

CABOT MICROELECTRONICS CORPORATION

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Cabot Microelectronics Corporation (the “Company”) is to oversee the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audit of its financial statements. The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Company's accounting and system of internal controls, the quality and integrity of the Company's financial reports and the independence and performance of the Company's independent public accountants responsible for the annual audit and quarterly reviews of the Company's financial statements (“independent auditor”). In so doing, the Committee should endeavor to maintain free and open means of communication between the members of the Committee, other members of the Board, the independent auditor, the senior and financial management of the Company, and with any employees of the Company or other individuals who desire to bring accounting, internal accounting controls, auditing, or other matters to the Committee's attention.

In the exercise of its oversight responsibilities, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements fairly present the Company's financial position and results of operation and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Instead, such duties remain the responsibility of management and the independent auditor. Nothing contained in this charter is intended to alter or impair the operation of the “business judgment rule” as interpreted by the courts under the Delaware General Corporation Law. Further, nothing contained in this charter is intended to alter or impair the right of the members of the Committee under the Delaware General Corporation Law to rely, in discharging their responsibilities, on the records of the Company and on other information presented to the Committee, Board or Company by officers or employees or by outside experts such as the independent auditor.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Board. The members shall be appointed by action of the Board, upon recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and shall serve at the discretion of the Board. Each Committee member shall satisfy the “independence” and other requirements of relevant law, including rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), and the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“NASDAQ”). At least one member of the Committee shall satisfy the “financial expert” requirements of relevant law, including rules adopted by the SEC, and NASDAQ. Each member of the Committee shall be able to read and understand financial statements at the time of his or her appointment.

Committee Organization and Procedures

1. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board by majority vote. The Chair (or in his or her absence, a member designated by the Chair) shall preside at all meetings of the Committee.

2. The Committee shall have the authority to establish its own rules and procedures consistent with the bylaws of the Company for notice and conduct of its meetings, should the Committee, in its discretion, deem it desirable to do so. Members of the Committee may participate telephonically in any meeting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the action of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Committee.

3. The Committee shall meet as frequently as the Committee in its discretion deems desirable.

4. The Committee may, in its discretion, include in its meetings members of the Company's management, representatives of the independent auditor, outside counsel, the director of internal audit and other personnel employed or retained by the Company, the Board or the Committee. The Committee shall meet periodically and as it deems appropriate with the independent auditor or the director of internal audit, outside counsel or other advisors in separate executive sessions to discuss any matters that the Committee believes should be addressed privately, without management's presence, and also shall meet periodically and as it deems appropriate in separate executive sessions with the Company's management.

5. The Committee may, in its discretion, retain and utilize the services of the Company's regular corporate legal counsel with respect to legal matters or its other advisors with respect to other matters or, at its discretion, retain other legal counsel or other advisors if it determines that such counsel or advice is necessary or appropriate under the circumstances.

6. The Committee shall have its own funding from the Company to pay for the services of the Company's independent auditors and any legal counsel or other advisors that are retained by the Committee.

7. The Secretary and General Counsel of the Company shall serve as Secretary of the Committee.

Responsibilities

Independent Auditor

8. The Committee has the sole and direct responsibility for selecting, appointing, terminating, compensating and overseeing the Company's independent auditor, as well as for resolving any disagreements between the independent auditors and management. The Committee shall only retain as independent auditor a firm, including representatives of the firm responsible for the Company's audit, that meets the requirements of relevant law, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), the SEC and NASDAQ. The independent auditor shall be accountable to the Committee for all matters, including the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and related services. The Committee shall select, appoint and periodically evaluate the performance of the independent auditor and, if necessary, replace the independent auditor. At the discretion of the Committee or to the extent required by relevant law, NASDAQ or the SEC, the Committee shall recommend to the Board the nomination of the independent auditor for stockholder ratification at any meeting of stockholders.

9. The Committee shall pre-approve the fees to be paid to the independent auditor and any other terms of the engagement of the independent auditor for any and all services (whether auditing services, audit-related services, tax services or permitted other (non-audit) services), to be provided by the independent auditor, in advance of such services being provided, subject to the *de minimis* exception for non-audit services as provided in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act that are approved by the Committee prior to the completion of the audit. The Committee may delegate such pre-approval of services to the Committee Chair, and the Committee Chair shall provide subsequent notification to the Committee of any such pre-approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

10. The Committee shall receive from the independent auditor and review, at least annually, a written statement delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, consistent with the PCAOB's Rule 3526, *Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence* (Rule 3526). The Committee shall actively engage in a dialogue with the independent auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that, in the view of the Committee, may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditor. If the Committee determines that further inquiry is advisable, the Committee shall take any appropriate action in response to the independent auditor's report to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence.

Annual Audit

11. The Committee shall meet with the independent auditor and management of the Company in connection with each annual audit to discuss the scope of the audit and the procedures to be followed.

12. The Committee shall review and discuss the audited financial statements with the management of the Company.

13. The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by PCAOB AU Section 380 Communications with Audit Committees as then in effect including, among others, (i) the methods used to account for any significant unusual transaction reflected in the audited financial statements; (ii) the effect of significant and critical accounting policies in any controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or a consensus to be followed by the independent auditor; (iii) the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for the independent auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates; and (iv) any disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles, the basis for management's accounting estimates or the disclosures in the financial statements.

