

PRAXAIR INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 15, 2017

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 (Amendment No. )

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
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Praxair, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
LEAD DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Shareholder,

On behalf of Praxair's entire Board of Directors, thank you for entrusting us with the oversight of your company. The Board and management are committed to driving the company's performance and shareholder value creation.

Strong Corporate Governance Structure

The Board has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines and policies and practices that implement a strong governance architecture that compares very favorably to those of other S&P 500 companies and to the standards of recognized governance organizations. Please see pages 8-15 in the accompanying 2017 proxy statement.

A Diverse, Qualified, Independent and Engaged Board of Directors

Your Board is comprised of members who bring a broad diversity of experiences, competencies, backgrounds and perspectives that are well-suited for advice and counsel to, and oversight of, Praxair's business and its management. Each director has executive management and oversight experience in most, if not all, of the areas that are critical to the conduct of Praxair's business, as discussed on pages 22-28 of the proxy statement. All directors are independent of management except for the Chairman and CEO.

Shareholder Outreach and Executive Compensation Program Changes

Praxair has a robust shareholder outreach program that it has conducted for many years that ensures the Board and management remain responsive to shareholder concerns. This includes ongoing interaction with institutional investors, as well as an extensive annual shareholder outreach program focused on corporate governance and executive compensation matters. Among other things, this outreach provided the Compensation & Management Development Committee with valuable input that enabled it to make changes to the executive compensation program in 2016 that were responsive to shareholders (these changes are discussed on pages 4 and 36 of the proxy statement).

Environmental and Social Responsibility

Praxair's mission of "Making our Planet More Productive" represents Praxair's commitment to sustainability through its Sustainable Development Program. In 2016, Praxair was again included in the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability World Index, making Praxair the only U.S. chemical company

selected for 14 consecutive years, and Praxair was again named in 2016 to the Forbes Magazine list of the 500 best large employers in the U.S. You can learn more about our Sustainable Development Program on our website, [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com) in the Our Company/Sustainable Development section.

Proposed Merger with Linde AG

On December 20, 2016, Praxair and Linde AG announced that the companies intend to combine in a merger of equals under a new holding company through an all-stock transaction. The companies have signed a non-binding term sheet and expect to execute a definitive Business Combination Agreement as soon as practicable. Based on 2016 reported results, the combination would create an industrial gases company with pro forma revenues of approximately \$28.5

billion (EUR 27 billion), prior to any divestitures, and a current market value in excess of \$63.4 billion (EUR 59.8 billion). The combined company would be governed by a single Board of Directors with equal representation from Linde and Praxair. Linde's Supervisory Board Chairman, Professor Dr. Wolfgang Reitzle, would become Chairman of the new company's Board, and Praxair's Chairman and CEO, Steve Angel, would become CEO and a member of the Board of Directors.

The Board strongly supports this proposed business combination with Linde because, among other things, we believe that the combined company would create significant value for shareholders through the realization of approximately \$1 billion (EUR 0.9 billion) in annual synergies, driven by scale benefits, cost savings and efficiency improvements. If the companies execute a definitive Business Combination Agreement, we will seek approval of the proposed business combination by Praxair's shareholders at a future meeting of shareholders.

#### Other 2016 and Recent Highlights

The Compensation & Management Development Committee made significant changes to the Executive Compensation Program to more closely align pay and performance. You, our shareholders, expressed your approval of these changes by approving the annual "Say-on-Pay" vote on executive compensation at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders by 94%, compared to 62% in 2015, before we made the changes.

Ira D. Hall is retiring from the Board just prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting after thirteen years of service, as required by the Board's Director retirement policy. The Board thanks Ira for his dedicated service and contributions.

The Board thanks you for your continued support and confidence in Praxair and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with you.

Regards,

ROBERT L. WOOD

Independent Lead Director



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APPENDIX 1: AMENDMENTS TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED 2009 PRAXAIR, INC. LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN

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NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

APRIL 25, 2017

Dear Praxair Shareholder:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Praxair, Inc. (“Praxair” or the “Company”) will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Ritz-Carlton Westchester Hotel, Three Renaissance Square, White Plains, New York, for the following purposes:

1. To elect nine directors to the Board of Directors.
2. To ratify the appointment of the independent auditor.
3. To provide an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer Compensation.
4. To provide an advisory vote on the frequency of holding future advisory votes on Named Executive Officer Compensation.
5. To approve amendments to the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan (the “Plan”) to, among other things, authorize additional shares for grant and to approve the material terms of performance goals for awards under the Plan.
6. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

This Proxy Statement and a form of proxy are first being sent to shareholders on or about March 15, 2017. Only holders of record of Praxair Common Stock at the close of business on March 1, 2017 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the meeting. You may vote your shares by means of a proxy form as described in the accompanying Proxy Statement. The giving of such proxy does not affect your right to vote in person if you attend the meeting.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE PROMPTLY SUBMIT YOUR PROXY OR VOTING INSTRUCTION. Most shareholders have a choice of voting over the Internet, by telephone or by using a traditional proxy card. Please refer to the enclosed proxy materials or the information forwarded by your bank, broker or other holder of record to see which voting methods are available to you. We urge you to complete and submit your proxy electronically or by telephone (if those options are available to you) as a means of reducing Praxair’s expenses related to the meeting.

Please be aware that, if you own shares in a brokerage account, you must instruct your broker on how to vote your shares. Without your instructions, New York Stock Exchange rules do not allow your broker to vote your shares on any of the proposals except the ratification of the appointment of the independent auditor. Please exercise your right as a shareholder to vote on all proposals, including the election of directors, by instructing your broker by proxy.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GUILLERMO BICHARA,  
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

March 15, 2017



## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This summary highlights selected information in this Proxy Statement. Please review the entire document before voting.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Praxair, Inc.

## Voting Items

Voting Item	Board Voting Recommendation	Reason(s) for Board Recommendation	Further Information (page)
1. To elect nine directors to the Board of Directors	FOR each nominee	Our nominees are seasoned leaders who bring a mix of skills and qualifications to the Board.	22-28
2. To ratify the appointment of the independent auditor	FOR	Based on its recent evaluation, our Audit Committee believes that the retention of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.	30-34
3. To provide an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer Compensation	FOR	Our executive compensation program reflects our commitment to paying for performance and reflects recent significant changes based upon feedback received from our shareholder outreach.	62
4. To provide an advisory vote on the frequency of holding future advisory votes on Named Executive Officer Compensation	FOR an Annual Say-On-Pay Vote	The Company has held an annual vote on Named Executive Officers Compensation ("Say-On-Pay" vote) since this vote was required beginning in 2011. The Board believes that shareholders should continue to have the opportunity to provide an annual advisory Say-On-Pay vote.	63
5. To approve amendments to the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan ("Plan") to, among other things, authorize additional shares for grant and to approve the material terms of performance goals for awards under the Plan.	FOR	The Board requests shareholder approval for additional shares for grant under the Plan, as the Plan does not have sufficient shares remaining for future grants. The Board also requests shareholder approval of the Section 162(m) performance goals under the Plan so that the Company may deduct equity compensation grants to certain executives for federal tax purposes.	64-72

## How to Vote

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Your vote is important. You are eligible to vote if you were a shareholder of record at the close of business on March 1, 2017. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, please vote as soon as possible using one of the following methods. In all cases, you should have your proxy card in hand.

Praxair, Inc. 1

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## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Performance Highlights

### Performance Highlights

#### 2016 year in review

Praxair delivered solid results for the full year of 2016 despite continued challenging global macro-economic trends and foreign currency headwinds. Volume growth from resilient end-markets and new project start-ups was offset by weaker volumes in North and South America, primarily in the manufacturing and up-stream energy end-markets. Excluding foreign currency headwinds, sales growth came from higher overall pricing and acquisitions. Operating cash flow was 3% higher than 2015 despite lower net income from currency and base volume headwinds.

#### High-quality results

We took prompt actions to mitigate these headwinds and Praxair employees once again delivered high-quality results that included:

#### Business Optimization

- ◆ Attained positive pricing and proactively took cost reduction measures
- ◆ Achieved high-quality operating and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) margins of 22.2% and 33.2%, respectively\*

#### Sustainable Growth

- ◆ Won seven new onsite projects for customers under long-term contracts, including four in the U.S. Gulf Coast, and finished the year with a project backlog of \$1.5 billion
- ◆ Successfully started-up nine large projects in Asia, Europe and South America
- ◆ Grew resilient end-markets to 27% of sales, which include food and beverage, healthcare, environmental, specialty gases and aerospace
- ◆ Increased our carbon dioxide capacity in the U.S. by 50% to support our growing food and beverage end-markets
- ◆ Acquired Yara’s carbon dioxide business in Europe, significantly strengthening our growth platform on the continent
- ◆ Concluded the joint venture with GE for aircraft engine coatings, which we expect will triple our coating sales with GE in a few years
- ◆ Completed 13 synergistic acquisitions in support of our strategy

#### Strong Cash Flow and Return to Shareholders

- ◆ Generated operating cash flow of \$2.8 billion (26% of sales) and free cash flow of \$1.3 billion\*
- ◆ Returned approximately \$1 billion to shareholders, primarily in the form of dividends
- ◆ Increased the annual dividend by 5% for 2017, the 24th consecutive annual dividend increase

The graphs on page 3 show some of the Company's key financial performance achievements including: (1) a ten-year average ROC that well exceeds the industrial gases industry ten-year average ROC; (2) the growth in the Company's operating cash flow since 2000, the majority of which was used to invest in organic growth through capital expenditures and acquisitions; (3) the high quality operating and EBITDA margins as a percent of sales; and (4) for 24 consecutive years since 1993, the Company has increased its dividends to shareholders.

2 Praxair, Inc.

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PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Performance Highlights

\*Operating margin, EBITDA margin, ROC, and free cash flow are non-GAAP measures. A reconciliation of reported amounts to non-GAAP measures can be found in Praxair's 2016 Form 10-K and Annual Report in "Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the sub-section called "Non-GAAP Financial Measures". Free cash flow equals operating cash flow minus capital expenditures.

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PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Compensation Highlights

Compensation Highlights

Shareholder Feedback is Critical to Executive Compensation Design

Praxair continues to have a long-standing, robust outreach program whereby management regularly discusses executive compensation design and other relevant matters with shareholders. The Compensation & Management Development Committee of the Board of Directors (the “Compensation Committee”) carefully considers shareholder feedback as it makes compensation program decisions.

In April 2015, certain proxy advisory firms recommended that shareholders vote against the Company’s Advisory Vote on NEO Compensation, and as a result, additional shareholder outreach was conducted. Fifty-four individual meetings were held, and collectively, shareholders representing 49% of

shares outstanding provided feedback for consideration.

In response to, and after carefully considering shareholder feedback, the Compensation Committee approved changes to certain elements of the Company’s executive compensation program as highlighted below. Some of the changes were retroactive to 2015, and others affected the Company’s 2016 executive compensation programs.

These changes were disclosed to shareholders in the 2016 proxy statement, and shareholders approved the Say-on-Pay proposal in April 2016 with 94% of shares voted in its favor, compared to 62% in favor in 2015 before the changes were made.

What We Heard	What We Did	Effective	For More Detail
Concern that variable compensation awards can be too greatly influenced by elements other than financial performance	Reduced and limited the impact of the non-financial performance on payouts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial performance must account for at least 80% of total business performance for NEOs</li> </ul>	2015 (retroactive)	See page 41



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminated the individual performance adjustment for the CEO's payout</li> </ul>		
Want additional alignment with shareholder returns in the variable compensation program	Revised the annual variable compensation program by increasing the weighting of net income and by replacing the working capital metric with a cash flow metric	2016	See page 41
ROC is viewed as a solid measure for long-term incentive equity awards. Additionally, some shareholders also prefer relative metrics and linking payouts to TSR	Modified the annual performance share unit grants to incorporate a relative total shareholder return ("TSR") measure, while maintaining the ROC measure	2016	See page 45
Concern about CEO special pension arrangements	Agreements to provide additional service credit for the Company's pension program have not been made with any current executive since 2001, and will not be made in the future	legacy	See page 51
Desire for enhanced disclosure in the proxy statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance goals disclosed for the TSR and ROC performance share units in the year of grant</li> <li>Improved the readability and redesigned the presentation of the proxy statement</li> </ul>	2016	See page 45

## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Compensation Highlights

#### Alignment of Executive Compensation Programs with Praxair Business Objectives

The Compensation Committee seeks to achieve its executive compensation objectives by aligning the design of the Company's executive compensation programs with the Company's business objectives, ensuring a balance between financial and strategic non-financial goals.

#### FINANCIAL BUSINESS OBJECTIVE:

Achieve sustained growth in profitability and shareholder return resulting in a robust cash flow to fund capital investment growth opportunities, dividend payments and share repurchases.

- Annual performance-based variable compensation earned by meeting or exceeding pre-established financial goals.
- Annual grants of performance share units that vest based upon performance results over three years.
- Annual grants of stock options, the value of which is directly linked to the growth in the Company's stock price.

#### STRATEGIC BUSINESS OBJECTIVES:

Maintain world-class standards in safety, environmental responsibility, global compliance, productivity, talent management, and financial controls.

- Annual payout of variable compensation is impacted by non-financial performance in these areas.
- Attract and retain executives who thrive in a sustainable performance-driven culture.
- A competitive compensation and benefits program regularly benchmarked against peer companies of similar size in market cap, revenue and other financial metrics and business attributes.
  - Realized compensation that varies with Company performance, with downside risk and upside opportunity.

#### Best Practices Supporting Executive Compensation Objectives

##### What We Do:

Link a substantial portion of total compensation to Company performance:

##### What We Do Not Do:

- X Guarantee bonuses for executive officers
- X Regularly grant time vested restricted stock

Annual variable compensation awards based principally upon performance against objective, pre-established financial goals	X Have employment agreements for executive officers
Equity grants consisting of performance share units and stock options, focused on longer term shareholder value creation	X Allow pledging or hedging of Company stock held by officers
Set compensation within competitive market ranges	X Pay tax “gross-ups” on perquisites and personal benefits unless related to relocation expenses that are available to employees generally
Require substantial stock ownership and retention requirements for officers	X Accelerate equity award vesting upon change-in-control
Limit perquisites and personal benefits	
Have double trigger change-in-control severance agreements and, for post-2009 agreements, with payouts of 2 times salary plus target variable compensation	X Include an excise tax “gross-up” provision in any change-in-control arrangements
Include double trigger vesting requirements for officer equity awards in the event of a change-in-control	
Have a clawback (“recapture”) policy that applies to performance based equity and cash awards including gains realized through exercise or sale of equity securities	

## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Board and Governance Highlights

## Board and Governance Highlights

## Board Nominees

The following nine persons currently serve on the Board of Directors and have been nominated for reelection to serve until the 2018 annual meeting and the election and qualification of their successors.

Name	Age	Director Since	Background	Independent		Current Committee	Other Current Public Company Boards
				Yes	No		
Stephen F. Angel	61	2006	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Praxair, Inc.		X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPG Industries, Inc.</li> </ul>
Oscar Bernardes	70	2010	Managing Partner at Yguapora Consultoria e Empreendimentos Ltda; former Chief Executive Officer of Bunge International	X		CMD, FP, TSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DASA Laboratorios da America SA</li> <li>Localiza Rent A Car S.A.</li> <li>Marcopolo S.A.</li> </ul>
Nance K. Dicciani	69	2008	Former President & Chief Executive Officer of Honeywell Specialty Materials	X		AC, CMD, Chairperson of TSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AgroFresh Solutions, Inc.</li> <li>Halliburton Company</li> <li>LyondellBasell Industries</li> </ul>
Edward G. Galante	66	2007	Former Senior Vice President and a member of the Management Committee of ExxonMobil Corporation	X		Chairman of CMD, GN, TSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celanese Corporation</li> <li>Clean Harbors, Inc.</li> <li>Tesoro Corporation</li> </ul>
Raymond W. LeBoeuf	70	1997	Former Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of PPG Industries, Inc.	X		Chairman of AC, GN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MassMutual Financial Group</li> </ul>
Larry D. McVay	69	2008	Principal of Edgewater Energy, LLC; former Chief Operating Officer of	X		AC, Chairman of FP, TSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Callon Petroleum</li> </ul>

TNK-BP Holding

Company

Martin H. Richenhagen	64	2015	Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of AGCO Corporation	X	FP, GN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicago Bridge &amp; Iron Company</li> <li>• AGCO Corporation</li> <li>• PPG Industries, Inc.</li> </ul>
Wayne T. Smith	71	2001	Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems, Inc.	X	CMD, FP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Health Systems, Inc.</li> </ul>
Robert L. Wood	62	2004	Former Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Chemtura Corporation	X	FP, Chairman of GN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRC Global Inc.</li> <li>• Univar Inc.</li> </ul>

(1)

AC means Audit Committee

CMD means Compensation & Management Development Committee

FP means Finance & Pension Committee

GN means Governance & Nominating Committee

TSS means Technology, Safety & Sustainability Committee

## PROXY STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Board and Governance Highlights

## Board Highlights

## Corporate Governance Highlights

Praxair has a strong corporate governance structure that compares very favorably to that of other S&P 500 companies and to the standards of recognized governance organizations. The key aspects of our

corporate governance structure are listed below and are discussed more fully in the “Corporate Governance and Board Matters” section of this Proxy Statement.

## Board and Governance Information

Size of Board	9	Board Orientation and Continuing Education Program	Yes
Number of Independent Directors	8	Limits service on other Boards	Yes-4 Other Boards
Board Meetings Held in 2016	9	Succession Planning Process	Yes
Annual Election of Directors	Yes	Board Risk Oversight	Yes
Mandatory Retirement Age	72	Codes of Conduct for Directors, Officers and Employees	Yes
Board Diversity	Yes	Stock Ownership Guidelines for Directors and Executive Officers	Yes
Majority Voting in Director Elections	Yes	Anti-Hedging and Pledging Policies	Yes
Proxy Access	Yes	Clawback Policy	Yes
Lead Independent Director	Yes	Rights Agreement (Poison Pill)	No
Independent Directors Meet Without Management Present	Yes	Comprehensive Sustainability Program	Yes

Annual Board Strategy Review	Yes	Shareholders May Call Special Meetings	Yes
Annual Board and Committee Evaluations	Yes		

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## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

Praxair operates under Corporate Governance Guidelines which are posted at Praxair's public website, [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com) in the Our Company/Corporate Responsibility section. Consistent with those guidelines, the Board has adopted the following policies and practices, among others:

#### Director Independence

The Board has adopted independence standards for service on Praxair's Board of Directors which are posted at Praxair's public website referenced above. The Board has applied these standards to all of the non-management directors (all directors are non-management except for Mr. Angel, the Company's Chairman & CEO), and has determined that each

qualifies as independent. The Board is not otherwise aware of any relationship with the Company or its management that could potentially impair the independent judgment of these directors. See also related information in this Proxy Statement under the caption "Certain Relationships and Transactions."

#### Board Leadership

As set forth under the Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board believes that the best leadership model for the Company at this time is that of a combined Chairman & CEO, balanced by practices and policies designed to assure effective independence in the Board's oversight, advice and counsel of management. These include having an independent Lead Director, as discussed below. The Governance & Nominating Committee (consisting entirely of independent directors) periodically examines the Board leadership structure as well as other governance practices and conducts an annual



assessment of Board and Committee effectiveness. The Governance & Nominating Committee has determined that the present leadership structure is effective and appropriate. The Board believes that the substantive duties of the Chairman, including calling and organizing meetings and preparing agendas, are best performed by someone having day-to-day familiarity with the business issues confronting the Company and an understanding of the specific areas in which management seeks advice and counsel from the Board.

#### Lead Director

In order to enhance the Board's independence and oversight of management, the independent directors elect a Lead Director from among the independent directors to serve for at least one year. The Board's practice has been to select the Chairman of the Governance & Nominating Committee to serve as the Lead Director. Although elected to serve at least one year, the Lead Director is generally expected to serve multiple terms. Mr. Wood, who is the Chairman of the Governance & Nominating Committee, has been the Lead Director since 2013. The designated responsibilities of the Lead Director are set forth in the Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines and include:

- serving as chairman of the meetings of the independent directors and all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman is not present;
- having the authority to call meetings of the independent directors;
- serving as a liaison between the Chairman and CEO and the independent directors;
- being available to consult with the Chairman and CEO about the concerns of the Board;
- approving the Board meeting agendas and related information sent to the Board;
- approving the Board meeting schedules to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items;
- being available for consultation and direct communication with major shareholders if requested; and
- coordinating an annual performance review of the CEO with input from the Compensation Committee and the other independent directors.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

#### Board Role in Risk Oversight

At least annually, the full Board reviews the Company's risk identification, assessment and management processes and the guidelines and policies by which key risks are managed. As part of that review, the Board discusses (1) the key enterprise risks that management has identified, (2) management accountability for managing or mitigating each risk, (3) the steps being taken to manage each risk, and (4) which Board Committees will oversee each risk area on an ongoing basis.

The risk factors disclosed in Item 1A of the Company's Form 10-K and Annual Report illustrate the range of the risks faced by a global industrial company and help explain the need for strong Board Committee oversight of the management of risks in specific subject areas. Each Committee's calendar of recurring meeting agenda topics addresses risk areas pertinent to the Committee's subject-matter responsibilities. These areas include: financing and currency exchange risks (Finance & Pension Committee); compensation risks, and executive development and retention (Compensation Committee); regular review of the Board's governance practices (Governance & Nominating Committee);

internal controls, investigations, and integrity standards compliance (Audit Committee); and a regular review of the Company's sustainability program and certain enterprise risks such as natural disasters and plant control systems and security (Technology, Safety & Sustainability Committee). Other risk areas are regularly reviewed by the full Board. These include: safety and environmental risk (covered at each Board meeting), economic, market and competitive risk (part of business operating reports at each Board meeting, and the annual operating and strategic reviews), cyber security, and global compliance risks (supplementing reporting within the Audit Committee). In addition, risk identification and assessment is integrated into Board decision-making with respect to capital projects and acquisitions, entry into new markets, financings, and cash flow analysis, among other matters. In Committee meetings and full Board deliberations, each director brings his or her particular operating, financial, management development, and other experiences and expertise to bear in assessing management's response to specific risks and in providing advice and counsel with respect to risk mitigation and management.

#### Board Oversight of Business Strategy

Each year, the Board conducts a comprehensive long-term strategic review of the Company's outlook and business plans and provides advice and counsel to management regarding the Company's strategic issues. This process involves engagement by all Board members and senior management. The Board

performs a detailed review of management's proposed strategy for each of the key business units, which is designed to drive profitability over the near-and long-term independent of the macro environment and drive long-term shareholder value creation.

