. He also served on the Committee on Materials with Sub-Micron Sized Microstructures of the National Materials Advisory Board and was the co-chairman of the Study Panel on Clusters and Cluster-Assembled Materials for the U.S. Department of Energy.

He currently serves on the Nanotechnology Technical Advisory Group to the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Dr. Siegel holds an A.B. degree in physics from Williams College and an M.S. degree and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mr. Cross has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Company since December 1998 and President and a director of the Company since joining the Company in November 1998. Prior to joining the Company in November 1998, Mr. Cross served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Aptech, a manufacturer of measurement, metering and control devices for the utility industry, from August 1996 to October 1998. From December 1993 to July 1996, Mr. Cross served as President of Aegis Technologies, an interactive telecommunications company. He holds a B.S. degree from Southwest Missouri University and attended the M.B.A. program at Southwest Missouri University.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS CLASS II DIRECTORS.

OTHER DIRECTORS

The following persons will continue to serve as directors of the Company after the Annual Meeting until their terms of office expire (as indicated below) or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The Company prepared the following director summaries using information furnished to the Company by the director.

| Name | Age | Position with Company | Served as Director Since | Term Expires | Class |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
| James A. Henderson | 73 | Director | 2001 | 2010 | I |
| James A. McClung, Ph.D. | 70 | Director | 2000 | 2010 | I |
| R. Janet Whitmore | 53 | Director | 2003 | 2010 | I |
| Donald S. Perkins | 81 | Chairman of the Board of Directors | 1998 | 2009 | III |
| Jerry K. Pearlman | 69 | Director | 1999 | 2009 | III |
| George A. Vincent, III | 63 | Director | 2007 | 2009 | III |

Mr. Henderson has served as a director of the Company since July 2001. He retired as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cummins Engine Company in December 1999, after joining the company in 1964. Mr. Henderson became President and Chief Operating Officer of Cummins in 1977, was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer in 1994 and served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 until his retirement in 1999. Mr. Henderson attended Culver Military Academy, holds an A.B. in public and international affairs from Princeton University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Mr. Henderson also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of AT&T Inc. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the Culver Education Foundation and is a past Chair of the Executive Committee of the Princeton University Board of Trustees.

Mr. McClung has served as a director of the Company since February 2000. He retired as Senior Vice President and executive officer for FMC Corporation, a leading producer of a diversified portfolio of chemicals and machinery. He has over 30 years of international business development experience in over 75 countries, having managed and developed new technologies and production processes for diversified global businesses, including specialized chemicals and machinery, while living in the United States, Europe and Africa. Mr. McClung currently serves as Corporate Board member of Alticor (Amway), NCCI and Hu-Friedy. He was a founding member of the U.S.-Russia Business Council and is active in other international business organizations, such as the Japan American Society, Chicago Council of Foreign Relations and the Economic Club of Chicago. He serves as a board director at Thunderbird School of Global Management and the College of Wooster (Ohio). Mr. McClung earned a Bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster, a Master's degree from the University of Kansas and a Doctorate from Michigan State University.

Ms. Whitmore joined the board in November 2003. She is currently a director of Silverleaf Resorts, Inc., where she serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee. She is a former director of Epoch Biosciences, a supplier of proprietary products used to accelerate genomic analysis. Ms. Whitmore is Founder of Benton Consulting, LLC, which specializes in business development and processes. From 1976 through 1999, Ms. Whitmore held numerous engineering and finance positions at Mobil Corporation, including Mobil's Chief Financial Analyst and Controller of Mobil's Global Petrochemicals Division. Ms. Whitmore holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University and an M.B.A. from Lewis University.

Mr. Vincent has served as a director of the Company since November 2007. He is currently Chairman and Commercial Development Officer of The HallStar Company, where he served as CEO for twenty years. HallStar

is a chemical manufacturer and innovator specializing in material science, marketing its products worldwide, primarily into the polymer and personal care industries. Prior to HallStar, Mr. Vincent held positions in purchasing, sales, commercial development and strategic planning with FMC Corporation (chemicals) and General Electric Company (chemicals and plastics). Mr. Vincent has served as Chairman of the Illinois Manufacturers Association (IMA) and the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (CICI), as well as Director of the American Chemistry Council (ACC). Mr. Vincent serves on the Boards of several closely-held companies in the chemicals and materials industry sector. Mr. Vincent holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Perkins has served as a director of the Company since February 1998. Mr. Perkins retired from Jewel Companies, Inc., the retail supermarket and drug chain, in 1983. He had been with Jewel since 1953, serving as President from 1965 to 1970, as Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1970 to 1980, and as Chairman of the Executive Committee until his retirement. He has served on a number of corporate boards and is currently a director of LaSalle Hotel Properties and La Salle U.S. Realty Income and Growth Fund III. For more than 30 years, he has served on corporate boards including AT&T, Aon, Corning, Cummins Engine, Eastman Kodak, Firestone, Inland Steel Industries, Kmart, Lucent Technologies, The Putnam Funds, Springs Industries and Time-Warner, Inc. He has served as a Trustee of The Ford Foundation and The Brookings Institution, as a member of The Business Council and as a Protector of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Continuity Trust. Mr. Perkins is a life trustee and was Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University. He is also a member of the Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago, and Advisory Boards for Blue Ridge Partners, Shields-Meneley, Syrus, RoundTable Healthcare Partners L.P., Northwestern University's School of Communication and its School of Education and Social Policy. Mr. Perkins holds a B.A. degree from Yale University and an M.B.A. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Mr. Pearlman has served as a director of the Company since April 1999. Mr. Pearlman retired as Chairman of Zenith Electronics Corporation in November 1995. He joined Zenith as controller in 1971 and served as chief executive officer from 1983 through April 1995. Mr. Pearlman is currently a director of Smurfit Stone Container Corporation. He is a life trustee of Northwestern University and a life director and past chairman of the board of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare. Mr. Pearlman graduated from Princeton with honors from the Woodrow Wilson School and from Harvard Business School with highest honors.

Director Compensation Upon first being elected to the Board of Directors, each director of the Company who is not an employee or consultant of the Company (an Outside Director) is granted stock options to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock at the closing price as of the date of issuance (the fair market value). This initial option grant to an Outside Director vests over three to five years.

In 2007 and 2006, the Company paid \$4,000 as quarterly compensation to each of its directors, which will amount to an annual total of \$16,000 per outside director for services performed in their capacity as directors. In addition, each outside director will receive \$6,000 each calendar quarter in deferred common stock (the Director Restricted Stock Plan as described below) based on the closing price at the beginning of each quarter. For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 each director received 3,874 and 3,754 shares respectively, with the total value of the compensation of approximately \$24,000 per year. In 2005, the Company paid \$6,250 quarterly, which amounted to an annual total of \$25,000 per Outside Director, in cash compensation for services performed in their capacity as directors. No stock based awards were issued to Outside Directors in 2005. Beginning in 2004, Mr. McClung's cash compensation is being paid to Lismore International, Incorporated.