14. The Committee shall, based on the review and discussions in paragraphs 11, 12, and 13 above, and based on the disclosures received from the independent auditor regarding its independence and discussions with the independent auditor regarding such independence in paragraph 10 above, recommend to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year subject to the audit.

15. The Committee shall review and discuss with management, including the director of internal audit and, at its discretion, any provider of internal audit services, and the independent auditor, the Company's internal controls report and the independent auditor's attestation of the report prior to the filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for

the fiscal year subject to the audit. As part of this, and in conjunction with the discussions in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 below, the Committee shall review disclosures made to it by the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer during their certification process for the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein, and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.

Quarterly Review

16. The independent auditor is required to review the interim financial statements to be included in any Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Company using professional standards and procedures for conducting such reviews, as established by generally accepted auditing standards as modified or supplemented by the SEC, prior to the filing of the Form 10-Q. The Committee shall discuss with management and the independent auditor in person, at a meeting, or by conference telephone call, the results of the quarterly review including such matters as significant adjustments, management judgments, accounting estimates, significant new accounting policies and disagreements with management. The Committee shall discuss with management the Company's quarterly earnings press releases or other earnings press releases, including the use of any non-GAAP information. The Chair may represent the entire Committee for purposes of this discussion.

Internal Controls

17. The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditor and the director of internal audit, as well as management, at least quarterly, the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting, financial and internal controls of the Company, and consider any recommendations for improvement of such internal control procedures.

18. The Committee shall be provided, and discuss with, the independent auditor and with management any material written communications between the independent auditor and management, including any summary of aggregated deficiencies or management letter provided by the independent auditor (or other auditor) and any other significant matters brought to the attention of the Committee by the independent auditor (or other auditor) as a result of its annual or other audit. The Committee should allow management adequate time to consider any such matters raised by the independent auditor (or other auditor).

19. The Committee shall meet with the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and other Company management as appropriate and as required by relevant law, including rules adopted by the SEC, PCAOB, and NASDAQ, on a regular basis to discuss the Company's internal controls structure and procedures and status, and disclosure controls and procedures and status.

Internal Audit

20. The Committee shall review and preapprove the selection of the Company's director of internal audit, and any termination of employment of such person. The Committee shall be notified in advance of, and at its discretion review and preapprove, the selection of any third party provider of internal audit services. The Chair may represent the entire Committee for purposes of these matters.

21. The Committee shall discuss at least quarterly with the director of internal audit and, at its discretion other provider(s) of internal audit services (if any), the activities

and organizational structure of the Company's internal audit function and the qualification of the primary personnel performing such function.

22. Management shall furnish to the Chair a copy of each internal audit report, and provide summaries thereof to the Committee, to whom it shall furnish a copy of each internal audit report if so requested by the Committee or any of its members.

23. The Committee shall, at its discretion, meet with the director of internal audit and other provider(s) of internal audit services (if any) to discuss any reports or any other matters brought to the attention of the Committee by the director of internal audit or other provider(s) of internal audit services (if any).

24. The director of internal audit and other provider(s) of internal audit services (if any) shall be granted unfettered access to the Committee.

Other Responsibilities

25. The Committee shall review and reassess this charter, which is subject to future revision as the Committee may find advisable, at least annually and submit any recommended changes to the Board for its consideration.

26. The Committee shall review and assess the Committee's fulfillment of its responsibilities pursuant to the Committee's charter at least annually and submit its conclusions in this regard to the Board for its consideration.

27. The Committee shall provide the report for inclusion in the Company's Annual Proxy Statement required by Item 407 of Regulation S-K of the SEC.

28. The Committee shall establish procedures in compliance with requirements of relevant law, including rules adopted by the SEC, and NASDAQ, for addressing matters and complaints brought to the Committee's attention by employees of the Company or other individuals regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, auditing, or other matters, and shall ensure that such complaints brought by employees are treated confidentially and anonymously to the extent required by law.

29. The Committee shall be responsible for receiving, dealing with, and responding to legal compliance reports relating to actual or alleged material violations of the securities laws, material breaches of fiduciary duties, or material violations of other laws or regulations.

30. The Committee shall have direct access to the Company's General Counsel, who serves as the Company's Chief Compliance Officer, and who has operational responsibility for the Company's compliance and ethics program, and the Company's Code of Business Conduct, who in turn shall have direct reporting obligations to the Committee for related matters, including those in paragraph 29 above.

31. The Committee shall review and approve any related party transaction in advance of the Company's entering into any such related party transaction, and shall subsequently inform the Board of any such approval.

32. The Committee shall discuss with management the Company's significant financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies with

respect thereto. The Committee's discussions on these matters shall be incorporated into the Board's consideration of the Company's overall risk assessment and risk management policies.

The Committee, through its Chair, shall report periodically, as deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee, but at least following its regularly scheduled meetings, to the full Board regarding the Committee's actions and recommendations, if any.