METHODE ELECTRONICS INC
Form 11-K
June 19, 2012

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

FORM 11-K

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the year ended December 31, 2011

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 0-2816

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Methode Electronics, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Methode Electronics, Inc.
7401 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60706-4548

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Methode Electronics, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan
Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Financial Statements and
Supplemental Schedule

Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Administration Committee
Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Methode Electronics, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2011, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Sassetti LLC

June 19, 2012
Oak Park, Illinois

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31, 2011	2010
Assets		
Cash	$1,754	$12,041
Investments, at fair value:		
Group annuity investment contracts	7,734,416	7,765,516
Mutual funds	29,720,043	30,328,232
Methode common stock fund	2,257,565	3,190,789
Total investments	39,712,024	41,284,537
Receivables:		
Unsettled investment sales	115	1,961
Accrued interest / dividends	12,434	16,066
Participant loans	720,231	691,192
Total receivables	732,780	709,219
Total assets	$40,446,558	$42,005,797
Liabilities		
Unsettled investment purchases	$12,434	$18,026
Total liabilities	12,434	18,026
Net assets available for benefits, at fair value	40,434,124	41,987,771
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(66,456)	(254,687)
Net assets available for benefits	$40,367,668	$41,733,084

See accompanying notes.

2

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010
Additions:		
Additions to net assets attributed to:		
Investment Income:		
Interest and dividends	$807,984	$838,328
Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of investments	(1,991,469)	4,090,536
Total investment gain/(loss)	(1,183,485)	4,928,864
Contributions:		
Participants	2,209,741	2,071,805
Employer	1,310,484	1,264,707
Rollovers	237,781	254,712
	3,758,006	3,591,224
Total additions, net	2,574,521	8,520,088
Deductions:		
Deductions from net assets attributed to:		
Benefits paid to participants	3,912,501	5,541,159
Administrative expenses	27,436	27,915
Total deductions	3,939,937	5,569,074
Net increase/(decrease)	(1,365,416)	2,951,014
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	41,733,084	38,782,070
End of year	$40,367,668	$41,733,084

See accompanying notes.

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Methode Electronics, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description (SPD) for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. Copies of the SPD are available from Methode Electronics, Inc.

General

The Plan is a defined-contribution plan established to provide additional retirement and other benefits for eligible employees, to enable eligible employees, through systematic savings, to accumulate funds on a tax-advantageous basis, and to provide a vehicle through which the plan sponsor, Methode Electronics, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the Company), can attract and retain qualified employees.

Participation

Employees who are employed by the Company for three full calendar months are eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the following calendar month.

Contributions

Participants may elect to contribute a minimum of 2% of their annual compensation (as defined in the Plan) on a pre-tax, after tax Roth 401(k) or any combination, up to the maximum annual dollar limit allowable by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The Company contributes to the Plan, on behalf of each participant, a “safe-harbor” non-elective contribution of 3% of each participant's eligible compensation (as defined by the Plan), subject to the IRS maximum amount, for the portion of the Plan year in which the employee was a participant in the Plan.

Participants may direct contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of Plan (continued)

Participant Withdrawals

Withdrawals are permitted in the event of termination of employment, disability, death, retirement, attainment of age 59 1/2, or financial hardship. A financial hardship withdrawal is currently permitted by the IRS for certain authorized purposes. Such withdrawals must be approved by the 401(k) Hardship Committee. Withdrawals prior to the attainment of age 59 1/2 may be subject to an additional 10% tax penalty.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in Company contributions, their contributions, and actual earnings (losses) thereon.

Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their account balance. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years or up to 15 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at the prime rate plus 1%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Participant loans are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of Company contributions and Plan earnings (losses). Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Valuation of Investments

The shares of mutual funds and the Methode Electronics Common Stock Fund are reported at fair value. See note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

In December, 2005, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued certain authoritative literature with respect to the definition of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and the presentation and disclosure of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts in plan financial statements. The literature requires that investments in common/collective trusts that include benefit-responsive investment contracts be presented at fair value in the statement of net assets available for benefits and that the amount representing the difference between fair value and contract value of these investments also be presented on the face of the statement of net assets available for benefits.

The Plan has group annuity investment contracts with the Hartford Life Insurance Company (“Hartford”) and Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (“Lincoln”).

The Hartford group annuity contract fair value and contract value are estimated by Hartford Life Insurance Company. Contract value represents contributions made, plus interest at the contract rate, less funds used to pay participants' benefits. The Plan does not allow for new investment in this contract. There are significant penalties if the entire contract were prematurely terminated.

The Hartford group annuity contract had an average yield of 3.09% (annualized) for each of the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The crediting interest rate was 3.00% at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The crediting interest rate is set at the beginning of the calendar year and is periodically reviewed for adjustment.

The Lincoln Stable Value Account is a fixed group annuity issued by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. As described in Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification TM (“ASC”) Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts Topic, investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan that are fully benefit responsive are required to be reported at fair value and an adjustment to total net assets is required to show

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

net assets at contract value. The Lincoln Stable Value held by the Plan is fully benefit responsive; therefore, contract value reporting is required. In this instance, contract value approximates fair value as a result of current interest rates credited to the contracts. Contract value represents contributions made, plus interest at the contract rate, less funds used to pay participants' benefits.

The Lincoln contract had an average yield of 2.52% and 3.36% (annualized) for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The crediting interest rate was 2.24% and 3.00% at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The crediting interest rate is set at the beginning of each calendar quarter and is periodically reviewed for adjustment.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Administrative Expenses

Generally, expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company.

Adoption of Accounting Standards

In January 2010, The FASB issued ASU No. 2010-06, “Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements” (“ASU 2010-06), which primarily requires new disclosures related to the levels within the fair value hierarchy. An entity will be required to disclose significant transfers in and out of Levels 1 and 2 of the fair value hierarchy, and separately present information related to purchases, sales issuances and settlements in the reconciliation of fair value measurements classified as Level 3. In addition, ASU 2010-06 will amend the fair value disclosure requirement

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

for pension and postretirement benefit plan assets to require this disclosure at the investment class level. ASU 2010-06 will be effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2009, except for the disclosures related to purchases, sales, issuances and settlements for Level 3 fair value measurements, which are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2010. The adoption of these amendments did not have a material effect on the plan's financial statements.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, “Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards” (“ASU 2011-04”), which was issued to create a consistent framework for the application of fair value measurement across jurisdictions. The amendments include wording changes to GAAP in order to clarify the FASB's intent about the application of existing fair value measurements and disclosure requirements, as well as to change a particular principle or existing requirement for measuring fair value or disclosing information about fair value measurements. There are no additional fair value measurements required upon the adoption of ASU 2011-04. The amendments are effective, prospectively, for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is prohibited. The Plan will adopt the provisions of ASU 2011-04 effective January 1, 2012. The adoption is not expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Plan.

3. Investments

The Plan's investments (including investments purchased, sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated (depreciated) in fair value as determined by quoted market prices as follows:

	Years Ended December 31	
	2011	2010
Mutual funds	$(928,824)	$2,853,858
Common stock fund	(1,062,645)	1,236,678
	$(1,991,469)	$4,090,536

Methode Electronics, Inc.
401(k) Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets are as follows:

	Years Ended December 31	
	2011	2010

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