In 2005, the Company adopted, and the stockholders approved, the 2005 Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Plan (the Director Restricted Stock Plan) which reserves 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock to be issued to Outside Directors in the form of restricted shares. In 2005, no awards were made under the Director Restricted Stock Plan. In 2005, the Company also adopted the Non-Employee Director Deferred Compensation Plan (the Director Deferred Compensation Plan) which permits an Outside Director to defer the receipt of director fees until separation from service or the Company undergoes a change in control. The

Company amended the Director Restricted Stock Plan in 2005 to permit an Outside Director to defer receipt of restricted stock granted under it. The deferred restricted shares are accounted for under the Director Deferred Compensation Plan and issued upon separation from service or the Company's change in control. Under the Director Deferred Compensation Plan, the deferred fees that would have been paid in cash are deemed invested in 5 year U.S. Treasury Bonds during the deferral period. The accumulated hypothetical earnings are paid following the Outside Director's separation from service or the Company's change in control. The deferred fees that would have been paid as restricted shares are deemed invested in common stock of the Company during the deferral period. The Director Deferred Compensation Plan is an unfunded, nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement. In 2006 and 2007, all Outside Directors elected to defer receipts of all of the restricted shares they became entitled to under the Director Restricted Stock Plan. No director's fees paid in cash were deferred under the Director Deferred Compensation Plan.

All Outside Directors are reimbursed for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending board and committee meetings.

2007 Director Compensation

| Name (a) | Fees Earned or Paid in | | Stock Awards (d) | Total(\$) (h) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------|
| | Cash (\$) (b) | | | |
| James A. Henderson | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| James A. McClung | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| Jerry K. Pearlman | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| Donald S. Perkins | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| Richard W. Siegel, Ph.D. | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| R. Janet Whitmore | \$ 16,000 | | \$ 24,000 | \$ 40,000 |

Meetings of the Board and Committees During the year ended December 31, 2007, the Board of Directors held ten formal meetings. No director missed more than one board and committee meeting held during 2007 (for all committees on which a particular director served).

Committees of the Board of Directors The Board of Directors has established an Audit and Finance Committee, Compensation and Governance Committee and a Nominating Committee each comprised entirely of independent directors who are not officers or employees of the Company. The members of the Audit and Finance Committee are Mr. McClung (Chairman), Mr. Henderson, Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008). The members of the Compensation and Governance Committee are Mr. Pearlman (Chairman), Mr. Henderson, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008). The members of the Nominating Committee are Mr. Henderson (Chairman), Mr. McClung, Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins, Dr. Siegel, and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008). Each of the Audit and Finance, Compensation and Governance, and Nominating Committees operates pursuant to a written charter. Copies of the committee charters are available on the Company's website at www.nanophase.com under the link Investor Relations Corporate Governance. The Company also operates under a written code of ethics, copies of which are available on the Company's Website under the link Investor Relations Code of Ethics.

The Audit and Finance Committee generally has responsibility for retaining the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, reviewing the plan and scope of the accountants' annual audit, reviewing the Company's internal control functions and financial management policies and reporting to the Board of Directors regarding all of the foregoing. The Audit and Finance Committee held six formal meetings in 2007 and over the course of such meetings, the Audit and Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management. The committee also discussed with its independent registered public accounting firm, McGladrey and Pullen, LLP, the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards

No. 61, as amended. In addition, the Committee has received from McGladrey and Pullen, LLP the written disclosures and the letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discussed with McGladrey and Pullen, LLP their independence from the Company and its management. Based on the Audit and Finance Committee's review and discussions of the foregoing matters, the Audit and Finance Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 be included in the annual report that accompanies this Proxy Statement.

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Henderson, all of whom serve on the Audit and Finance Committee, are audit committee financial experts as described in applicable SEC rules. Each member of the Audit and Finance Committee is independent, as defined in Rule 4200(a) (15) of the National Association of Securities Dealers' listing standards and applicable SEC rules.

The Compensation and Governance Committee generally has responsibility for establishing executive officer and key employee compensation, reviewing and establishing the Company's executive compensation and general corporate governance policies and reporting to the Board of Directors regarding the foregoing. The Compensation and Governance Committee also has responsibility for administering the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plan and the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan, determining the number of options, if any, to be granted to the Company's employees and consultants pursuant to the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plan and reporting to the Board of Directors regarding the foregoing. The Compensation and Governance Committee held four formal meetings in 2007.

The Nominating Committee generally has responsibility for nominating candidates to serve on the Board of Directors, reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, and assessing the performance of management and the Board of Directors pursuant to its charter. All members of the Nominating Committee are independent. The Nominating Committee was formed in 2004 and held three formal meetings in 2007.

Communications with the Board of Directors Any stockholder desiring to communicate with the Board of Directors or one or more of its directors may send a letter addressed to the Board of Directors or the applicable directors in care of the Corporate Secretary at Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446. All such communications must have the sender's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, if any, as well as a statement of the type and amount of the Company's securities the sender holds and any other interest of the sender in the subject of the communication or, if the sender is not a stockholder of the Company, a statement of the nature of the sender's interest in the Company. Communications will be forwarded to the proper recipient unless they (a) concern individual grievances or other interests that could not reasonably be construed to be of concern to the stockholders or other constituencies of the Company, (b) advocate the Company's engaging in illegal activities, (c) contain offensive, scurrilous or abusive content, or (d) have no rational relevance to the business or operations of the Company.

Directors Attendance at Annual Meetings When a director is unable to attend an Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person, but is able to attend by electronic conferencing, the Company will arrange for the director to participate by means such that the director can hear and be heard by those present at the meeting. The entire Board of Directors attended the Company's 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The table below identifies executive officers of the Company during 2007 who are not identified in the tables entitled Election of Directors Nominees or Other Directors. The Company prepared the following executive officer summaries using information furnished to the Company by the executive officer.

| Name | Age | Position |
|----------------------------|------------|---|
| Jess Jankowski | 42 | Chief Financial Officer, Vice President of Finance, Secretary and Treasurer |
| Kevin J. Wenta | 44 | Executive Vice President Sales and Marketing |
| Robert Haines | 57 | Vice President Operations |
| Richard W. Brotzman, Ph.D. | 55 | Vice President Research and Development |

Mr. Jankowski has served as Controller of the Company since joining in 1995. He was elected Secretary and Treasurer in November 1999, Acting Chief Financial Officer in January 2000, Vice President in April 2002 and Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer in April 2004. From 1990 to 1995 he served as Controller for two building contractors in the Chicago area. From 1986 to 1990 he worked for Kemper Financial Services in their accounting control corporate compliance unit, serving as unit supervisor during his last two years. Mr. Jankowski holds a B.S. in accountancy from Northern Illinois University, an M.B.A. from Loyola University and is a registered CPA in the State of Illinois. He has served on the advisory board of NITECH (Formerly WESTEC), an Illinois Technology Enterprise Center focusing on the commercialization of advanced manufacturing technologies, since 2003. Mr. Jankowski has been an active member of the AeA Midwest CFO Committee since 2006. He was appointed to the Romeoville Economic Development Commission in 2004.

