

KEITHLEY INSTRUMENTS INC
Form DEFA14A
November 04, 2010

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
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.
- ☐ Definitive Additional Materials.
- ☐ Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12.

Keithley Instruments, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- ☐ No fee required.
 - ☐ Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

CONTACT: Mark J. Plush
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Keithley Instruments, Inc.
28775 Aurora Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44139-1891
440-248-0400 Fax: 440-248-6168
<http://www.keithley.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**KEITHLEY INSTRUMENTS REPORTS FOURTH QUARTER FISCAL 2010
SALES GROWTH OF 58 PERCENT AND NET INCOME OF \$9.1 MILLION**

Cleveland, Ohio November 4, 2010 Keithley Instruments, Inc. (NYSE:KEI), a world leader in advanced electrical test instruments and systems, today announced results for its fourth quarter and year ended September 30, 2010.

Highlights

Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2010

Orders of \$36.6 million increased 44 percent from same quarter last year; orders from core instrumentation products increased approximately 40 percent from same quarter last year

Net sales of \$37.9 million increased 58 percent from same quarter last year

Income before taxes of \$9.1 million, or 24 percent of net sales, compared to a loss before taxes of \$4.4 million in last year's fourth quarter

Net income of \$9.1 million and Earnings Per Share of \$0.55 for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 compared to a net loss of \$4.4 million and Loss Per Share of \$0.28 in last year's fourth quarter

Fiscal 2010

Net sales of \$126.9 million increased 24 percent from prior year

Net income of \$24.9 million and Earnings Per Share of \$1.53 in fiscal 2010 compared to a net loss of \$50.5 million and Loss Per Share of \$3.23 in fiscal 2009

Fourth Quarter Fiscal 2010 Results

Net sales of \$37.9 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 increased \$13.9 million, or 58 percent, from net sales of \$24.1 million in last year's fourth quarter. Net sales outside of the Americas represented approximately 75 percent of total sales for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010. The effect of a stronger U.S. dollar negatively impacted net sales growth by approximately one percentage point during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010. Sequentially, net sales increased 24 percent from the prior quarter. Included in net sales for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 were approximately \$3.3 million of sales for final purchases for S600 systems.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010, the Company reported GAAP income before taxes of \$9.1 million compared to a GAAP loss before taxes of \$4.4 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009. On a non-GAAP basis, the Company reported income before taxes of \$8.4 million, or 22.3 percent of net sales, compared to a non-GAAP loss before taxes of \$1.6 million during the prior year's fourth quarter. This reflects a \$10.1 million increase in non-GAAP income before taxes on a \$13.9 million increase in net sales as a result of improved gross profit on higher net sales. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales increased to 66.0 percent for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 as compared to 57.5 percent for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009. Non-GAAP income before taxes for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 is exclusive of \$0.1 million of net expenses associated with the sale of the RF product line and previously recorded restructuring costs, \$1.9 million for the gain on the sale of the Company's Bainbridge Road building, and \$1.1 million for transaction costs associated with the pending merger with Danaher Corporation. The non-GAAP loss before taxes during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009 is exclusive of \$2.7 million of special charges associated with a worldwide workforce reduction.

I am delighted with the results for our current fiscal quarter. They continue to validate our strategy of increasing our focus on our core instrumentation products as well as our ability to sustain the improvements we have made in our cost structure. We continued to see the results of the solid foundation we have put in place, which enabled us to leverage our earnings on increased customer demand," said Joseph P. Keithley, the Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Orders of \$36.6 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 increased \$11.2 million, or 44 percent, from orders of \$25.4 million for the same period in fiscal 2009. Orders from the Company's core instrumentation products increased 40 percent during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 from the same quarter last year. The increase in total orders from the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009 was driven by increased spending by our customers for both production and research and development (R&D) applications. Sequentially, total orders and orders from core instrumentation products both increased 15 percent from the quarter ended June 30, 2010. As a percentage of total orders, those from our Semiconductor, Research and Education, Precision Electronics and Wireless customer sectors represented about 35 percent, 25 percent, 25 percent and ten percent, respectively, for the current fiscal quarter. Geographically, total orders increased within all regions in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 compared to the year-ago period, with orders from the Americas, Asia and Europe rising about ten percent, 60 percent, and 65 percent, respectively. Included in total orders for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 were approximately \$2.0 million for final purchases of S600 systems. Backlog was \$17.6 million as of September 30, 2010.

