

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC
Form S-4/A
November 07, 2002

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 7, 2002.

Registration No. 333-97977

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

AMENDMENT NO. 2
TO

FORM S-4

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

3559

(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

11-2989601

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 677-0200**

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,
Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

**Gregory A. Robbins
Vice President and General Counsel
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 677-0200**

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and
Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent
for Service)

Copies to:

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650 Page Mill Road
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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: At the effective time of the merger of Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Registrant, with and into FEI Company, which shall occur as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement and the satisfaction or waiver of all conditions to the closing of such merger.

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If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box. //

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. //

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. //

THE REGISTRANT HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANT SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.

Subject to Completion, dated November 7, 2002

THE INFORMATION IN THIS JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. WE MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IT IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS

Dear Holders of Veeco and FEI Common Stock:

We are writing to you today about the proposed merger of Veeco Instruments Inc. and FEI Company. We are very excited about the opportunities we envision for the combined company. This merger will create a combined company that is a leader in metrology and process equipment solutions for the semiconductor, data storage, telecommunications/wireless and scientific research markets.

Upon completion of the merger, each outstanding share of FEI common stock will be exchanged for 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock. Veeco expects to issue approximately 44,000,000 shares of its common stock in the merger to FEI shareholders (and up to approximately 10,000,000 Veeco shares which may be issued in respect of FEI's options and other rights and convertible notes). Upon completion of the merger, former FEI shareholders will own approximately 60% of Veeco's outstanding common stock (not including the effect of shares issuable in respect of options, convertible debt and other convertible securities and rights). Veeco common stock is quoted on The Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "VECO". As of November 6, 2002, the closing price of Veeco's common stock on The Nasdaq National Market was \$12.41 per share.

Attached are notices of special meetings of holders of Veeco and FEI common stock and a joint proxy statement/prospectus relating to the merger. The accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus is the proxy statement for FEI's special meeting of shareholders to vote on the merger and for Veeco's special meeting of stockholders to vote on the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, certain amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and an amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan. It also is the prospectus of Veeco related to the issuance of Veeco common stock to the FEI shareholders in the merger.

Completion of the merger requires the FEI shareholders to approve the merger and the Veeco stockholders to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and approve the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock so that there will be sufficient authorized shares for issuance in the merger.

The merger and an investment in Veeco common stock involve risks. You should carefully consider the discussion in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 14 of the joint proxy statement/prospectus.

After careful consideration, the Veeco and FEI boards of directors unanimously recommend the merger. Your vote is important. Please vote **"FOR"** your company's proposal(s) by signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the pre-addressed envelope provided. If

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you are an FEI shareholder and you do not return your proxy card or vote in person at the FEI meeting of shareholders, the effect will be the same as a vote against the merger. If you are a Veeco stockholder and you do not return your proxy card or vote in person at the Veeco meeting of stockholders in favor of the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the effect will be the same as a vote against these proposed amendments.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters.

Edward H. Braun
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President
Veeco Instruments Inc.

Vahé A. Sarkissian
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
FEI Company

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of this transaction or the securities of Veeco to be issued in the merger, or determined if this joint proxy statement/prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is dated _____, 2002, and was first mailed to holders of Veeco and FEI common stock on or about _____, 2002.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 677-0200

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To be held on _____, 2002

We will hold a special meeting of stockholders of Veeco Instruments Inc. at 9:30 a.m. (New York City time), on _____, 2002, at the Corporate Center, 395 North Service Road, Melville, New York to consider and vote upon the following proposals:

1. To approve the issuance of Veeco common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, under an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Veeco, FEI Company and Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco, under which Venice Acquisition Corp. will be merged into FEI and FEI will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco;
2. To amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, from 60,000,000 shares to 175,000,000 shares;
3. To amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc.;
4. To amend Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares; and
5. To transact any other business that may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Your Board of Directors unanimously has determined that the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the Veeco FEI merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and you, and recommends that you vote to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in connection with the merger. Your board of directors has also unanimously determined that the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan are advisable and recommends that you vote to approve each of these items.

We describe the proposed merger more fully in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we urge you to read carefully.

Only Veeco stockholders of record at the close of business on September 20, 2002 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Veeco special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Veeco special meeting.

Your vote is important. To assure that your shares are represented at the Veeco special meeting, you are urged to complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy and promptly mail it in the postage-paid envelope provided, whether or not you plan to attend the Veeco special meeting in person.

You may revoke your proxy in the manner described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus at any time before it has been voted at the Veeco special meeting. You may vote in person at the Veeco special meeting even if you have returned a proxy.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

John F. Rein, Jr.
*Executive Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer, Treasurer and Secretary*

FEI COMPANY

7451 NW Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503) 640-7500

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS To be held on _____, 2002

We will hold a special meeting of shareholders of FEI Company at _____ a.m. (local time), on _____, 2002, at _____ to consider and vote upon the following proposals:

1. To approve the merger of Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco Instruments Inc., with and into FEI pursuant to which FEI will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco and each outstanding share of FEI common stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock; and
2. To transact any other business that may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Your board of directors unanimously has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and you, and recommends that you vote to approve the merger.

We describe the merger more fully in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we urge you to read carefully.

Only FEI shareholders of record at the close of business on September 20, 2002 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the FEI special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

Your vote is important. To assure that your shares are represented at the FEI special meeting, you are urged to complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy and promptly mail it in the postage-paid envelope provided, whether or not you plan to attend the FEI special meeting in person.

You may revoke your proxy in the manner described in the accompanying joint proxy statement/prospectus at any time before it has been voted at the FEI special meeting. You may vote in person at the FEI special meeting even if you have returned a proxy.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Bradley J. Thies
Secretary

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about Veeco and FEI from documents that each company has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission but that have not been included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a listing of documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, please see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134.

You may obtain information relating to Veeco, without charge, upon written or oral request to:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. 17 State Street, 28th Floor New York, NY 10004 (212) 805-7000 | <i>or</i> | Veeco Instruments Inc. Investor Relations 100 Sunnyside Boulevard Woodbury, NY 11797 (516) 677-0200, Ext. 1403 |
|---|-----------|--|

You may obtain information relating to FEI, without charge, upon written or oral request to:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. 17 State Street, 28th Floor New York, NY 10004 (212) 805-7000 | <i>or</i> | FEI Company Investor Relations 7451 NW Evergreen Parkway Hillsboro, OR 97124 (503) 640-7500, Ext. 7527 |
|---|-----------|--|

In order for you to receive timely delivery of the documents before the special meetings of Veeco and FEI, Georgeson, Veeco or FEI should receive your request no later than _____, 2002.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: **What transactions are proposed?**

A: Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco Instruments Inc., will be merged with and into FEI Company and FEI will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco after the merger.

For a more complete description of the merger, see the section titled "The Merger" beginning on page 42. Also, the merger agreement is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Appendix A. You are encouraged to read it carefully.

Q: Why am I receiving this joint proxy statement/prospectus?

A: As a Veeco stockholder or an FEI shareholder, you are being asked to vote upon certain measures in order to complete the merger. Also, if you are a Veeco stockholder, you are being asked to approve an amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Q: What will FEI shareholders receive in the merger?

A: As a result of the merger, FEI shareholders will have the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock in exchange for each share of FEI common stock held by them.

Instead of any fractional shares of Veeco common stock, FEI shareholders will receive cash based on the closing market price of Veeco common stock on the day before the merger. For example, if the merger is completed, a holder of 100 shares of FEI common stock would receive 135 shares of Veeco common stock and a check representing the value of the remaining 0.5 shares of Veeco common stock.

As a result of the merger, the former FEI shareholders will be entitled to receive a total of approximately 44,000,000 shares of Veeco common stock (and others may be entitled to receive up to approximately 10,000,000 Veeco shares which may be issued in respect of FEI's options and other rights and convertible notes). The number of shares of Veeco common stock issued to the former FEI shareholders will represent approximately 60% of the Veeco common stock outstanding after the merger (not including the effect of shares of common stock issuable in respect of options, convertible debt and other convertible securities and rights).

For a more complete description of what FEI shareholders will receive in the merger, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration" beginning on page 78.

Q: Will Veeco assume FEI's outstanding stock options? Will the FEI convertible notes become convertible into Veeco common stock?

A: Yes. In connection with the merger, Veeco will assume FEI's outstanding stock options. After the merger, holders of options to purchase FEI common stock will hold options to purchase shares of Veeco common stock and holders of FEI's \$175 million 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due August 15, 2008, which are currently convertible into FEI common stock, will hold notes convertible solely into Veeco common stock. The number of shares issuable and the exercise prices payable upon the exercise of these options, and the number of shares into which the FEI notes are convertible, will be adjusted using the exchange ratio for the merger of 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock. At June 30, 2002, a total of approximately 10,000,000 Veeco shares would have been issuable under FEI's options and other rights and convertible notes assuming the merger had occurred on that date.