Mr. Wenta joined the Company on January 8, 2007 as its Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing. He brings twenty years of business development, sales, marketing, finance and operations experience to the Company. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Wenta was a Partner at Accenture, a global consulting company. Previous to that, he was a General Manager at Eastman Chemical Company and held the position of Director of Corporate Strategy. Previous experience also includes positions at ChemConnect (formerly CheMatch), ARCO and Shell Chemical. Mr. Wenta holds a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Haines joined the Company in January 2001 as Vice President of Operations. Beginning in 1996 and prior to joining the Company, he served as Corporate Director of Quality at Legrand North America. Previous experience includes two years as Vice President of Operations for Aegis Technologies and eight years with Digital Equipment Corporation. Mr. Haines holds a B.S. in Chemistry/Engineering Physics from East Tennessee State University.

Dr. Brotzman joined the Company in July 1994 as a senior scientist and served as Vice President Research and Development of the Company since July 1996. In November 2007, he was appointed as the Company's Chief Technology Officer. He is the inventor of much of the Company's coating technology. Dr. Brotzman has more than 20 years experience in research and development of advanced materials leading to new products. His technical areas of expertise include interfacial adhesion and chemistry, self-assembled polymeric coatings, nanosized inorganic powders, powder processing, reactive coupling agents, sol-gel derived protective coatings, non-destructive evaluation of composites, neo-debye relaxation in green inorganic gels, asymmetric membranes and plasma processing. From January 1991 to July 1994, Dr. Brotzman served as Director of Research at TPL, Inc., an advanced materials company. He holds a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Lafayette College, an M.S. degree in engineering and applied science from the University of California, Davis and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Washington.

The Board of Directors elects executive officers annually, and such executive officers, subject to the terms of certain employment agreements, serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Messrs. Cross, Jankowski, Wenta, Haines and Dr. Brotzman each have employment agreements with the Company. See Executive Compensation Employment. There are no family relationships among any of the directors or officers of the Company.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

This section discusses the material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to the principal executive and principal financial officers of the Company, and the three other most highly compensated executive officers of the Company (the executive officers).

The Board of Directors Compensation and Governance Committee (the Compensation Committee) generally has responsibility for establishing executive officer and key employee compensation, reviewing and establishing the executive compensation and reporting to the Board of Directors regarding the foregoing. The Compensation Committee also has responsibility for administering the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plan and the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan, determining the number of options or stock appreciation rights, if any, to be granted under those plans and reporting to the Board of Directors regarding the foregoing. None of the executive officers are members of the Compensation Committee. The current Compensation Committee members are Jerry K. Pearlman (Chairman), James A. Henderson, Donald S. Perkins, and George A. Vincent, III (appointed May 2008).

Overview of Compensation Programs and Objectives

The objectives of the Compensation Committee in recommending the levels and components of compensation for the executive officers are to:

1. Attract, motivate and retain talented and dedicated executives;
2. Motivate performance to achieve our specific strategic and operating objectives;
3. Provide both cash and equity incentives that align the interests of the executive officers with the long-term interests of our stockholders.

The Compensation Committee reviews the achievement of corporate goals and individual contributions to our success. The Compensation Committee relies on judgment and not upon rigid guidelines or formulas in determining the amount or mix of compensation elements for each executive officer. Factors affecting their judgment include performance compared to strategic goals, the nature of the executive officer's responsibilities and the executive officer's effectiveness in leading our initiatives to achieve our goals. Our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joseph E. Cross, as the manager of the members of the executive team, assesses the executives' individual contributions to their respective departmental goals and makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee with respect to increases in base salary, discretionary bonus and long-term incentive awards, for each member of the executive team, other than himself. The Compensation Committee evaluates, discusses, modifies and approves these recommendations and conducts a similar evaluation of Mr. Cross' contributions and performance. Each member of the Board of Directors is permitted to attend the Compensation Committee meetings and participate in the discussion. However, approval of each executive officer's compensation is made by the Compensation Committee. As described in more detail below, the material components of the executive officers' compensation includes base salary, discretionary bonus, long-term incentive awards, severance protection and change-in-control benefits. We believe that each element of our executive compensation program helps us to achieve one or more of our compensation objectives.

Base salaries, severance protection and change-in-control benefits are all primarily intended to attract and retain qualified executives. The value of these components in any given year is not dependent on performance (unless determined by reference to base salary, which may increase depending on performance). The Company believes it needs to provide executives with a level of predictable compensation in order to attract and retain top-caliber executives and reward their continued services. The Compensation Committee's general philosophy is that discretionary bonuses and long-term incentive compensation should fluctuate with the Company's success in achieving financial and other goals, and that the Company should continue to use long-term compensation

such as stock options, restricted stock and stock appreciation rights to align the interests of stockholders and executives. The Company also believes that a mix of longer-term and short-term elements allows it to achieve the dual goals of attracting and retaining executives while motivating their continued performance and aligning their financial interests with that of our stockholders.

The Compensation Committee has found it difficult to benchmark the compensation levels of our executive officers within a peer group of comparable companies due to the nature of our business and technology. The Compensation Committee has evaluated the compensation practices of other high technology companies, including other publicly-held advanced materials and advanced technologies companies in determining an appropriate level and mix of compensation.

Current Material Elements

Base Salary. In determining the base salaries of the executive officers in 2007, the Compensation Committee considered the performance of each executive during the prior year, the nature of the executive's responsibilities and the Company's past compensation practice. Base salary is paid in cash.

Each of the executive officers has employment agreements, which provide for a minimum level of base salary. The executive officers' annual base salaries were not increased for a period of approximately 18-months ending on April 25, 2006. During 2007 there were no increases to base salaries, which remained as follows: for Mr. Cross, \$340,000; for Mr. Jankowski, \$180,000; for Mr. Wenta, \$270,000; for Mr. Haines, \$220,000; and for Dr. Brotzman, \$195,000. The base salary that was paid to each executive officer in 2007 is the amount reported for such officer in column (c) of the Summary Compensation Table below. The executive officers' base salaries are currently expected to change in 2008, however, the Compensation Committee reserves the right to adjust executive salaries at any time.

Discretionary Bonuses. Discretionary bonuses for executive officers, if any, are paid in cash upon the achievement of our performance goals and are a function of the criteria which the Compensation Committee believes appropriately takes into account the specific areas of responsibility of the particular officer, performance and other factors such as our profitability, cash flow, revenue and customer generation, market share and industry position. Discretionary bonuses, if any, are paid after consideration of each executive officer's performance and the input of Mr. Cross related to the individual performance of the executive officers, other than himself. The Compensation Committee determines whether to pay a discretionary bonus to Mr. Cross based on our performance, profitability, cash flow, revenue and customer generations, market share and industry position.