The Company recorded a tax expense of \$14,000 for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010, primarily because the Company recognized income in the U.S. with no corresponding tax expense as a result of fully reserved tax assets. For the fourth quarter last year, tax expense was \$70,000.

The Company reported net income of \$9.1 million, or \$0.55 per share, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010 compared to a net loss of \$4.4 million, or \$0.28 per share, during last year's fourth quarter.

Recent Developments and New Product Update

The Company completed the sale of its Bainbridge Road, Solon, Ohio, facility during the fourth quarter which resulted in net proceeds of \$3.5 million and a pre-tax gain of \$1.9 million.

Keithley extended congratulations to the recipients of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics, Drs. Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, for their research on graphene, a single-atom-thick form of carbon. Keithley Instruments products, including its SourceMeter® instruments and nanovoltmeters, are used by the recipients in their research. During the quarter, the Company announced the release of its ACS Basic Edition Version 1.2 Semiconductor Parametric Test Software for semiconductor test and measurement applications. This software upgrade adds new levels of usability, convenience and productivity in the characterization of component and discrete semiconductor devices.

The Company also introduced the six-slot Model 707B and single-slot Model 708B switch matrix mainframes, which are optimized for both R&D and production semiconductor test applications. Both of these new mainframes incorporate Keithley's virtual backplane technology implemented with our Test Script Processor architecture which provides substantial throughput advantages over competitive models. These switch mainframes are also key components of the S530 parametric test system.

Fiscal Year 2010 Results

Fiscal 2010 net sales were \$126.9 million, an increase of \$24.3 million, or 24 percent, from \$102.5 million during fiscal 2009. The effect of a weaker U.S. dollar positively impacted sales growth by approximately one percentage point.

The Company reported income before taxes of \$25.4 million during fiscal 2010, compared to a loss before taxes of \$19.4 million during the prior year. On a non-GAAP basis, the Company reported income before taxes of \$21.8 million for fiscal 2010 compared to a non-GAAP loss before taxes of \$9.9 million for the prior year. This reflects an increase of \$31.7 million in non-GAAP income before taxes on \$24.3 million of higher net sales. This improvement was primarily due to higher gross profit on higher net sales. Non-GAAP gross profit, as a percentage of net sales, increased to 64.8 percent for the fiscal 2010 compared to 56.2 percent for the prior year. Additionally, total product development and selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$7.3 million, or 11 percent, as compared to those costs of fiscal 2009. Non-GAAP results in fiscal 2010 exclude the \$2.9 million net gain on the sale of the RF product line, the \$1.9 million gain on sale of the Company's Bainbridge Road building, \$0.1 million of income for the reversal of certain previously-recorded restructuring costs and \$1.3 million for transaction costs associated with the pending merger with Danaher. Non-GAAP results in fiscal 2009 exclude \$2.5 million of costs associated with the exit of a product line and \$6.9 million of restructuring costs.

Orders of \$126.2 million for fiscal 2010 increased \$27.6 million, or 28 percent, from orders of \$98.5 million for fiscal 2009. As a percentage of total orders, orders from our Semiconductor, Research and Education, Precision Electronics and Wireless customer sectors represented approximately 35 percent, 25 percent, 25 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Geographically, orders increased within all regions during fiscal 2010 compared with the year-ago period. Orders from both the Americas and Europe rose 15 percent, and orders from customers in Asia increased 50 percent. Orders from the Company's core instrumentation products increased 22 percent year-over-year. Included in total orders for fiscal 2010 were approximately \$9.0 million for final purchases of S600 products.