Q: What is the value of the merger consideration?

A: The 1.355 exchange ratio is fixed, which means that the number of shares of Veeco common stock to be issued in the merger will not change if the trading prices of the Veeco common stock or the FEI common

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stock change. The market value of the Veeco common stock that FEI shareholders will receive in the merger, however, will increase or decrease as the price of the Veeco common stock increases or decreases.

Veeco's and FEI's stock prices are volatile. We encourage you to obtain current market quotations of Veeco common stock and FEI common stock prior to voting on the merger and the related proposals.

Q:

Are there risks involved in the merger?

A: Yes. In evaluating the merger, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 14.

Q: Does Veeco's board of directors recommend that Veeco stockholders vote in favor of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan?

A: Yes. After careful consideration, Veeco's board of directors unanimously recommends that Veeco stockholders vote in favor of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and also unanimously recommends that Veeco stockholders vote in favor of the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

For a complete description of the recommendation of Veeco's board of directors, see the section titled "The Merger Recommendation of Veeco's Board of Directors" on page 51.

Q: Does FEI's board of directors recommend that FEI shareholders vote in favor of the merger?

A: Yes. After careful consideration, FEI's board of directors unanimously recommends that FEI's shareholders vote in favor of the merger.

For a more complete description of the recommendation of FEI's board of directors, see the section titled "The Merger Recommendation of FEI's Board of Directors" on page 51.

Q: What do FEI shareholders and Veeco stockholders need to do now?

A: Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders should read carefully this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including all of the Appendices referred or attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. They should consider how the transaction will affect them as a Veeco stockholder or FEI shareholder prior to casting their vote. They may also want to review the documents referenced in this joint proxy statement/prospectus under the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 134.

Q: What do I do if I want to change my vote?

A: If you want to change your vote, deliver to Veeco's Secretary (if you are a Veeco stockholder) or to FEI's Secretary (if you are an FEI shareholder) a written notice of revocation of your proxy or a later-dated, signed proxy card before the Veeco special meeting or the FEI special meeting, as applicable, or attend the appropriate special meeting and vote in person.

For a more complete description of how to change your vote, see the sections titled "The Veeco Special Meeting" on page 38 (if you are a Veeco stockholder) and "The FEI Special Meeting" on page 40 (if you are an FEI shareholder).

Q: Where will the shares of Veeco common stock issued to FEI shareholders trade after the merger?

A: The Veeco common stock FEI shareholders will receive in the merger will be listed on The Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "VECO."

Q: What have been the dividend policies of Veeco and FEI?

A: Neither Veeco nor FEI has paid cash dividends and they do not expect to do so in the foreseeable future.

Q: What vote is needed to effect the merger?

A: A majority of the votes cast at Veeco's special meeting (including votes cast by proxy) must vote "**FOR**" the proposed issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger in order for the proposed issuance to be approved by Veeco's stockholders.

The holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote at the Veeco special meeting also must vote "**FOR**" the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the number of authorized shares of Veeco's common stock in order for this proposal to be approved by Veeco's stockholders.

Veeco stockholders who owned approximately 12.8% of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have signed agreements with FEI in which they have agreed to vote "**FOR**" the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and "**FOR**" the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the number of authorized shares of Veeco's common stock. These Veeco stockholders also have granted irrevocable proxies to FEI to vote their shares in this manner. For more information on these voting arrangements, see the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with Veeco Stockholders" on page 96.

The holders of a majority of the shares of FEI common stock entitled to vote must vote "**FOR**" the merger at the FEI special meeting in order for the merger to be approved by FEI's shareholders.

FEI shareholders who owned approximately 27.4% of the outstanding shares of FEI common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have signed agreements with Veeco in which they agreed to vote "**FOR**" the merger. These FEI shareholders also have granted irrevocable proxies to Veeco to vote their shares in this manner. For more information on these voting arrangements, see the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with FEI Shareholders" beginning on page 96.

Q: Will Veeco stockholders or FEI shareholders be entitled to appraisal/dissenters' rights in connection with the merger?

A: No. Under Delaware and Oregon law, neither Veeco stockholders nor FEI shareholders will be entitled to dissent from the merger or request an appraisal of the value of their shares.

Q: What vote is needed for the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc.?

A: The holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote at the Veeco special meeting must vote "**FOR**" the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation in order for this proposal to be approved by Veeco's stockholders.

Q: What vote is needed for the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, which would, among other things, increase the number of shares issuable under the existing plan?

A: A majority of the votes cast at Veeco's special meeting (including votes cast by proxy) must vote "**FOR**" the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan in order for the proposal to be approved by Veeco's stockholders.

Q:

What happens if an FEI shareholder votes "AGAINST" the merger but a majority of the FEI shareholders vote "FOR" the merger?

A: The merger will be approved, and each FEI shareholder will have the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock such shareholder holds when the merger is completed.

Q: If my shares are held in "street name" by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?

A: Your broker will vote your shares only if you provide instructions on how to vote by following the information provided to you by your broker.

Q: Should FEI shareholders send in their stock certificates now?

A: No. After the merger is completed, FEI shareholders will receive a letter of transmittal and other documentation from the exchange agent in the merger, together with written instructions for exchanging their FEI stock certificates for Veeco FEI stock certificates.

Q: When do you expect the merger to be completed?

A: We are working toward completing the merger as quickly as possible and hope to complete the merger shortly after the FEI special meeting and the Veeco special meeting.

Q: Who should I call with questions?

A: Veeco stockholders should call either Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. at (212) 805-7000 or Veeco Investor Relations at (516) 677-0200, ext. 1403 with any questions about the merger.

FEI shareholders should call either Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc. at (212) 805-7000 or FEI Investor Relations at (503) 640-7500, ext. 7527 with any questions about the merger.

You also may obtain additional information about FEI or Veeco from documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by following the instructions in the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 134.

JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

For your convenience, we have provided a brief summary of certain information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary highlights selected information found in greater detail elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information that is important to you. To understand the proposed merger fully and for a more complete description of the legal terms of the proposed merger, we urge you to carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus (including the attached Appendices) and the documents to which we have referred you before you decide how to vote. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 134.

The Companies

Veeco Instruments Inc.
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 677-0200

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Veeco designs, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment primarily used by manufacturers in the data storage, telecommunications/wireless, semiconductor and research industries. Veeco's broad line of products featuring leading edge technology allows customers to improve time to market of next generation products. Veeco's metrology, or measurement, equipment is used to provide critical surface measurements on semiconductor devices, thin film magnetic heads and disks used in hard drives and in telecommunications/wireless and research applications. This metrology equipment allows customers to monitor their products throughout the manufacturing process in order to improve yields, reduce costs and improve product quality. Veeco's process equipment products precisely deposit or remove various materials in the manufacturing of advanced thin film magnetic heads for the data storage industry and telecommunications/wireless components. The ability of Veeco's products to precisely deposit thin films, and/or etch sub-micron patterns and make critical surface measurements enables manufacturers to improve yields and quality in the fabrication of advanced microelectronic devices, such as passive and active telecommunications components, wireless devices, thin film magnetic heads and semiconductor devices. Veeco serves its worldwide customers through its global sales and service organization located throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Asia Pacific.

Venice Acquisition Corp. c/o Veeco Instruments Inc.

Venice Acquisition Corp. is an Oregon corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. Venice Acquisition Corp. was formed for the purpose of effecting the merger with FEI pursuant to the merger agreement.

FEI Company 7451 NW Evergreen Parkway Hillsboro, OR 97124 (503) 640-7500

FEI is a leading supplier of structural process management solutions to the semiconductor, data storage, structural biology, and industry and institute markets. FEI's range of DualBeam and single column focused ion and electron microscope products enables manufactures and researchers to keep pace with technology shifts and develop next generation technologies and products. FEI's products allow advanced three dimensional metrology, device editing, trimming and structural analysis for management of sub-micron structures, including those found in integrated circuits, high density magnetic storage devices, industrial materials, chemical compounds, biological structures and genomes. FEI sells its products worldwide to a geographically diverse base of customers in the semiconductor, data storage and industry and institute markets.

Philips Business Electronics International B.V. c/o Philips Electronics North America Corporation 1251 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10022 (212) 536-0633

Philips Business Electronics International B.V., or PBE, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. and is FEI's largest shareholder, holding approximately 25% of FEI's outstanding shares of common stock. In this joint proxy statement/prospectus we use Philips to refer to Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. and its affiliates, including PBE, and PBE is used only with respect to the Philips entity that directly holds shares of FEI's common stock.

For more information on FEI's relationship with Philips, see the section titled "Relationship with Philips" on page 100.