#### Board Effectiveness Assessment

The Board assesses its effectiveness annually under a process determined by the Governance & Nominating Committee. Typically, this assessment includes each non-management director completing written questionnaires that are used to evaluate the Board's effectiveness in the areas of Performance of Core Responsibilities, Decision-Making Support, the Quality of Deliberations, Director Performance, and Committee Functions, as well as consideration of additional Board practices and policies recommended as best practices by recognized governance authorities. Similarly, each Committee annually

assesses its effectiveness in meeting its oversight responsibilities under its charter from the Board. The Governance & Nominating Committee reviews the results of the written assessments, provides the results to all Board members, and the Lead Director conducts a discussion of the results in an executive session of the non-management directors. Subsequently, the Governance & Nominating Committee may recommend certain actions be taken to enhance the operations and effectiveness of the Board and its committees.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

#### Governance Practices Review

In addition to leading the annual Board and Committee effectiveness assessment referred to above, the Governance & Nominating Committee annually reviews with an outside expert the Company's governance practices, and updates those practices as it deems appropriate. The Committee considers, among other things, the results of the

Board and Committee effectiveness assessments, developments in Delaware Corporation Law, federal laws and regulations promulgated by the SEC, and the views and standards of recognized governance authorities and institutional investors.

#### Succession Planning and Personnel Development

The Compensation Committee conducts an annual Succession Planning and Personnel Development session to which all Board members are invited and at which executives are evaluated with respect to their potential for promotion into senior leadership

positions, including that of the CEO. In addition, a wide variety of executives are introduced to the Board by way of Board and Committee presentations, and directors have unrestricted access to a broad cross-section of managers and high potential employees.

#### Mandatory Director Retirement

The Board's policy is that a director who has attained the age of 72 may not stand for re-election at the next annual shareholders' meeting. The Board also has a

policy against service on the Board by an officer of the Company after his or her retirement, resignation or removal as an officer.

#### Limits to Service on Other Boards

The Board's policy is that a non-management director may not serve on more than four additional public company boards and a member of the Audit Committee may not serve on more than two additional

public company audit committees. Also, the Chairman & CEO may not serve on more than two additional public company boards.

#### Shareholder Outreach and Communications with the Board

The Company has a robust shareholder outreach program that it has conducted for many years and which ensures that the Board and management remain responsive to shareholder concerns. This includes ongoing interaction between the Director of Investor Relations and major institutional investors, as well as an extensive shareholder outreach program that is conducted annually.

In addition, the Board has established procedures to enable a shareholder or other interested party to direct a communication to the Board of Directors. Such communications may be confidential or anonymous and may be communicated by mail, e-mail, or telephone. Information on how to submit communications, and how they will be handled, is included at [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com) in the Our Company/Corporate Responsibility section.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

#### Director Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings and the Annual Shareholders Meeting

Absent extenuating circumstances, each member of the Board is expected to attend all meetings of the Board, all meetings of each Committee of which he or she is a member, and the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. All of the then serving directors

attended the 2016 annual meeting. Director meeting attendance is one of the factors that the Governance & Nominating Committee considers in determining whether to re-nominate an incumbent director for election at the Annual Meeting.

#### Business Integrity and Ethics

Praxair's Board of Directors has adopted policies and standards regarding Compliance with Laws and Business Integrity and Ethics that are posted on Praxair's public website, [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com), in the Our Company/Corporate Responsibility section and are

available in print to any shareholder who requests it. This Code of Ethics applies to Praxair's directors and to all employees, including Praxair's CEO, CFO and Controller, and other officers.

#### Director Election by Majority Vote and Resignation Policy

Praxair's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws require directors to be elected annually and that a director nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast at an annual meeting in order to be elected (meaning a greater number of "for"

votes than “against” votes) in an uncontested election of directors. The Board’s Corporate Governance Guidelines require that any director nominee who is then serving as a director must tender his or her resignation if he or she fails to receive this majority

vote. The Governance & Nominating Committee of the Board would then consider the resignation offer and recommend to the Board whether to accept or reject the resignation, or whether other action should be taken. The Board would take action on the Committee’s recommendation within 90 days following certification of the vote, and promptly thereafter publicly disclose its decision and the reasons therefor.

#### Proxy Access

A shareholder, or a group of up to 20 shareholders, who have owned at least 3% of the Company’s outstanding common stock continually for at least three years, may nominate persons for election as directors and have these nominees included in the

Company’s proxy statement. The shareholders or group must meet the requirements in the Company’s bylaws. The number of nominees is generally limited to the greater of two persons or 20% of the number of directors serving on the Board.

#### Shareholder Rights Agreements

The Company does not have a Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement (sometimes referred to as a “Poison Pill”). In addition, the Board’s policy is that the Board will adopt or materially amend a future Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement only if, in the exercise of its fiduciary responsibilities under Delaware law, and acting by a majority of its independent directors, it determines that such action

is in the best interests of Praxair’s shareholders. If the Board adopts or materially amends a Stockholder Protection Rights Agreement, it will submit such action to a non-binding shareholder vote as a separate ballot item at the first annual meeting of shareholders occurring at least six months after such action.





## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

#### Special Shareholder Meetings

Shareholders may call a special shareholders' meeting in accordance with the conditions set forth in Praxair's Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws.

#### Director Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Board's policy is that non-management directors must acquire and hold shares of the Company's stock equal in value to at least five times the base cash retainer for non-management directors. Directors have five years from their initial election to meet this

guideline. All non-management directors have met this guideline or are within the five-year transition period afforded to them to do so; and most substantially exceed the guideline.

#### Executive Stock Ownership and Shareholding Policy

The Board believes that it is important for executive officers to acquire a substantial ownership position in Praxair. In this way, their interests will be more closely aligned with those of shareholders. Significant stock ownership ensures that executives manage Praxair as equity owners.

Accordingly, a stock ownership and shareholding policy has been established for the Company's officers that requires them to own a minimum number of shares as set forth below. Individuals must meet the applicable ownership level no more than five years after first becoming subject to it by acquiring at least 20% of the required stock each year. Until the stock ownership requirement is met, executive

officers (i) may not sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of their Praxair common stock, and (ii) must retain and hold all Praxair common stock acquired from all equity incentive awards, net of shares withheld for taxes and option

exercise prices, including performance share unit awards, restricted stock unit awards and stock options.

Set forth below is the minimum number of shares required by the policy for each officer position. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, all covered individuals are in compliance with this policy. Stock ownership of the Named Executive Officers can be found in the table presented under the caption “Information on Share Ownership.”

	Minimum Shares to be Owned
Chief Executive Officer	100,000
Executive Vice Presidents	30,000
Chief Financial Officer	25,000
Senior Vice Presidents	20,000
Other Executive Officers	10,000-15,000

**HEDGING, PLEDGING AND SIMILAR TRANSACTIONS PROHIBITED.** Directors and officers may not engage in hedging transactions related to Praxair’s stock that would have the effect of

reducing or eliminating the economic risk of holding Praxair stock. They also may not pledge or otherwise encumber Praxair stock.

#### Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons

The Company’s Compliance with Laws and Business Integrity and Ethics Policy (“Ethics Policy”) prohibits employees, officers and Board members from having

a personal, financial or family interest that could in any way prevent the individual from acting in the best interests of the Company (a “conflict of interest”) and

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

provides that any conflict of interest waiver relating to Board members or executive officers may be made only after review and approval by the Board upon the recommendation of its Governance & Nominating Committee. In addition, the Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines require that any "related party transaction" by an executive officer or director be pre-approved by a committee of independent and disinterested directors. For this purpose, a "related party transaction" means any transaction or relationship that is reportable under Regulation S-K, Item 404, of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or that, in the case of a non-management director, would violate the Board's independence standards.

**REPORTING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.** To implement the foregoing policies, the Governance & Nominating Committee has adopted a written procedure for the Handling of Potential Conflicts of Interests which specifies a process for the referral of potential conflicts of interests to the Board and standards for the Board's evaluation of those matters. This policy applies to any transaction or relationship involving an executive officer, a member of the Board of Directors, a nominee for election as a director of the Company, or a family member of any of the foregoing which (1) could violate the Company's Ethics Policy provisions regarding conflicts of interest, (2) would be reportable under the SEC's disclosure rules, or (3) in the case of a non-management director, would violate the Board's independence standards.

Under this procedure, potential conflicts of interest are reported to the Corporate Secretary for preliminary analysis to determine whether referral to the Governance & Nominating Committee is appropriate. Potential conflicts of interest can be self-identified by the director or executive officer or may arise from internal audits, the integrity hotline or other referrals,

or through periodic due diligence conducted by the Corporate Secretary's office. The Governance & Nominating Committee then examines the facts and circumstances of each matter referred to it and makes a final determination as to (1) whether the transaction or relationship would (or does) constitute a violation of the conflicts of interest provisions of the Company's Ethics Policy, and (2) whether the transaction or relationship should be approved or ratified and the conditions, if any, of such approval or ratification. In determining whether a transaction or relationship constitutes a violation of the conflicts of interest provisions of the Company's Ethics Policy, the Governance & Nominating Committee considers, among other factors, the materiality of the transaction or relationship to the individual's personal interest, whether the individual's personal interest is materially adverse to or competitive with the interests of the Company, and whether the transaction or relationship materially interferes with the proper performance of the individual's duties or loyalty to the Company. In determining whether to approve or ratify a transaction or relationship, the Governance & Nominating Committee considers, among other factors, whether the matter would constitute a violation of the conflicts of interest provisions of the Company's Ethics Policy, whether the matter would violate the NYSE listing standards, the expected practical impact of the transaction or relationship on the individual's independence of judgment or ability to act in the best interests of the Company, the availability, practicality and effectiveness of mitigating controls or safeguards such as recusal, restricted access to information, reassignment etc., and the best interests of the Company and its shareholders generally.

**APPLICATION OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES.** During 2016, no actual or potential conflicts of interest were identified with respect to the executive officers and directors of the Company.

Certain Relationships and Transactions

When determining whether any director or nominee is independent, the Board considers all facts and circumstances and any relationships that a director or nominee may have with the Company, directly or indirectly, other than in the capacity of serving as a director. To assist the Board in making independence determinations, it also applies the independence standards which are posted at Praxair's public website, [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com) in the Our Company/Our People/Our Board of Directors section. In February 2017, the Board considered the following circumstances and relationships of those directors

and nominees who then had any direct or indirect relationship with the Company. In the ordinary course of its business, (1) Praxair: sells medical oxygen and other industrial gases products to Community Health Systems, Inc. of which Mr. Smith is an executive officer; and (2) sells industrial gases to AGCO Corporation, of which Mr. Richenhagen is an executive officer. The 2016 consolidated revenues for each of Praxair, Community Health and AGCO Corporation were \$10.5 billion, \$18.4 billion, and \$7.4 billion, respectively. For the last three fiscal years, the dollar value of Praxair's sales to Community

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

Health ranged from \$1.3 million to \$4.7 million, and sales to AGCO Corporation ranged from \$1.5 million to \$2.4 million. Such sale and purchase transactions were well below the limits set forth in the Board's independence standards and, for any of the last three fiscal years, were significantly less than 1% of either Praxair's, Community Health Systems', or AGCO

Corporation's consolidated revenues. Therefore, the Board has determined that such ordinary course business relationships are not material and do not otherwise impair the ability of either Mr. Smith or Mr. Richenhagen to exercise independent judgment as a director.

### Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Based solely upon a review of SEC Forms 3, 4 and 5 furnished to the Company and written representations from the Company's executive officers and directors,

the Company believes that those persons complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements during 2016 with respect to transactions in the Company's stock.

### Director & Nominee Selection Criteria

The Governance & Nominating Committee will consider any candidate for election to the Board who is timely recommended by a shareholder and whose recommendation otherwise complies with the requirements under Praxair's certificate of incorporation. Recommendations should be sent to the Corporate Secretary of Praxair and should include the candidate's name and qualifications and a statement from the candidate that he or she consents to being named in the proxy statement and will serve as a director if elected. In order for any candidate to be considered by the Governance & Nominating Committee and, if nominated, to be included in the proxy statement, such recommendations must be received by the Corporate Secretary on or before the date specified in this Proxy Statement under the caption "Shareholder Proposals for the 2018 Annual Meeting."

In addition to considering any shareholder-recommended candidates for election as directors, prior to each annual meeting of shareholders, the Governance & Nominating Committee considers each of the incumbent directors for nomination for reelection to the Board, unless an incumbent does not wish to be reelected or will be retiring from the Board under the Board's retirement policy.

The qualities and skills sought in director nominees are governed by the projected needs of the Board at the time the Governance & Nominating Committee considers adding a new director or renominating incumbent directors. Consistent with the Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Committee seeks to build and maintain a Board that contains a range of experiences, competencies, and perspectives that is well-suited for advice and counsel

to, and oversight of, the Company's business and operations. In doing so, the Committee takes into account a variety of factors, including:

- (1) the Company's strategies and its market, geographic and regulatory environments, both current and projected,
- (2) the mix of experiences, competencies, and perspectives (including gender, ethnic and cultural diversity) currently represented on the Board,
- (3) the results of the Board's annual self-assessment process,
- (4) the CEO's views as to areas in which management would like to have additional advice and counsel from the Board, and
- (5) with respect to the incumbent directors, meeting attendance, participation and contribution, and the director's current independence status.

The Committee also seeks in each director candidate a breadth of experience and background that (a) will allow the director to contribute to the full range of issues confronting a global industrial company and (b) will qualify the director to serve on, and contribute to, any of the Board's standing committees, thus facilitating the Board's committee rotation policy. In addition, the Governance & Nominating Committee believes that every director nominee should demonstrate a strong record of integrity and ethical conduct, an absence of conflicts that might interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment, and a willingness and ability to represent all shareholders of the Company.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Praxair's Corporate Governance Framework

When the need to recruit a director arises, the Governance & Nominating Committee will consult the other directors and the CEO, and will typically engage third party recruiting firms to identify potential candidates. The candidate evaluation process may include inquiries as to the candidate's reputation and background, examination of the candidate's experiences and skills in relation to the Board's needs at the time, consideration of the candidate's independence as measured by the Board's independence standards, and other considerations that the Governance & Nominating Committee deems appropriate at the time. Prior to formal consideration by the Governance & Nominating Committee, any candidate who passes such screening is interviewed by the Governance & Nominating Committee or its Chairman and by the CEO.

Additional information about the specific skills, qualifications and backgrounds of each of the director nominees is set forth in this Proxy Statement under the under caption "Director Nominees."

**PROXY ACCESS NOMINEES.** The foregoing description applies only to the Governance & Nominating Committee's consideration of director nominees who may be nominated by the Committee itself. It does not apply to persons nominated by eligible shareholders under the Company's Proxy Access structure which has separate requirements that are set forth in the Company's bylaws.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Board Committees

Board Committees

The Board currently has five standing committees as described below and each is comprised of only independent directors. The Charters for each of these committees may be found on Praxair’s public website, [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com), in the Our Company/Our People/Our Board of Directors section.

Director	Board Committees				
	Audit Committee	Compensation & Management Development Committee	Finance & Pension Committee	Governance & Nominating Committee	Technology, Safety & Sustainability Committee
OSCAR BERNARDES		•	•		•
NANCE K. DICCIANI	•	•			Chairperson
EDWARD G. GALANTE		Chairman		•	•
IRA D. HALL (1)	•		•		
RAYMOND W. LEBOEUF	Chairman			•	
LARRY D. MCVAY	•		Chairman		•
MARTIN H. RICHENHAGEN			•	•	
WAYNE T. SMITH		•	•		
ROBERT L. WOOD			•	Chairman	

(1) Mr. Hall is retiring from the Board immediately prior to the Annual Meeting.

Description of Key Committee Functions

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair	The Audit Committee assists the Board in its oversight of (a) the independence, qualifications and performance of Praxair’s independent auditor, (b) the integrity of Praxair’s financial statements, (c) the performance of Praxair’s internal audit function, and (d) Praxair’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. In furtherance of these responsibilities, the Audit Committee, among other duties,
Raymond W. LeBoeuf	
Current Members:	(1) appoints the independent auditor to audit Praxair’s financial statements, approves the fees and terms of such engagement, approves any non-audit engagements of the independent auditor, and meets regularly with, and receives various reports from, the independent auditor. The independent auditor reports directly to the Audit Committee;



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Nance K. Dicciani	(2) reviews Praxair's principal policies for accounting and financial reporting and its disclosure controls and processes, and reviews with management and the independent auditor Praxair's financial statements prior to their publication;
Ira D. Hall (retiring)	(3) reviews assessments of Praxair's internal controls, the performance of the Internal Audit function, the performance evaluations of the General Auditor and the Chief Compliance Officer, and the guidelines and policies by which Praxair undertakes risk assessment and risk management; and
Larry D. McVay	(4) reviews the effectiveness of Praxair's compliance with laws, business conduct, integrity and ethics programs.
Meetings in 2016	

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Board Committees

COMPENSATION & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

<p>Committee Chair</p> <p>Edward G. Galante</p> <p>Current Members:</p> <p>Oscar Bernardes</p> <p>Nance K. Dicciani</p> <p>Wayne T. Smith</p> <p>Meetings in 2016</p> <p>6</p>	<p>The Compensation Committee assists the Board in its oversight of (a) Praxair’s compensation and incentive policies and programs, and (b) management development and succession, in both cases particularly as they apply to Praxair’s executive officers. In furtherance of these responsibilities, the Compensation Committee, among other duties,</p> <p>(1) determines Praxair’s policies relating to the compensation of executive officers and assesses the competitiveness and appropriateness of their compensation and benefits;</p> <p>(2) determines the salaries, performance-based variable compensation, equity awards, terms of employment, retirement or severance, benefits, and perquisites of executive officers;</p> <p>(3) approves corporate goals relevant to the CEO’s compensation, evaluates the CEO’s performance in light of these goals and sets the CEO’s compensation accordingly;</p> <p>(4) reviews management’s long-range planning for executive development and succession, and develops a CEO succession plan;</p> <p>(5) reviews design, administration and risk associated with Praxair’s management incentive compensation and equity compensation plans; and</p> <p>(6) reviews periodically the Company’s diversity policies and objectives, and programs to achieve those objectives.</p>
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Certain Committee Processes for Determining Executive Compensation

**DELEGATION AND CEO INVOLVEMENT.** Except under limited circumstances, the Compensation Committee may not delegate its executive compensation authority to any other persons. With respect to the allocation of compensation and awards to employees other than the executive officers, the Compensation Committee may, and has, delegated authority to the CEO, subject to guidelines established by the Compensation Committee. The CEO does not determine the compensation of any of the executive officers but he does offer for the Compensation Committee’s consideration his views on relevant matters, as described in more detail in this Proxy Statement in the CD&A section.

COMPENSATION RISK ANALYSIS. The Compensation Committee considers whether the Company's compensation policies and practices create incentives for risk-taking that could have a material adverse effect on the Company. Each year, the Compensation Committee examines management's review of the Company's incentive compensation programs applicable to all employees, including executive officers, in order to evaluate

whether they encourage excessive risk-taking through either the design of the executive and management incentive programs, or operational decision-making that could affect compensation payouts. The Compensation Committee has determined that (1) there exist sufficient operational controls, checks and balances that prevent or constrain compensation-driven decision-making that is inappropriate or excessively risky including, among others, frequent risk discussions with the Board, particularly in connection with capital project or acquisition proposals, (2) the Company does not use highly leveraged short-term incentives that would tend to drive high short-term risk decisions or unsustainable gains, and (3) the Company's executive stock ownership policy and the "recapture" policy described in the CD&A also serve as disincentives for unacceptable risk-taking. Based upon this review, the Compensation Committee has concluded that the Company's incentive compensation programs and related controls are designed appropriately and that risks arising from the Company's compensation policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

A more detailed description of how the Compensation Committee considers and determines executive compensation is described in this Proxy Statement in the CD&A section.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Board Committees

GOVERNANCE & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<p>Committee Chair</p> <p>Robert L. Wood</p>	<p>The Governance &amp; Nominating Committee assists the Board in its oversight of (a) the selection, qualifications, compensation and performance of Praxair's directors, (b) Praxair's governance, including the practices and effectiveness of the Board, and (c) various important public policy concerns that affect the Company. In furtherance of these responsibilities, the Governance &amp; Nominating Committee, among other duties,</p>
<p>Current Members:</p> <p>Edward G. Galante</p> <p>Raymond W. LeBoeuf</p> <p>Martin H. Richenhagen</p>	<p>(1) recommends to the Board nominees for election as directors, and periodically reviews potential candidates, including incumbent directors;</p> <p>(2) reviews policies with respect to the composition, compensation, organization and practices of the Board, and developments in corporate governance matters generally; and</p> <p>(3) reviews Praxair's policies and responses to broad public policy issues such as social responsibility, corporate citizenship, charitable contributions, legislative issues, and important shareholder issues, including management and shareholder proposals offered for shareholder approval.</p>
<p>Meetings in 2016</p> <p>5</p>	

FINANCE & PENSION COMMITTEE

<p>Committee Chair</p> <p>Larry D. McVay</p>	<p>The Finance &amp; Pension Committee assists the Board in its oversight of (a) Praxair's financial position and financing activities, (b) Praxair's financial risk management policies and activities, and (c) the ERISA-qualified, funded plans sponsored by Praxair. In furtherance of these responsibilities, the Finance &amp; Pension Committee, among other duties,</p>
<p>Current Members:</p> <p>Oscar Bernardes</p> <p>Ira D. Hall (retiring)</p> <p>Martin H. Richenhagen</p>	<p>(1) monitors Praxair's financial condition and its requirements for financing, and reviews, and recommends to the Board, the amounts, timing, types and terms of public stock issues and public and private debt issues;</p> <p>(2) reviews Praxair's foreign exchange and interest rate exposures, the results of its foreign exchange hedging activities, and Praxair's practices for managing insurable risks;</p> <p>(3) reviews Praxair's policies on dividends and stock repurchases; and</p> <p>(4) appoints administration and investment committees to act as fiduciaries of Praxair's funded benefit plans, and reviews the investment performance, administration and funded status of such plans.</p>

Wayne T.  
Smith

Robert L. Wood

Meetings in  
2016

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Board Committees

TECHNOLOGY, SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair	The Technology, Safety & Sustainability Committee assists the Board in its oversight of: (a) technology and research & development, including the use of technology in products applications; (b) safety, particularly the use of technology in enhancing safety performance; (c) sustainability and environmental matters; and (d) certain enterprise risks. In furtherance of these duties, the Technology, Safety & Sustainability Committee, among other duties,
Nance K. Dicciani	
Current Members:	(1) reviews and evaluates Praxair's use of technology and its technology capabilities and Praxair's strategies, objectives and effectiveness of research and development efforts;
Oscar Bernardes	(2) monitors and reviews Praxair's personnel, process and distribution safety goals and performance and the use of technology to enhance safety performance;
Edward G. Galante	(3) reviews Praxair's policies, programs and practices related to sustainability and the environment; and
Larry D. McVay	(4) provides oversight and guidance on certain enterprise risks that are not otherwise reviewed by the full Board of Directors or its other committees including (a) natural disasters, and (b) plant control systems security.
Meetings in 2016	
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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Director Compensation

Director Compensation

Director Compensation Program

The Company paid the amounts reported in the 2016 Director Compensation table below pursuant to its director compensation program in effect for 2016. The Company does not pay any director who is a Company employee (Mr. Angel in 2016) for serving as a member of the Board of Directors or any committee of the Board of Directors. The Governance & Nominating Committee of the Board determines non-management director compensation consistent with the Directors' Compensation principles set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The director compensation program in effect for 2016 is described below.