Discretionary bonuses paid for performance in 2007 are shown in column (d) of the Summary Compensation Table below.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation. Periodically, the Compensation Committee grants long-term incentive compensation, in the form of stock options, restricted share rights, performance share rights and stock appreciation rights in order to provide a long-term incentive which is directly tied to the performance of our stock. These grants provide an incentive to maximize stockholder value by providing the employees an equity interest which further aligns their interests with those of the stockholders. The exercise price of these grants is the closing price (used to establish fair market value) of the underlying Common Stock on the date of grant. In general, the options vest in equal annual installments over a three-year period beginning one year after the date of grant, in certain instances the Board of Directors (or the Compensation Committee) can adjust the vesting period for performance-based options. Restricted share rights typically cliff vest, all at one time, at a date several years subsequent to their grant date. Performance share rights vest upon the achievement of milestones as defined by the Compensation Committee. In 2006, the Company adopted the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan which allows the Compensation Committee to award units that derive their value from the appreciation in our stock without the issuance of additional shares. These awards are paid in cash. The Company believes that the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan will allow it to continue to attract and retain key employees while aligning the

financial incentives of those individuals with the financial objectives of our stockholders. One award has been issued under the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan to date. Awards of stock appreciation rights are not currently intended to comprise a major part of our long-term incentive compensation strategy. The Compensation Committee may elect, from time to time, to grant these types of awards as particular situations arise. Vesting periods are used to retain key employees and to emphasize the long-term aspect of contribution and performance. In making grants to executives in 2007, the Compensation Committee considered a number of factors, including the performance of such persons, the Company's performance, achievement of specific delineated goals, the responsibilities and the relative position of such persons within the Company, the number of stock options each such person currently possesses and the underlying value of the options held.

The Company traditionally awards long-term incentive compensation (including to the executive officers) once per year. These awards have occurred in the latter half of the last several years. The Compensation Committee may grant awards at any other time during the year in connection with the hiring or promotion of employees or based upon other special circumstances or performance. The aggregate amount as determined under FAS No. 123R recognized for purposes of our financial statements for 2006 with respect to options granted to the executive officers is shown in the Summary Compensation Table below. The grant date value of the options and restricted stock units awarded to the executive officers in 2006 as determined under FAS No. 123R for purposes of the Company's financial statements is shown in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table below. The Grants of Plan-Based Awards table and related narrative Description of Plan-Based Awards section below provide additional detail regarding the options granted to the executive officers in 2007, including the vesting and other terms that apply to the restricted stock units and options.

Severance Protection and Change-in-Control Benefits. The level of severance protection and change-in-control benefits provided to each executive officer is based upon a review of the market and consideration of the dedication and service provided by these executive officers to the Company. Please see the Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control section below for a description of the potential payments that may be made to the executive officers in connection with their termination of employment or a change in control.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Company currently does not require our directors or executive officers to own a particular amount of our Common Stock. The Compensation Committee is satisfied that stock and option holdings among our directors and executive officers are sufficient at this time to provide motivation and to align this group's interests with those of our stockholders.

Other Compensation and Benefits

Our executive officers participate in the same group insurance and employee benefit plans as our other salaried employees.

Employment Agreements

The Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Cross dated November 9, 1999 (with an immaterial amendment thereafter to adjust language for changes in applicable governing employment law) which provides for an annual base salary of not less than \$220,000. In addition, Mr. Cross received a lump sum payment of \$50,000 on the first anniversary of the commencement of this agreement. The Company also granted to Mr. Cross options to purchase up to 100,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$2.9375 per share and options to purchase up to 50,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$2.1875, with options for one-fifth of such shares becoming exercisable on each of the first five anniversaries of the dates of grant. No term has been assigned to Mr. Cross' employment agreement. If Mr. Cross is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Cross' employment agreement), Mr. Cross will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Cross' base salary for 53 weeks.

Effective as of February 17, 2000, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Jankowski (with an immaterial amendment thereafter to adjust language for changes in applicable governing employment law) providing for an annual base salary of not less than \$95,000. No term has been assigned to Mr. Jankowski's employment agreement. If Mr. Jankowski is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Jankowski's employment agreement), Mr. Jankowski will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Jankowski's base salary for 27 weeks.

Effective as of January 8, 2007, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Wenta which provides for an annual base salary of not less than \$270,000. In addition, Mr. Wenta received a guaranteed bonus of \$24,300 payable in two installments of \$12,150 on July 8, 2007 and January 8, 2008. The Company also granted to Mr. Wenta options to purchase up to 75,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$5.72 per share with options for one-fifth of such shares becoming exercisable on each of the first five anniversaries of the dates of grant. No term has been assigned to Mr. Wenta's employment agreement. If Mr. Wenta is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Wenta's employment agreement), Mr. Wenta will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Wenta's base salary for 52 weeks.

Effective as of November 2, 2000, the Company also entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Haines (with an immaterial amendment thereafter to adjust language for changes in applicable governing employment law) providing for an annual base salary of not less than \$160,000. The Company also granted to Mr. Haines options to purchase up to 30,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$10.1875. No term has been assigned to Mr. Haines' employment agreement. If Mr. Haines is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Haines's employment agreement), Mr. Haines will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Haines's base salary for 53 weeks.

Effective as of September 26, 2001, the Company also entered into an employment agreement with Dr. Brotzman (with an immaterial amendment thereafter to adjust language for changes in applicable governing employment law) providing for an annual base salary of not less than \$146,250. No term has been assigned to Dr. Brotzman's employment agreement. If Dr. Brotzman is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Dr. Brotzman's employment agreement), Dr. Brotzman will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Dr. Brotzman's base salary for 27 weeks.

Compliance with Section 162(m)

The Compensation Committee currently intends for all compensation paid to the executive officers to be tax deductible to the Company pursuant to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Section 162(m)). Section 162(m) provides that compensation paid to the executive officers in excess of \$1,000,000 cannot be deducted by the Company for Federal income tax purposes unless, in general, (1) such compensation is performance-based, established by a committee of outside directors and objective, and (2) the plan or agreement providing for such performance-based compensation has been approved in advance by stockholders. The Compensation Committee believes that the requirements of Section 162(m) are uncertain at this time and may arbitrarily impact the Company. In the future, the Compensation Committee may determine to adopt a compensation program that does not satisfy the conditions of Section 162(m) if in its judgment, after considering the additional costs of not satisfying Section 162(m), such program is appropriate.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the disclosures contained in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K. Based upon this review and our discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to its Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section be included in this Proxy Statement.

Jerry K. Pearlman (Chairman)

James A. Henderson

Donald S. Perkins

George A. Vincent, III (Appointed May 2008)

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE'S INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The Compensation Committee members whose names appear above were committee members during all of 2007, except where noted. Pursuant to a consulting agreement effective as of October 29, 1998, and prior to his appointment as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Donald S. Perkins, who is a member of the Compensation Committee, was engaged by the Company to provide additional services in connection with the Company's organizational restructuring and refocusing. In consideration for such services, Mr. Perkins was granted options to purchase 25,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$3.50 per share, of which 20,000 options remain vested but unexercised. Mr. Perkins' consulting agreement was terminated on June 1, 2000. No member of the Compensation Committee is or has been a former or current executive officer of the Company. Mr. Cross serves as a director of the Company. None of the Company's executive officers served as a member of a Compensation Committee (or other committee serving an equivalent function) of any other entity.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth all of the compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and the three other highest paid executive officers whose total compensation in fiscal year 2007 exceeded \$100,000.

| NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION | YEAR | SALARY (\$) | BONUS \$(1) (\$) | OPTION AWARDS \$(2) (\$) | NON-EQUITY INCENTIVE | ALL OTHER COMPENSATION \$(4) (\$) | TOTAL (\$) (\$) |
|--|------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | | | | | PLAN COMPENSATION \$(3) (\$) | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (f) | (g) | (i) | (j) |
| Joseph E. Cross President and Chief Executive Officer | 2007 | \$ 340,000 | \$ 80,000 | \$ 64,950 | | \$ 27,794 | \$ 512,744 |
| | 2006 | \$ 340,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 89,946 | | \$ 27,999 | \$ 557,945 |
| Jess Jankowski Chief Financial Officer | 2007 | \$ 180,000 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 58,455 | | \$ 22,019 | \$ 295,474 |
| | 2006 | \$ 180,000 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 67,460 | | \$ 22,040 | \$ 304,500 |
| Kevin J. Wenta Executive Vice President Sales and Marketing | 2007 | \$ 270,000 | \$ 60,000 | \$ 385,890 | | \$ 24,174 | \$ 740,064 |
| | 2006 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Robert Haines Vice President Operations | 2007 | \$ 220,000 | \$ 40,000 | \$ 48,713 | | \$ 23,743 | \$ 332,456 |
| | 2006 | \$ 220,000 | \$ 40,000 | | \$ 55,031 | \$ 23,408 | \$ 338,439 |
| Richard Brotzman, Ph.D. Vice President Research and Development | 2007 | \$ 195,000 | \$ 30,000 | \$ 48,713 | | \$ 22,418 | \$ 296,131 |
| | 2006 | \$ 195,000 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 67,460 | | \$ 22,608 | \$ 305,068 |

(1) These amounts were earned in 2006 and 2007, but paid in early 2007 and 2008, respectively.

- (2) The amounts in this column represent the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the 2007 and 2006 fiscal years in accordance with FAS 123(R). See Note 13 of the notes to our financial statements contained elsewhere in this Annual Report for a discussion of all assumptions made by us in determining the FAS 123(R) values.
- (3) The amount in this column is attributed to awards under the 2006 Stock Appreciation Rights Plan and represents the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the 2006 fiscal year using the Black-Sholes model of valuation.
- (4) The amounts in this column represent 401(k) match, health and life insurance. Health insurance benefits are the same for all employees. Life insurance is provided in the amount of one times the annual base salary with a maximum of \$150,000.

The Summary Compensation Table should be read in connection with the Compensation Discussion and Analysis above and the tables and narrative descriptions that follow.

GRANTS OF PLAN BASED AWARDS

The following table sets forth each plan based award granted to our executive officers during fiscal year 2007.

| NAME | GRANT DATE | NON-EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN UNIT (#) | ESTIMATED FUTURE PAYOUTS UNDER NON-EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS | | | ESTIMATED FUTURE PAYOUTS UNDER EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS | | | EXERCISE OR BASE PRICE OF OPTION AWARDS (\$/SH) | GRANT DATE FAIR VALUE OF AWARDS |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|---|------------|-------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | | |
| (a) | (b) | (#) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (k) | (l) |
| Joseph E. Cross | 11/6/07 | | | | | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | \$ 4.48 | \$ 64,950 |
| Jess Jankowski | 11/6/07 | | | | | 18,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 | \$ 4.48 | \$ 58,455 |
| Kevin J. Wenta | 1/8/07 | | | | | 75,000 | 75,000 | 75,000 | \$ 5.72 | \$ 333,930 |
| | 11/6/07 | | | | | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | \$ 4.48 | \$ 51,960 |
| Robert Haines | 11/6/07 | | | | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | \$ 4.48 | \$ 48,713 |
| Richard Brotzman, Ph.D. | 11/6/07 | | | | | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | \$ 4.48 | \$ 48,713 |

Description of Awards Granted in 2007

Each November 6th nonqualified stock option award described in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table above expires on the tenth anniversary of its associated grant date and vests in equal installments over the course of three years. Mr. Wenta's January 8th award also expires on the tenth anniversary but vests in equal installments over the course of five years, and is generally subject to accelerated vesting upon a change in control of the Company or a termination of the executive without cause.

The amount of salary and bonus in proportion to total compensation for 2007 was:

| NAME | PERCENTAGE |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Joseph E. Cross | 82% |
| Jess Jankowski | 73% |
| Kevin J. Wenta | 45% |
| Robert Haines | 78% |
| Richard Brotzman, Ph.D. | 76% |

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

The following table sets forth information regarding each unexercised option held by each of our executive officers as of December 31, 2007.

| NAME (a) | OPTION AWARDS | | | | | STOCK AWARDS | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED EARNED OPTIONS (#) EXERCISABLE (b) | EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS: NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED UNEXERCISED OPTIONS (#) UNEXERCISABLE (d) | OPTION EXERCISE PRICE (\$) (e) | OPTION EXPIRATION DATE (f) | EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS: NUMBER OF SHARES OF STOCK THAT HAVE NOT VESTED (#) (i) | EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS: MARKET VALUE OF SHARES OF STOCK THAT HAVE NOT VESTED (\$) (j) | |
| Joseph E. Cross | 100,000 | -0- | \$ 2.937 | 11/09/08 | | | |
| | 50,000 | -0- | \$ 2.187 | 01/05/09 | | | |
| | 100,000 | -0- | \$ 7.687 | 05/24/10 | | | |
| | 50,000 | -0- | \$ 10.875 | 01/26/11 | | | |
| | 50,000 | -0- | \$ 7.062 | 02/28/11 | | | |
| | 55,000 | -0- | \$ 6.650 | 01/03/12 | | | |
| | 50,000 | -0- | \$ 3.660 | 03/24/13 | | | |
| | 15,000 | -0- | \$ 5.550 | 10/11/14 | | | |
| | 10,000 | 5,000 | \$ 6.030 | 09/27/15 | | | |
| | 6,667 | 13,333 | \$ 6.010 | 09/27/16 | | | |
| | -0- | 20,000 | \$ 4.480 | 11/06/17 | | | |
| | | | | | 5,000 | \$ 19,000 | |
| Jess Jankowski | 6,960 | -0- | \$ 3.812 | 07/31/08 | | | |
| | 5,334 | -0- | \$ 1.750 | 07/27/09 | | | |
| | 21,775 | -0- | \$ 7.687 | 05/24/10 | | | |
| | 13,000 | -0- | \$ 10.875 | 01/26/11 | | | |
| | 13,000 | -0- | \$ 7.062 | 02/28/11 | | | |
| | 20,000 | -0- | \$ 6.650 | 01/03/12 | | | |
| | 18,000 | -0- | \$ 3.660 | 03/24/13 | | | |
| | 11,000 | -0- | \$ 5.550 | 10/11/14 | | | |
| | 6,667 | 3,333 | \$ 6.030 | 09/27/15 | | | |
| | 5,000 | 10,000 | \$ 6.010 | 09/27/16 | | | |
| | -0- | 18,000 | \$ 4.480 | 11/06/17 | | | |
| | | | | | 3,000 | \$ 11,400 | |
| Kevin J. Wenta | -0- | 75,000 | \$ 5.720 | 01/08/17 | | | |
| | -0- | 16,000 | \$ 4.480 | 11/06/17 | | | |
| Robert Haines | 30,000 | -0- | \$ 10.187 | 01/22/11 | | | |
| | 40,000 | -0- | \$ 6.650 | 01/03/12 | | | |
| | 30,000 | -0- | \$ 3.660 | 03/24/13 | | | |
| | 11,000 | -0- | \$ 5.550 | 10/11/14 | | | |
| | 6,667 | 3,333 | \$ 6.030 | 09/27/15 | | | |
| | -0- | 20,000 | \$ 5.840 | 07/24/16 | | | |
| | -0- | 15,000 | \$ 4.480 | 11/06/17 | | | |
| | | | | | 13,000 | \$ 11,400 | |
| Richard Brotzman, Ph.D. | 27,180 | -0- | \$ 3.812 | 07/31/08 | | | |
| | 22,500 | -0- | \$ 7.687 | 05/24/10 | | | |
| | 20,000 | -0- | \$ 10.875 | 01/26/11 | | | |
| | 20,000 | -0- | \$ 7.062 | 02/28/11 | | | |
| | 20,000 | -0- | \$ 6.650 | 01/03/12 | | | |
| | 20,000 | -0- | \$ 3.660 | 03/24/13 | | | |
| | 11,000 | -0- | \$ 5.550 | 10/11/14 | | | |
| | 6,667 | 3,333 | \$ 6.030 | 09/27/15 | | | |
| | 5,000 | 10,000 | \$ 6.010 | 09/27/16 | | | |
| | -0- | 15,000 | \$ 4.480 | 11/06/17 | | | |
| | | | | | 3,000 | \$ 11,400 | |