Description of the Transaction

Pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated July 11, 2002, among Veeco Instruments Inc., Venice Acquisition Corp. and FEI Company, Venice Acquisition Corp., shall, subject to the terms and satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the merger agreement, be merged with and into FEI, and FEI shall become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. As a result of the merger, FEI shareholders will have the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock held by them.

What FEI Securityholders Will Receive in the Merger

Holders of Shares of FEI Common Stock

Each FEI shareholder will have the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock they own before the merger. Veeco will not issue fractional shares of Veeco common stock in exchange for shares of FEI common stock in the merger. Instead,

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Veeco will issue an appropriate amount of cash in lieu of any fractional shares. This cash amount will be based on the closing trading price of Veeco common stock on the trading day before the closing of the merger.

Holders of FEI Options

Each option to purchase a share of FEI common stock will be assumed by Veeco upon completion of the merger and will be converted into an option to purchase 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock at an exercise price equal to the current exercise price divided by 1.355. Veeco will assume each option to purchase shares of FEI common stock in accordance with the terms of the stock option plan or other arrangement under which the option was issued, but converted as described above into an option to purchase shares of Veeco common stock.

Holders of FEI Convertible Debt

FEI's \$175 million 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due August 15, 2008, shall become convertible solely into such number of shares of Veeco common stock that would have been issued if the FEI notes had been converted into FEI common stock immediately prior to the closing of the merger.

Stock Certificates

FEI shareholders should **NOT** send in their FEI stock certificates until after the merger and until they receive a letter of transmittal and other information and instructions on how to exchange the certificates. For information on exchanging shares of FEI common stock for shares of Veeco common stock after the merger, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration Exchange of Certificates" on page 78.

Reasons for the Merger

Veeco's and FEI's Reasons for the Merger

The Veeco and FEI boards of directors approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement because they determined that the combined company would have the potential to realize a stronger competitive position and improve long-term operating and financial results. The boards of directors considered many factors that they believed could contribute to the long-term success of the combined company including, among other things, the potential that the combined company would have:

Enhanced ability to provide more comprehensive product solutions and expanded product lines to its customers;

Decreased dependency on major customers;

Increased critical mass and global presence to better serve customers' needs;

Expanded research and development efforts;

Enhanced purchasing power; and

A stronger management team to position the combined company to take advantage of future growth opportunities.

The Veeco and FEI boards of directors considered a number of other factors as well as potential risks and disadvantages of the merger.

You should carefully review the sections titled "The Merger Veeco's Reasons for the Merger," beginning on page 46, and "The Merger FEI's Reasons for the Merger," beginning on page 49, to learn more about Veeco's and FEI's reasons for entering into the merger agreement.

Recommendation of Veeco's Board of Directors

Veeco's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and its stockholders, and has determined that the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan are advisable. After careful consideration, Veeco's board of directors unanimously recommends that Veeco's stockholders vote "FOR" approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger. Veeco's board of directors also unanimously recommends that Veeco's stockholders vote "FOR" approval of the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco common stock from 60,000,000 to 175,000,000 shares and "FOR" approval of the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares.

Recommendation of FEI's Board of Directors

FEI's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and its shareholders. After careful consideration, FEI's board of directors unanimously recommends that FEI shareholders vote "FOR" the approval of the merger.

Opinion of Veeco's Financial Advisor

In connection with the merger, the Veeco board of directors received a written opinion from Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Veeco's financial advisor, dated as of July 11, 2002, to the effect that as of such date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco. The full text of Salomon Smith Barney's written opinion, dated July 11, 2002, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as [Appendix E](#). We encourage you to read this opinion carefully in its entirety for a description of the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken. **Salomon Smith Barney's opinion is addressed to the Veeco board of directors and does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder with respect to any matters relating to the proposed merger.** For more information, see the section titled "The Merger Opinion of Veeco's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 51.

Opinion of FEI's Financial Advisor

In deciding to approve the merger, the FEI board of directors considered, among other things, the opinion of Credit Suisse First Boston, FEI's financial advisor, dated as of July 11, 2002, to the effect that as of such date and based upon and subject to the various considerations set forth in the opinion, the exchange ratio in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates. The full text of the written opinion of Credit Suisse First Boston, dated as of July 11, 2002, which sets forth assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as [Appendix D](#). You are urged to read this opinion carefully in its entirety. **Credit Suisse First Boston's opinion is directed to the FEI board of directors, addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger exchange ratio to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates, and does not constitute a recommendation to**

any FEI shareholder as to how such FEI shareholder should vote or act on matter relating to the merger. For more information, see the section titled "The Merger Opinion of FEI's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 57.

Voting and Solicitation

Veeco

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At the Veeco special meeting, each Veeco stockholder of record as of September 20, 2002 is entitled to one vote for each share of Veeco common stock such Veeco stockholder holds. Veeco's bylaws provide that the holders of 50% of all of the Veeco common stock entitled to vote, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Veeco special meeting. Under applicable rules of The Nasdaq National Market, if a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, whether in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting, is required to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger. Also, if a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, whether in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting of stockholders is required to approve the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Veeco common stock entitled to vote, whether in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting is required to approve the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco's common stock from 60,000,000 to 175,000,000 shares.

FEI

At the FEI special meeting, each FEI shareholder of record as of September 20, 2002 is entitled to one vote for each share of FEI common stock such FEI shareholder holds. FEI's bylaws provide that the holders of a majority of all of the FEI common stock entitled to vote, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the FEI special meeting. Under the Oregon Business Corporation Act, the holders of a majority of the shares of FEI common stock entitled to vote must vote "**FOR**" the approval of the merger in order for the merger to be approved by FEI's shareholders.

Share Ownership of Management

Veeco

As of the Veeco record date, the directors and executive officers of Veeco, as a group, held (together with their affiliates) approximately 0.4% of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock.

FEI

As of the FEI record date, the directors and executive officers of FEI, as a group, held (together with their affiliates) approximately 26.43% of the outstanding shares of FEI common stock.

Stockholder Voting Arrangements

Voting Arrangements With Veeco Stockholders

Certain Veeco stockholders that own an aggregate of approximately 12.8% of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have entered into voting agreements with FEI. These Veeco stockholders include all of Veeco's directors and executive officers and Chorus, L.P., Veeco's largest stockholder. Pursuant to these voting agreements, they have agreed to vote all of their shares of Veeco common stock:

In favor of the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger;

In favor of the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock; and

Against proposals or transactions that would in any manner prevent or nullify

the merger, the merger agreement or any related transactions.

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These Veeco stockholders, however, are permitted to vote their shares in favor of a Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction, as such terms are defined on page 86. These Veeco stockholders also have granted irrevocable proxies to FEI to allow FEI to vote all of their shares of Veeco common stock in favor of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger.

The voting agreements between FEI and these Veeco stockholders, and the related irrevocable proxies granted to FEI by each such Veeco stockholder are included as [Appendix C-1](#) and [Appendix C-2](#) to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For more information on these voting arrangements, see the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with Veeco Stockholders" on page 96.

Voting Arrangements With FEI Shareholders

Certain FEI shareholders that own an aggregate of approximately 27.4% of the outstanding shares of FEI common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have entered into voting agreements with Veeco. These FEI shareholders include all of FEI's directors and executive officers and PBE, FEI's largest shareholder. Pursuant to these voting agreements, they have agreed to vote all of their shares of FEI common stock:

In favor of the approval of the merger; and

Against proposals or transactions that would in any manner prevent or nullify the merger or the merger agreement or any related transactions.

These FEI shareholders, however, are permitted to vote their shares in favor of a Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction, as such terms are defined on page 87. These FEI shareholders also have granted irrevocable proxies to Veeco to allow Veeco to vote all of their shares of FEI common stock in favor of the merger.

The voting agreements between Veeco and these FEI shareholders, and the related irrevocable proxies, granted to Veeco by each such FEI shareholder are included as [Appendix B-1](#) and [Appendix B-2](#) to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For more information on these voting arrangements, see the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with FEI Shareholders" beginning on page 96.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the FEI board of directors that FEI shareholders vote to approve the merger and the recommendation of the Veeco board of directors that Veeco stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, FEI shareholders and Veeco stockholders should note that certain directors and officers of Veeco and FEI have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as stockholders/shareholders. These interests relate to the composition of the Veeco FEI board of directors and the management of Veeco FEI following the merger, employment agreements, potential severance payments, potential accelerated vesting of stock options, indemnification rights and certain rights granted to PBE, FEI's largest shareholder, under the investor agreement. For more information, see the section titled "The Merger Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger" beginning on page 70.