Cash Compensation

- A \$100,000 annual retainer paid quarterly.
- An additional \$15,000 annual retainer paid quarterly to each chairman of a Board committee (\$20,000 for the chairman of the Audit Committee).
- An additional \$25,000 annual retainer paid quarterly to the Lead Director.

Equity Compensation

Each active non-management director participates in the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan. The Plan allows for grants of stock options, restricted stock, unrestricted stock, and restricted stock units or any combination thereof, as the Governance & Nominating Committee determines. The Committee may make an annual equity grant under this Plan to each non-management director having a value up to an amount set by the Board. For 2016, the Board set this amount at \$160,000.

The Governance & Nominating Committee selected restricted stock units as the sole form of equity for the 2016 grant. The restricted stock units are fully vested (non-forfeitable) after one-year from the date of grant, and will be forfeited if a director's service on the Board terminates for any reason before the one year anniversary of the grant. Restricted stock units will be paid out as soon as practicable after the vesting date unless a director further defers the payout.

The number of restricted stock units granted so as to deliver the \$160,000 value as of the April 26, 2016 grant date was based upon the average of the closing prices of the Company's stock for the 200 trading

days prior to April 1, 2016. Because the closing price of the Company's stock on April 26, 2016 was higher than this 200-day average, the full grant date fair market value of the restricted stock units granted on April 26, 2016 and reported in the 2016 Director Compensation Table below was \$175,667.

### Fees Deferral Plan

Under the Directors' Fees Deferral Plan, non-management directors may, before the beginning of a calendar year, elect to defer to a later date payment of some or all of the cash fees that may be earned in the upcoming year. A director may fix this deferred payment date when making a deferral election. A director also chooses whether the deferred fees will earn amounts based upon a "Cash Account," or a "Stock Unit Account." The Cash Account earns interest at the prime rate, while the value of the Stock Unit Account tracks the market price of the Company's common stock. Stock Unit Accounts are also credited with additional stock units whenever dividends are paid on the Company's common stock. Dividends are credited at the same rate as they are paid to all shareholders. Stock units provide directors the economic equivalent of owning the Company's stock, except that the units may not be transferred or sold and they do not provide any voting or other shareholder rights. The "Cash Account" is paid to the director in cash on the designated payment date. The "Stock Unit Account" is paid in shares of Company common stock upon his or her termination of service as a director or the attainment of an age specified by the director not to exceed age 75.

### Expenses

The Company pays or reimburses directors for travel, lodging and related expenses incurred in connection with attending board and committee meetings, the Annual Meeting and other Company business-related events (including the expenses related to the attendance of spouses if they are specifically invited for appropriate business purposes), and may provide use of Company chartered aircraft. From time to time, the Company may reimburse a director's expenses for his or her participation in third party-supplied continuing education related to the director's board or committee service.



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Compensation

The table below shows (i) the fees that the Company's non-management directors earned in 2016, (ii) the value of restricted stock units granted in

2016, and (iii) other amounts disclosed as "All Other Compensation."

## 2016 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension		Total
					Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation	All Other Compensation	
	(\$)(1)	(\$)(2)	(\$)(3)	(\$)	Earnings(4)	(\$)(5)	(\$)
Oscar Bernardes	100,000	175,667	0	0	0	0	275,667
Nance K. Dicciani	115,000	175,667	0	0	0	15,000	305,667
Edward G. Galante	115,000	175,667	0	0	0	0	290,667
Ira D. Hall (6)	120,000	175,667	0	0	0	15,000	310,667
Raymond W. LeBoeuf	100,000	175,667	0	0	0	15,000	290,667
Larry D. McVay	115,000	175,667	0	0	0	14,000	304,667
Denise L. Ramos (7)	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	75,000
Martin H. Richenhagen	100,000	175,667	0	0	0	0	275,667
Wayne T. Smith	100,000	175,667	0	0	0	0	275,667
Robert L. Wood	140,000	175,667	0	0	0	0	315,667

(1) Certain non-management directors elected to defer some or all of their cash retainers earned in 2016 pursuant to the Directors' Fees Deferral Plan described above. Any deferred amounts are included in this column.

(2) Full grant date fair value of restricted stock units granted to each director on April 26, 2016 as determined under accounting standards related to shared-based compensation.

(3) At December 31, 2016, the non-management directors had the following outstanding stock option awards: Oscar Bernardes 0 shares; Nance K. Dicciani, 6,146 shares; Edward G. Galante, 9,025 shares; Ira D. Hall, 0 shares; Raymond W. LeBoeuf, 8,485 shares; Larry D. McVay 0 shares; Denise L. Ramos, 0 shares; Martin H. Richenhagen, 0 shares; Wayne T. Smith, 0 shares; and Robert L. Wood, 3,885 shares.

(4)

Some non-management directors defer cash fees pursuant to the Directors' Fees Deferral Plan and/or have balances from previous deferrals. As none of the earnings on these deferred amounts is above-market or otherwise preferential, no amounts are included in this column.

- (5) Amounts in this column do not represent compensation paid to the directors. These amounts are the Company's 2016 matching contributions for the director's eligible charitable donations. SEC rules require disclosure of these amounts in this table. In 2016, Praxair matched personal donations to eligible charitable institutions up to a \$15,000 maximum per year per donor. This matching gift program is available to Company employees and non-management directors on the same basis.
- (6) Mr. Hall will retire from the Board immediately prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting.
- (7) Ms. Ramos resigned from the Board in September 2016, and received compensation through the effective date of her resignation.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Director Nominees

### Director Nominees

### Experience and Qualifications of All Nominees

Nine persons will be elected to the Board to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of shareholders and the election and qualifications of their successors. The Governance & Nominating Committee has nominated each current director of the Board for reelection at the Annual Meeting except for Mr. Hall, who is retiring from the Board immediately before the Annual Meeting. The Governance & Nominating Committee believes that each director nominee has an established record of accomplishment in areas relevant to our business and objectives and possesses the characteristics identified in our Corporate Governance Guidelines as essential to a well-functioning and deliberative governing body, including integrity, independence and commitment.

Each of the director nominees listed below has experience as a senior executive of a public company. Each nominee also is serving or has served as a director of one or more public companies and on a variety of board committees. As such, each has executive management and director oversight experience in most, if not all, of the following areas which are critical to the conduct of the Company's business, including: strategy development and implementation, risk assessment and management, financial accounting and reporting, internal controls, corporate finance, capital project evaluation, the evaluation, compensation, motivation and retention of senior executive talent, public policies as they affect global industrial corporations, compliance, corporate governance, productivity management, safety management, project management, and, in most cases, global operations. Many of the nominees also bring particular insights into specific end-markets and foreign markets that are important to the Company. These nominees collectively provide a range of perspectives, experiences and competencies well-suited to providing advice and counsel to management and to overseeing the Company's business and operations. In addition to these qualifications that are shared by all of the nominees, more specific information about each of their individual experience and qualifications is included below.

The following pages include information about those persons currently serving on Praxair's Board of Directors who have been nominated for election to serve until the 2018 annual meeting and until their successors are elected and qualify. The graph below shows the number of directors who have certain of the skills, qualifications and experience in key areas that are important for the Board's oversight of the Company's business.

### Director Meeting Attendance

During 2016, the Board held nine meetings. The nominees for reelection to the Board collectively attended 98% of all Board meetings and meetings of committees of which they are members.

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## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

## STEPHEN F. ANGEL

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Praxair

Age	61	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	PPG Industries, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> <li>• Praxair Foreign Markets</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• International business</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

## BIOGRAPHY

Chief Executive Officer of Praxair, Inc. since January 1, 2007, and Chairman since May 1, 2007. Before becoming the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Angel served as President & Chief Operating Officer from March to December 2006, and as Executive Vice President from 2001 to March 2006. Prior to joining Praxair in 2001, Mr. Angel spent 22 years in a variety of management positions with General Electric.

Mr. Angel is a director of PPG Industries, Inc. (where he serves on the Officers-Directors Compensation Committee and is Chairman of the Technology and Environment Committee). He is also a member of The Business Council, is a Co-Chair of the U.S. – Brazil CEO Forum, and a member of the Board of the U.S. – China Business Council where he serves on its Nominating Committee.

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and a former senior operating executive at General Electric, a global diversified manufacturing company, Mr. Angel brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He also has a deep insight into the industrial gases industry and the needs, challenges and global opportunities of the Company in particular. Mr. Angel utilizes his deep operating experience and knowledge of the industry and the Company in performing his role as Chairman to, among other things, drive capital discipline and to help facilitate Board discussions and keep the Board apprised of significant developments in the Company's business.

## OSCAR BERNARDES

Managing partner at Yguapora Consultoria e Empreendimentos Ltda.		
Age	70	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	DASA Laboratorios da America SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair Foreign Markets</li> </ul>
	Localiza Rent A Car S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations</li> </ul>
	Marcopolo S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International business</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

**BIOGRAPHY**

Managing partner at Yguapora Consultoria e Empreendimentos Ltda. in São Paulo, Brazil, a consulting and investment firm. From 2003 to 2010, he was a managing partner at Integra Assessoria em Negocios Ltda. in São Paulo, Brazil, a consulting firm specializing in financial restructuring, governance and interim management in turnaround situations. From 1997 to 1999, he was Chief Executive Officer of Bunge International, a leading global agribusiness and food company. Prior to joining Bunge, he was Senior Vice President and Managing Partner for Latin America with Booz Allen and Hamilton, Inc. and prior to that, operations director in Brazil for Ferro Corporation.

Mr. Bernardes is a director of three public companies in Brazil: DASA Laboratorios da America SA, Localiza Rent A Car S.A. (where he is Chairman of the Audit Committee), and Marcopolo S.A. During the past five years, he was also a director of Gerdau S.A., Metalurgica Gerdau S.A., Johnson Electric Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong, and São Paulo Alpargatas S.A. He is also on the advisory board of Amerys, Johnson Electric and a Board Member of Votorantim Participacoes and OMINI, both private companies.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former chief executive officer at Bunge International, and as a senior executive of Booz Allen and Hamilton, Mr. Bernardes brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He also has an in-depth understanding of markets and business operations in South America generally, and in Brazil particularly, where the Company has a large presence.

## NANCE K. DICCIANI

Former President &amp; Chief Executive Officer of Honeywell Specialty Materials

Age	69	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	AgroFresh Solutions, Inc. Halliburton Company LyondellBasell Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> <li>• Praxair Foreign Markets</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• International business</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

## BIOGRAPHY

Former President & Chief Executive Officer of Honeywell Specialty Materials, a strategic business group of Honeywell International, Inc., from 2001 until her retirement in 2008. Dr. Dicciani joined Honeywell from Rohm and Haas Company where she was Senior Vice President and Business Group Executive of Chemical Specialties and Director of the European Region, responsible for business strategy and worldwide operations of five business units and for the company's operations and infrastructure in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Previously, she served as Rohm and Haas' Vice President and General Manager of the Petroleum Chemicals division and headed the company's worldwide Monomers business.

In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Dicciani to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. She has served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the American Chemistry Council and has chaired its Research Committee. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of AgroFresh Solutions, Inc. (where she serves as non-executive Chair and a member of the Compensation Committee). Dr. Dicciani also serves on the Board of Directors of Halliburton Company (where she serves on the Audit, and the Health, Safety and Environment Committees), LyondellBasell Industries (where she serves on the Finance, and the Health, Safety and Environmental Committees), and on the Board of Trustees of Villanova University. During the past five years, Dr.

Dicciani also served on the Board of Directors of Rockwood Holdings, Inc. (where she was the Lead Director and served on the Compensation Committee and was the Chairperson of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee).

#### EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former senior operating executive at Honeywell, a global industrial and consumer products manufacturing company, and at Rohm and Haas, a global chemicals company, Dr. Dicciani brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. She also has a substantial understanding of technology policy, management and markets. Her technical expertise in the chemical industry, an important end-market for the Company, and her international operations experience, also enable her to provide the Board and management with valuable insight and counsel.



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

## EDWARD G. GALANTE

Former Senior Vice President of ExxonMobil Corporation

Age	66	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	Celanese Corporation • Clean Harbors, Inc. • Tesoro Corporation •	Praxair Foreign Markets Operations International business Technology Risk Management Public company board

## BIOGRAPHY

Former Senior Vice President and a member of the Management Committee of ExxonMobil Corporation from 2001 until his retirement in 2006. His principal responsibilities included the worldwide downstream business - Refining & Supply, Fuels Marketing, Lubricants and Specialties, and Research and Engineering. Immediately prior to that, Mr. Galante was Executive Vice President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company.

Mr. Galante is the Lead Independent director of Celanese Corporation (where he serves on the Compensation and Management Development Committee and the Environmental, Health, Safety and Public Policy Committee), a director of Clean Harbors, Inc. (where he is Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee and serves on the Compensation Committee), and a director of Tesoro Corporation (where he serves on the Compensation Committee and the Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Committee). He also serves on the Board of the United Way Foundation of Metropolitan Dallas, and is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern University. During the past five years, Mr. Galante also served on the Board of Directors of Foster Wheeler Ltd. (where he served on the Audit Committee and was the Chairman of the Compensation and Executive Development Committee).

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former senior operating executive at ExxonMobil, one of the largest global energy companies, Mr. Galante brings the senior executive experience and skills described above and also has significant experience in the operations and management of a large, global business. He has substantial experience in the oil, gas, refining and chemical sectors of the energy industry, all of which are important end markets for the Company, as well as an in-depth understanding of engineering management, operations and technology, which are important in the execution of many of the Company's large capital projects.

**RAYMOND W. LEBOEUF**

Former Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of PPG Industries, Inc.

Age	70	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	MassMutual Financial Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> <li>• Praxair Foreign Markets</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• International business</li> <li>• Financial Expert</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

**BIOGRAPHY**

Former Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of PPG Industries, Inc. (principally a manufacturer of coatings) from 1997 to 2005. From 1995 to 1997, Mr. LeBoeuf served as President & Chief Operating Officer of PPG Industries, Inc. and was elected a director in 1995. From 1988-1994, he was the Chief Financial Officer of PPG.

Mr. LeBoeuf is a director of MassMutual Financial Group (where he serves on the Audit Committee and is the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee).

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of PPG Industries, a global diversified manufacturing company, Mr. LeBoeuf brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He also has an in-depth understanding of corporate and international finance, accounting, financial reporting and internal controls and the review and preparation of financial statements.

## LARRY D. MCVAY

Principal of Edgewater Energy, LLC

Age	69	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	Callon Petroleum Company Chicago Bridge and Iron Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxair Foreign Markets</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• International business</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

## BIOGRAPHY

Principal of Edgewater Energy, LLC, an oil and gas industry investment firm. Mr. McVay served as the Chief Operating Officer of TNK-BP Holding from 2003 until his retirement in 2006. TNK-BP Holding, based in Moscow, Russia, was a vertically integrated oil company that was 50%-owned by BP PLC. Mr. McVay's responsibilities at TNK-BP included executive leadership for the upstream, downstream, oil field services, technology and supply chain management. He previously served as Technology Vice President — Operations and Vice President of Health Safety Environment for BP's Exploration and Production operations from 2000 to 2003. Prior to joining BP, Mr. McVay held numerous positions at Amoco, including engineering management and senior operating leadership positions.

Mr. McVay is a director of Callon Petroleum Company (where he serves on the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating and Governance Committee and is the Chairman of the Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee) and Chicago Bridge & Iron Company (where he serves on the Audit Committee, the Strategic Initiatives Committee and is the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee).

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former senior operating executive at BP, one of the largest global energy companies, Mr. McVay brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He has an in-depth understanding of engineering management

and of worldwide energy markets, operations and technology, all of which are important to the Company's operations, particularly those involving large capital project investments. He also has practical experience in operating in Russia and the Middle East, both of which are emerging markets for the Company.

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## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

## MARTIN H. RICHENHAGEN

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of AGCO Corporation

Age	64	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Praxair Foreign Markets</li> </ul>
Other Public Company Directorships	AGCO Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations</li> </ul>
	PPG Industries, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International business</li> <li>Risk Management</li> <li>Public company board</li> </ul>

## BIOGRAPHY

President and Chief Executive Officer of AGCO Corporation, a global manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, since 2004, and Chairman of the Board of Directors since 2006. From 2003 -2004, Mr. Richenhagen was Executive Vice President of Forbo International SA, a flooring material company headquartered in Switzerland. He also served as Group President for CLAAS KgaA mbH, a global agricultural equipment manufacturer and distributor headquartered in Germany, from 1998 – 2002. Mr. Richenhagen was the Senior Executive Vice President for Schindler Deutschland Holdings GmbH in Germany, a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of elevators and escalators, from 1995 – 1998.

Mr. Richenhagen is a director of PPG Industries, Inc., a leading coatings and specialty products and services company (where he is Chairman of the Audit Committee and serves on the Officers-Directors Compensation Committee). He is the Chairman of the German American Chambers of Commerce of the United States, and he is a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mr. Richenhagen has served as Chairman of the Board of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and is a Life Honorary Director of AEM.

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of AGCO Corporation, a large international manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, Mr. Richenhagen brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. In particular, his background includes extensive international, operational and manufacturing experience. In addition, AGCO Corporation operates in many of the foreign markets in which the Company operates, including Europe and South America, and Mr. Richenhagen therefore adds his understanding of these large, foreign markets where the Company has a significant presence.

## WAYNE T. SMITH

Chairman, President &amp; Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems, Inc.

Age	71	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Praxair End-Markets</li> </ul>

Other Public Company Directorships	Community Health Systems, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operations</li><li>• Risk Management</li><li>• Public company board</li></ul>
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## BIOGRAPHY

Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems, Inc. (a hospital and healthcare services company) since 2001. In 1997, Mr. Smith was elected President and then Chief Executive Officer and a director of Community Health Systems, Inc. Prior to joining Community Health Systems, he served as Chief Operating Officer, President, and a director of Humana Inc.

Mr. Smith is a trustee of Auburn University, and is a trustee and the past Chairman of the Federation of American Hospitals.

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As the Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems, a large healthcare services company, Mr. Smith brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He also has an in-depth understanding of the health care business and the regulatory, compliance and business environment in which it operates. Mr. Smith also brings his experience in leading a senior management team on the numerous issues required of the CEO of Community Health, as well as his experience in leading a board of directors as the Chairman of Community Health.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

## Director Nominees

**ROBERT L. WOOD**

Former Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Chemtura Corporation

Age	62	Qualification Highlights
Director Since	2004	
Other Public Company Directorships	MRC Global Inc.	
	Univar Inc.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Praxair End-Markets</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Public company board</li> </ul>

## BIOGRAPHY

Former Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Chemtura Corporation (a specialty chemicals company) from 2004 to 2008. Prior to joining Chemtura, Mr. Wood served in various senior management positions at Dow Chemical Company, most recently as business group president for Thermosets and Dow Automotive, from November 2000. Mr. Wood has been Praxair's Lead Director since January 1, 2013.

Mr. Wood is a director of MRC Global Inc. (where he serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Governance Committee), and a director of Univar Inc. (where he serves on the Audit Committee). During the past five years, Mr. Wood was also a director of Jarden Corporation (where he served on the Nominating and Policies Committee and was Chairman of the Audit Committee). He has served as Chairman of the American Plastics Council and the American Chemistry Council, and is a member of the United States Olympic Committee.

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

As a former Chief Executive Officer of Chemtura Corporation, a global specialty chemicals company, and a former senior operating executive of Dow, a global chemicals company, Mr. Wood brings the senior executive experience and skills described above. He also has a deep understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities facing a global basic materials company. Mr. Wood's knowledge of the chemicals industry, an important end market for the Company, provides valuable insight to the Board and management.





ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Nine Directors will be elected to serve until the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders, and until their successors are elected and qualify. The Governance & Nominating Committee recommended to the Board, and the Board approved and recommends that Stephen F. Angel, Oscar Bernardes, Nance K. Dicciani, Edward G. Galante, Raymond W. LeBoeuf, Larry D. McVay, Martin H. Richenhagen, Wayne T. Smith, and Robert L. Wood, each be elected to serve for a one-year term, until the 2018 annual meeting of shareholders, and until their successors are elected and qualify. Each nominee has agreed to be named in this Proxy Statement and to serve if elected. Qualifications and biographical data for each of these nominees is presented above. If one or more of the nominees becomes unavailable for election or service as a director, the proxy holders will vote your shares for one or more substitutes designated by the Board of Directors, or the size of the Board of Directors will be reduced.

To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy by the shareholders entitled to vote (meaning the number of shares voted “for” a nominee must exceed the number of shares voted “against” such nominee). See the vote counting rules on page 76 of this Proxy Statement.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS YOU VOTE IN  
FAVOR OF EACH OF THE NINE NOMINEES  
FOR ELECTION TO THE PRAXAIR BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS

Audit Matters

Independent Auditor Selection Process

Audit Matters

Independent Auditor Selection Process

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation (including approval of audit and non-audit fees), retention and oversight of the independent registered public accounting firm that audits our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PWC”) as our independent auditor for 2017. PWC has served as our independent auditor since 1992. Representatives of PWC are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting to be available to respond to appropriate questions and to make a statement if they desire.

The Audit Committee annually reviews PWC’s independence and performance in deciding whether to select PWC as the independent auditor. In the course of these reviews, the Audit Committee considers, among other things:

- PWC’s recent performance on the Praxair audit, including the results of an internal, worldwide survey of PWC’s service and quality;
- PWC’s capability and expertise in providing audit and related services to companies with the breadth and complexity of our worldwide operations;
- An analysis of PWC’s known legal risks and any significant legal or regulatory proceedings in which it is involved;
- External data on audit quality and performance, including recent Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) reports on PWC and its peer firms;
- The appropriateness of PWC’s fees for audit and non-audit services, on both an absolute basis and as compared to the fees paid by our peer companies;
- PWC’s independence (discussed below); and
- PWC’s tenure as our independent auditor, including the benefits of having a tenured auditor and controls and processes that help ensure PWC’s independence.

TENURE BENEFITS

Higher audit quality. Through its years of experience with Praxair, PWC has gained institutional knowledge of and deep experience regarding Praxair’s global operations and businesses, accounting policies and practices, and internal control over financial reporting.