The Company recorded tax expense of \$0.5 million for fiscal 2010, an effective rate of 2.0 percent. The effective tax rate is lower than the U.S. statutory rate primarily because the Company recognized income in the U.S. with no corresponding tax expense as a result of fully reserved tax assets and

benefited from the carryback of the net operating losses generated in fiscal 2009. This compared to tax expense of \$31.1 million for fiscal 2009, which included a \$30.0 million charge, recorded in the first quarter of fiscal 2009, to fully reserve the Company's U.S. deferred tax assets.

Net income for fiscal 2010 was \$24.9 million, or \$1.53 per share, compared to a net loss of \$50.5 million, or \$3.23 per share, last year.

Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

Cash and short-term investments totaled \$55.2 million at September 30, 2010, an increase of \$13.1 million from June 30, 2010, and a \$29.8 million increase from year-ago levels.

The Company generated \$9.7 million in cash from operations during the fourth quarter and \$18.9 million during fiscal 2010. Total debt was zero at September 30, 2010. Inventory of \$9.1 million decreased \$0.1 million during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2010, and decreased \$0.9 million from year-ago levels. Inventory turns were 5.5 at September 30, 2010, versus 4.5 a year ago. Trade receivables were \$18.7 million, up \$4.0 million from June 30, 2010 and up \$7.3 million from year-ago levels. Days sales outstanding were 44 at September 30, 2010, compared to 43 at June 30, 2010 and 47 days a year ago.

Our Company's performance in fiscal 2010 represents a tremendous turnaround from the prior year. Fiscal 2009 was a year of strategic redirection for the Company with an increased focus on our core instrumentation products. We made many difficult decisions in order to achieve our return to profitability and realize an outstanding return on shareholders' equity of 44 percent in fiscal 2010. I am grateful to all of our employees for their dedication, energy and commitment to continuous improvement, all of which enabled this remarkable year, commented Mr. Keithley.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Non-GAAP gross profits and non-GAAP income (loss) before taxes are non-GAAP financial measures. The tables included in this release contain a reconciliation of these non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP measures. Neither non-GAAP measure is a measurement of financial performance under GAAP and such measures should not be considered as an alternative to gross profit, income (loss) before taxes or other measures of performance determined in accordance with GAAP. The Company also discloses percentages of sales for these non-GAAP measures.

Non-GAAP gross profits and non-GAAP income (loss) before taxes reflect an additional way of viewing aspects of the Company's business. Management believes that when viewed with and reconciled to the corresponding GAAP measures they provide a more complete understanding of the Company's results and help identify trends in the Company's business. A general limitation of these non-GAAP measures is that the use of these measures (as compared to the related GAAP measures) may impact comparability with other companies that may calculate non-GAAP measures differently.

Pending Merger

On September 29, 2010, the Company announced that it had signed a definitive merger agreement pursuant to which Danaher will acquire all of the outstanding Common Shares and Class B Common Shares of Keithley at a purchase price of \$21.60 per share in cash. The merger is subject to

customary closing conditions, including the receipt of regulatory approvals and adoption of the merger agreement by Keithley's shareholders. The Company will hold a special meeting of its shareholders on November 19, 2010 for purposes of voting on the merger and has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and mailed to its shareholders of record as of October 22, 2010, the record date established for the special meeting, a definitive proxy statement. If the merger is approved and other conditions to closing have been satisfied, it is anticipated that the merger will be completed during the fourth quarter of calendar 2010.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

Keithley Instruments, Inc. has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a definitive proxy statement and other relevant materials in connection with the proposed Merger. The definitive proxy statement will be sent or given to Keithley shareholders. BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING OR INVESTMENT DECISION WITH RESPECT TO THE MERGER, INVESTORS AND KEITHLEY SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND THE OTHER RELEVANT MATERIALS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED MERGER. The proxy statement and other relevant materials (when they become available), and any other documents filed by Keithley with the SEC, may be obtained free of charge at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov, or by going to the Company's website at <http://ir.keithley.com>.

Participants in the Solicitation

Keithley and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from its shareholders in connection with the proposed Merger. INFORMATION ABOUT KEITHLEY'S DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IS SET FORTH IN KEITHLEY'S DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE 14A FOR THE MERGER FILED WITH THE SEC ON OCTOBER 25, 2010, KEITHLEY'S PROXY STATEMENT ON SCHEDULE 14A FILED WITH THE SEC ON DECEMBER 29, 2009 AND KEITHLEY'S ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FILED WITH THE SEC ON DECEMBER 14, 2009.