Board of Directors and Management Following the Merger

Veeco and FEI have agreed that immediately following the closing of the merger, the Veeco FEI board of directors will consist of 13 directors. Of these 13 directors:

Seven will be nominated by Veeco from the current members of Veeco's board of directors and will include Edward H. Braun, Veeco's current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President;

Five will be nominated by FEI from the current members of FEI's board of

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directors and will include Vahé A. Sarkissian, FEI's current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President; and

One will be nominated by PBE, FEI's largest shareholder.

Veeco's bylaws provide for a staggered board of directors, composed of three separate classes: Class I, Class II and Class III. Veeco, FEI and PBE have agreed that two Veeco nominees and two FEI nominees will serve as Class III directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2003 annual meeting of stockholders, two Veeco nominees and two FEI nominees will serve as Class I directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2004 annual meeting of stockholders and three Veeco nominees, one FEI nominee and one PBE nominee will serve as Class II directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2005 annual meeting of stockholders. For more information on this arrangement and for more information regarding PBE's right to appoint a person to serve on the Veeco FEI board of directors, see the sections titled "The Merger Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger" beginning on page 70, "The Merger Board of Directors and Management of Veeco FEI After the Merger" beginning on page 67 and "Other Agreements Investor Agreement with PBE" beginning on page 97.

Description of Merger Agreement

Terms of the Merger

For information on the terms of the merger in addition to the information contained in this summary, see the sections titled "The Merger" beginning on page 42 and "The Merger Agreement" beginning on page 78.

The merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference herein. Veeco and FEI encourage you to read the merger agreement carefully. It is the legal document governing the merger.

Representations, Warranties and Covenants

In the merger agreement, Veeco and FEI each have made representations and warranties to each other concerning their respective businesses. Each party also has made covenants to the other concerning its activities between the signing of the merger agreement and closing of the merger, the actions it will take to enable the completion of the merger, and other matters.

For more information on these representations, warranties and covenants, see the sections titled "The Merger Agreement Representations and Warranties" and "The Merger Agreement Certain Covenants" on pages 79 and 80, respectively.

Conditions to the Merger

Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp.

Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. will complete the merger only if a number of conditions are satisfied or are waived by Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. These include:

FEI's representations and warranties set forth in the merger agreement are true and correct as of the closing date of the merger except where the failure to be true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect, as such term is defined on page 90, on FEI;

FEI performs certain covenants and obligations contained in the merger agreement in all material respects;

FEI's shareholders approve the merger;

Veeco's stockholders approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock;

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There has been no Material Adverse Effect with respect to FEI;

The applicable antitrust waiting periods shall have expired or been terminated;

The Form S-4 registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part shall have become effective and shall remain effective;

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There are no pending legal proceedings by any governmental authority, or injunctions or final judgments entered before any court or governmental authority, that seek to or have the effect of restraining or prohibiting the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

No governmental authority shall have enacted any rule or regulation making the merger illegal or prohibiting the merger; and

The shares of Veeco common stock to be issued in connection with the merger shall have been approved for listing on The Nasdaq National Market.

For more detailed information concerning the conditions to Veeco's and Venice Acquisition Corp.'s obligations to complete the merger, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger" beginning on page 89.

FEI

FEI will complete the merger only if certain conditions are satisfied or are waived by FEI. These include:

Veeco's and Venice Acquisition Corp.'s representations and warranties set forth in the merger agreement are true and correct as of the closing date of the merger except where the failure to be true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco;

Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. perform certain covenants and obligations contained in the merger agreement in all material respects;

FEI's shareholders approve the merger;

Veeco's stockholders approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock;

There has been no Material Adverse Effect with respect to Veeco;

All applicable antitrust waiting periods shall have expired or been terminated;

The Form S-4 registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part shall have become effective and shall remain effective;

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There are no pending legal proceedings by any governmental authority, or injunctions or final judgments entered before any court or governmental authority, that seek to or have the effect of restraining or prohibiting the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement;

No governmental authority shall have enacted any rule or regulation making the merger illegal or prohibiting the merger; and

The shares of Veeco common stock to be issued in connection with the merger shall have been approved for listing on The Nasdaq National Market.

For more detailed information concerning the conditions to FEI's obligation to complete the merger, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger" beginning on page 89.

No Solicitation

Veeco

Veeco has agreed not to directly or indirectly solicit, induce, encourage, initiate or facilitate a Veeco Acquisition Proposal, as such term is defined on page 86. Veeco has also agreed not to engage in negotiations or discussions with respect to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, provide any information regarding Veeco or its subsidiaries, enter into a contract or letter of intent with respect to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal or approve, recommend or endorse a Veeco Acquisition Proposal. However, if Veeco receives a bona fide, unsolicited, written Veeco Acquisition Proposal that Veeco's board of directors reasonably determines in good faith

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would be reasonably likely to result in a Superior Veeco Proposal, as such term is defined on page 86, then Veeco may engage in discussions and take other actions to become informed about such Veeco Acquisition Proposal in certain circumstances.

For more information regarding Veeco's agreements with FEI relating to Veeco Acquisition Proposals, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement No Solicitation" beginning on page 85.

FEI

FEI has agreed not to directly or indirectly solicit, induce, encourage, initiate or facilitate an FEI Acquisition Proposal, as such term is defined on page 87. FEI has also agreed not to engage in negotiations or discussions with respect to any FEI Acquisition Proposal, provide any information regarding FEI or its subsidiaries, enter into a contract or letter of intent with respect to an FEI Acquisition Proposal or approve, recommend or endorse an FEI Acquisition Proposal. However, if FEI receives a bona fide, unsolicited, written FEI Acquisition Proposal that FEI's board of directors reasonably determines in good faith would be reasonably likely to result in a Superior FEI Proposal, as that term is defined on page 87, then FEI may engage in discussions and take other actions to become informed about such FEI Acquisition Proposal in certain circumstances.

For more information regarding FEI's agreements with Veeco relating to FEI Acquisition Proposals, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement No Solicitation" beginning on page 85.

Termination of the Merger Agreement

Mutual Termination

Either Veeco or FEI may terminate the merger agreement at any time prior to the closing of the merger if:

Veeco and FEI mutually consent;

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The merger is not completed by December 31, 2002, provided, that, in limited circumstances, this date may be extended to January 30, 2003;

A court or other governmental authority issues a final and nonappealable order, decree or ruling or takes other action, having the effect of permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the merger;

Veeco's stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock; or

FEI's shareholders do not approve the merger.

Termination by Veeco

Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. may terminate the merger agreement if:

At any time prior to the closing of the merger, FEI materially breaches its representations, warranties or covenants under the merger agreement and does not cure such breach within 30 days after notice thereof; or

At any time prior to the approval by Veeco's stockholders of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock, an FEI Triggering Event, as that term is defined on page 92, occurs.

For a more detailed discussion of the circumstances in which the merger agreement can be terminated, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Termination of the Merger Agreement" beginning on page 91.

Termination by FEI

FEI may terminate the merger agreement if:

At any time prior to the closing of the merger, Veeco materially breaches its representations, warranties or covenants

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under the merger agreement and does not cure such breach within 30 days after notice thereof; or

At any time prior to the approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders, a Veeco Triggering Event, as that term is defined on page 93, occurs.

Expenses and Termination Fees

Payment of Expenses

FEI and Veeco will each pay their own fees and expenses in connection with the merger, whether or not the merger is completed, except that FEI and Veeco will share equally filing fees and printing expenses in connection with this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the fees and expenses involved in connection with all required antitrust filings.

Veeco will be required to pay up to \$5 million of FEI's fees and expenses in connection with the merger in the following circumstances:

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In the event that the merger agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco because Veeco stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting, and at or prior to the time of such termination a Veeco Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn; or

If Veeco breaches its representations, warranties or covenants in a manner that gives FEI the right to terminate the merger agreement and FEI then terminates the merger agreement.

FEI will be required to pay up to \$5 million of Veeco's fees and expenses in connection with the merger in the following circumstances:

In the event that the merger agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco because FEI shareholders do not approve the merger at the FEI special meeting, and at or prior to the time of such termination an FEI Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn; or

If FEI breaches its representations, warranties or covenants in a manner that gives Veeco the right to terminate the merger agreement and Veeco then terminates the merger agreement.

Termination Fees

Veeco has agreed to pay FEI a termination fee of \$30 million in the following circumstances:

Veeco or FEI terminates the merger agreement because Veeco's stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI's shareholders or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting at a time when a Veeco Acquisition Proposal has been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not unconditionally withdrawn and within 12 months following the termination either (1) a Veeco Acquisition Transaction (as such term is defined on page 86, except that all references to "15%" shall read "40%") is consummated or (2) Veeco enters into a letter

of intent or contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following termination of the merger agreement; or

FEI terminates the merger agreement because a Veeco Triggering Event has occurred; *provided, however*, that if the merger agreement is terminated by FEI because of a breach by Veeco of its nonsolicitation obligations, then such termination fee will be payable only if within 12 months following the

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termination of the merger agreement, either (1) a Veeco Acquisition Transaction (as such term is defined on page 86, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated or (2) Veeco enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of the merger agreement.