Efficient fee structure. PWC’s aggregate fees are competitive with fees paid by our peer companies in part because of PWC’s familiarity with our business and the Audit Committee’s negotiation of three-year fixed fee engagements.

Continuity Efficiency. Bringing on a new auditor would require a significant time commitment that could distract from management’s focus on financial reporting and

INDEPENDENCE CONTROLS

Thorough Audit Committee oversight. The Audit Committee’s oversight includes private meetings with PWC (the full committee meets with PWC at each of its five regularly scheduled meetings per year), and a comprehensive annual evaluation by the Committee in determining whether to engage PWC.

Rigorous limits on non-audit services. Praxair requires Audit Committee preapproval of non-audit services, limits certain types of non-audit services that otherwise would be permissible under SEC rules, and requires that PWC is engaged only when it is best-suited for the job (see discussion below).

Strong internal PWC independence process and strong regulatory framework. PWC conducts periodic internal quality reviews of its audit work, assigns separate lead and concurring partners for Praxair and rotates lead partners at least every five years. PWC, as an

internal controls and the Audit Committee's oversight of these matters.

independent registered public accounting firm, is subject to PCAOB inspections, and PCAOB and SEC oversight.

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## AUDIT MATTERS

### Auditor Independence

#### Auditor Independence

As noted in the Audit Committee Charter and in the Audit Committee Report presented below, the independent auditor reports directly to the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee is charged with evaluating its independence. The Audit Committee has adopted the policies and procedures discussed below that are designed to ensure that PWC is independent. Based on this evaluation and representations from PWC, the Audit Committee believes that PWC is independent and that it is in the best interest of Praxair and our shareholders to retain PWC as our independent auditor for 2017.

#### Non-Audit Engagement Services Pre-Approval Policy

The Audit Committee has retained PWC (along with other accounting firms) to provide non-audit services in 2017. We understand the need for PWC to maintain objectivity and independence as the auditor of our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, the Audit Committee has established a policy whereby all non-audit fees of the independent auditor must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee or its Chairman, and has adopted a guideline that, absent

special circumstances, the aggregate cost of non-audit engagements in a year should not exceed the audit fees for that year. The non-audit fees that are incurred are typically far less than this limit and, as noted below in the report on independent auditor fees, such non-audit fees were approximately 2.6% of audit fees in 2016. All of the Audit-Related Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees disclosed below were approved by the Audit Committee.

#### Audit Partner and Audit Firm Rotation

The Audit Committee's policy is that the audit engagement partner of the independent auditor must rotate off the Company's account at least every five years. With respect to audit firm rotation, the Audit Committee believes that it is inappropriate to establish a fixed limit on the tenure of the independent auditor. Continuity and the resulting in-depth knowledge of the Company strengthens the audit. Moreover, the mandatory partner rotation policy expressed above, normal turnover of audit personnel, the Audit Committee's policy regarding the hiring of auditor personnel as described below, and the Audit

Committee's practices restricting non-audit engagements of the independent auditor as described above, all mitigate against any loss of objectivity that theoretically could arise from a long-term relationship. As provided in the Audit Committee's Charter and as further described above, the Audit Committee continuously evaluates the independence and effectiveness of the independent auditor and its personnel, and the cost and quality of its audit services in order to ensure that the Audit Committee and the Company's shareholders are receiving the best audit services available.

#### Hiring Policy – Auditor Employees

The Audit Committee has established a policy whereby no former employee of the independent auditor may be elected or appointed an officer of the Company earlier than two years after termination of the engagement or employment.

## AUDIT MATTERS

## Fees Paid to the Independent Auditor

## Fees Paid to the Independent Auditor

The Audit Committee authorizes and oversees the fees paid to PWC for audit and non-audit services. The aggregate fees billed by PWC in 2015 and 2016 for its services are set forth in the table below, followed by a description of the fees:

## Types of Fees

						Non-Audit Fees
						% of Total Audit
	Audit	Audit - Related	Tax	All Other	Total	Fees
2016	6,206,000	28,000	94,000	39,000	6,367,000	2.6%
2015	6,131,000	38,000	98,000	24,000	6,291,000	2.6%

**AUDIT FEES.** These are fees paid for the audit of Praxair's annual financial statements, the reviews of the financial statements included in Praxair's reports on Form 10-Q, the opinion regarding the Company's internal controls over financial reporting as required by §404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and services that are normally provided by the independent auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

**AUDIT-RELATED FEES.** These are fees paid for assurance and related services rendered that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of Praxair's financial statements other than the fees disclosed in the foregoing paragraph. These

fees included those related to due diligence services and certifications required by customers and others.

**TAX FEES.** These are fees paid for professional services rendered for tax compliance and tax preparation, including preparation of original and amended tax returns, and claims for refunds.

**ALL OTHER FEES.** These are fees paid for services rendered other than those described in the foregoing paragraphs. These services related primarily to consulting and advice in regard to local country accounting issues for non-U.S. subsidiaries.



## AUDIT MATTERS

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Report

As set forth in the Audit Committee's Charter, the management of the Company is responsible for: (1) the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements; (2) the Company's accounting and financial reporting principles; and (3) internal controls and procedures designed to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards, including internal control over financial reporting. The independent auditor is responsible for auditing the Company's financial statements and expressing an opinion as to their conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

A principal role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in its oversight of the Company's financial reporting process. In the performance of its oversight function, the Audit Committee has considered and discussed the audited financial statements with management and the independent auditor. The Audit Committee has also discussed with the independent auditor the matters that are required to be discussed in accordance with Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) standards relating to communications with audit committees.

The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent auditor its independence from the Company and its management. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letters from the independent auditor required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB. The Audit Committee has also received written confirmations from management with respect to non-audit services provided to the Company by the independent auditor in calendar year

2016 and those planned for 2017. The Audit Committee has further considered whether the provision of such non-audit services is compatible with maintaining PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

In its oversight role for these matters, the Audit Committee relies on the information and representations made by management and the independent auditor. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's oversight does not provide an independent basis to certify that the audit of the Company's financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, that the financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or that the Company's independent auditor is, in fact, independent.

Based upon the review and discussions described in this report, and subject to the limitations on the role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee referred to above and in the Charter, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Form 10-K and Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the SEC.

The Audit Committee



Raymond W. LeBoeuf, Chairman  
Nance K. Dicciani

Ira D. Hall  
Larry D. McVay

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ITEM 2: PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

ITEM 2: PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Under New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) and SEC rules, selection of the Company’s independent auditor is the direct responsibility of the Audit Committee. The Board has determined, however, to seek shareholder ratification of that selection as a good practice in order to provide shareholders an avenue to express their views on this important matter. If shareholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee may reconsider the appointment. Even if the current selection is ratified by shareholders, the Audit Committee reserves the right to appoint a different independent auditor at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such change would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Information concerning the independent auditor may be found under the caption “Audit Matters” above. The Audit Committee believes the selection of PWC as the Company’s independent auditor for 2017 is in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders.

In order for this proposal to be approved by the shareholders, a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on this matter must be voted FOR approval. See the vote counting rules on page 76 of this Proxy Statement.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THIS PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE’S SELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.**

Executive Compensation Matters

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Executive Compensation Matters

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) provides context for the policies and decisions underlying the compensation reported in the executive compensation tables included in this Proxy Statement for Praxair’s Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”), Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) and the three other executive officers who had the highest total

compensation for 2016, as set forth in the “Summary Compensation Table” of this Proxy Statement (these five executive officers are collectively referred to as the “Named Executive Officers” or the “NEOs”). The Compensation Committee of the Company’s Board of Directors is responsible for policies and decisions regarding the compensation and benefits for NEOs.

Executive Compensation Highlights

2016 Company Performance: High Quality Results

In addition to building network density in targeted geographies to increase operating efficiency, profitability, cash flow and return on capital, the Company made significant strides on implementing the core strategy which benefits not only supported 2016, but laid the groundwork for future earnings over the next several years. The Company actively focused efforts towards faster growing resilient end-markets, which include food, beverage, healthcare, specialty gases, environmental and aerospace while remaining well positioned for any recovery in industrial end-markets. As another important element of the strategy, the Company won seven new large on-site projects that brought the backlog to just over \$1.5 billion, with 70% of that value supporting Praxair’s extensive network in the U.S. Gulf Coast.

However, Praxair faced significant headwinds from global macro-economic trends and foreign currency. The continued strengthening of the U.S. dollar reduced earnings from the translation of foreign subsidiary income by 3%. Additionally, up-stream energy and manufacturing end-markets continued to decline, primarily in North America. Although foreign currency exchange rates and other macroeconomic weakening in demand are outside of management’s control, Praxair continued to focus on high-quality results and during 2016 proactively took cost reduction measures to protect the quality of the existing business. Praxair remains well-positioned for strong accretive growth when key end markets recover and foreign currency exchange rate headwinds reverse.

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## 2016 Variable Pay Aligned with Shareholder Interests

For calendar year 2016, financial results such as cash flow and operating margins continued to demonstrate the success of the Praxair management team. Annual variable compensation goals were set to align target payout with earnings guidance provided to shareholders at the beginning of the year. Though continued foreign currency exchange and other macro-economic weakening impacted results, financial performance was near target, and strategic non-financial performance was strong.

For long-term incentives, whose challenging goals were established three years ago, performance continued to be weak, and for a second year in a row, significant value related to performance share units (“PSUs”) was not realized.

2016 PAYOUTS: The variable compensation programs continue to work as designed.

- Annual variable compensation business result
- 85% financial
- 21% strategic non-financial
- ROC performance share units: 60% of target

\* Operating margins, EBITDA margin, and ROC are non-GAAP measures. A reconciliation of reported amounts to non-GAAP measures can be found in Praxair's Form 2016 10-K and Annual Report in “Item 7 - Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in the sub-section called “Non-GAAP Financial Measures.”

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

## Shareholder Feedback is Critical to Executive Compensation Design

Praxair continues to have a long-standing, robust outreach program whereby management regularly discusses executive compensation design and other relevant matters with shareholders. The Compensation Committee carefully considers shareholder feedback as it makes compensation program decisions.

In April 2015, certain proxy advisory firms recommended that shareholders vote against the Company's Advisory Vote on NEO Compensation, and as a result, additional shareholder outreach was conducted. Fifty-four individual meetings were held, and collectively, shareholders representing 49% of shares outstanding provided feedback for consideration.

In response to, and after carefully considering shareholder feedback, the Compensation Committee approved changes to certain elements of the Company's executive compensation program as highlighted below. Some of the changes were retroactive to 2015, and others affected the Company's 2016 executive compensation programs.

These changes were disclosed to shareholders in the 2016 proxy statement, and shareholders approved the Say-on-Pay proposal in April 2016 with 94% of shares voted in its favor, compared to 62% in favor in 2015 before the changes were made.

What We Heard	What We Did	Effective	For More Detail
Concern that variable compensation awards can be too greatly influenced by elements other than financial performance	Reduced and limited the impact of the non-financial performance on payouts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial performance must account for at least 80% of total business performance for NEOs</li> <li>Eliminated the individual performance adjustment for the CEO's payout</li> </ul>	2015  (retroactive)	See page 41
Want additional alignment with shareholder returns in the variable compensation program	Revised the annual variable compensation program by increasing the weighting of net income and by replacing the working capital metric with a cash flow metric	2016	See page 41
ROC is viewed as a solid measure for long-term incentive equity awards. Additionally, some shareholders also prefer relative metrics and linking payouts to TSR	Modified the annual performance share unit grants to incorporate a relative total shareholder return ("TSR") measure, while maintaining the ROC measure	2016	See page 45

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Concern about CEO special pension arrangements	Agreements to provide additional service credit legacy for the Company's pension program have not been made with any current executive since 2001, and will not be made in the future	See page 51
Desire for enhanced disclosure in the proxy statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance goals disclosed for the TSR and 2016 ROC performance share units in the year of grant</li><li>• Improved the readability and redesigned the presentation of the proxy statement</li></ul>	See page 45

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Alignment of Executive Compensation Programs with Praxair Business Objectives

The Compensation Committee seeks to achieve its executive compensation objectives by aligning the design of the Company’s executive compensation programs with the Company’s business objectives ensuring a balance between financial and strategic non-financial goals.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS OBJECTIVE:** Achieve sustained growth in profitability and shareholder return resulting in a robust cash flow to fund capital investment growth opportunities, dividend payments and share repurchases.

- Annual performance-based variable compensation earned by meeting or exceeding pre-established financial goals.
- Annual grants of performance share units that vest based upon performance results over three years.
- Annual grants of stock options, the value of which is directly linked to the growth in the Company’s stock price.

**STRATEGIC BUSINESS OBJECTIVES:**

Maintain world-class standards in safety, environmental responsibility, global compliance, productivity, talent management, and financial controls.

- Annual payout of variable compensation is impacted by non-financial performance in these areas.
- Attract and retain executives who thrive in a sustainable performance-driven culture.
- A competitive compensation and benefits program regularly benchmarked against peer companies of similar size in market cap, revenue and other financial metrics and business attributes.
- Realized compensation that varies with Company performance, with downside risk and upside opportunity.

Best Practices Supporting Executive Compensation Objectives

What We Do:	What We Do Not Do:
<p>Link a substantial portion of total compensation to Company performance:</p> <p>Annual variable compensation awards based principally upon performance against objective, pre-established financial goals</p>	<p>X Guarantee bonuses for executive officers</p> <p>X Regularly grant time vested restricted stock</p> <p>X Have employment agreements for executive officers</p>



Equity grants consisting of performance share units and stock options, focused on longer term shareholder value creation	X Allow pledging or hedging of Company stock held by officers
Set compensation within competitive market ranges	X Pay tax “gross-ups” on perquisites and personal benefits unless related to relocation expenses that are available to employees generally
Require substantial stock ownership and retention requirements for officers	X Accelerate equity award vesting upon change-in-control
Limit perquisites and personal benefits	X Include an excise tax “gross-up” provision in any change-in-control arrangements
Have double trigger change-in-control severance agreements and, for post-2009 agreements, with payouts of 2 times salary plus target variable compensation	
Include double trigger vesting requirements for officer equity awards in the event of a change-in-control	
Have a clawback (“recapture”) policy that applies to performance based equity and cash awards including gains realized through exercise or sale of equity securities	

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Praxair's Executive Compensation Program

#### Praxair's Executive Compensation Objectives

Praxair's executive compensation program is focused on motivating performance to effectively build shareholder value. The Company delivers a total compensation package that includes salary, performance-based cash and equity incentives, and a competitive employee benefits program. The Compensation Committee has established the following objectives for Praxair's executive compensation program:

- attract and retain executive talent;
- motivate executives to deliver strong business results in line with shareholder expectations;
- build and support a sustainable performance-driven culture; and
- encourage executives to own Company stock, aligning their interests with those of shareholders.

#### Determining Compensation Opportunity

In order to align executive compensation with Company performance, the Compensation Committee considers a variety of factors, including the degree to which executive compensation is "at risk."

#### At Risk Pay

Between 74% and 89% of the NEOs' target total direct compensation opportunity for 2016 was in the form of performance-based variable compensation

and equity grants, motivating them to deliver strong business performance and drive shareholder value. This portion of compensation is "at risk" and dependent upon the Company's achievement of pre-established financial and other business goals set by the Compensation Committee and, for equity incentives, the Company's stock price performance. The annual variable compensation payout and the ultimate value of the equity compensation awards could be zero if the Company does not perform.

CEO Pay Mix

Performance-based equity compensation is valued at the “grant-date fair value” of each award as determined under accounting standards related to share-based compensation.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Aggregate Compensation

**CONSIDERATIONS:** The Compensation Committee considers whether the value of each NEO's aggregate compensation package is consistent with its objectives for Praxair's executive compensation program. It evaluates the following factors when determining compensation levels for NEOs:

- internal equity: respective role, responsibilities and reporting relationships
- experience and time-in-position
- contribution to results, and exhibition of values, competencies and behaviors critical to the success of the Company
- year-to-year updates in market median data
- retention objectives

The Compensation Committee does not have a set formula for determining target compensation opportunity, however it refers to the median benchmark data during its regular review. Compensation levels tend to be established towards the lower end of a competitive market range for an executive officer who is new to the role. Conversely, a longer tenured executive officer who consistently performs at a high level will have target compensation levels set higher in the competitive range.

As part of the review, the Compensation Committee compares the CEO's pay to that of the other NEOs. As in previous years, the CEO's pay as a multiple of the next highest paid NEO was determined to be appropriate, as the organization does not have a Chief Operating Officer, and the CEO has business executives reporting directly to him. It was also noted that the ratio of CEO pay to the pay of other NEOs collectively changes year-over-year to reflect shifts in

executive officer roles from promotions to, and retirements from, those roles. For 2016, two NEOs were short tenured (three years or less) and the CEO has been in his role for ten years.

#### Compensation Peer Group

The Compensation Committee reviews the benchmark companies used to assess competitive market compensation ranges for U.S.-based officers (the Key Company Group). Elements considered when choosing companies to be included are:

- **Market capitalization** Considerable weight is given to market capitalization, as the Company's market capitalization has consistently been about three times its annual revenue.
- **Revenue and net income** Companies are included in the review if they are generally similar in size to Praxair in one or more of these measures.
- **Other considerations** Assets, number of employees, whether or not a company had global operations and whether a company's operations were similar to that of Praxair or Praxair's customers are considered.

Though the Compensation Committee reviews the Key Company Group annually, it values year-over-year consistency in the peer group and only makes changes when appropriate. When the review was performed in October 2015, the Compensation Committee determined to remove Kraft Foods from the peer group as it no longer was a publically traded company. The following Key Company Group was used for setting 2016 compensation:

Key Company Group

Air Products and Chemicals	Danaher	Kimberly-Clark
Anadarko Petroleum Corp	DuPont	Monsanto
Applied Materials	Ecolab	Mosaic
Baker Hughes	EMC	Norfolk Southern
Baxter International	General Mills	PPG Industries
Colgate-Palmolive	Illinois Tool Works	Sherwin-Williams
Corning	International Paper	Stryker
CSX Corp	Kellogg	Texas Instruments
Cummins		

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Role of the Compensation Consultant

The Compensation Committee engages a third-party compensation consultant to assist in analysis as is necessary to inform and support the Compensation Committee's decisions on executive compensation. At each of its meetings, the Compensation Committee conducts a private session with its consultant without management present. For its consideration of 2016 executive compensation, the Compensation Committee engaged Deloitte Consulting LLP ("Deloitte Consulting").

In 2016, the scope of Deloitte Consulting's engagement included:

- Advice on the determination of NEO's compensation, the consultant's view of the CEO's recommendations for other NEO compensation, as well as input on the CEO's compensation
- Preparation and presentation to the Compensation Committee of reports on executive compensation trends and other various materials
- Review of the peer group analysis and compensation benchmarking studies prepared by management and review of other independent compensation data

#### Pay Design and Decisions

##### Direct Compensation for Executive Officers

##### Salary

The salary level for each NEO was established by the Compensation Committee after its consideration of multiple factors including positioning to market, CEO input (other than for himself) and advice from Deloitte Consulting. Salary adjustments, if any, are typically effective April 1 of each year.

Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation

The Compensation Committee sets annual goals to drive desired short-term business performance by focusing executives on key objectives that position Praxair for sustained growth and create shareholder value without compromising long-term business objectives. The program is designed to deliver pay commensurate with performance: results that are greater than goals are rewarded with above target payout levels, and performance not meeting minimum threshold expectations reduces the payout to zero.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

**DESIGN CHANGES:** For 2016, changes were made to the variable compensation design to further align management and shareholder interests.

**2016 DESIGN** The Compensation Committee reviewed the financial measures in the annual variable compensation program and approved changes for the 2016 performance year. Recognizing that cash flow is a critical component of Praxair's financial performance that also has significant importance to investors, it was determined that operating cash flow would be included in the 2016 financial goals at a weighting of 25%, replacing the working capital metric. To reinforce the importance of making decisions that support the Company's profitability, the weighting of net income was increased to 60%, and sales was reduced to 15%.

#### BUSINESS RESULTS:

**financial goals** Awards are determined based on Company performance against challenging, pre-established financial goals. Payouts can range from zero to 200% of target variable compensation, and the financial performance must be at least 80% of the total business results for NEOs.

**strategic non-financial goals** The Compensation Committee may make a positive or negative adjustment of up to 35 percentage points to the total financial payout earned based on the Committee's

detailed review and assessment of performance against pre-established non-financial goals that relate directly to the Company's strategic objectives. Points awarded for strategic non-financial goals cannot exceed 20% of the total business payout for NEO payout determination.

**INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:** The Compensation Committee does not assign an individual performance factor for the CEO, though it retains the discretion to decrease (but not increase) his payout if deemed appropriate. The Compensation Committee may positively or negatively adjust each other NEO's performance-based variable compensation to reflect each individual's contribution to Company performance. Individual performance adjustments can reduce each NEO's payout to as low as zero or increase it by a factor of up to 1.5, however, in the past ten years, the maximum awarded has not exceeded 1.3.

**MAXIMUM PAYOUT:** Total payout for officers is capped at 260% of target variable compensation except for the CEO, whose maximum is 235%.



Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation Opportunity for 2016

In December 2015, the 2016 variable compensation target for each NEO (expressed as a percent of salary that would be earned for 100% achievement of the performance goals) was established by the Compensation Committee. The target level for each NEO ranged from 80% to 160% of base salary.

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Determining Financial Goals

At the time goals are established, the Compensation Committee considers many factors including the degree of control senior management may have over certain factors that affect financial performance. Goals are established with the expectation that executives will be rewarded with higher variable compensation payouts if performance exceeds expectations. Factors considered in assessing the challenge inherent in setting the threshold, target and maximum financial performance goals for each financial measure include:

- management’s operating plan, including expected year-over-year challenges in performance,
- external earnings guidance provided to shareholders,
- macro-economic trends and outlooks in each of the countries in which the Company operates,
- foreign exchange rate trends and outlook,
- expected industrial gases industry peer performance and that of the broader S&P 500,
- shifts in key customer markets, and
- expected contribution from contracts already awarded and decisions or actions already made or taken.

When establishing the financial goals for 2016, the Compensation Committee placed great emphasis on

the earnings per share (EPS) guidance that was provided to investors in February 2016. The net income target goal was set to align with \$5.50 annual EPS, which represented the middle of the full-year guidance published at that time.

#### Determining STRATEGIC Non-financial Goals

The Company’s culture has been institutionalized over decades and is the foundation on which employees drive and deliver financial results. The Board believes culture must be driven from the top by example. As such, the Compensation Committee confirmed the importance of setting non-financial objectives to reinforce leadership’s focus on maintaining an enduring culture that supports both short- and long-term sustainable results. The Compensation Committee identified the non-financial elements that were considered most important to long-term sustainable success and established annual non-financial goals with respect to those elements.

Most of the strategic non-financial goals are linked to quantitative and measurable objectives, although the Compensation Committee ultimately uses its judgment when determining the points awarded for goal achievement after a rigorous review of the results.