Forward-looking Statements

Statements in this press release that are not strictly historical, including statements regarding the pending merger, the expected timetable for completing the transaction and any other statements regarding events or developments that we believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future, may be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. There are a number of important factors that could cause actual events to differ materially from those suggested or indicated by such forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. The factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in a forward-looking statement include, among other factors, we may be unable to obtain the shareholder approval required for the merger; the uncertainty of regulatory approvals; conditions to the closing of the merger may not be satisfied; the merger may involve unexpected costs or unexpected liabilities; our businesses may suffer as a result of uncertainty surrounding the merger; and we may be adversely affected by other economic, business and/or competitive factors.

Other factors that could cause our actual results to differ from forward-looking statements regarding its business and operations include, but are not limited to, worldwide economic conditions; uncertainties in

the credit and capital markets including the ability of our customers to access credit and our risk to cash and short-term investments that are not backed by a government agency; business conditions in the semiconductor, wireless, precision electronics and other segments of the worldwide electronics industry, including the potential for any recovery to stall or for the industries to decline; the timing of large orders from customers or canceling of orders in backlog; timing of recognizing shipments as revenue; changes in product and sales mix, and the related effects on gross margins; our ability to develop new products in a timely fashion and gain market acceptance of those products to remain competitive and gain market share; our ability to work with third parties; competitive factors, including pricing pressures, loss of key employees, technological developments and new products offered by competitors; the impact of our fixed costs in a period of fluctuating sales; our ability to adapt our production capacities to rapidly changing market conditions; our ability to implement and effectively manage IT system enhancements without interruption to our business processes; our ability to realize the benefits of planned cost savings without adversely affecting our product development programs and strategic initiatives; the availability of parts and supplies from third-party suppliers on a timely basis and at reasonable prices; changes in the fair value of our investments; the potential volatility of earnings as a result of the accounting for performance share awards; changes in effective tax rates due to changes in tax law, tax planning strategies, the levels and countries of pre-tax earnings, deferred tax assets or levels of pre-tax earnings; potential changes in pension plan assumptions; foreign currency fluctuations which could affect worldwide operations; costs and other effects of domestic and foreign legal, regulatory and administrative proceedings; government actions which impact worldwide trade; and matters arising out of or related to our stock option grants and procedures and related matters. Further information on factors that could cause actual results to differ from those anticipated is included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q which are filed with the SEC. In light of these uncertainties, the inclusion of forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by the Company that its plans or objectives will be achieved. Further, the Company undertakes no obligation to revise forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

About Keithley Instruments, Inc.

With more than 60 years of measurement expertise, Keithley Instruments has become a world leader in advanced electrical test instruments and systems. Our customers are scientists and engineers in the worldwide electronics industry involved with advanced materials research, semiconductor device development and fabrication, and the production of end products such as portable wireless devices. The value we provide them is a combination of products for their critical measurement needs and a rich understanding of their applications to improve the quality of their products and reduce their cost of test.

KEITHLEY INSTRUMENTS, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars Except for Per Share Data)
(Unaudited)