For more information about expenses and termination fees, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Fees and Expenses" beginning on page 94.

FEI has agreed to pay Veeco a termination fee of \$30 million in the following circumstances:

Veeco or FEI terminates the merger agreement because FEI's shareholders do not approve the merger at the FEI special meeting at a time when an FEI Acquisition Proposal has been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not unconditionally withdrawn and within 12 months following the termination, either (1) an FEI Acquisition Transaction (as such term is defined on page 87, except that all references to "15%" shall read "40%") is consummated or

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(2) FEI enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for an FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following termination of the merger agreement; or

Veeco terminates the merger agreement because an FEI Triggering Event has occurred; *provided, however*, that if the merger agreement is terminated by Veeco because of a breach by FEI of its nonsolicitation obligations, then such termination fee will be payable only if within 12 months following the termination of the merger agreement, either (1) an FEI Acquisition Transaction (as such term is defined on page 87, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated, or (2) FEI enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for an FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of the merger agreement.

When the Merger Will Occur

Unless Veeco and FEI otherwise agree, the merger will take place no later than the second business day after all of the conditions to closing of the merger contained in the merger agreement have been satisfied or waived. Assuming that both FEI and Veeco satisfy or waive all of the conditions in the merger agreement, we anticipate that the merger will occur shortly after the FEI special meeting and the Veeco special meeting. For more information on regulatory matters and other conditions to the closing of the merger, see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Conditions to the Merger" beginning on page 89.

Investor Agreement with PBE

In connection with the merger, Veeco, FEI and PBE entered into an investor agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002. This investor agreement provides for, among other things, the following:

Registration rights for the shares of Veeco FEI common stock that PBE will receive in the merger;

The right of PBE to designate one director to serve on Veeco FEI's board of directors for a certain period of time;

"Standstill" restrictions prohibiting PBE and its affiliates from acquiring more than a specified percentage of outstanding Veeco FEI common stock or taking certain other actions; and

Veeco's assumption of FEI's obligation to issue, at PBE's option, additional common stock upon the exercise of certain outstanding options to purchase FEI common stock.

The investor agreement is included as [Appendix G](#) to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a more detailed description of

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the terms and conditions of the investor agreement, see the section titled "Other Agreements Investor Agreement with PBE" beginning on page 97.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

The receipt of shares of Veeco common stock in the merger generally will be tax-free to FEI shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes, except for tax on gain resulting from the receipt of cash in lieu of fractional shares.

Tax matters are very complicated, and the tax consequences of the merger to each FEI shareholder will depend on the facts of such shareholder's own situation. FEI shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to the specific tax consequences of the

merger to them, including the applicable federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences.

For more information, see the section titled "The Merger Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger" beginning on page 75.

No Appraisal/Dissenters' Rights

In connection with the merger, neither Veeco stockholders nor FEI shareholders are entitled to dissent from the merger or request an appraisal of the value of their shares under Delaware or Oregon law. For more information see the section titled "The Merger Agreement Merger Consideration No Appraisal/Dissenters' Rights" on page 78.

Accounting Treatment of the Merger

The merger will be accounted for using the purchase method for financial reporting and accounting purposes. After the merger, FEI's post-merger results of operations will be included in the consolidated financial statements of Veeco. For more information, see the section titled "The Merger Accounting Treatment of the Merger" on page 76.

Restrictions on Selling Veeco Common Stock Received in the Merger

All shares of Veeco common stock received by FEI shareholders in connection with the merger will be freely transferable, unless the holder is an affiliate of FEI or Veeco. For a more complete description of transfer restrictions that apply to these affiliates, see the section titled "The Merger Resale of Veeco Common Stock Issued in the Merger" beginning on page 74.

Ownership of Veeco FEI Following the Merger

Based upon the number of shares of FEI common stock outstanding on the FEI record date, Veeco expects to issue a total of approximately 44,000,000 shares of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in connection with the merger and may be required to issue additional shares of Veeco common stock in the future upon exercise of FEI stock options and other rights and conversion of the FEI notes. Based upon the number of shares of Veeco common stock outstanding on the Veeco record date, the former holders of FEI common stock will hold approximately 60% of the total number of issued and outstanding shares of Veeco common stock after completion of the merger (not including the effect of shares issuable in respect of options, convertible debt and other convertible securities and rights).

Based upon the number of outstanding options to purchase shares of FEI common stock as of June 30, 2002, those FEI options will become options to purchase an aggregate of approximately 4,174,461 shares of Veeco common stock following the merger.

Based on the number of shares of FEI common stock issuable upon conversion of the FEI notes as of June 30, 2002, the FEI notes will become convertible into an aggregate of approximately 4,788,470 shares of Veeco common stock following the merger.

Markets and Market Prices

Veeco common stock is listed on The Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "VECO." FEI common stock is listed on The Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "FEIC."

After the completion of the merger, FEI common stock will cease to be listed on The Nasdaq National Market and Veeco FEI common stock will trade on The Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "VECO."

The following table sets forth the (1) closing sale price per share of Veeco common stock as reported on The Nasdaq National Market, (2) closing sale price per share of FEI common stock as reported on The Nasdaq National Market and (3) equivalent per share price (as explained below) of FEI common stock, in each case, on July 11, 2002, the last trading day before Veeco and FEI announced that they had signed the merger agreement, and on November 6, 2002, the most recent practicable date before the date of the filing of Amendment No. 2 to the

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Registration Statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part.

| | Veeco Share Price | FEI Share Price | Equivalent FEI Per Share Price(1) |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| July 11, 2002 | \$ 22.49 | \$ 22.06 | \$ 30.47 |
| November 6, 2002 | \$ 12.41 | \$ 16.48 | \$ 16.82 |

(1)

The equivalent FEI per share price represents 1.355 times the price of one Veeco share.

Veeco and FEI cannot guarantee or predict the actual trading prices of Veeco common stock and FEI common stock before or at the time the merger is completed. The actual trading prices of FEI common stock and Veeco common stock have historically been volatile. For more information on this risk, see "Risk Factors Risks Related to the Merger and Receipt of Veeco Stock" on page 14.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This joint proxy statement/prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain certain forward-looking statements about Veeco, FEI and the combined company within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, expectations about market conditions or about market acceptance, expectations of future sales or gross profits, possible or assumed future results of operations of Veeco and FEI and the integration of the merged companies and the statements included in the sections titled "The Merger Veeco's Reasons for the Merger" and "The Merger FEI's Reasons for the Merger". Forward-looking statements relate to expectations concerning matters that are not historical facts. Words or phrases such as "will likely result," "expect," "will continue," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "intend," "plan," "project" or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Actual results may vary materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including:

The fact that these forward-looking statements are based on information of a preliminary nature which may be subject to further and continuing review and adjustment;

The risk that the merger will not be completed because of failure to meet one or more conditions to the merger set forth in the merger agreement;

The risk of a significant delay in the expected completion of, and unexpected consequences resulting from, the merger;

The risk that governmental authorities may impose unfavorable terms as a condition of the merger;

The risk of favorable customer contracts being cancelled, expiring or being renewed or renegotiated on less attractive terms;

Seasonality in the scientific research sector;

The cyclical nature of the semiconductor, data storage, telecommunications/wireless and scientific research industries;

Risks associated with the acceptance of new products by individual customers and by the marketplace;

The financial condition of Veeco's and FEI's customers;

Changes in foreign currency exchange rates;

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The inability of the parties to recognize the anticipated benefits of the merger; and
Matters set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus generally.

Although each of Veeco and FEI believes that the forward-looking statements contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are reasonable, neither can assure you that the forward-looking statements will prove to be correct. Factors which could cause actual results to differ also include those set forth in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 14 and elsewhere throughout this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein.

Each of Veeco and FEI cautions you not to put undue reliance on any forward-looking statement contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. The risk factors and cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section also should be considered in connection with any subsequent written or oral forward-looking statements that Veeco, FEI, or persons acting on either company's behalf, may issue. Except as otherwise required by federal securities laws, we have no intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements after this document is distributed to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events or to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made.

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RISK FACTORS

Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders should consider the following factors, in addition to other risk factors of the two companies incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other information contained in this document, in deciding whether to vote for approval of the merger, in the case of FEI shareholders, or for approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, in the case of Veeco stockholders. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134 for where you can find additional risk factors incorporated by reference herein.