GOAL	ADDITIONAL DETAIL
Safety, Environmental Performance and Sustainability:	• Providing our employees with a safe operating environment through investing in state of the art technology and by driving a culture in which safety is a top priority
• Zero fatalities	

- Maintain best in class safety rates
  - Superior performance in sustainable development including environmental stewardship
- People Development:
- Strengthen leadership pipeline, including globally diverse talent
- Compliance:
- Maintain a strong global compliance program and culture
- Strategy:
- Position the business for long-term performance
- Project Selection and Execution:
- Maintain industry-leading performance
- Productivity:
- Enhance organizational capabilities in tools, processes and practices
- Relative Performance:
- Strong performance relative to peer companies
- Rigorous processes and procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, to meet sustainable development performance targets and to continuously reduce the environmental impact of our operations in the communities in which we operate
  - Attraction, retention and development of a diverse and engaged workforce through a robust succession planning process
  - Employee value proposition includes providing strong, dynamic leadership, a challenging work environment, industry-leading performance, competitive pay and benefits, and rewards and recognition for outstanding performance
  - Create and maintain a strong ethical culture in every country where we operate
  - All employees accountable for ensuring that business results are achieved in compliance with local laws and regulations and our Standards of Business Integrity
  - Deliver excellent results in the short-term and over a longer, sustainable period of time
  - Rigorously assess the quality and future impact of actions taken, as benefits may not be recognized for several years
  - Maintain a thorough capital allocation process to ensure careful selection of projects
  - Focus on meeting schedules and cost estimates, starting-up plants reliably and efficiently, and supporting plant availability
  - Deliver value through continuous innovation to help our customers enhance their product quality, service, reliability, productivity, safety, and environmental performance
  - Work across disciplines, industries and sectors, with our employees, customers, suppliers and a range of other stakeholders to get more output utilizing fewer resources and with less environmental impact
  - Continue to be the best performing industrial gases company in the world
  - Assess how well we anticipate and manage adversity to optimize results
  - Determine if management's actions appear more or less effective than those of our peers
  - Appropriately respond to macroeconomic or other external factors unknown at the time financial goals were established

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

## 2016 Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation Results and Payout

## Financial Business Results

As noted above, financial goals are set considering multiple factors with the recognition that there are some items that cannot be easily predicted, and over which management has less control, such as foreign exchange rates and certain raw materials price changes. As part of the variable compensation plan design, certain pre-determined adjustments may be made by the Compensation Committee to actual financial results in order to account for these elements. The Compensation Committee may also conclude that additional adjustments are appropriate based upon unforeseen factors it deems

extraordinary, non-recurring or otherwise properly modified.

Though continued foreign currency exchange and other macro-economic weakening impacted results, financial performance was near target. The overall weighted average payout factor for financial performance was 85% of target variable compensation.

The chart below shows for each financial performance measure, the Company's 2016 financial targets set by the Compensation Committee and the actual performance achieved.

Financial	Target	Actual	Weight	Achievement	Payout
Measure*	(\$ millions)	(\$ millions)			
Sales	10,436	10,409	15%	97%	15%
Net Income	1,581	1,518	60%	61%	36%
Operating Cash Flow	2,475	2,773	25%	136%	34%

\* For the annual variable compensation program, sales and net income are measured in accordance with GAAP subject to certain adjustments that the Compensation Committee approves.

## strategic Non-financial Business Results

Coupled with its assessment of performance related to financial goals, the Compensation Committee reviewed the strategic actions taken by management that focused on long term sustainable success. In December 2016, management presented to the Compensation Committee, the degree of achievement in meeting each goal, and for each element, provided its view of the relative degree of importance to long term success.

Based on the results, the Compensation Committee determined that the Company's performance with respect to the non-financial goals was favorable and awarded a positive 21% adjustment for the NEOs (limited by the applicable cap). The Compensation Committee noted the following as examples of actions that support the Company's strategic objectives in determining 2016 variable compensation payouts:

- Maintained world class performance in safety with a 10% reduction in significant safety events
- Record year for recordable injury rates that was 8 times better than industry average
- Maintained industry leading project execution with 98% first year reliability

• Optimized base business through productivity and cost structure alignment

• Strategically pursued resilient markets, on target to grow from 25% to 33% of total sales by 2020

• Increased carbon dioxide capacity by 50% in the U.S., and in Europe, the Yara CO<sub>2</sub> acquisition significantly strengthened the growth platform on the continent

• Completed GE joint venture of aircraft engine coatings

• Commercialized 15 new technologies in support of growth opportunities

• Increased total value of backlog to \$1.5 billion, 70% of which is located in the U.S. Gulf Coast

• Continued to develop a diverse pipeline of future senior leaders

• Received Public Recognition:

• Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for 14th year in a row

• 9th consecutive year on the Climate Disclosure Leadership Index, and recognized as only industrial gases company that made the "A-List" for the Materials sector

• Received "Top 25 Noteworthy Company" by DiversityInc and a perfect score of 100 by The Human Rights Campaign for workplace equality and advocacy

• Had over 200 sites achieving over 90% waste reduction

Individual Performance Adjustments

Excluding the CEO, the Compensation Committee may make a positive, negative or no adjustment to each NEO's performance-based variable compensation based on its evaluation of individual performance. In evaluating if an individual performance adjustment was appropriate, the Compensation Committee considered various qualitative factors, such as the NEO's:

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

performance in his or her principal area of responsibility,  
degree of success in leading the Company to meet its strategic objectives, and  
championing of the values and competencies that are important to the success of the Company.  
Adjustments were made to the payouts of each NEO based upon individual performance in 2016. The Compensation Committee did not find it practical, nor did it attempt, to assign relative weights to any individual factors or subject them to pre-defined, rigid formulas, or set financial or other objective goals related to personal performance, and the importance and relevance of specific factors varied for each NEO. None of the adjustments made were material to annual performance-based variable compensation payments.

### Equity Awards

Equity awards are the largest portion of each NEO's target compensation. This weighting helps ensure a strong alignment of NEOs' and shareholders' long-term interests. Annual grants of equity awards are made to incent and reward sustained performance.

Equity awards are granted as a mix of stock option and performance share unit (PSU) awards. The mix and type of awards granted to the CEO and other NEOs is the same as those granted to all eligible executives of the Company. Fully aligning the leadership team, from mid-management to officers, is a long-standing practice of the Company that helps sustain its culture of incenting and rewarding all

participants with the same goals and performance results.

### 2016 EQUITY AWARD TARGET VALUE

In December 2015, the target dollar value of 2016 equity awards for each NEO was established. The Compensation Committee examined relative responsibility of the NEOs and each NEO's position to market with consideration of how long he or she had been in the current role. Particular emphasis was placed on retention considerations and the importance of providing NEOs incentive and appropriate reward for taking high quality actions to support sustainable long-term growth.

### Stock Options

The Compensation Committee believes that stock options continue to present an appropriate balance of risk and reward in that the options have no value unless the Company's stock price increases above the option exercise price and that the opportunity for leveraged appreciation from growth in shareholder value over the ten-year grant term encourages long term decision-making. The Compensation Committee notes that the Company's historical record of strong stock price performance results in the Company's executives placing high value on stock options as a compensation vehicle.

- Exercise price is fixed at 100% of the closing market price on date of grant.
- Vest in equal annual tranches over three years and expire after ten years.
- Repricing only with shareholder approval.
- NEOs must hold all shares obtained from exercise, net of taxes and exercise price, until the stock ownership requirement is met.

### Performance Share Units

The Compensation Committee recognizes that PSUs can provide appropriate rewards to executives for performance while also potentially mitigating some of the impact of an economic downturn on the stock option portion of the annual awards. A three-year performance period is believed to be an appropriate balance between the one-year performance-based variable compensation goals and the longer-term stock option share price growth goals. Additionally, the overlapping three-year performance periods that result from regular annual grants promote retention and encourage management to focus on sustainable growth and shareholder returns.

- Vest if pre-established performance goals are attained and forfeited if threshold goal is not met.
- Pay no dividends nor accumulate dividend equivalents prior to vesting.
- NEOs must hold all after-tax shares derived from vested awards until the stock ownership requirement is met.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

**2016 DESIGN CHANGES:** To further align the Company's executive compensation program and shareholder interests, changes were made to the Company's equity awards mix for 2016, including the addition of relative TSR-measured PSU awards in place of EPS-measured PSU awards.

## 2016 EQUITY AWARDS

In 2015, the Compensation Committee conducted a complete review of the long-term incentive plan awards design. It sought to find a balanced design that would address the needs of multiple stakeholders. In its review, the Compensation Committee considered costs, both monetary and share usage, and recognized that leadership throughout the organization comprised of about 600 managers and executives, receives the same mix of equity awards as do the NEOs. It considered information gathered from shareholders, management, its compensation consultant, and market practices.

As a result of its analyses, the Compensation Committee determined that it would be appropriate to provide 50% of the 2016 equity award value in stock options, 30% in PSUs that measure three-year ROC performance, and 20% as PSUs that measure relative TSR over a three year period.

## ROC-measured performance share units

In January 2016, the ROC goal for the PSU awards covering fiscal years 2016 - 2018 was determined after the Compensation Committee examined prior-year ROC results, industry ROC averages, capital expenditure projections and the Company's weighted average cost of capital. It was acknowledged that the Company had maintained industry-leading ROC, and the payout schedule set for the PSU awards would encourage and reward the executive team for taking actions that result in maintaining ROC performance.

The February 2016 awards are measured against the following ROC goals:

2016-2018	Average Annual ROC	Payout*
Below Threshold	<11.0%	0%
Threshold	11.0%	50%
Target	12.5%	100%
Maximum	≥13.5%	200%

\*Interpolated for results between threshold and maximum.



ROC is the Company's after-tax return on capital as reported in its quarterly and annual Consolidated Financial Statements, adjusted to eliminate the after-tax effect of any acquisition occurring during the Performance Period that was not known at the time the goals were set.

Relative TSR-measured performance share units

To further strengthen alignment of management payouts with shareholder returns, the Compensation Committee determined that it would be appropriate to provide a portion of the target equity award value through a PSU that measures relative TSR performance.

For the February 2016 awards, relative performance is measured against the companies of the S&P 500 as of January 1, 2016, excluding the Financial sector, and payouts will be determined based on the following schedule:

2016-2018	TSR Rank	Payout*
Below Threshold	<25%ile	0%
Threshold	25%ile	25%
Target	50%ile	100%
Maximum	≥75%ile	200%

\*Interpolated for results between threshold and maximum.

2017 PERFORMANCE SHARE UNITS: In January 2017, it was determined that the February 2017 performance share unit awards would remain in the same form and would have the same goals as those awarded in 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

2014 - 2016 PERFORMANCE SHARE UNIT PAYOUTS

In February 2017, the grants of the ROC-measured 2014 PSUs that met the pre-established performance criteria at the end of 2016 became vested and were converted to shares and distributed.

Though ROC over the 2014 - 2016 performance cycle remained industry-leading and the average annual ROC of 12.4% exceeded the performance threshold, actual performance was lower than the 14% required for a target level payout of the awards. The Compensation Committee certified the vesting of 60% of the target number of PSUs granted.

ROC		
ROC Target	Average ROC	2014 - 16 Payout*
14%	12.4%	60.0%

\*Payout determined based on linear interpolation from actual results to the target.

Half of the PSUs awarded in 2014 had pre-established goals based on the Company's adjusted diluted cumulative EPS growth for the 2014 - 2016

performance cycle. The EPS goals, which included a 20% growth target, were not met. However, these awards also provide that the Compensation Committee may award up to 50% of target shares where the minimum EPS growth goal is not achieved due to materially adverse and unforeseen market conditions beyond the control of the Company and if the Company's cumulative operating earnings growth exceeds the average cumulative growth in operating earnings of the companies in the Materials Index of the S&P 500 for the same three-year performance period.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Compensation Committee had not made any such payout determination because not all companies in the Materials Index had reported operating earnings for 2016. The Compensation Committee will make a payout determination (which could include forfeiture of these awards) at a future date when all data is available, and such determination will be disclosed in the Company's 2018 Proxy Statement.

Benefits Available to Executive Officers

The Company makes available to NEOs essentially the same benefit plans generally available to other U.S. employees, and also provides to them limited perquisites and personal benefits.

## Health, Welfare and Retirement Plans

Competitive benefits are provided to attract executive talent and promote employee health and well-being, to provide opportunity for retirement income accumulation, including opportunities to “invest in” Company stock and to encourage long term service.

### Tax-Qualified Pension Plan

- The Company maintains a tax-qualified pension plan for eligible employees, including the NEOs.

### Supplemental Retirement Income Plan

• The plan is maintained for the primary purpose of providing retirement benefits that would otherwise be paid to employees under the tax-qualified pension plan but for certain limitations under federal tax law.

• Incremental benefits paid are calculated in the same manner as the underlying tax-qualified pension plan.

• Only base salary and annual variable compensation awards are considered in pension calculations.

### 401(k) PLAN

• Contributions to the plan are voluntary and may be invested in various funds, including the Company’s stock fund.

• Employees eligible to participate in the Variable Compensation Plan, including the NEOs, may participate in the plan.

• Contributions to the plan are voluntary and represent compensation already earned by the participants.

• No above-market earnings are payable.

### Other Plans

• Medical and dental plans, disability, life insurance, relocation and vacation programs are provided.

### Perquisites and Personal Benefits

The Compensation Committee reviews items that could be construed as perquisites or personal benefits for each NEO to ensure they are provided for limited and specifically defined business purposes. No “tax gross-up” is permitted for any executive officer unless such gross-up is available to employees generally. The Company’s internal audit department performs an annual audit of executive officer expense reports for compliance with Company policies and the independent auditors review that work.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Other Compensation Policies and Considerations

#### Severance and Change-in-Control Arrangements

The Company maintains a severance plan that provides certain benefits to eligible employees, including NEOs. The Company has also entered into executive severance compensation agreements with certain senior executives, including NEOs. Additional information about these arrangements is included in this Proxy Statement beginning on page 58.

#### Stock Ownership, Retention Requirements, Hedging, and Pledging

In order to align executives' interests with shareholder interests, the Compensation Committee has established a stock ownership policy for NEOs (see disclosure on details of this policy in the Corporate Governance and Board Practices section of this Proxy Statement). NEOs may comply with this policy by acquiring Company stock or stock-equivalent units through equity incentive grants, as well as through the Company's Compensation Deferral Program, 401(k) Plan, Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan and through other personal investments. Under the Company's Stock Ownership Policy, unless the stock ownership level is met, an executive officer may not sell any of his or her holdings of Company stock, and must hold all shares acquired after tax upon vesting of PSUs or restricted stock units and shares acquired upon an option exercise net of shares used to pay taxes and/or the option exercise price. An executive officer may not engage in hedging transactions related to Company stock that would have the effect of reducing or eliminating the economic risk of holding Company stock. In addition, no executive officer may pledge or otherwise encumber any of his or her Praxair stock.

The Compensation Committee reviewed 2016 stock transactions by executive officers and their year-end holdings to ensure that executives were compliant with the stock ownership policy, including the policy's anti-hedging and anti-pledging provisions. Based on this review, the Compensation Committee determined that the equity incentives previously granted to NEOs continue to be used appropriately.

#### Recapture Clawback Policy

The Compensation Committee has adopted a policy for the recapture of annual performance-based variable compensation payouts, equity grants and certain equity gains in the event of a later restatement of financial results. Specifically, if the Board, or an appropriate committee thereof, has determined that any fraud by any elected officer of the Company

materially contributed to the Company having to restate all or a portion of its financial statement(s), the Board or committee shall take, in its discretion, such action as it deems necessary to remedy the misconduct. In determining

what remedies to pursue, the Board or committee will take into account all relevant factors, including consideration of fairness and equity. Among those remedies, the Board or committee, to the extent permitted by applicable law, may require reimbursement of any performance-based cash, stock or equity-based award paid or granted to, or gains realized by (such as through the exercise of stock options or sale of equity securities), any or all elected officers of the Company, if and to the extent that:

- the amount of such cash, stock or equity-based award was calculated based upon, or realized gain can reasonably be attributed to, certain financial results that were subsequently reduced due to a restatement, and
- the amount of the cash, stock or equity-based award, or gain that would have been paid or granted or realized, would have been lower than the amount actually paid or granted or realized.

#### Tax and Accounting

Under Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), the Company may not take a tax deduction for compensation paid to any NEO (other than the Company's CFO) that exceeds \$1 million in any year unless the compensation is "performance-based." While the Compensation Committee endeavors to structure compensation (including performance-based variable compensation as discussed above) so that the Company may take a tax deduction, it does not have a policy requiring that all compensation be deductible and it may, from time to time, authorize compensation that is not tax deductible.

In December 2015, the Compensation Committee identified participants and established an upper limit on performance-based variable compensation that could be paid to NEOs for 2016 under the shareholder-approved "Praxair, Inc. Plan for Determining Awards under Section 162(m)" (the "162(m) Plan") based upon budgeted net income performance. In January 2017, the Compensation Committee certified the net income earned and the maximum performance-based variable compensation awards available to each NEO under the 162(m) Plan. It then exercised its downward discretion to adjust the actual payments to a level it deemed appropriate for each NEO according to the variable compensation methodology described in the 2016 Annual

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Performance-Based Variable Compensation Results and Payout section of this CD&A.

Additionally, in January 2016, the Compensation Committee established a performance threshold based upon the Company's share price for the PSU awards that were granted in February 2016, which is intended to qualify future payments made in

settlement of the awards as deductible under Section 162(m).

Accounting treatments were also reviewed by the Committee but did not impact the selection and design of equity and equity-related compensation for 2016, although all such grants to NEOs were made in such a manner as to not require liability accounting treatment.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Report of the Compensation Committee

Report of the Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee reviewed and discussed with management the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” and recommended to the Board that it be included in this Proxy Statement. The Compensation Committee has represented to management that, to the extent that the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” discloses the Compensation Committee’s deliberations and thinking in making executive compensation policies and decisions, it is accurate and materially complete.

The Compensation & Management Development Committee

Edward G. Galante, Chairman  
Oscar Bernardes  
Nance K. Dicciani  
Wayne T. Smith

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Executive Compensation Tables

## Executive Compensation Tables

The tables below present compensation information for NEOs and include footnotes and other narrative explanations important for understanding of the compensation information in each table. The Summary Compensation Table summarizes key components of NEO compensation for 2016, 2015 and 2014. The tables following the Summary Compensation Table provide more detailed information about the various types of NEO compensation for 2016, some of which are included in the Summary Compensation Table. The final table provides information regarding compensation that NEOs would receive if their employment with the Company terminates under various circumstances or in connection with a change-in-control.

## Summary Compensation Table

NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	Year	Salary (\$)(1)	Awards (\$)(2)	Option Awards (\$)(2)	Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(3)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Non-equity Deferred	Compensation Earnings (\$)(4)	All Other Compensation (\$)(5)	Total (\$)
						Compensation			
Stephen F. Angel, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer	2016	1,318,750	4,227,958	3,709,390	2,236,600	1,357,000	187,364	13,037,062	
	2015	1,300,000	5,043,233	3,130,159	702,000	4,733,000	171,133	15,079,525	
	2014	1,287,500	5,282,750	2,982,456	2,781,000	7,174,000	179,695	19,687,401	
Matthew J. White, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	2016	587,500	865,778	759,108	635,279	25,000	29,250	2,901,915	
	2015	537,500	789,918	489,951	193,500	19,000	26,750	2,056,619	
	2014	500,000	806,952	454,688	576,000	38,000	24,500	2,400,140	
Scott E. Telesz, Executive Vice President	2016	615,000	903,570	792,429	554,140	31,000	43,813	2,939,951	
	2015	595,000	915,969	568,003	200,277	29,000	41,293	2,349,542	
	2014	575,000	966,889	545,582	674,555	56,000	40,830	2,858,856	
	2016	611,250	904,659	793,542	688,474	1,458,000	35,922	4,491,847	



Eduardo F. Menezes, Executive Vice President	2015	578,750	915,969	568,003	203,662	160,000	34,246	2,460,630
	2014	552,500	966,889	545,582	591,838	2,079,000	33,800	4,769,608
Anne K. Roby, Senior Vice President(6)	2016	471,250	501,862	440,159	430,859	1,139,000	17,526	3,000,656
	2015	452,500	512,607	317,602	125,433	26,000	14,651	1,448,793

- (1) Amounts reported are actual salaries paid for the calendar year and include adjustments to base salary rates if applicable. Base salary adjustments are typically effective April 1 of each year.
- (2) These amounts were not paid in the respective year but rather are the full grant date fair value of equity awards made for each year as determined under accounting standards related to share-based compensation. The Stock Awards amounts are the values for PSU grants made to each NEO in each of the years valued at the target number of shares granted. The Option Awards amounts are the values for options granted in each of the years. The maximum payout values of the PSU awards (based upon the price per share used to compute the full grant date fair values in the table above) are: Mr. Angel: \$8,455,916, \$10,086,466, and \$10,565,500 for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively; Mr. White: \$1,731,556, \$1,579,837, and \$1,613,904 for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively; Mr. Telesz: \$1,807,140, \$1,831,939, and \$1,933,777, for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively; Mr. Menezes: \$1,809,318, \$1,831,939, and \$1,933,777 for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively; and Ms. Roby: \$1,003,724 and \$1,025,213 for 2016 and 2015, respectively. The assumptions used in computing the Option Awards and Stock Awards amounts are included in Note 15 to the Company's 2016 financial statements in the 2016 Form 10-K and Annual Report.

The amounts shown in the Stock Awards and Option Awards columns are subject to vesting and performance conditions that may or may not result in actual payouts in future years. In addition, a stock option has value only if the Company's stock price increases above the option exercise price (an "in-the-money" option). If a NEO exercises an in-the-money option, the NEO would then realize an actual gain. Any gain actually realized for options exercised in 2016 and the PSUs that vested in 2016 and the value realized upon vesting, are reported in the "2016 Option Exercises and Stock Vested" table.

- (3) In 2016, 2015 and 2014, the Company achieved certain financial and strategic non-financial goals that the Compensation Committee set under the Company's Variable Compensation Plan. Therefore, the Compensation Committee awarded each NEO performance-based variable compensation payments in February 2017 (for 2016 performance), February 2016 (for 2015 performance), and February 2015 (for 2014 performance). These amounts are reported as "Non-equity Incentive Plan Compensation." See the detailed description of the Variable Compensation Plan in the CD&A under the caption "Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation."

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Executive Compensation Tables

(4) Amounts in this column are the annual increase in actuarial present value of retirement benefits payable under the Company's Pension Program. These amounts were not actually paid to any NEO. See the detailed description of the Pension Program and how these amounts are calculated under "Change in Pension Value" below and under "Additional Information Regarding 2016 Pension Benefits Table." The total pension present value accrued for each NEO through 2016 under the Company's Pension Program is disclosed in the 2016 Pension Benefits table.