OPTION EXERCISE AND STOCK VESTED

The following table presents information regarding the exercise of stock options by Named Officers during 2007.

| NAME (a) | OPTION AWARDS | | STOCK AWARDS | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | NUMBER OF SHARES | VALUE | OPTION AWARDS NUMBER OF SHARES | VALUE |
| | ACQUIRED ON | REALIZED ON | ACQUIRED ON | REALIZED ON |
| | EXERCISE (#) (b) | EXERCISE (\$) (c) | EXERCISE (#) (d) | EXERCISE (\$) (e) |
| Joseph E. Cross | -0- | -0- | 2,500 | \$ 12,000 |
| Jess Jankowski | -0- | -0- | 1,500 | \$ 7,200 |
| Robert Haines | -0- | -0- | 1,500 | \$ 7,200 |
| Richard Brotzman, Ph.D. | -0- | -0- | 1,500 | \$ 7,200 |

POTENTIAL PAYMENT UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

Severance Protection. Mr. Cross employment agreement provides that if Mr. Cross is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Cross employment agreement), Mr. Cross will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to his base salary for 53 weeks. The employment agreement with Mr. Jankowski provides that if Mr. Jankowski is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Jankowski's employment agreement), Mr. Jankowski will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Jankowski's base salary for 27 weeks. Mr. Wenta's employment agreement provides that if Mr. Wenta is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Wenta's employment agreement), Mr. Wenta will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Wenta's base salary for 52 weeks. The employment agreement with Mr. Haines provides that if Mr. Haines is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Mr. Haines's employment agreement), Mr. Haines will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Mr. Haines's base salary for 53 weeks. The employment agreement entered into with Dr. Brotzman provides that if Dr. Brotzman is terminated other than for cause (as such term is defined in Dr. Brotzman's employment agreement), Dr. Brotzman will receive severance benefits in an amount equal to Dr. Brotzman's base salary for 27 weeks.

Change in Control. Upon a change in control, the 2001 Equity Compensation Plan (the predecessor to the 2004 Equity Compensation Plan) and the 2004 Equity Compensation Plan provide that: (1) vesting under all outstanding stock options will automatically accelerate and each option will become fully exercisable; (2) the restrictions and conditions on all outstanding restricted shares shall immediately lapse; and (3) the holders of performance shares will receive a payment in settlement of the performance shares, in an amount determined by the Compensation Committee, based on the target payment for the performance period and the portion of the performance period that precedes the change in control. If the Company is not the surviving entity, the successor is required to assume all unexercised options. Under the Company's 1992 Stock Option Plan, the vesting of options issued under it, is accelerated upon a sale or merger (as defined in the 1992 Stock Option Plan).

The following table quantifies the estimated payments that would be made in each covered circumstance:

| NAME | TERMINATION BY COMPANY | | CHANGE IN | INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------------|
| | WITHOUT CAUSE (1) | | CONTROL | IN CONNECTION WITH OR |
| | | | (2) | FOLLOWING A CHANGE |
| | | | | IN |
| | | | | CONTROL (3) |
| Joseph E. Cross | \$ | 346,538 | \$ 19,000 | \$ 365,538 |
| Jess Jankowski | \$ | 93,461 | \$ 11,400 | \$ 104,861 |
| Kevin J. Wenta | \$ | 270,000 | \$ -0- | \$ 270,000 |
| Robert Haines | \$ | 224,230 | \$ 11,400 | \$ 235,630 |
| Richard Brotzman, PhD | \$ | 101,250 | \$ 11,400 | \$ 112,650 |

- (1) This amount represents the severance benefits that would be received under the executive officers employment agreement as described had the executive officer been terminated by the Company without cause on December 31, 2007.
- (2) This amount represents an estimate of the value that would have been received under the equity incentive plans had a change in control occurred as of December 31, 2007 and the executive officers benefited from an acceleration of vesting in the equity-based plan awards as described above. For this purpose, the share price as of December 31, 2007 was used. The amount represents the difference between the exercise price of any unvested options and \$3.80 plus the value of any restricted shares that would have become vested as of this date.
- (3) This amount represents an estimate of the payments and value that would have been received by the executive officers had the executive officers been terminated by the Company without cause on December 31, 2007 in connection with a change in control on this date. It is the sum of the first two columns.

PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph shows a comparison of cumulative total returns for the Company, the NASDAQ Market Composite Index and an index of peer companies selected by the Company during the period commencing on January 1, 2003 and ending on December 31, 2007. The comparison assumes \$100 was invested on January 1, 2003 in the Common Stock, the NASDAQ Market Composite Index and the peer companies selected by the Company and assumes the reinvestment of all dividends, if any.

Comparison of Cumulative Total Returns

| Measurement Date | 1/1/03 | 12/31/03 | 12/31/04 | 12/31/05 | 12/31/06 | 12/31/07 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nanophase Technologies Corporation | \$ 100.00 | 286.88 | 314.54 | 200.35 | 211.70 | 134.75 |
| NASDAQ | \$ 100.00 | 150.01 | 162.89 | 165.13 | 180.85 | 198.60 |
| Peer Group | \$ 100.00 | 262.95 | 277.31 | 358.61 | 410.89 | 597.16 |

The companies in this peer grouping, both of which are advanced materials or advanced technologies companies, are Landec Corporation and WSI Industries, Inc. The Company believes these companies are generally compatible to the Company with respect to their businesses, stages of development and market capitalization. As the Company has developed, management believes that a broader selection of companies, specifically involved in nanotechnology and advanced materials marketing, will assist in presenting comparative data for investor evaluation. Unfortunately, many of the existing indices have not existed long enough to provide five years worth of comparative data as required in the table and chart above. Management has provided supplementary information in the table below in adoption of new comparative metrics as more substantial historical information becomes available.