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,				FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			
	2010		2009		2010		2009	
NET SALES	\$ 37,941	100.0%	\$ 24,058	100.0%	\$ 126,870	100.0%	\$ 102,527	100.0%
Cost of goods sold	12,904	34.0	10,233	42.5	44,645	35.2	44,890	43.8
Inventory writedowns and accelerated depreciation for exit of product line		0.0		0.0		0.0	2,540	2.5
Gross profit	25,037	66.0	13,825	57.5	82,225	64.8	55,097	53.7
Selling, general and administrative expenses	13,398	35.3	11,812	49.1	48,385	38.1	49,764	48.4
Product development expenses	3,218	8.5	3,683	15.3	12,145	9.6	18,024	17.6
Expenses associated with (gain on) sale of RF product line	174	0.4		0.0	(2,894)	(2.3)		0.0
Gain on sale of building	(1,862)	(4.9)		0.0	(1,862)	(1.5)		0.0
Restructuring (income) charges	(29)	(0.0)	2,724	11.3	(124)	(0.0)	6,926	6.8
Operating income (loss)	10,138	26.7	(4,394)	(18.2)	26,575	20.9	(19,617)	(19.1)
Investment income	30	0.1	29	0.0	95	0.1	303	0.3
Interest expense	(7)	(0.0)	(5)	(0.0)	(23)	(0.0)	(52)	(0.1)
Transaction costs associated with pending merger	(1,064)	(2.8)		0.0	(1,250)	(1.0)		0.0
Income (loss) before income taxes	9,097	24.0	(4,370)	(18.2)	25,397	20.0	(19,366)	(18.9)
Income tax expense	14	0.1	70	0.3	519	0.4	31,138	30.4

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NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 9,083	23.9%	\$ (4,440)	(18.5)%	\$ 24,878	19.6%	\$ (50,504)	(49.3)%
Basic income (loss) per share	\$ 0.58		\$ (0.28)		\$ 1.58		\$ (3.23)	
Diluted income (loss) per share	\$ 0.55		\$ (0.28)		\$ 1.53		\$ (3.23)	
Cash dividends per Common Share	\$.0375		\$.0125		\$.1000		\$.1000	
Cash dividends per Class B Common Share	\$.0300		\$.0100		\$.0800		\$.0800	
Weighted average number of shares outstanding Diluted	16,428		15,713		16,228		15,648	

KEITHLEY INSTRUMENTS, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In Thousands of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2009
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 50,790	\$ 24,114
Restricted cash	537	569
Short-term investments	3,912	759
Accounts receivable and other, net of allowances	19,111	11,738
Refundable income taxes	1,030	466
Inventory	9,072	9,937
Other current assets	2,177	2,056
 Total current assets	 86,629	 49,639
Property, plant and equipment, net	5,713	11,100
Other assets	12,314	12,363
 Total assets	 \$ 104,656	 \$ 73,102
 LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Short-term debt	\$	\$
Accounts payable	5,903	4,916
Other current liabilities	19,390	12,194
 Total current liabilities	 25,293	 17,110
Long-term debt		
Other long-term liabilities	22,428	19,382
 Shareholders' equity	 56,935	 36,610
 Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	 \$ 104,656	 \$ 73,102

RECONCILIATION OF REPORTED GAAP RESULTS
TO NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

(In Thousands of Dollars)

(Unaudited)

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,				FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			
	2010		2009		2010		2009	
Net Sales	\$ 37,941	100.0%	\$ 24,058	100.0%	\$ 126,870	100.0%	\$ 102,527	100.0%
GAAP gross profit	\$ 25,037	66.0%	\$ 13,825	57.5%	\$ 82,225	64.8%	\$ 55,097	53.7%
<i>Non-GAAP adjustment:</i>								
Inventory writedowns and accelerated depreciation for exit of product line		0.0		0.0		0.0	2,540	2.5
Non-GAAP gross profit	\$ 25,037	66.0%	\$ 13,825	57.5%	\$ 82,225	64.8%	\$ 57,637	56.2%
GAAP income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 9,097	24.0%	\$ (4,370)	(18.2)%	\$ 25,397	20.0%	\$ (19,366)	(18.9)%
<i>Non-GAAP adjustments:</i>								
Inventory writedowns and accelerated depreciation for exit of product line		0.0		0.0		0.0	2,540	2.5
Expenses associated with (gain on) sale of RF product line	174	0.4		0.0	(2,894)	(2.3)		0.0
Gain on sale of building	(1,862)	(4.9)		0.0	(1,862)	(1.5)		0.0
Restructuring (income) charges	(29)	(0.0)	2,724	11.3	(124)	(0.0)	6,926	6.8
Transaction costs associated with pending merger	1,064	2.8		0.0	1,250	1.0		0.0
Non-GAAP income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 8,444	22.3%	\$ (1,646)	(6.8)%	\$ 21,767	17.2%	\$ (9,900)	(9.7)%