Risks Related to the Merger and Receipt of Veeco Stock

Because FEI shareholders will receive a fixed ratio of 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock in exchange for each share of FEI common stock regardless of changes in the relative market values of each stock, the dollar value of the consideration received by FEI shareholders may be lower on the day of closing than it was on the day of the public announcement of the merger or the day this joint proxy statement/prospectus was filed.

Upon completion of the merger, each share of FEI common stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock. The market values of Veeco common stock and FEI common stock have varied since Veeco and FEI entered into the merger agreement and may continue to vary in the future due to, among other factors:

- Changes in the business, operating results or prospects of Veeco or FEI;
- Actual or anticipated variations in quarterly results of operations;
- Market assessments of the likelihood that the merger will be completed;
- The timing of the completion of the merger;
- Sales of Veeco common stock or FEI common stock;
- Additions or departures of key personnel of either company;
- Announcements of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- Announcements of technological innovations or the discontinuation of products or services by Veeco, FEI, their competitors or their customers;
- Changes in market valuations of competitors;

The prospects of post-merger operations;

Regulatory considerations; and

General market and economic conditions.

The dollar value of Veeco common stock that FEI shareholders will receive upon completion of the merger will depend on the market value of Veeco common stock at the closing of the merger, which may be different from, and lower than, the closing price of Veeco common stock on the last full trading day preceding the date of the public announcement of the merger agreement, the last full trading day prior to the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the date(s) of the special meetings. The price of Veeco common stock has declined from a price per share of \$22.49 on July 11, 2002, the last full trading day preceding the date of the public announcement of the merger agreement to a price per share of \$12.41 on November 6, 2002, the last full trading day prior to the date of the filing of Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part. Moreover, the closing of the merger may occur some time after stockholder approval has been obtained. There will be no adjustment to the exchange ratio (except for adjustments to reflect the

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effect of any stock split or other recapitalization of Veeco common stock or FEI common stock), and the parties do not have a right to terminate the merger agreement based upon changes in the market price of either Veeco common stock or FEI common stock.

Veeco's stock price is volatile and could decline in the future.

The stock market in general and the market for shares of technology companies in particular have experienced extreme stock price fluctuations. In some cases, these fluctuations have been unrelated to the operating performance of the affected companies. Many companies in the data storage, semiconductor and related equipment industries, including Veeco, have experienced dramatic volatility in the market prices of their common stock. Veeco believes that a number of factors, both within and outside Veeco's control, could cause the price of Veeco common stock to fluctuate, perhaps substantially. These factors include:

Announcements of developments related to Veeco's business or Veeco's competitors' or customers' businesses;

Fluctuations in Veeco's financial results;

General conditions or developments in the semiconductor, data storage, telecommunications/wireless and scientific research industries;

Potential sales of Veeco common stock into the marketplace by Veeco or its stockholders;

Announcements of technological innovations or new or enhanced products by Veeco or its competitors or customers;

A shortfall in revenue, gross margin, earnings or other financial results or changes in research analysts' expectations; and

The limited number of shares of Veeco common stock traded on a daily basis.

Veeco cannot be certain that the market price of Veeco common stock will not experience significant fluctuations in the future, including fluctuations that are material, adverse and unrelated to Veeco's performance.

The combined company may not realize certain potential benefits from the merger because of integration and other challenges, which could negatively impact its results of operations.

Veeco and FEI entered into the merger agreement with the expectation that the merger will result in benefits to the combined company. To realize benefits or synergies from the merger, the combined company will face the following post-merger challenges, among others:

Diversion of management's attention to the combining of operations;

Combining product and service offerings effectively and efficiently;

Retaining and assimilating the management, employees and sales forces of each company;

Consolidating manufacturing operations;

Coordinating sales and marketing efforts to effectively communicate the capabilities of the combined company;

Retaining existing customers, strategic partners and suppliers of each company;

Coordinating and rationalizing research and development activities to enhance introduction of new products and technologies with reduced cost;

Coordinating and combining overseas operations, relationships and facilities, which may be subject to additional constraints imposed by local laws and regulations;

Realizing expected cost savings and synergies from the merger;

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Managing a complex integration process; and

Developing and maintaining consistent standards, controls, procedures, policies and information systems, and generally combining operations and systems.

If the combined company is not successful in addressing these and other challenges, then some or all of the benefits of the merger will not be realized and, as a result, the combined company's operating results and the market price of the combined company's common stock may be adversely affected. Further, neither Veeco nor FEI can assure you that the growth rate of the combined company will equal the historical growth rates experienced by either Veeco or FEI.

Since commencing operations in 1990, Veeco has made 11 acquisitions. In connection with the integration of these acquisitions, Veeco has faced a number of challenges, including difficulties in incorporating acquired technology and rights into Veeco's products, maintaining uniform standards, controls, procedures and policies, and integrating each acquired company's information technology systems. Many of these acquisitions have diverted management's attention from other business concerns and have exposed Veeco to unforeseen liabilities or risks associated with entering new markets and acquiring new and unproven technologies. Integration of these prior acquisitions has been costly and time consuming. In addition, Veeco has paid for some of these acquisitions by issuing additional shares of its common stock, which in certain instances was dilutive to its then-existing stockholders.

Since 1996, FEI has completed two significant business combinations and made several smaller acquisitions. In connection with the integration of these acquired businesses, FEI has faced a number of challenges, many of which are similar to those that Veeco faced in connection with its acquisitions. In addition, FEI has paid for some of these acquisitions in part by issuing additional shares of its common stock, which in certain instances was dilutive to its then-existing shareholders.

The market price of the combined company's common stock may decline as a result of the merger.

The market price of the combined company's common stock may decline as a result of the merger for a number of reasons, including if:

The integration of Veeco and FEI is not completed in a timely and efficient manner;

The combined company does not achieve the perceived benefits of the merger as rapidly or to the extent anticipated by financial or industry analysts;

The effect of the merger on the combined company's financial results is not consistent with the expectations of financial or industry analysts; or

Significant Veeco stockholders or FEI shareholders decide to dispose of their shares following completion of the merger.

Veeco's and FEI's officers and directors have interests different from yours that may have influenced them to support or approve the merger.

The directors and officers of Veeco and FEI have entered or may enter into arrangements that may create interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, yours, including the following:

Following the merger, the Veeco FEI board of directors will consist of 13 members, seven of whom will be nominated by Veeco, five of whom will be nominated by FEI and one of whom will be nominated by PBE;

Veeco has entered into employment agreements providing that following the merger Edward H. Braun will remain as the combined company's President and Chief Executive Officer and Vahé A. Sarkissian will serve as the combined company's Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer;

Veeco has agreed to indemnify each present and former FEI officer and director against liabilities arising out of such person's services as an FEI officer or director;

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Veeco FEI will maintain for the next six years officers' and directors' liability insurance to cover liabilities arising out of services provided as an officer or director of FEI;

Some of FEI's officers have severance agreements that provide for severance payments and other benefits if the employment of those officers terminates for certain reasons after the merger; and

Veeco and FEI have agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to enter into new employment arrangements with certain key employees of Veeco and FEI.

For the above reasons, the directors and officers of Veeco and FEI may have been more likely to support and recommend the approval of the merger agreement than if they did not hold these interests. Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders should consider whether these interests may have influenced these directors and officers to support or recommend the merger. You should read more about these interests in the section titled "The Merger Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger" beginning on page 70.

In addition, two directors of FEI are also employees or officers of Philips and/or PBE. In connection with the merger, Philips and PBE entered into certain agreements with FEI and Veeco. For a description of these agreements, see the sections titled "Other Agreements Voting Agreement with FEI Shareholders," "Other Agreements Investor Agreement with PBE", "Other Agreements Amendment Agreement among FEI, PBE and Philips" and "Relationship with Philips" and the documents filed by FEI with the SEC which are incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134.

Failure to complete the merger could harm Veeco's and FEI's future businesses, operations and stock prices.

Veeco and FEI face a number of special risks if the merger is not completed, including the following risks:

If the merger agreement is terminated for certain reasons, Veeco may be required to reimburse FEI for up to \$5 million of its fees and expenses in connection with the merger or pay FEI a termination fee of \$30 million. Whether Veeco must pay FEI's fees and expenses in connection with the merger or the termination fee depends upon the circumstances under which the merger agreement is terminated;

If the merger agreement is terminated for certain reasons, FEI may be required to reimburse Veeco for up to \$5 million of its fees and expenses in connection with the merger or pay Veeco a termination fee of \$30 million. Whether FEI must pay Veeco's fees and expenses in connection with the merger or the termination fee depends upon the circumstances under which the merger agreement is terminated;

Customers, suppliers and others may believe that the separate companies cannot effectively compete in the marketplace without the merger, or there is customer and employee uncertainty surrounding the future direction of the product and service offerings and strategy of Veeco and FEI on a stand alone basis;

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The price of Veeco and/or FEI common stock may decline if their current market prices reflect a market assumption that the merger will be completed; and

Costs related to the merger, such as legal and accounting fees, SEC filing fees, antitrust filing fees and some financial advisory fees must be paid even if the merger is not completed.