Supplementary Information**Comparison of Cumulative Total Returns**

| Measurement Date | 3/16/05 | 12/31/05 | 12/31/06 | 12/31/07 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nanophase Technologies Corporation | \$ 100.00 | 104.63 | 110.56 | 70.37 |
| NASDAQ | \$ 100.00 | 109.40 | 119.82 | 131.58 |
| LUX Nanotech Index* | \$ 100.00 | 99.80 | 106.10 | 94.43 |
| Punk Ziegel Nanotechnology Index | \$ 100.00 | 91.62 | 84.12 | 71.36 |

* First available data was March 16, 2005

The LUX Nanotech Index is designed to identify a group of companies involved in developing, manufacturing and funding nanotechnology applications. The Punk Ziegel Nanotechnology Index provides a measure of the stock performance of public companies participating in the nanotechnology sector. While neither nanotechnology index represents a group of companies that is perfectly analogous to the Company and neither has data available back to January 1, 2003, we believe these indices will assist investor analysis of Company performance.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT

AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth, as of May 15, 2008, certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the common stock by (1) each person known by the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock, (2) each Company director and nominee, (3) each of the Named Officers and (4) all Company executive officers and directors as a group.

| Name | Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (1) | Percent of Shares Beneficially Owned |
|--|--|---|
| Bradford T. Whitmore | 4,047,851(2) | 19.16% |
| Spurgeon Corporation | 3,775,039(3) | 17.87% |
| Grace Brothers, Ltd. | 3,475,039(4) | 16.45% |
| Grace Investments, Ltd. | 300,000(5) | 1.42% |
| Fidelity | 2,087,971(6) | 9.88% |
| Altana Chemie, AG | 1,256,281(7) | 5.95% |
| Invesco Ltd. | 1,212,365(8) | 5.74% |
| Rohm and Haas Electronic Materials CMP. Inc. | 847,918(9) | 4.01% |
| Joseph E. Cross | 497,305(10) | 2.30% |
| James A. Henderson | 22,410(11) | * |
| Richard W. Siegel, Ph.D. | 234,950(12) | 1.11% |
| James McClung | 41,771(13) | * |
| Jerry Pearlman | 39,948(14) | * |
| Donald S. Perkins | 74,811(15) | * |
| R. Janet Whitmore | 184,291(16) | * |
| Kevin J. Wenta | 25,000(17) | * |
| Jess Jankowski | 127,594(18) | * |
| Richard W. Brotzman, Ph.D. | 157,905(19) | * |
| Robert Haines | 123,225(20) | * |
| All executive officers and directors as a group (11 persons) | 1,529,210(21) | 6.91% |

Unless otherwise indicated below, the persons address is the same as the address for the Company.

* Denotes beneficial ownership of less than one percent.

- (1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission). Unless otherwise indicated below, the persons in the above table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them.
- (2) Includes 3,475,039 shares of common stock held by Grace Brothers, Ltd., 300,000 shares of common stock held by Grace Investments, Ltd. and 272,812 shares held by Bradford T. Whitmore. Mr. Whitmore is a general partner of Grace Brothers, Ltd. and is the sole owner of an entity which is a general partner of Grace Investments, Ltd. In such capacities, Mr. Whitmore shares voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock held by the Grace entities. This information is based on information reported on Form 4 filed on April 16, 2008 with the Commission by Mr. Whitmore. The address of the stockholder is 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 900, Evanston, Illinois 60201.
- (3) Includes 3,475,039 shares of common stock held by Grace Brothers, Ltd. and 300,000 shares of common stock held by Grace Investments, Ltd. Spurgeon Corporation is a general partner of both Grace entities and shares voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock held by such Grace entities. This information is based on information reported on Form 4 filed on April 16, 2008 with the Commission by Spurgeon Corporation. The address of the stockholder is 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 900, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

- (4) This information is based on information reported on Form 4 filed on April 16, 2008 with the Commission by Spurgeon Corporation and Bradford T. Whitmore. The address of the stockholder is 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 900, Evanston, Illinois 60201.
- (5) This information is based on information reported on Form 4 filed on April 16, 2008 with the Commission by Spurgeon Corporation and Bradford T. Whitmore. The address of the stockholder is 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 900, Evanston, Illinois 60201.
- (6) This information is based on information for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, as reported on Form 13-F filed on May 14, 2008 with the Commission by FMR LLC. The address of the stockholder is 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.
- (7) In accordance with the terms of the private placement of 1,256,281 shares of common stock to Altana Chemie AG, the Company filed a registration statement for the shares on February 5, 2007 which was declared effective by the SEC on May 18, 2007. This was the amount of shares known to be held at that time.
- (8) This information is based on information for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, as reported on Form 13-F filed on May 14, 2008 with the Commission by Invesco Ltd. The address of the stockholder is 1360 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.
- (9) Consist of unregistered common stock, and therefore not freely saleable, until August 25, 2008.
- (10) Includes 491,667 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (11) Includes 14,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (12) Includes 17,600 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (13) Includes 18,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (14) Includes 8,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (15) Includes 26,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (16) Includes 10,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (17) Includes 15,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (18) Includes 123,736 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (19) Consists of 155,347 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (20) Consists of 120,667 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.
- (21) Includes 1,000,017 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days of May 15, 2008.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table gives information about our common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options and rights under all of our existing compensation plans on December 31, 2007, including the 1992 Amended and Restated Stock Option Plan and the 2001 and the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plan and the 2005 Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Plan.

| Plan Category | (a) Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options and Rights | (b) Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options and Rights | (c) Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) | (d) Total of Securities Reflected in Columns (a) and (c) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Plans Approved by Stockholders | 1,672,214(1) | \$ 5.84 | 852,231(2) | 2,524,445 |
| Plans Not Approved by Stockholders | None | \$ | None | |

- (1) Consists of the 1992 Amended and Restated Stock Option Plan, the 2001 and the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plans, and shares of authorized but unissued Preferred Stock.
- (2) Consists of shares available for future issuance under the Amended 2004 Equity Compensation Plan and the 2005 Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Plan.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Review of Related Person Transactions. The Company had no transactions in 2007, nor are there any currently proposed transactions, in which the Company was or is to be a participant, where the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

Director Independence. The Board of Directors has determined that the following directors are independent as that term is defined in (i) paragraph (m) of Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f), and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission promulgated thereunder, and (ii) the rules of the NASDAQ stock market: Mr. McClung, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins, Dr. Siegel and Mr. Vincent.

The Board of Directors has established an Audit and Finance Committee, Compensation and Governance Committee and a Nominating Committee each comprised entirely of independent directors. The members of the Audit and Finance Committee are Mr. McClung (Chairman), Mr. Henderson, Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008). The members of the Compensation and Governance Committee are Mr. Pearlman (Chairman), Mr. Henderson, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008). The members of the Nominating Committee are Mr. Henderson (Chairman), Mr. McClung, Mr. Pearlman, Mr. Perkins, Dr. Siegel and Mr. Vincent (appointed May 2008).

PROPOSAL 2**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The Audit and Finance Committee has appointed McGladrey and Pullen, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as auditors of the Company's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008. McGladrey and Pullen, LLP has been engaged as auditors for the Company beginning in November 2001. The Audit and Finance Committee has determined to afford stockholders the opportunity to express their opinions on the matter of auditors and, accordingly, is submitting to the stockholders at the Annual Meeting a proposal to ratify the Audit and Finance Committee's appointment of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP. If a majority of the shares

voted at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, are not voted in favor of the ratification of the appointment of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, the Audit and Finance Committee will interpret this as an instruction to seek other auditors. The following fees were incurred by the Company for the services of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP in relation to the 2007 and 2006 fiscal years.