No amounts accumulated under the Company's Compensation Deferral Program earn above market or "preferential" interest or other earnings; therefore, no earnings are included in this column.

(5) The amounts in this column include Company matching contributions to the Company's 401(k) Plan and Company contributions to the Compensation Deferral Program described under the "2016 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation" table below.

This column also includes any perquisites or personal benefits that exceeded \$10,000 for any NEO during 2016, valued at the Company's incremental costs. Consistent with Company policy, NEOs were not reimbursed for any taxes due based on the imputed value of Company-provided perquisites or personal benefits not generally available to all employees. Such perquisites or personal benefits were:

Name	Matching Contribution	Personal Use of Corporate Aircraft	Financial Planning
Stephen F. Angel	48,703	125,661	13,000
Matthew J. White	29,250	0	0
Scott E. Telesz	30,813	0	13,000
Eduardo F. Menezes	22,922	0	13,000
Anne K. Roby	17,526	0	0

For reasons of security and time management, the Board requires the CEO to use the Company's corporate aircraft for personal use as well as business travel. The aircraft is available for the Company's use through a time-share arrangement. The Company pays a fixed time-share charge for the right to use the aircraft, and a per-trip charge. The Company calculates the incremental aircraft costs for Mr. Angel's personal use as the full amount of those per-trip charges attributable to his personal use. The fixed time-share charge is not included as an incremental cost, as the Company must pay this amount even if Mr. Angel does not use the aircraft for personal travel.

In addition, the Company pays for or provides executive officer travel, lodging and related expenses incurred in connection with attending Company business related events, including Board meetings (including the expenses related to the attendance of spouses if they are specifically invited for appropriate business purposes), and may provide use of Company chartered aircraft if available. No amounts are reported in the table for these business expenses. The Company also maintains certain country club memberships for business entertainment purposes which memberships, by club rules, must be in an executive's name. By Company policy, reimbursement of club costs is authorized only when membership and use of the club facilities are judged to be important to the conduct of the Company's business. Since no NEO made personal use of these club memberships during 2016, no amounts are reported in the table.

(6) Because Ms. Roby was not an NEO in 2014, only 2015 and 2016 compensation is provided for her.

CHANGE IN PENSION VALUE. In connection with Mr. Angel's recruitment to the Company in 2001 and in order to provide him with a retention incentive, the Company agreed to provide Mr. Angel with additional credit under the Company's Supplemental Retirement Income Plans (collectively referred to as the "SRIP"), subject to his continuous employment with the Company through established dates, to recognize his years of service with his prior employer, General Electric. Under the arrangement, Mr. Angel received 10 years of General Electric service credit recognition on January 1, 2011 and an additional 11.64 years on January 1, 2016. In connection with his Company employment completed in 2016 and later, Mr. Angel will receive service credit under the standard terms of the Company's Pension Program. When he retires, he will receive retirement benefits under the Pension Program based on his Company service plus the additional years of recognized General Electric service, less an offset for benefits he receives under the General Electric retirement plans. If Mr. Angel is

terminated for cause (as defined in the service credit agreement) he will forfeit recognition of his prior General Electric service.

Under financial accounting rules, the Company has recognized as an accrued pension liability, the additional years of service credit that Mr. Angel received under the SRIP over the course of his anticipated years of service.

The Compensation Committee has determined that the Company will not enter into any future supplemental pension service agreements with executives.

No further accruals to recognize additional years of service credit for Mr. Angel were required in 2016, and none are expected going forward as the liability has been fully accrued and the years of service credit fully vested.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Executive Compensation Tables

2016 Grants of Plan-Based Awards

Below is information regarding the 2016 Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation, Stock Awards and the Option Awards reported in the Summary Compensation Table above. The 2016 option grants and performance share unit (PSU) awards reported in the table below were made under the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan. Options and PSUs granted to NEOs are made on substantially the same terms as grants to all other eligible employees.

Name	Grant Date(1)	Approval Date(1)	Estimated Possible Payouts Under			Estimated Future Payouts Under			All Other Awards:	Option Exercise or Base Price of Option	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards
			Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)			
Stephen F. Angel											
Variable Cash (2)			0	2,110,000	4,958,500						
ROC PSUs (3)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				0	24,650	49,300			2,303,789
TSR PSUs (3)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				0	15,495	30,990			1,924,169
Stock Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016							416,355	102.22	3,709,390
Matthew J. White											
Variable Cash (2)			0	499,375	1,298,375						
ROC PSUs (3)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				0	5,045	10,090			471,506

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TSR PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	3,175	6,350			394,272
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				85,205	102.22	759,108
Scott E. Telesz Variable Cash (2)			0	522,750	1,359,150			
ROC PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	5,270	10,540			492,534
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				88,945	102.22	792,429
TSR PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	3,310	6,620			411,036
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				88,945	102.22	792,429
Eduardo F. Menezes Variable Cash (2)			0	519,563	1,350,863			
ROC PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	5,275	10,550			493,002
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				89,070	102.22	793,542
TSR PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	3,315	6,630			411,657
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				89,070	102.22	793,542
Anne K. Roby Variable Cash (2)			0	353,438	918,938			
ROC PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	2,925	5,850			273,371
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				49,405	102.22	440,159
TSR PSUs (3) Stock	2/23/2016	1/25/2016	0	1,840	3,680			228,491
Options (4)	2/23/2016	1/25/2016				49,405	102.22	440,159

- (1) On January 25, 2016, the Compensation Committee approved the stock options and target PSUs to be granted to NEOs and all other executive officers. It set February 23, 2016 as the actual grant date of these awards. For a more detailed description of equity grant practices, see the CD&A under the caption “Equity Awards.”
- (2) The actual amount of performance-based variable compensation paid in February 2017 for 2016 performance is shown in the “Summary Compensation Table” under the “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” column for 2016. The amounts shown in these columns in the table above are the range of potential 2016 payments that could have been made under the Company’s Variable Compensation Plan. Target amounts assume achievement of 100% of Company financial goals. For more information, see the explanation in the CD&A under the caption “Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation.”
- (3) These are the threshold, target and maximum number of shares that may be earned under PSU awards made in February 2016. See the further description set forth in the CD&A under the caption “Equity Awards” for more information.

- (4) These are the number of shares underlying stock option grants made in February 2016. See the explanation set forth in the CD&A under the caption “Equity Awards” for more information.
- (5) The amounts are the full grant date fair values of the PSU awards (valued at the target number of shares granted) and the stock option grants made in 2016, calculated in accordance with accounting standards related to share-based compensation. These amounts are neither paid to any NEO nor equal to the amounts recognized by the Company as compensation expense in 2016 under accounting standards related to share-based compensation.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Executive Compensation Tables

2016 Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The table below shows outstanding equity awards at the end of 2016. The material terms of the option grants and PSU awards are described under the caption “Equity Awards” in the CD&A and in the footnotes to the table below, and for outstanding restricted stock units in footnote (2) to the table below. Treatment of equity awards upon termination of employment is described in the “Severance and Other Change-in-Control Benefits” section under the caption “Equity Awards.”

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			Equity Incentive Plan Awards:	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Exercise Price (\$)	Option	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)	Other Rights That Have Not Vested
<b>Stephen F. Angel</b>	195,200	0	83.89	2/26/2008	2/26/2018	0	0	117,035	13,715,332
	281,510	0	60.92	2/24/2009	2/22/2019				
	204,640	0	76.16	2/23/2010	2/21/2020				
	218,175	0	97.84	2/22/2011	2/22/2021				
	236,510	0	109.68	2/28/2012	2/28/2022				
	187,015	0	110.58	2/26/2013	2/24/2023				
	135,953	67,977	128.80	2/25/2014	2/23/2024				
	87,025	174,050	128.38	2/24/2015	2/24/2025				
	0	416,355	102.22	2/23/2016	2/23/2026				
<b>Matthew White</b>	18,000	0	83.89	2/26/2008	2/26/2018	0	0	20,128	2,358,800
	20,290	0	60.92	2/24/2009	2/22/2019				
	13,640	0	76.16	2/23/2010	2/21/2020				
	14,845	0	97.84	2/22/2011	2/22/2021				
	18,430	0	109.68	2/28/2012	2/28/2022				

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15,060	0	110.58	2/26/2013	2/24/2023
20,726	10,364	128.80	2/25/2014	2/23/2024
13,621	27,244	128.38	2/24/2015	2/24/2025
0	85,205	102.22	2/23/2016	2/23/2026

Scott E.

Telesz	42,880	0	97.84	2/22/2011	2/22/2021	25,001	2,929,867	22,594	2,647,791
	43,005	0	109.68	2/28/2012	2/28/2022				
	35,220	0	110.58	2/26/2013	2/24/2023				
	24,870	12,435	128.80	2/25/2014	2/23/2024				
	15,791	31,584	128.38	2/24/2015	2/24/2025				
	0	88,945	102.22	2/23/2016	2/23/2026				

Eduardo  
F.

Menezes	16,000	0	83.89	2/26/2008	2/26/2018	0	0	22,604	2,648,963
	19,610	0	76.16	2/23/2010	2/21/2020				
	42,880	0	97.84	2/22/2011	2/22/2021				
	43,005	0	109.68	2/28/2012	2/28/2022				
	35,220	0	110.58	2/26/2013	2/24/2023				
	24,870	12,435	128.80	2/25/2014	2/23/2024				
	15,791	31,584	128.38	2/24/2015	2/24/2025				
	0	89,070	102.22	2/23/2016	2/23/2026				

Anne

Roby	10,230	0	76.16	2/23/2010	2/21/2020	0	0	12,443	1,458,195
	13,195	0	97.84	2/22/2011	2/22/2021				
	18,430	0	109.68	2/28/2012	2/28/2022				
	15,790	0	110.58	2/26/2013	2/24/2023				
	13,266	6,634	128.80	2/25/2014	2/23/2024				
	8,830	17,660	128.38	2/24/2015	2/24/2025				
	0	49,405	102.22	2/23/2016	2/23/2026				

- (1) Each stock option vests in three consecutive equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.
- (2) These are the number of shares underlying unvested one-time restricted stock unit grants made to Mr. Telesz of 15,000 units in April 2010 in connection with his joining the Company as a Senior Vice President, and 20,000 units in July 2012 as a long term retention incentive. The first third of Mr. Telesz's 2010 restricted stock unit award became vested in 2012, the second third vested on April 17, 2015, and the final third will vest on April 19, 2017. Mr. Telesz's 2012 restricted stock unit award vests in two installments of 10,000 shares each on August 31, 2022 and August 31, 2027.
- (3) The market value reported in this column is the number of unvested restricted stock units multiplied by the closing price of the Company's common stock on the NYSE of \$117.19 per share on December 31, 2016.
- (4) The number of shares reported is the actual number of ROC-measured shares earned for the PSUs granted in February 2014, plus the target number of EPS-measured PSUs granted in February 2014 as well as the target number of PSUs granted in February 2015 and 2016. The 2014 PSUs based upon the Company's ROC performance vested and paid out in February 2017 at 60% of target as discussed under the caption "Equity Awards" in the CD&A section of this Proxy Statement.



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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Executive Compensation Tables

## 2016 Option Exercises and Stock Vested

This table provides information about any stock options that were exercised or performance share units and restricted stock units that vested during 2016.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
	(#)	\$(1)	(#)(2)	\$(2)
Stephen F. Angel	183,300	10,054,348	16,503	1,703,770
Matthew J. White	0	0	1,330	137,309
Scott E. Telesz	0	0	3,107	320,767
Eduardo F. Menezes	25,000	1,313,505	3,107	320,767
Anne K. Roby	20,000	670,273	1,396	144,123

(1) The option exercise value realized for 2016 equals the (i) NYSE market price of the Company's common stock at the time of the option exercise minus the option exercise price, multiplied by (ii) the option shares exercised. These amounts are before taxes.

(2) The values represent (a) shares acquired pursuant to a partial vesting and payout in February 2016 of PSU awards made in February 2013 for all NEOs. The value of the shares is before taxes and equals the number of shares paid out multiplied by the NYSE closing price of the Company's common stock on the vesting date.

## 2016 Pension Benefits

The table below shows certain retirement benefit information under the Company's Pension Program.

Name	Plan Name(1)	Number of Years of Credited Service	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit	Payments During Last Fiscal Year
		(#)	\$(2)	(\$)
Stephen F. Angel(3)	Praxair Pension Plan	16	797,000	0
	Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	37	40,117,000	0
Matthew J. White	Praxair Pension Plan	12	104,000	0
		12	121,000	0

		Supplemental Retirement Income Plan		
Scott E. Telesz	Praxair Pension Plan	7	62,000	0
	Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	7	195,000	0
Eduardo F. Menezes(4)	Praxair Pension Plan	31	1,515,000	0
	Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	31	8,967,000	0
Anne K. Roby	Praxair Pension Plan	26	1,398,000	0
	Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	26	3,538,000	0

- (1) Messrs. Angel and Menezes and Ms. Roby participate in the Traditional Design component of the Pension Program and Messrs. White and Telesz participate in the Pension Program's Account-Based Design Component.
- (2) See the narrative after the table for a description of the Present Value of Accumulated Benefit. The values for each plan listed above are additive.
- (3) The Praxair Pension Plan credited years of service for Mr. Angel represent his actual years of service with the Company. The Supplemental Retirement Income Plan credited years of service adds the recognition of Mr. Angel's 21.64 years of prior General Electric service as described in "Change in Pension Value" below the Summary Compensation Table. The values shown above include the effect of this offset for benefits Mr. Angel will receive under the General Electric retirement plans. At the end of 2016, the present value of the accumulated benefit for Mr. Angel's 15.67 years of actual years of service with the Company under the SRIP was \$15,801,000.
- (4) Credited years of service reported for Mr. Menezes combine his service with Praxair and White Martins, the Company's Brazilian subsidiary. Years of service reflect certain equitable adjustments for Mr. Menezes related to his service for White Martins, which adjustments were generally applicable to all similarly situated employees. When he retires from the Company he will receive Pension Program retirement benefits based on his combined Praxair and White Martins service, less an offset for the benefits he receives under the White Martins retirement plan. The values shown above include the effect of this offset. The White Martins retirement plan in which Mr. Menezes participates is not a defined benefit plan and, therefore, is not separately included in the table above.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Executive Compensation Tables

#### Additional Information Regarding 2016 Pension Benefits Table

##### Present Value of Accumulated Benefit

The 2016 Pension Benefits table includes a “Present Value of Accumulated Benefit.” This is the value in today’s dollars of the total expected future retirement benefits that each NEO may receive under the Pension Program, and these are accrued amounts as of the end of 2016. None of these amounts have been paid to the NEOs. For any given year, there will be a change in the accumulated benefit. For example, from one year to the next, the accumulated benefit may increase because a NEO has worked for an additional year and received credit for that or his or her Pension Program compensation has increased. The annual change in accumulated benefit is disclosed in the “Summary Compensation Table” in the “Change in Pension Value” column.

The Company recognizes these amounts as a future pension liability on its financial statements. The Company calculates these amounts using complex actuarial valuations and assumptions. These assumptions are described in Footnote 16 to the Company’s 2016 financial statements and in Management’s Discussion and Analysis under the caption “Critical Accounting Policies-Pension Benefits” in the 2016 Form 10-K and Annual Report. However, as required by SEC rules, the 2016 Pension Benefits table assumes that each NEO will retire at the earliest retirement age that would provide full (unreduced) benefits. The value in today’s dollars of the total retirement benefits that each NEO eventually receives may be more or less than the amount shown in the 2016 Pension Benefits table.

#### General Terms of the Praxair Pension Program

The Company has a pension program for all of its eligible U.S. employees (the “Pension Program”). The Company has an obligation to pay pension benefits according to formulas described below under “Benefits Calculations.” The Pension Program does not include the Company’s 401(k) Plan. The 401(k) Plan is funded by employee and Company contributions but the Company does not promise any given retirement benefit. Instead, any retirement payments will depend on employee and Company contributions and the investment return on those contributions. As it applies to NEOs and certain other employees, the Pension Program has the following two parts:

1. The Praxair Pension Plan (the “Pension Plan”) is intended to meet Federal tax law rules so that it will be considered a “tax-qualified defined benefit retirement plan.” Applicable laws require the Company to periodically set aside funds to

meet its obligations under this plan. The rules also limit the amount of benefits that can be paid and do not allow using pay above certain levels to calculate retirement benefits. One or more of these limitations apply to NEOs and to certain other employees. Therefore, the Company maintains several “non-qualified” supplemental plans.

2. The Praxair Equalization Benefit and Supplemental Retirement Income Plans (collectively referred to as the “SRIP”) are non-qualified deferred compensation plans under the Federal tax rules. Therefore, the Company does not set aside funds to meet these plan obligations. Instead, SRIP participants have only the Company’s promise to pay the amounts due following their termination of employment with the Company. The terms of the SRIP are largely identical to those of the Pension Plan except that: (i) benefits payable under the SRIP are not limited by the Federal tax law limits, (ii) in order to comply with Federal tax law governing non-qualified deferred compensation plans, benefits accrued under the SRIP are payable at different times and in different forms than those payable under the Pension Plan, and (iii) NEOs may have additional benefits paid under the SRIP that are not the same as the standard benefits of the Pension Plan (see “Change in Pension Value” below the Summary Compensation Table regarding Mr. Angel’s service crediting agreement).

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Executive Compensation Tables

### Benefits Calculations

The Company calculates Pension Program benefits using one of the following two basic designs:

#### Traditional Design

• This benefit formula considers an employee's final average pay and years of service with the Company. For this purpose, the employee's "final average pay" is generally equal to the NEO's highest three years of salary plus annual variable compensation out of his or her last ten years of service.

• Generally, an employee's annual pension benefit is determined using a formula of 1.5% times the employee's years of service with the Company times the employee's final average pay. This is subject to several reductions, including offsets for the employee's projected Social Security benefits and certain pension benefits payable under pension programs maintained by the Company's subsidiaries or affiliates.

• Unreduced pension benefits are generally payable from the Pension Plan in an annuity beginning upon the earliest of (i) the employee's reaching age 65, (ii) the employee's reaching age 62 and completing at least 10 years of service with the Company, or (iii) when the sum of the employee's age plus years of service with the Company equals at least 85.

• Employees may elect to retire and receive reduced early retirement benefits under the Pension Plan as early as age 50 with the completion of at least 10 years of service with the Company. In this case, the employee's Pension benefits are reduced by 5% for each year by which his or her early retirement date precedes the earliest date on which he or she would have been eligible to commence an unreduced benefit. Messrs. Angel and Menezes and Ms. Roby are currently eligible for this reduced early retirement benefit.

• Traditional Design benefits under the SRIP are generally payable in a lump sum following the employee's separation from service with the Company with the lump sum payment being actuarially equivalent to the employee's accrued benefit under the SRIP determined using actuarial factors set forth in the Pension Program.

• Traditional Design SRIP benefits become immediately vested and payable in a lump sum upon the occurrence of a change-in-control of the Company (as defined in the SRIP) unless the NEO has made a valid election to waive the right to receive an accelerated payment of his or her SRIP benefit in connection with a change-in-control and to instead receive such payment in the ordinary course.

#### Account-Based Design

• This is a "cash balance" pension design that applies to all eligible employees hired on or after May 1, 2002. The Company makes an annual notional "contribution" for each participant equal to 4% of eligible pay (salary plus annual variable compensation) and credits each participant's account with interest annually based on the 30-year Treasury Bond rate in effect during the preceding October.

• Benefits vest upon the employee's completion of three years of service and are generally payable in an annuity form or, if elected by the participant, in a lump sum, beginning any time after the participant's termination of employment. Account-based benefits under the SRIP are payable in a single lump sum following the employee's separation from service and become immediately vested and payable upon the occurrence of a change-in-control of the Company (as defined in the SRIP) unless the NEO has made a valid election to waive the right to receive an accelerated payment of his or her SRIP benefit in connection with a change-in-control and to instead receive such

payment in the ordinary course.

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

## Executive Compensation Tables

## 2016 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

This table shows information regarding compensation amounts that (i) the NEOs decided not to receive in cash but elected to defer to a later date under the Company's Compensation Deferral Program, and (ii) are Company contributions to the Compensation Deferral Program.

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Company Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)(1)	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End (\$)(2)
Stephen F. Angel	0	39,516	1,135,257	0	7,631,717
Matthew J. White	0	16,125	8,498	0	53,232
Scott E. Telesz	0	17,500	14,531	0	93,004
Eduardo F. Menezes	0	12,984	12,929	0	83,608
Anne K. Roby	0	7,734	74,325	0	480,007

(1) These amounts are the Company contributions made in 2017 for 2016. These amounts are included in "All Other Compensation" in the "Summary Compensation Table." Also, see the further explanation below under the caption "Additional Information Regarding Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table."

(2) Balances are net of prior payouts and otherwise are the total of (i) all compensation that NEOs previously elected to defer (ii) Company contributions made to the Compensation Deferral Program on behalf of each NEO, and (iii) any notional investment earnings on these amounts. The balances are not amounts paid in 2016.

## Material Terms of the Compensation Deferral Program

## Deferral Elections; Company Contributions

Eligible employees, including NEOs, may elect to defer receipt of all or some portion of their annual variable compensation payments and up to 50% of their base salaries. In addition, the Company makes a notional contribution to the Compensation Deferral Program on behalf of each NEO equal to the matching contributions that would have been made but for the application of certain Federal tax law limits under that plan.

The Company does not fund or segregate any monies from its general funds, create any trusts, or make any special deposits for payment of benefits under the Compensation Deferral Program. A participant's right to receive a payment under the Compensation Deferral Program is no greater than the right of an unsecured general creditor of the Company.



## Deferral Investments

Participants may invest their deferred compensation into either (1) the Praxair stock-unit equivalent account whose value tracks the market value of Praxair common stock, including reinvestment of dividends into additional Praxair stock-equivalent units, or (2) a fixed income account whose interest

rate is fixed annually and is equal to the 1-year U.S. Treasury Bond rate as of the end of the immediately preceding year, plus 50 basis points. All Company contributions are made into the Praxair stock-unit equivalent account. No preferential earnings are paid to participants, including NEOs.

## Deferral Payouts

At the time he or she elects to defer the amounts, a participant elects to receive payment in either a lump sum or substantially equal installments over ten years following termination of employment or in a specified later year. Company contributions are paid out in a

lump sum upon retirement or termination of employment. If a change-in-control of the Company (as defined in the Compensation Deferral Program) occurs, all previously deferred amounts will be paid unless elected otherwise by the NEO.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Severance and Other Change-In-Control Benefits

### Severance and Other Change-In-Control Benefits

#### Severance Plan

The Company maintains a severance plan that provides certain benefits to all full-time employees, including NEOs, in connection with certain Company-initiated terminations.