Uncertainty regarding the merger and the effects of the merger could cause customers or strategic partners to delay or defer decisions, which could negatively affect the combined company's revenues.

Veeco's and/or FEI's customers and strategic partners, in response to the announcement of the merger, may delay or defer decisions, which could have a material adverse effect on the business of the

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relevant company, regardless of whether the merger is ultimately completed. In particular, prospective customers could be reluctant to purchase the combined company's products due to uncertainty about the direction of the combined company's product offerings and willingness to support and service existing products. To the extent that the merger creates uncertainty among those persons and organizations such that one large customer or a significant group of smaller customers, delays, defers or changes purchases in connection with the planned merger, revenue of the combined company would be adversely affected.

In order to be successful, the combined company must retain and motivate key employees, which will be more difficult in light of uncertainty regarding the merger, and failure to do so could seriously damage the combined company.

In order to be successful, the combined company must retain and motivate executives and other key employees, including those in managerial, technical, marketing and information technology support positions. In particular, the combined company's product generation efforts depend on hiring and retaining qualified engineers. In addition, experienced management and technical, marketing and support personnel in the information technology industry are in high demand and competition for their talents is intense. Employee retention may be a particularly challenging issue in connection with the merger as employees of Veeco and FEI may experience uncertainty about their future role with the combined company until or after strategies with regard to the combined company are announced or executed. This circumstance may adversely affect the combined company's ability to attract and retain key management, sales, marketing and technical personnel.

Regulators may take action that could affect, delay or prohibit the merger or negatively affect the combined company and stockholders may not be able to change their vote in the event of any such action.

Veeco and FEI cannot complete the merger until they give notification and furnish information to the Federal Trade Commission and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and observe a statutory waiting period under the HSR Act. Also, prior to completion of the merger, Veeco and FEI need to make filings with certain foreign competition authorities and comply with applicable foreign merger control laws. Veeco and FEI filed the required notification and report forms with the Federal Trade Commission and the Antitrust Division and have made or intend to make filings with certain foreign antitrust authorities. On September 18, 2002, Veeco and FEI received a request from the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice for additional information under the HSR Act regarding the merger. This second request has the effect of extending the waiting period under the HSR Act until 30 days after Veeco and FEI comply with the request. Veeco and FEI intend to fully cooperate and promptly respond to this request. The companies currently cannot estimate how long it will take to comply with this request. There can be no assurances that regulators will terminate the waiting period under the HSR Act or allow the waiting period to expire or will not take action to prohibit the merger or condition the merger on restrictions that would negatively impact the combined company. At any time before or after the closing of the merger, the Federal Trade Commission, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice or any state or foreign competition authority could take any action under applicable antitrust or competition laws as it deems necessary or desirable, including challenging the merger. Private parties and state attorneys general may also challenge the transaction and seek to enjoin the merger under U.S. or foreign antitrust laws under certain circumstances.

Charges to earnings resulting from the application of the purchase method of accounting may adversely affect the market price of Veeco FEI's common stock following the merger.

In accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, the combined company will account for the merger using the purchase method of accounting, which will result in charges to earnings that could have a material adverse effect on the market price of the Veeco FEI common stock following completion of the merger. Under the purchase method of accounting, the combined company will allocate the total estimated purchase price to FEI's net tangible assets, amortizable intangible assets, intangible assets with indefinite lives and in-process research and development based on their

fair values as of the date of completion of the merger, and record the excess of the purchase price over those fair values as goodwill. The portion of the estimated purchase price allocated to in-process research and development will be expensed by the combined company in the quarter in which the merger is completed. The combined company will incur additional depreciation and amortization expense over the useful lives of certain of the net tangible and intangible assets acquired in connection with the merger. Purchase accounting also requires fair valuation of assets that will result in the capitalization of profit in inventory and the loss of certain revenue and related deferred gross profit recorded in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101. In addition, to the extent the value of goodwill or intangible assets with indefinite lives become impaired, the combined company may be required to incur material charges relating to the impairment of those assets. These depreciation, amortization, in-process research and development and potential impairment charges could have a material impact on the combined company's results of operations.

Risks Related to the Combined Company

The following describes risks related to Veeco FEI the combined company following the merger. Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders will be stockholders of Veeco FEI following the merger.

The combined company will depend on the data storage, telecommunications/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research industries. Cyclicity in these markets may affect the combined company's business.

The combined company's business will depend in large part upon the capital expenditures of data storage, telecommunications/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research customers, which accounted for the following percentages of combined net sales of Veeco and FEI for the periods indicated:

| | Year ended December 31, | | | | | | Six months ended | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|----------|-------|-----|----------|------------------|-----|----------|
| | 2000 | | | 2001 | | | June 30, 2002 | | |
| | Veeco | FEI | Combined | Veeco | FEI | Combined | Veeco | FEI | Combined |
| Data storage | 44% | 11% | 29% | 31% | 12% | 23% | 37% | 4% | 20% |
| Telecommunications/Wireless | 23% | 0% | 12% | 30% | 0% | 16% | 18% | 0% | 8% |
| Semiconductor | 14% | 51% | 31% | 17% | 42% | 28% | 10% | 46% | 29% |
| Scientific Research and Industrial | 19% | 38% | 28% | 22% | 46% | 33% | 35% | 50% | 43% |

The data storage, telecommunications/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research industries are cyclical. These industries have experienced significant economic downturns at various times in the last decade, characterized by diminished product demand, accelerated erosion of average selling prices and production overcapacity. A downturn in one or more of these industries, or the businesses of one or more of the combined company's customers, could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition and operating results.

The current global downturn in general economic conditions and in the markets for Veeco's and FEI's customers' products is resulting in a reduction in demand for some of Veeco's and FEI's products. Veeco and FEI have experienced the effects of the global economic downturn in many areas of their businesses. During this downturn and any subsequent downturns the combined company cannot assure you that its sales or margins will not decline. As a capital equipment provider, the combined company's revenues will depend in large part on the spending patterns of customers, who often delay expenditures or cancel orders in reaction to variations in their businesses or general economic conditions. Because a high proportion of the combined company's costs will be fixed, the combined company will have a limited ability to reduce expenses quickly in response to revenue shortfalls. In a prolonged economic downturn, the combined company may not be able to reduce its significant fixed costs, such as continued investment in research and development or capital equipment requirements. In addition, during an economic downturn, the combined company may experience delays in collecting receivables, which may impose constraints on its working capital.

Variations in the amount of time it takes for the combined company to sell its systems may cause fluctuations in the combined company's operating results which could negatively impact its stock price.

Historically, both Veeco and FEI have experienced long and unpredictable sales cycles. Variations in the length of the combined company's sales cycles could cause the combined company's net sales, and therefore its business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows, to

fluctuate widely from period to period. These variations will be based upon factors partially or completely outside the combined company's control. The factors that could affect the length of time it takes the combined company to complete a sale will depend upon many elements, including:

The efforts of the combined company's sales force and the combined company's independent sales representatives;

The history of previous sales to a customer;

The complexity of the customer's manufacturing processes;

The economic environment;

The internal technical capabilities and sophistication of the customer; and

The capital expenditure budget cycle of the customer.

As a result of these and a number of other factors that could influence sales cycles with particular customers, the period between initial contact with a potential customer and the time when the combined company recognizes revenue from that customer, if ever, may vary widely. The combined company's sales cycle could typically take up to twelve months. Sometimes the combined company's sales cycle will be much longer. For instance, during an economic downturn or when a sale involves developing new applications for a system or technology, the sales cycle could be significantly extended. To complete sales during an economic downturn or sales involving new applications or technologies, for example, the combined company could commit substantial resources to its sales efforts before receiving any revenue, and may never receive any revenue from a customer despite these sales efforts which could have a negative impact on the combined company's revenues.

In addition to lengthy and sometimes unpredictable sales cycles, the build cycle, or the time it will take the combined company to build a product to customer specifications, will typically range from one to six months. During this period, the customer may cancel its order, although generally it will be required to pay the combined company a fee based on the stage of the build cycle the combined company has completed.

For many of the combined company's products, after a customer has purchased one of the combined company's systems, the combined company will provide an acceptance period during which the customer may evaluate the performance of the system and potentially reject the system. In addition, customers will often evaluate the performance of the combined company's systems for a lengthy period before purchasing any additional systems. The number of additional products a customer may purchase, if any, will often depend on many factors that are difficult to predict accurately, including a customer's capacity requirements and changing market conditions for its products. As a result of these evaluation periods and other factors, the period between a customer's initial purchase and subsequent purchases, if any, will often vary widely, and variations in length of this period could cause further fluctuations in the combined company's operating results.