Audit Fees. The aggregate amount billed by our principal accountant, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, for audit services performed for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 was \$217,000 and \$223,000, respectively. Audit services include the auditing of financial statements, internal control over financial reporting and quarterly reviews.

Audit Related Fees. Total fees billed by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP were \$19,000 and \$12,000 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 which include costs incurred for reviews of registration statements, consultation on various accounting matters in support of the Company's financial statements and correspondence with the SEC related to comment letters received during 2006.

Tax Fees. Total fees billed by RSM McGladrey, Inc. (an affiliate of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP) for tax related services for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 were \$10,500 and \$12,500, respectively. These services include the preparation of federal and state income tax returns and other tax matters.

All Other. Other than those fees described above, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 there were no other fees billed for services performed by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP or RSM McGladrey, Inc.

All of the fees described above were approved by the Company's Audit and Finance Committee.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures. The Company's Audit and Finance Committee pre-approves the audit and non-audit services performed by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, our principal accountants, and RSM McGladrey, Inc. (an affiliate of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP) in order to assure that the provision of such services does not impair McGladrey & Pullen, LLP's independence. Unless a type of service to be provided by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP and RSM McGladrey, Inc. (an affiliate of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP) has received general pre-approval, it will require specific pre-approval by the Audit and Finance Committee. In addition, any proposed services exceeding pre-approval cost levels will require specific pre-approval by the Audit and Finance Committee.

The term of any pre-approval is 12 months from the date of pre-approval, unless the audit committee specifically provides for a different period. The Audit and Finance Committee will periodically revise the list of pre-approved services, based on subsequent determinations, and has delegated pre-approval authority to the Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee. In the event the Chairman exercises such delegated authority, he shall report such pre-approval decisions to the Audit and Finance Committee at its next scheduled meeting. The Audit and Finance Committee does not delegate its responsibilities to pre-approve services performed by the independent auditor to management.

It is expected that representatives of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP will be present at the meeting and will be available to respond to questions. They will be given an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF McGLADREY & PULLEN, LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008.

MISCELLANEOUS AND OTHER MATTERS

Solicitation The cost of this proxy solicitation will be borne by the Company. The Company may request banks, brokers, fiduciaries, custodians, nominees and certain other record holders to send proxies, Proxy Statements and other materials to their principals at the Company's expense. Such banks, brokers, fiduciaries, custodians, nominees and other record holders will be reimbursed by the Company for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses of solicitation. The Company does not anticipate that costs and expenses incurred in connection with this proxy solicitation will exceed an amount normally expended for a proxy solicitation for an election of directors in the absence of a contest.

Proposals of Stockholders Proposals of stockholders (1) intended to be considered at the Company's 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the 2009 Annual Meeting) and (2) to be considered for inclusion in the Company's Proxy Statement and proxy for the 2009 Annual Meeting must be received by the Secretary of the Company on or before January 3, 2009. If a stockholder submits a proposal to be considered at the 2009 Annual Meeting other than in accordance with Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and does not provide notice of such proposal to the Company by March 19, 2009, the holders of any proxy solicited by the Company's Board of Directors for use at such meeting will have discretionary authority to vote with respect to any proposal as to which timely notice is not given.

Other Business The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those mentioned in this Proxy Statement and the Company's Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders enclosed herewith. If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting, however, it is intended that the persons named in the proxies will vote such proxies as the Board of Directors directs.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), requires the Company's officers (as defined under Section 16), directors and persons who beneficially own greater than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based solely on a review of the forms it has received and on written representations from certain reporting persons that no such forms were required for them, the Company believes that during 2007 all Section 16 filing requirements applicable to its officers, directors and 10% beneficial owners were complied with by such persons.

Additional Information The Company will furnish without charge a copy of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for its year ended December 31, 2007, as filed with the Commission, upon the written request of any person who is a stockholder as of the Record Date, and will provide copies of the exhibits to such Form 10-K upon payment of a reasonable fee which shall not exceed the Company's reasonable expenses in connection therewith. Requests for such materials should be directed to Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446, Attention: Nancy Baldwin, Manager of Investor Relations.

By order of the Board of Directors

/s/ JESS JANKOWSKI
Jess Jankowski
Secretary

Romeoville, Illinois

June 13, 2008

**ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE,
DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY PROMPTLY.**

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

PROXY

PROXY

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

1319 MARQUETTE DRIVE

ROMEDEVILLE, ILLINOIS 60446

PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON JULY 24, 2008

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned stockholder(s) hereby appoints Joseph E. Cross and Jess Jankowski and each of them, with full power of substitution, as attorneys and proxies for, and in the name and place of, the undersigned, and hereby authorizes each of them to represent and to vote all of the shares which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nanophase Technologies Corporation to be held at Nanophase Technologies Corporation, 1319 Marquette Drive, Romeoville, Illinois, 60446, on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., Chicago time, and at any adjournments thereof, upon the matters as set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED AND RETURNED IN A TIMELY MANNER, WILL BE VOTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND AT ANY ADJOURNMENTS THEREOF IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE UNDERSIGNED STOCKHOLDER(S). IF NO CONTRARY INDICATION IS MADE, THE PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR NOMINEES LISTED IN PROPOSAL 1, FOR PROPOSAL 2 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUDGMENT OF THE PERSONS NAMED AS PROXIES HEREIN ON ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING.

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

(continued, and to be signed and dated, on reverse side)

é **FOLD AND DETACH HERE** é

NANOPHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

PLEASE MARK VOTE IN OVAL IN THE

FOLLOWING MANNER USING DARK INK ONLY. x

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR NOMINEES LISTED IN PROPOSAL 1 AND FOR PROPOSAL 2.

1. ELECTION OF CLASS II DIRECTORS.

For nominees listed below "
Withhold authority to vote "
(except as marked to the contrary below) "
for nominees listed below "

***(INSTRUCTION: TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL
NOMINEES, STRIKE A LINE THROUGH THE NOMINEE S NAME BELOW)***

Richard W. Siegel, Ph.D.

Joseph E. Cross

2. PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF McGLADREY & PULLEN, LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008.

FOR "
AGAINST "
ABSTAIN "

3. EACH OF THE PERSONS NAMED AS PROXIES HEREIN ARE AUTHORIZED, IN SUCH PERSON S DISCRETION, TO VOTE UPON SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING, OR ANY ADJOURNMENTS THEREOF.

Date: _____, 2008

Signature

Signature (if held jointly)

Please date this Proxy and sign it exactly as your name(s) appears hereon.

When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary, please indicate your capacity. If you sign for a corporation, please print full corporate name and indicate capacity of duly authorized officer executing on behalf of the corporation.

If you sign for a partnership, please print full partnership name and indicate capacity of duly authorized person executing on behalf of the partnership.

PLEASE VOTE, SIGN EXACTLY AS NAME APPEARS ABOVE, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

é ***FOLD AND DETACH HERE*** é