• Upon a without-cause termination, maximum payment is generally limited to 26 weeks of base pay, calculated based upon length of service and salary rate at time of termination.

• The Company retains discretion to pay excess severance in limited cases.

• No severance payout and a forfeiture of unvested equity are required upon a for-cause termination.

#### Change-in-Control Arrangements

The Company has entered into executive severance compensation agreements (“Severance Agreement”) with certain senior executives, including NEOs. The agreements are meant to:

• provide temporary income following an involuntary termination of employment,

• encourage retention of executives for continuity of management, and

• to keep executives focused on performing their duties in the event of a change-in-control or if the Board considers strategic transactions including a change-in-control.

The terms of the Severance Agreements include:

• “Double trigger” is required for payments: A change in control of the Company must occur followed by the termination of the NEO’s employment within the following two years either by the Company other than for cause or by executive with “good reason”

• No reimbursement of excise taxes and no “tax gross-ups” payments

- As a condition of entering into the agreements, each NEO was required to enter into a Nondisclosure, Nonsolicitation and Noncompetition Agreement under which the NEO agrees not to:

• Disclose Company confidential information both during and after termination of his or her employment with the Company

• Solicit the Company’s customers and employees for a period of two years following the NEO’s termination of employment with the Company for any reason

• Engage in any activities that compete with those of the Company for a period of two years following the NEO’s termination of employment

Upon the occurrence of the “double trigger,” the Severance Agreements generally provide the affected NEO with:

- accrued salary, variable compensation, and benefits,

• enhanced life, accident, health insurance and pension benefits, and

• a lump sum severance payment equal to two times the sum of his or her annual salary and target performance-based variable compensation award (three times for executives who became officers of the Company prior to 2010).

## General Assumptions

The table below shows the estimated payments and/or benefits in connection with the following events based upon the following assumptions.

“Voluntary Termination,” which includes a NEO’s voluntary resignation, before or after meeting specified age and service requirements, and “Involuntary-for-Cause Termination,” which includes the Company’s termination of the NEO’s employment for reasons such as violation of certain Company policies or for certain performance-related issues. For purposes of this section, the specified “age and service” requirements are generally satisfied if a NEO terminates employment with the Company other than for cause after either attaining age 65, attaining age 62 and completing at least 10 years of employment with the Company, or

accumulating 85 points, where each year of the NEO’s age and each year of employment with the Company, count as one point.

“Involuntary Termination,” which includes a termination other than for cause, but not including a termination related to a change-in-control of the Company. Terminations due to death or disability result in substantially the same treatment as an Involuntary Termination, except as described.

A “Change-in-Control” of the Company, as defined under the Severance Agreements and under the terms of various plans and agreements described below. Generally, a “change-in-control” means, (1) any consolidation or merger in which the Company is not the continuing or surviving corporation; (2) the

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

Severance and Other Change-In-Control Benefits

liquidation of the Company or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company; (3) an acquisition by a person or group of more than 20% of the Company's outstanding shares; or (4) a change in the majority composition of the Board not approved by two-thirds of the directors in office before the change.

Set forth below after the table are narrative descriptions of payments and/or benefits that would have been provided, if any, related to each employment termination event or a change-in-control as of December 31, 2016. Also discussed is the basis upon which the payments and/or benefits were calculated. Except as noted, these amounts are the incremental or enhanced amounts that a NEO would have received that are greater than those that the Company would have provided to employees generally under the same circumstances. They are estimates only and are based on various

assumptions. The actual amounts that would be paid or the benefits that would be provided can be determined only at the time that each event occurs.

The table and the narrative discussion assume that (i) each NEO's employment terminated on December 31, 2016 due in turn to each termination event, including termination within two years after a change-in-control, as contemplated by the Severance Agreements; (ii) a change-in-control occurred on December 31, 2016 under the terms of various plans and agreements unrelated to the Severance Agreements, regardless of a termination of employment, and (iii) values related to outstanding stock awards reflect the market value of the Company's common stock of \$117.19 per share, which was the closing price on the NYSE as of December 30, 2016.

2016 AMOUNTS POTENTIALLY PAYABLE UPON TERMINATION

Name	Termination Event	Severance Benefits (\$)	Other Post-Termination Benefits (\$)	Deferred Compensation Payout (\$)	Performance-Based		Retirement Benefit Enhancements (\$)	Equity Awards (\$)	Total for Each Termination Event
					Variable Compensation Payments (\$)	Retirement Benefit Reductions (\$)			
Stephen F. Angel	Voluntary or Involuntary for Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Involuntary	0	0	0	0	20,970,063	0	0	20,970,063

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	Change-in-Control	10,335,000	43,267	0	2,120,000	20,970,063	3,368,000	0	36,836,330
									0
Matthew J. White	Voluntary or								
	Involuntary for Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Involuntary	0	0	0	0	3,790,416	0	0	3,790,416
	Change-in-Control	3,330,000	48,884	0	510,000	3,790,416	94,000	(338,952)	7,434,349
									0
Scott E. Mesz	Voluntary or								
	Involuntary for Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Involuntary	0	0	0	0	7,096,200	(225,000)	0	6,871,200
	Change-in-Control	2,294,000	58,652	0	527,000	7,096,200	65,000	(1,899,028)	8,141,824
									0
Duardo F. Menezes	Voluntary or								
	Involuntary for Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Involuntary	0	0	0	0	4,169,376	0	0	4,169,376
	Change-in-Control	3,441,000	35,121	0	527,000	4,169,376	1,276,000	0	9,448,497
									0
	Voluntary or								
Anne K. Roby	Involuntary for Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Involuntary	0	0	0	0	2,297,634	0	0	2,297,634
	Change-in-Control	2,493,750	50,066	0	356,250	2,297,634	2,661,000	(1,626,154)	6,232,546

### Severance Benefits

NEOs are eligible for severance benefits which are determined in the same manner as for all other eligible employees.

**CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** Each NEO's Severance Agreement provides a formula for determining the severance benefit due to him or her for a termination of employment in connection with a change-in-control in lieu of benefits payable under the Company's Severance Plan. In a "double trigger" situation, under the Severance Agreements, NEOs would have received the amounts shown in the table.

### Other Post-Termination Benefits

Company currently provides retiree medical benefits to employees who meet certain requirements at the time of their termination.

**CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** Under the Severance Agreements, NEOs are entitled to continued life, accident and health insurance for two years. If a NEO is re-employed and his new employer provides comparable or better medical coverage at no cost to the NEO, then the Company would not provide the continued coverage.

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Severance and Other Change-In-Control Benefits

#### Deferred Compensation Payout

Each NEO's accrued balance in his or her Compensation Deferral Program account is payable in accordance with his or her payout election, as described under the "Nonqualified Deferred Compensation" table.

**CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** Under the Compensation Deferral Program, the payout of deferred balances is accelerated upon a change-in-control unless the NEO has previously made a valid election to waive rights to receive an accelerated payment in connection with the change-in-control, and instead, to receive payment in accordance with his or her previous election. There is no value calculated for any acceleration as a NEO would simply receive payment sooner than the time he or she had originally elected the payment of the amount of compensation already earned but deferred.

#### Annual Performance-Based Variable Compensation Payments

Annual performance-based variable compensation awards that NEOs may receive are entirely at the discretion of the Board's Compensation Committee. It is speculative whether the Compensation Committee would have made such awards for 2016 if a NEO's employment terminated under the Voluntary Termination, Involuntary-for-Cause Termination, or the Involuntary Termination events on or before December 31, 2016. If the Compensation Committee had made such awards for 2016, it is also speculative how the amounts might have related to the amounts set forth in the "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" table in the "Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-equity Incentive Plan Awards" columns.

**CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** In a "double trigger" situation, the Severance Agreements provide a formula for determining the accrued annual performance-based variable compensation payment due to a NEO. The amounts shown in the above table are based on the NEO's target annual performance-based variable compensation award for 2016 (expressed as a percent of salary for that year) times current base salary.

#### Equity Awards

Each NEO has outstanding equity awards granted under the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan or prior equity plans. For purposes of this disclosure, values are attributed solely to any acceleration.

**VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OR INVOLUNTARY-FOR-CAUSE TERMINATION.** If a NEO voluntarily terminates employment or the Company terminates employment for cause, unexercised stock options and

unvested performance share and restricted stock unit awards will be immediately forfeited. However, if a NEO voluntarily terminates after the first anniversary of the grant date and satisfies the specified age and service requirements, unvested stock options will continue to vest at the time set forth in the grant agreement, and any unvested PSUs will continue to vest in the ordinary course if the applicable performance criteria are satisfied. No acceleration of the exercisability of any stock option, or vesting of a restricted stock or PSU award, occurs and, therefore, no value is attributed to these awards under these termination events.

**INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OR CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** All stock option and PSU awards immediately vest upon a NEO's death with PSU awards being paid out at target. If a NEO terminates employment by reason of disability, stock options continue to become vested at the times set forth in the grant agreement, and PSU awards are

immediately paid out at target.

If the Company terminates a NEO's employment other than for cause prior to the first anniversary of the grant, unvested stock option and PSU awards are immediately forfeited. If such termination occurs after the first anniversary of the grant date, stock options continue to become exercisable at the times set forth in the grant agreement and the PSUs will continue to vest in the ordinary course if the applicable performance criteria are satisfied.

For stock options and PSU awards granted in 2014, upon a change-in-control no accelerated vesting would occur if replacement awards are provided by the acquiring entity. For stock options and PSU awards granted in 2015 and 2016, no accelerated vesting would occur regardless of whether or not replacement awards are provided. For all awards, whether replacement awards are granted or not, upon the occurrence of "double trigger," accelerated vesting of all awards would occur. The table above reflects such acceleration.

As of December 31, 2016, Mr. Telesz is the only NEO with outstanding restricted stock unit awards. The 2010 restricted stock unit award made to Mr. Telesz in connection with his hiring will immediately vest in full only upon his termination of employment by reason of death or disability or in the event that a replacement award is not made to him in connection with a change-in-control. Mr. Telesz's 2012 restricted stock unit award will immediately vest as to only 10,000 shares in the event his employment with the Company terminates prior to August 31, 2027 by reason of his death or disability, and as to only 5,000 shares in the event that his employment terminates by action of the Company other than for cause prior to such date. Further, if a replacement award of equal value is made to Mr. Telesz, the vesting of his 2012



## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION MATTERS

### Severance and Other Change- In-Control Benefits

restricted stock unit award will not accelerate upon a change-in-control.

To the extent that accelerated vesting occurs as described above, the option acceleration value shown in the above table is determined by the difference between the exercise price of the accelerated options and the per share price of the Company's common stock times the number of the accelerated option shares. The acceleration values of the PSU and restricted stock unit awards is determined as the per share price of the Company's common stock times the number of shares subject to the award (target number of shares for PSUs).

### Retirement Benefit Enhancements

The Pension Program benefits for each NEO are discussed as part of the "2016 Pension Benefits" table. Except as discussed below, no enhanced benefits would be payable under the Pension Program that are not otherwise included in the 2016 Pension Benefits table.

**VOLUNTARY TERMINATION, INVOLUNTARY-FOR-CAUSE TERMINATION, AND INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION.** NEOs would not be entitled to any additional or enhanced benefit under these termination events, but any vested benefit would be preserved and would become payable under the Pension Program at such time as the NEOs would otherwise become eligible for pension payments.

**CHANGE-IN-CONTROL.** The Severance Agreements do not provide for the crediting of years of service or similar enhanced benefits that would be payable under the Pension Program itself. Instead, the Severance Agreements provide for lump sum payments equal to the incremental value of three additional years of age and service credited under the Pension Program for NEOs participating in the Pension Program Traditional Design. For Mr. White, the Severance Agreements provide for a lump sum payment equal to 12% of his pension eligible compensation to duplicate three years of Company contributions under the Pension Program Account-Based Design. Similarly, Mr. Telesz's Severance Agreement provides for a lump sum payment equal to 8% of his pension eligible pay to duplicate two years of Company contributions under the Pension Program Account-Based Design. The amounts shown in the table above reflect these lump sum payments.

Benefits under the SRIP become immediately vested and payable in a lump sum upon the occurrence of a change in control unless the NEO has previously made a valid election to waive rights to receive such payment in connection with the change-in-control and to instead receive such payment in ordinary course. There is no value calculated for any acceleration as

each NEO is already fully vested in his or her SRIP benefit and would simply receive payment sooner than if a change in control had not occurred.

### No Excise Tax Gross-Up Payments

Under the Severance Agreements, the Company would not reimburse NEOs for any excise or other taxes they owed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise due to their receipt of excess "parachute" payments. The total benefits payable to a NEO under the Severance Agreement in connection with a change-in-control will be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of the Section 4999 excise tax where the effect of such reduction would be to place him or her in a better after-tax economic position than he would have been in had no such reduction been made. Such reductions are shown for Messrs. White and Telesz and for Ms. Roby under the "Reduction

of Payments” column in the table above.

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ITEM 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

ITEM 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

This item is a non-binding, advisory shareholder vote on the compensation of the Named Executive Officers (“NEOs”). This advisory vote, commonly known as “Say-on-Pay,” gives the Company’s shareholders an opportunity to express their views on the overall compensation of the NEOs and the Company’s related compensation philosophy, policies and practices. Since this advisory vote was required beginning in 2011, shareholders have consistently approved the Company’s executive compensation program by majority votes.

Unless the Board determines otherwise, this advisory vote will be held annually and, therefore, you are asked to vote upon the following proposal that will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting:

“RESOLVED, that the shareholders of Praxair, Inc. (the ‘Company’) approve, on an advisory and non-binding basis, the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers, as disclosed in the Company’s proxy statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, including the compensation tables, the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and any related narrative disclosures.”

This proposal is not intended to address any specific NEO compensation item or issue. However, the Board of Directors and its Compensation & Committee value shareholders’ opinions on this matter and, if there is any significant vote against this proposal, will seek to understand why such a vote was cast, and will consider shareholders’ concerns in evaluating whether any actions are appropriate to

address those concerns. The Board recommends that you approve this proposal because the Company’s executive compensation program focuses on motivating performance to effectively build shareholder value. The Board believes that the executive compensation program has been instrumental in driving the Company’s strong business results.

The Compensation Committee has established the following objectives for Praxair’s executive compensation program:

- attract and retain executive talent;
- motivate executives to deliver strong business results in line with shareholder expectations;
- build and support a sustainable performance-driven culture; and
- encourage executives to own stock, aligning their interests with those of shareholders.

In addition, the Compensation Committee made significant changes to the executive compensation program during 2015 that were effective in 2016 which it believes more closely aligns pay for performance (see the discussion on page 36 of this Proxy Statement).

In order for this proposal to be approved on an advisory and non-binding basis, a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on this matter must be voted FOR approval. See the vote counting rules on page 76 of this Proxy Statement.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL, ON AN ADVISORY AND NON-BINDING BASIS, OF THE COMPENSATION PAID TO THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.

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ITEM 4: ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING FUTURE

ADVISORY VOTES ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

ITEM 4: ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

This item is a non-binding advisory shareholder vote on how frequently the Company should seek future advisory votes on NEO compensation, such as the Say-on-Pay vote described in Item 3 of this Proxy Statement. You have the following three choices as to the frequency of such future advisory votes (in addition to being able to abstain from voting): once every one, two or three years. Accordingly, you are asked to vote upon the following proposal that will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting:

“RESOLVED, that the shareholders of Praxair, Inc. (the “Company”) determine, on an advisory and non-binding basis, that an advisory shareholder vote on the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers set forth in the Company’s proxy statement should be held:

Choice 1 — every year (annual);

Choice 2 — every two years (biennial);

Choice 3 — every three years (triennial);

Choice 4 — abstain from voting.”

In 2011, the Company’s shareholders voted, by 82.2%, to prefer an annual Say-on-Pay vote. The Company has therefore had annual Say-on-Pay votes since 2011. The Board recommends that future advisory shareholder votes on NEO compensation continue to be held once every year so as to provide

timely and frequent feedback to the Board on its NEO compensation program.

The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee value shareholders’ opinions on this matter and will consider the outcome of the vote in determining on how frequently the Company should seek future advisory votes on NEO

compensation. In particular, the Board of Directors and the Board's Compensation Committee will consider which, if any, of the three choices receives a majority vote, or if none receives a majority vote, then which of the three choices received the most votes.

The Board recommends that you vote FOR Annual shareholder advisory votes on NEO compensation. Please note that on this Item 4 you are NOT voting on the Board's frequency recommendation above; rather, shareholders must choose among the three frequency alternatives or abstain from voting as specified on the proxy card and described above.

In order for any of the three frequency choices to be approved on an advisory and non-binding basis, a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on this matter must be voted FOR such choice. See the vote counting rules on page 76 of this Proxy Statement.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER ADVISORY VOTE ON NEO COMPENSATION.**

ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

ITEM 5: PROPOSAL TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED 2009 PRAXAIR, INC. LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL SHARES FOR GRANT AND TO APPROVE THE MATERIAL TERMS OF PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR AWARDS UNDER THE PLAN

The Board, acting upon the recommendation of its independent Compensation Committee, has approved amendments to the Amended and Restated 2009 Praxair, Inc. Long Term Incentive Plan (the “2009 Plan”), subject to shareholder approval at the Annual Meeting. The 2009 Plan was approved by shareholders at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The proposed amendments would authorize eight million additional shares of Common Stock that the Company anticipates will be needed for future awards under the 2009 Plan after 2017, and would limit total aggregate compensation, including awards under the 2009 Plan, to each nonemployee member of the Board of Directors to \$750,000 with respect to any calendar year.

Approval of these amendments will also constitute shareholder reapproval of the material terms of performance goals (including award limits, employees eligible to receive awards and a description of the business criteria on which performance goals are based) for performance-based equity awards under the 2009 Plan, allowing the Company to grant performance-based equity awards that are tax deductible under the “performance-based” compensation exception to Section 162(m) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”). Applicable regulations require that the material terms of the performance goals be submitted for shareholder approval at least every five years. These terms were last approved by the Company’s shareholders at the

2014 Annual Meeting and are unchanged from those approved at that time.

Long term incentives are an essential component of Praxair’s overall compensation plan for employees and directors. Equity awards align employee and shareholder interests through share ownership, motivating them to achieve business objectives established to promote the Company’s long term growth, profitability and success. Equity awards are also critical to attracting and retaining leaders who are vital to the Company’s sustained financial success. Oversight responsibility for the 2009 Plan is vested in the independent Compensation Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors.

A summary description of the 2009 Plan, including the proposed amendments, is included below. The complete text of the proposed amendments and the entire 2009 Plan is presented in Appendix 1 of this Proxy Statement. Information regarding awards outstanding under the 2009 Plan and other plans is included in the Equity Compensation Plans Table on page 72 of this Proxy Statement.

In order for this proposal to be approved by the shareholders, a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on this matter must be voted FOR approval. See the vote counting rules on page 76 of this Proxy Statement.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THIS ITEM 5, THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED 2009 PRAXAIR, INC. LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND TO APPROVE THE MATERIAL TERMS OF PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR AWARDS UNDER THE PLAN.

## OVERVIEW

The primary objective of the Company's compensation program is to incent and reward executives, managers and directors for effectively building shareholder value. Equity awards meet this objective by aligning employee and shareholder

interests through share ownership. The awards provide value for continued medium and long term growth and are critical to attracting and retaining leaders who are vital to the Company's sustained financial success.



ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

The 2009 Plan permits awards to employees and non-employee directors and provides incentives globally to roughly 2,000 participants per year.

The proposed amendments to the 2009 Plan would allow a maximum of an additional 8 million shares for equity awards, plus the unused authorized shares currently remaining available under the 2009 Plan and any authorized shares that become available again under the terms of the 2009 Plan, such as in connection with the forfeiture of an unvested award. No more than 2.6 million of the available shares could be granted as “full value” share awards. If approved by shareholders, the Company anticipates that the additional 8 million shares would allow the Company to extend its annual equity award grants for approximately three more years.

The proposed amendments also extend the 2009 Plan’s existing \$750,000 annual limit on awards to non-employee directors to cover not only awards

under the 2009 Plan, but also all other forms of compensation payable to a non-employee director with respect to any one calendar year.

In addition, Section 162(m) of the Code generally limits the Company’s tax deductions with respect to compensation in excess of \$1 million per year paid to the Company’s CEO and the three other most highly compensated executive officers (other than its CFO), subject to certain restrictions. The 2009 Plan is intended to allow for awards that satisfy the “qualified performance-based compensation” exception under Section 162(m) in the case of stock options, stock appreciation rights (“SARs”), performance share units and other stock-based awards that are subject to the attainment of performance goals. If shareholders re-approve the Section 162(m) performance metrics under the 2009 Plan, the Compensation Committee will continue to be able to designate an award as intended to qualify for this exception.

#### Burn Rate and Overhang

The Compensation Committee focuses closely on “burn rate” and “overhang.” “Burn rate” is defined as the number of equity award shares granted to plan participants in a given year divided by total common shares outstanding for that year. “Overhang” is defined as the number of outstanding options and other unvested equity award shares divided by total common shares outstanding. Each of these metrics is reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee during its consideration of the annual equity award cycle.

The burn rate measures the speed with which the shares authorized under a plan are used and indicates the potential dilutive effect of annual equity grants. For the past four years, the Company’s burn rate has been consistently below 1% of common stock outstanding. Assuming similar annual award granting practices, the

anticipated burn rate for the 2009 Plan would remain at this level.

Overhang measures the potential dilutive effect of shares subject to existing outstanding equity awards and shares available for future awards. The anticipated overhang, including shares authorized under the 2009 Plan, would represent approximately 7% of common stock outstanding based upon the equity awards and common shares outstanding at December 31, 2016 as reported in the Company's Form 10-K and Annual Report.

We believe that the Company's burn rate and overhang (with or without including the shares requested under the proposed amendments to the 2009 Plan) are reasonable and reflect a judicious use of equity for compensation purposes.

ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

2009 Plan Highlights and Best Practices

- 
- Exercise price of stock options and stock appreciation rights must be at least 100% of the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant
- "Double-trigger" change-in-control provisions for equity grants to officers
- Repricing or exchanges of stock options or SARs is not permitted without shareholder approval
- Cash buyouts of stock options and SARs is expressly prohibited
- No "evergreen" provisions that would automatically increase shares available for grant
- No automatic grants to any participant
- Only shares associated with expired, forfeited, terminated, cancelled or surrendered awards that have not been exercised or settled, or can be paid in cash, will be available again for grant
- Any dividend or dividend equivalents that may accrue under restricted stock, performance units, or other stock-based awards are payable only if the grant itself vests and becomes payable
- Pledging and hedging of awards is prohibited
- Only downward discretionary adjustments may be made to performance-based awards that are intended to comply with Section 162(m) of the Code
- Shareholders must approve material changes to the 2009 Plan including: an increase in number of plan shares; an increase in the maximum shares that could be issued to a single participant; reductions in minimum vesting, restriction or performance periods; and a change in the class of individuals eligible to participate in the plan
- Awards are subject to forfeiture and clawback upon certain specified events
- Does not allow for grants to consultants, contractors or others who are not employees or Directors
- An aggregate annual monetary limit is specified for awards and other forms of compensation for non-employee directors
- No award made to a Director may be subject to or conditioned upon the attainment of any performance goal

Summary Description of Material Terms of the 2009 Plan

The principal features of the 2009 Plan, as proposed to be amended, are summarized below. The summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the 2009 Plan, as proposed to be amended, which is set forth in Appendix 1. Definitions for terms that are capitalized can be found in the attached full text of the 2009 Plan.

In General. The 2009 Plan allows the Company to grant stock options and stock appreciation rights ("SARs"), and to make restricted stock or restricted stock unit grants, performance unit grants, and other stock-based grants to officers and other employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. Directors will also be eligible to receive these grants except for performance vesting grants.

Administration. The 2009 Plan will be administered by the Committee. References to the “Committee” mean: (1) the Compensation Committee, with respect to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, and (2) the Governance and Nominating Committee, with respect to Directors.

The Committee will have the authority:

- to select the individuals who will participate in the plan
- to grant options, SARs, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units (only to employees), and other stock-based awards
- to interpret all provisions and to prescribe the form of notices or agreements evidencing awards
- to amend and rescind rules and regulations pertaining to the administration of the plan
- to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the plan, including revising the terms as they apply to non-U.S. employees or Directors to comply with local law
- to delegate its authority to administer the plan to any of its members or to any officer(s) of the Company or other individual
- except with respect to awards to individuals who are subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to delegate to any officer of the Company the ability to select the employee recipients of awards and to determine the size of any such award

## ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

**Eligibility.** Any employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries selected by the Committee and any non-employee Director selected by the Committee is eligible to receive awards under the 2009 Plan; provided, however, that no Award made to a Director shall be subject to or conditioned upon the attainment of any performance goal.

**Shares Subject to the 2009 Plan.** Following shareholder approval of the proposed amendments, an additional allotment of 8 million shares of Common Stock plus the unused authorized shares from the 8 million shares currently remaining under the 2009 Plan prior to shareholder approval of the proposed amendments and any authorized shares that become available again under the terms of the 2009 Plan, such as in connection with the forfeiture of an unvested award (including forfeiture of unvested awards granted under the 2009 Plan prior to the date of shareholder approval of the proposed amendments), may be issued under the 2009 Plan. Following shareholder approval of the proposed amendments, (i) up to 8,000,000 shares may be granted to employees as incentive stock options (“ISOs”), and (ii) a maximum of 2.6 million of the available shares may be granted as full value awards (all awards other than stock options or SARs).

**Annual Award limits per Participant:**

• Stock Options and/or SARs: 2,000,000 shares

• Performance Based Awards: 300,000 shares (if intended to comply as exempt from the deduction limits of Section 162(m) of the Code)

• Director Awards: \$750,000 aggregate to any Director, based upon fair market value at grant date and combined with all other compensation for the calendar year

Shares from awards that expire according to their terms or shares from awards that are forfeited, terminated, canceled or surrendered or are settled, or can be paid, only in cash will be available for issuance pursuant to a new award.

Shares that cannot become available for grant are:

• shares subject to a stock option that is canceled upon the exercise of a tandem SAR,

• shares underlying any underwater stock option that is voluntarily surrendered

• shares subject to awards that are surrendered in payment of the exercise price of a stock option or in payment of taxes associated with such awards,

• any shares subject to a SAR that are not issued in connection with the stock settlement of the SAR upon the exercise thereof, or

• shares repurchased by the Company using Option proceeds

Shares subject to awards assumed, converted or substituted as a result of the Company’s acquisition of another company will not count against the shares that are authorized for issuance under the 2009 Plan. Available shares under a stockholder approved plan of an acquired company may be used for Awards under the 2009 Plan and do not reduce the shares authorized.

**Adjustments.** The maximum numbers of shares available for issuance in total, and for each type of award, is subject to appropriate adjustments to reflect certain events, such as a stock dividend, stock split, reorganization, recapitalization, merger, consolidation or other business combination. The terms of then outstanding awards and the limitations on individual grants also will be adjusted as the Committee determines is appropriate to reflect such changes.

**Term, Amendment and Termination.** The 2009 Plan will remain in effect until April 22, 2024, unless sooner terminated by the Board. Termination will not affect awards then outstanding. The Board may terminate or amend the 2009 Plan at any time without shareholder approval, unless such approval is necessary to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including the Exchange Act, the Code, the rules and regulations of the NYSE or other applicable

law. In any event, shareholder approval will be required to, among other things, amend the 2009 Plan to (a) increase the maximum number of shares which may be issued; (b) increase any limitation on the number of shares that may be issued, or the aggregate value of Awards that may be made in respect of any Award type to any single Participant; (c) reduce the exercise price for outstanding options and SARs (or other similar actions); (d) reduce the minimum permissible exercise price for options and SAR awards; (e) change the performance measures available for use in awards intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code; or (f) change the class of individuals eligible to receive awards, or reduce the minimum vesting period, restriction period or performance period.

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## ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

## Awards

Except upon a Change-in-Control and in certain other limited situations, including the Participant's death or disability, the following outlines the material terms of equity awards that may be granted.

Type*	Recipient	Time Vesting	Performance Vesting	Dividends
Options/SARs	Employee	May partial vest after 1 year; minimum 3 years full vesting; 10 year maximum term	Minimum 1 year performance period; 10 year term maximum	None
	Director	Minimum of 3 years for full vesting with partial lapse over 3 year period	Not allowed	
Restricted Stock &	Employee	If less than 3 years in full, no more than 130,000 shares in aggregate	Minimum 1 year performance period	Dividend equivalents can be granted and accrue during restriction period; payable only if underlying award vests and becomes payable
Restricted Stock Units	Director	No minimum applies	Not allowed	
Performance Units	Employee	No minimum applies	Minimum 1 year performance period	Dividend equivalents can be accrued; payable only if underlying award vests and becomes payable
	Director		Not allowed	

\*Other Stock-Based Awards not otherwise described are allowed; however, directors may not receive performance vesting awards.

**Options & SARs.** An Option entitles the Participant to purchase Common Stock from the Company at the option exercise price and upon such other terms and conditions that the Committee may specify. SARs generally entitle the Participant to receive, as to each share of Common Stock subject to the SAR, the excess of the fair market value of a share of Common Stock on the exercise date over the exercise price of the SAR.

Options granted may be ISOs (for employees only) or nonqualified stock options. The exercise price of a stock option or SAR will be fixed by the Committee at the time the option/SAR is granted, but the price cannot be less than the per share fair market value of Common Stock on the date of grant, except with respect to awards assumed as a result of the Company's acquisition of another company. Awards of ISOs may also be subject to other restrictions to the extent necessary to comply with the applicable provisions of the Code.

The Committee may determine that a SAR shall be automatically exercised on one or more specified

dates. The amount payable upon the exercise of a SAR may, in the Committee's discretion, be settled in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock or any other manner approved by the Compensation Committee.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. During the restriction period, the Participant is not entitled to delivery of the shares or units, restrictions are placed on the transferability of the shares or units, and all or a portion of the shares or units will be forfeited if the Participant terminates employment or a Director terminates service as a Director for reasons other than as approved by the Committee. Upon expiration of the applicable restriction period, restricted stock and restricted stock units shall be settled in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock or any other manner approved by the Committee.

Performance Units. Employees may be granted performance units representing the contingent right to receive payment based upon the attainment of one of more pre-established performance goals during a specified performance period as determined by the



## ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

**Compensation Committee.** Directors may not receive performance units. Upon expiration of the applicable performance period and the attainment of the applicable performance goal(s), performance units shall be settled in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock or any other manner approved by the Committee.

**Other Stock-Based Awards.** The 2009 Plan also allows the Committee to make other stock-based awards to Participants on such terms and conditions as the Committee prescribes. To the extent that any other stock-based awards are granted, they may, in the Committee's discretion, be settled in cash or Common Stock.

**Transferability.** Awards under the 2009 Plan will not be transferable, assignable, alienable or pledgable, other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution; except that the Committee may permit the transfer of (a) specific non-qualified stock option and SAR grants by gift to the Participant's spouse, children or grandchildren, or to a trust or partnership for the benefit of any one or more of them, or (b) any grant or award pursuant to a domestic relations order.

**Performance Objectives.** The Committee may prescribe that, for grants to employees only (1) an option or SAR is exercisable, (2) an award of restricted stock or restricted stock units is vested or transferable or both, (3) that performance units are earned, or (4) that payment under any other stock-based award is earned, only upon the attainment of certain performance objectives.

The performance measure for an award intended to qualify for the performance-based exception to Code Section 162(m) may be based on any of the following criteria, alone or in combination, as the Compensation Committee deems appropriate:

- ◆ Net earnings or net income (before or after taxes)
- ◆ Earnings per share (basic or diluted)
- ◆ Net sales
- ◆ Revenue growth
- ◆ Operating profit
- ◆ Return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, capital, invested capital, equity, sales, or revenues)
- ◆ Cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on equity, and cash flow return on investment)
- ◆ Earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation, and/or amortization
- ◆ Gross or operating margins
- ◆ Productivity ratios
- ◆ Share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total shareholder return)
- ◆ Expense targets
- ◆ Margins
- ◆ Operating efficiency
- ◆ Market share
- ◆ Working capital targets
- ◆ Economic value added or EVA (net operating profit after tax minus the sum of capital multiplied by the cost of capital)
- ◆ Objective safety measures

Performance goals based on these performance measures may be established on a corporate-wide basis or with respect to and in combination with one or more business units, divisions, subsidiaries or business segments, and in either absolute terms or relative to the performance of one or more comparable companies or an index covering multiple

companies. At the same time as the performance goals are established, the Committee will prescribe a formula to determine the amount payable under the award based upon the level of attainment of the performance goals. The Committee may eliminate or decrease (but not increase) the amount of any award intended to qualify for the performance-based exception to Code Section 162(m).

The Company expects that all stock options and SARs paid, and certain grants of restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance share units and other stock-based grants made to Employees, will be deductible as performance-based compensation not subject to the \$1 million limitation on deductibility as prescribed in Section 162(m) of the Code.

The Committee may establish other performance measures for any award to Employees that is not intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) and such measures shall be set forth in the applicable award agreement.

Deferrals. The Committee may require the deferral of the payment of any Award, or permit Participants to defer their receipt of payment, for such period or periods and on such terms and conditions as the Committee may specify.

Change-in-Control Double Trigger Treatment for Officers. The Committee may specify in the applicable Award Agreement the effect, if any, of a Change-in-Control on any award held by a Participant, including the adjustment or other treatment of any performance goals. However, an Award made to a Participant who is at the time an Officer shall specify that if (i) a Change-in-Control occurs and (ii) within two years thereafter (or such other period of time following the Change-in-Control

## ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

specified in the applicable Award Agreement), the Officer's employment with the Company (or an applicable Subsidiary) or any successor thereto is terminated without "cause" (as defined in the Award Agreement) or if the Officer terminates employment for "good reason" (as defined in the Award Agreement), then the Award will become partially or fully vested and, as applicable, exercisable as of the date of such termination of employment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in connection with a Change-in-Control, the Committee has the discretion to cancel and terminate all outstanding Awards, whether or not exercisable, in exchange for a payment in cash and/or shares of stock equal in value to the difference, if any, between the consideration received by the Company's shareholders in respect of a Share in connection with the Change-in-Control transaction and the purchase price per share, if any, under the Award, multiplied by the number of Shares subject to such Award.

**Forfeiture and Clawback of Awards.** The Committee may specify that a Participant's rights, payments, and benefits with respect to an Award will be subject to reduction, cancellation, forfeiture, or recoupment upon the occurrence of certain specified events, in addition to any otherwise applicable vesting or performance conditions of an Award. Such events may include, but are not limited to, the Participant's fraud resulting in the restatement of the Company's published earnings, and termination of an Employee's employment or a Director's service as a director for cause.

**Right of Offset.** The Company has the right to offset against its obligation to deliver shares of Common Stock (or cash or other property) under the 2009 Plan or any award agreement, any outstanding amounts the Participant then owes to the Company. The Company's right of offset is subject to the constraints of Section 409A of the Code.

### Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a brief description of the current federal income tax treatment generally arising with respect to awards under the 2009 Plan for participants subject to taxation in the United States. This summary is not intended to constitute tax advice, is not intended to be exhaustive and, among other things, does not describe state, local or foreign tax consequences.

**Grant of Options and SARs.** An optionee will not recognize any taxable income at the time an option or SAR is granted and the Company will not be entitled to a federal income tax deduction at that time.

**Exercise of ISOs.** No ordinary income will be recognized by the holder of an ISO at the time of exercise. The excess of the fair market value of the shares of Common Stock at the time of exercise over the aggregate option exercise price will be an adjustment to alternative minimum taxable income for purposes of the Federal "alternative minimum tax" at the date of exercise. If the optionee holds the shares of Common Stock purchased for two years after the date the ISO was granted and one year after the acquisition of such shares, the difference between the aggregate option price and the amount realized upon disposition of the shares will constitute a long term capital gain or loss, as the case may be, and the Company will not be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction. If the shares of Common Stock are disposed of in a sale, exchange or other "disqualifying disposition" within two years after the date of grant or within one year after the date of exercise, the optionee will realize taxable ordinary income in an amount equal to the lesser of (a)

the excess of the fair market value of the shares of Common Stock

purchased at the time of exercise over the aggregate option exercise price and (b) the excess of the amount realized upon disposition of such shares over the option exercise price. The Company will be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction equal to that amount.

**Exercise of Nonqualified Stock Options.** Taxable ordinary income will be recognized by the holder of a non-qualified stock option at the time of exercise in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares of Common Stock purchased at the time of such exercise over the aggregate option exercise price. The Company will be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction equal to that amount. On a subsequent sale of the shares, the optionee will generally recognize a taxable capital gain or loss based upon the difference between the per share fair market value at the time of exercise and the per share selling price at the time of sale. The capital gain or loss will be short term or long term depending on the period of time the shares are held by the optionee following exercise.

**Exercise of SARs.** Upon the exercise of a SAR, the holder will realize taxable ordinary income on the amount of cash received and/or the then current fair market value of the shares of Common Stock acquired and the Company will be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction equal to that amount. The holder's basis in any shares of Common Stock acquired will be equal to the amount of ordinary income upon which he or she was taxed. Upon any subsequent disposition, any gain or loss realized will be a capital gain or loss.

ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

**Restricted Stock.** A Participant receiving a grant of restricted stock will not recognize income, and the Company will not be allowed a deduction, when restricted shares of Common Stock are granted, unless the Participant makes the election described below. When the restrictions on the shares of Common Stock are removed or lapse or are fully satisfied, the excess of fair market value of such shares on the date the restrictions are removed or lapse over the amount paid by the Participant for the shares, if any, will be ordinary income to the Participant. The Company will be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction equal to that amount (subject to the limitations of Code Section 162(m) with respect to any award which does not qualify as performance-based compensation). Upon disposition of the shares of Common Stock, the gain or loss recognized by the Participant will be treated as a capital gain or loss. The capital gain or loss will be short term or long term depending upon the period of time the shares are held by the Participant following the removal or lapse of the restrictions.

If a Section 83(b) election is filed by the Participant with the Internal Revenue Service within 30 days after the date of grant, then the Participant will recognize ordinary income and the holding period will commence as of the date of grant. The amount of ordinary income recognized by the Participant will equal the excess of the fair market value of the shares as of the date of grant over the amount, if any, paid by the Participant for the shares of Common Stock. The Company will be entitled to a deduction in a like amount (subject to the limitations of Code Section 162(m) with respect to any award which does not qualify as performance-based compensation). If such election is made and a Participant thereafter forfeits the restricted shares of Common Stock, no refund or deduction will be allowed for the amount previously included in such Participant's income.

**Restricted Stock Units, Performance Units and Other Stock-Based Awards.** A Participant receiving an award of restricted stock units, performance units, or other stock-based awards will not recognize income, and the Company will not be allowed a deduction, at the time the award is made. When a Participant receives payment in settlement of such award, the amount of cash and the fair market value of the shares of Common Stock received will be ordinary income to the Participant and the Company will be entitled to a Federal income tax deduction equal to that amount (subject to the limitations of Code Section 162(m) with respect to any award which does not qualify as performance-based compensation).

**Withholding Taxes.** No withholding taxes are payable in connection with the grant of any stock option or SAR or the exercise of an ISO. However, withholding taxes must be paid at the time of exercise of any non-qualified stock option or SAR. Withholding taxes must also be paid in respect of any restricted stock when the restrictions thereon lapse. In respect of all other awards, withholding taxes must be paid whenever the Participant recognizes income for tax purposes.

**Section 162(m).** In general, Section 162(m) of the Code denies a publicly held corporation a Federal income tax deduction from compensation in excess of \$1 million per year per person paid to its "covered employees," subject to certain exceptions. The 2009 Plan is intended to permit the issuance of awards that satisfy the "qualified performance-based compensation" exception under Section 162(m) in the case of stock options, SARs and other stock-based awards that are subject to the attainment of performance goals.

**Section 409A.** The terms of the 2009 Plan and each award granted under it are intended to comply with Section 409A of the Code, which imposes restrictions on nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements.

Equity Compensation Plans Information

The table below provides information as of December 31, 2016 (as updated in the table footnotes) about Common Stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options, warrants and rights granted to employees or Directors under present and former equity compensation plans, including the 2009 Plan.

The Compensation Committee has approved awards under the 2009 Plan to employees aggregating 6,817,926 shares since the 2009 Plan was adopted in April 2014; and the Governance and Nominating Committee has approved awards under the 2009 Plan

to Directors aggregating 39,744 shares since that time. However, the Company is not able to estimate the number of individuals that the Compensation Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee will select in the future to participate in the 2009 Plan as proposed to be amended, or the type or size of awards that the Committees will approve. Therefore, the benefits to be allocated to any individual or to various groups of individuals are not presently determinable.

## ITEM 5: AMENDMENTS TO 2009 LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE GOALS

## EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS TABLE

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights(a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights(b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders	12,695,921 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$93.67	3,993,818
Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders	0	\$0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,695,921 <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$93.67 <sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>3,993,818 <sup>(4)</sup></b>

(1) This amount includes 274,422 restricted shares and 713,620 performance shares. Up to an additional 713,620 performance shares could be issued if performance goals are achieved at the maximum specified targets. See Note 15 to the Company's consolidated financial statements in the 2016 Form 10-K and Annual Report.

(2) As of February 28, 2017, this amount was 14,517,097, reflecting equity grants of 2,386,069 shares, net of option exercises, restricted stock unit and performance share unit vestings, and equity grant terminations that have occurred since December 31, 2016. The 14,517,097 includes 281,504 restricted shares and 805,710 performance shares. Up to an additional 678,720 performance shares could be issued if performance goals are achieved at the maximum specified targets.

(3) As of February 28, 2017, the weighted-average exercise price was \$97.14.

(4) As of February 28, 2017, 1,706,595 shares of Common Stock remain available to be awarded, after taking into account equity grants of 2,386,069 shares, net of equity grant terminations that have occurred since December 31, 2016. Up to an additional 678,720 performance shares could be issued if performance goals are achieved at the maximum specified targets.

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## Information on Share Ownership

## Information on Share Ownership

## Principal Holders

The only beneficial owners of more than 5% of Praxair's Common Stock are the following:

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned(a)	Percent of Shares Outstanding(b)	
Capital World Investors, 333 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071	25,603,518	8.9	%
The Vanguard Group, 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355	20,784,297	7.3	%
BlackRock, Inc., 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055	17,457,497	6.1	%

(a) Holdings as of December 31, 2016 as reported in SEC Schedules 13G filed by Capital World Investors, the Vanguard Group, and Blackrock, Inc. According to its Schedule 13G, Capital World and certain of its affiliates had sole voting power, and sole dispositive power as to all of the reported shares. According to its Schedule 13G, Vanguard and certain of its affiliates had sole voting power as to 443,403 shares, shared voting power as to 61,299 shares, shared dispositive power as to 504,267 shares, and sole dispositive power as to 20,280,030 shares. According to its Schedule 13G, BlackRock and certain of its subsidiaries had sole voting power as to 14,843,299 shares, and sole dispositive power as to 17,457,497 shares.

(b) Based on 285,277,245 total shares outstanding on March 1, 2017 excluding shares held for the account of Praxair Directors and Executive Officers

The table below sets forth the beneficial ownership of Praxair's Common Stock as of March 1, 2017 by each director and certain executive officers. No director or executive officer of Praxair beneficially owned more than 1% of Praxair's common stock, and directors and executive officers of Praxair as a group (16 persons) beneficially owned approximately 1% of the outstanding shares as of that date.

Name	Position	SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED AND OTHER			
		EQUITY INTERESTS			Stock Options(2)
		Common Stock	Units(1)	Total	
Stephen F. Angel	Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer	256,043	65,123	321,166	1,839,815
Matthew J. White	Senior Vice President & Chief Financial	14,796	454	15,250	186,999

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Officer					
Scott E. Telesz	Executive Vice President	17,810	25,795	43,605	219,641
Eduardo F. Menezes	Executive Vice President	42,794	713	43,507	255,293
Anne K. Roby	Senior Vice President	18,950	4,096	23,046	111,673
Oscar Bernardes	Director	6,882	1,499	8,381	0
Nance K. Dicciani	Director	10,260	11,900	22,160	6,146
Edward G. Galante	Director	8,694	15,581	24,275	8,485
Ira D. Hall (3)	Director	153	16,247	16,400	0
Raymond W. LeBoeuf	Director	8,657	50,360	59,017	8,485
Larry D. McVay	Director	8,882	5,925	14,807	0
Martin H. Richenhagen	Director	636	1,499	2,135	0
Wayne T. Smith	Director	17,443	33,309	50,752	0
Robert L. Wood	Director	13,036	1,499	14,535	3,885
Total		425,036	234,000	659,036	2,640,422
Directors, Nominees and Executive Officers					
as a group	16 persons	429,173	234,087	663,260	2,706,229

(1) Includes Deferred Stock Units and/or Restricted Stock Units held. Deferred Stock Units are stock price-based units into which deferred compensation has been invested pursuant to the deferred compensation plans for management and for non-employee directors. Restricted Stock Units are stock price-based units granted as long term incentive awards to management and as equity compensation to non-employee directors. Holders have no voting rights with respect to either Deferred Stock Units or Restricted Stock Units. The value of Deferred Stock Units and Restricted Stock Units varies with the price of Praxair's common stock and, at the end of the deferral period or the restriction period, the units are payable in Praxair common stock on a one-for-one basis.

(2) Represent shares that may be acquired upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2017.