The combined company's business and financial results for a particular period could be materially and adversely affected if orders are canceled or rescheduled or if an anticipated order for even one system is not received in time to permit shipping during the period.

Customers will continue to be able to cancel or reschedule orders, generally with limited or no penalties. In addition, Veeco has, in limited circumstances, permitted major customers to return previously shipped products in order to maintain business relationships with such customers. The

amount of purchase orders at any particular date, therefore, is not necessarily indicative of sales to be made in any succeeding period. In addition, the combined company will derive a substantial portion of its net sales in any fiscal period from the sale of a relatively small number of high-priced systems. As a result, the timing of revenue recognition for a single transaction could have a material effect on the combined company's sales and operating results for a particular fiscal period. Backlog adjustments for Veeco for the year ended December 31, 2001 included order cancellations of \$136.3 million, of which approximately \$110 million related to orders from the optical telecommunications industry. FEI did not have significant order cancellations for the year ended December 31, 2001.

Because the combined company will not have long-term contracts with its customers, its customers may stop purchasing its products at any time which would adversely affect its results of operations.

Historically, neither Veeco nor FEI have had long-term contracts with their customers. Consequently, it is not currently anticipated that the combined company will have long-term contracts with its customers. Accordingly:

Customers can stop purchasing the combined company's products at any time without penalty;

Customers will be free to purchase products from the combined company's competitors;

The combined company will be exposed to competitive price pressure on each order; and

Customers will not be required to make minimum purchases.

If the combined company does not succeed in obtaining new sales orders from new or existing customers, it will have a negative impact on its results of operations.

The combined company will rely on a limited number of parts, components and equipment manufacturers. Failure of any of these suppliers to perform in a timely or quality manner could negatively impact revenues.

Failure of critical suppliers of parts, components and manufacturing equipment to deliver sufficient quantities to the combined company in a timely and cost-effective manner could negatively affect the combined company's business. Both Veeco and FEI currently use numerous vendors to supply parts, components and subassemblies for the manufacture and support of their respective products. However, some key parts may be obtained only from a single supplier or a limited group of suppliers. In particular, FEI relies on Philips' Enabling Technology Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philips, and Frencken Group B.V. for its supply of mechanical parts and subassemblies and RIPA Holding B.V. as a sole source for some of its electronic subassemblies. As a result of this concentration of key suppliers, the combined company's results of operations may be materially and adversely affected if, in the future, it does not timely and cost-effectively receive a sufficient quantity of parts to meet its production requirements or if it is required to find alternative suppliers for these supplies. The combined company will not be immediately seeking to expand its supplier group or to reduce its dependence on single suppliers. From time to time, FEI has experienced supply constraints with respect to the mechanical parts and subassemblies produced by Philips Enabling Technologies Group. If Philips Enabling Technologies Group is not able to supply the combined company's requirements, these constraints may affect the combined company's ability to deliver products to customers in a timely manner, which could have an adverse effect on the combined company's results of operations. Moreover, as a result of the reduction of PBE's ownership of FEI common stock after FEI's most recent public offering of common stock in May 2001, the cost of the parts and subassemblies purchased by the combined company from Philips Enabling Technologies Group and Philips may increase.

The combined company will also rely on a limited number of equipment manufacturers to develop and supply the equipment it uses to manufacture its products. The failure of these manufacturers to develop or deliver equipment on a timely basis could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business and results of operations. In addition, as a result of the small number of equipment suppliers, the combined company may be more exposed to future cost increases for this equipment.

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Because Veeco and FEI have significant operations in countries outside of the United States, the combined company may be subject to political, economic and other conditions affecting such countries that could result in increased operating expenses and regulation of its products.

Because significant portions of Veeco's and FEI's operations occur outside the United States, the combined company's revenues will be impacted by foreign economic and regulatory environments. For example, the combined company will have manufacturing facilities in Brno, Czech Republic and Eindhoven, Netherlands and sales offices in several other countries. In addition, approximately 35% of Veeco's sales and approximately 29% of FEI's sales in 2000 and approximately 28% of Veeco's sales and approximately 25% of FEI's sales in 2001 were derived from sales in Asia. In recent years, Asian economies have been highly volatile and recessionary, resulting in significant fluctuations in local currencies and other instabilities. Instabilities in Asian economies may continue and recur in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition and operating results. The combined company's exposure to the business risks presented by Asian economies and other foreign economies will increase to the extent it continues to expand its global operations. International operations will continue to subject the combined company to a number of risks, including:

Longer sales cycles;

Multiple, conflicting and changing governmental laws and regulations;

Protectionist laws and business practices that favor local companies;

Price and currency exchange controls;

Difficulties in collecting accounts receivable; and

Political and economic instability.

The combined company will be exposed to foreign currency exchange rate and interest rate risks that could adversely affect its revenues and gross margins.

The combined company will be exposed to foreign currency exchange rate risks that will be inherent in its sales commitments, anticipated sales, and assets and liabilities that are denominated in currencies other than the United States dollar. The combined company also will be exposed to interest rate risks inherent in its debt and investment portfolios. Failure to sufficiently hedge or otherwise manage foreign currency risks properly could adversely affect the combined company's revenues and gross margins. A decrease in interest rates could adversely affect the combined company's interest income and results of operations.

Neither Veeco nor FEI enters into derivative financial instruments for speculative or trading purposes. From time to time FEI enters into forward sale or purchase contracts for foreign currencies to hedge specific receivables or payables positions. Veeco enters into monthly forward contracts to reduce the effect of fluctuating foreign currencies on short-term foreign currency-denominated intercompany balances and other known currency exposures. The average notional amount of such contracts for Veeco was approximately \$1.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2002. As of June 30, 2002, Veeco did not have any open forward contracts. Veeco estimates that, based upon its June 30, 2002 balance sheet, a 10% change in foreign currency exchange rates would be immaterial to reported operating profit. As of June 30, 2002, the aggregate stated amount of these contracts for FEI was \$35.5 million. FEI estimates that, based upon its June 30, 2002 balance sheet, a 10% change in foreign currency exchange rates would decrease the market value of its foreign currency contracts outstanding as of June 30, 2002 by approximately \$3.1 million. FEI believes that this decrease in value would substantially be offset by the revaluation of the underlying hedged transactions.

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The loss of one or more of Veeco's or FEI's key customers would result in the loss of a significant amount of the combined company's net revenues.

A relatively small number of customers account for a large percentage of Veeco's and FEI's net revenues. This situation is expected to continue for the combined company. The combined company's business will be seriously harmed if it does not generate as much revenue as it expects from these customers, experiences a loss of any of its significant customers or suffers a substantial reduction in orders from these customers. The combined company's ability to continue generating revenues from its key customers will depend on its ability to introduce new products acceptable to these customers. In 2001, Veeco's and FEI's two largest customers accounted for 16% and 13% of their respective net revenues.

The combined company's customers may be adversely affected by rapid technological change and it may be unable to introduce new products on a timely basis.

The data storage, telecommunications/wireless, semiconductor and scientific research industries are subject to rapid technological change and new product introductions and enhancements. The combined company's ability to remain competitive will depend in part upon its ability to develop, in a timely and cost-effective manner, new and enhanced systems at competitive prices and to accurately predict technology transitions. In addition, new product introductions or enhancements by competitors could cause a decline in sales or loss of market acceptance of the combined company's existing products. Increased competitive pressure also could lead to intensified price competition resulting in lower margins, which could materially and adversely affect the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition and operating results. The combined company's success in developing, introducing and selling new and enhanced systems depends upon a variety of factors, including:

Product offerings;

Timely and efficient completion of product design and development;

Timely and efficient implementation of manufacturing processes;

Effective sales, service and marketing; and

Product performance in the field.

Because new product development commitments must be made well in advance of sales, new product decisions must anticipate both the future demand for products under development and the equipment required to produce such products. The combined company cannot be certain that it will be successful in selecting, developing, manufacturing and marketing new products or in enhancing existing products.

The process of developing new high technology capital equipment products and services is complex and uncertain, and failure to anticipate customers' changing needs and emerging technological trends accurately and to develop or obtain appropriate intellectual property could significantly harm the combined company's results of operations. The combined company must make long-term investments and commit significant resources before knowing whether its predictions will eventually result in products that the market will accept. For example, FEI has invested significant resources in the development of 300 mm semiconductor wafer manufacturing technology. If 300 mm fabrication is not widely accepted or if the combined company fails to develop 300 mm products that are accepted by the marketplace, its long-term growth could be diminished. Similarly, Veeco has invested significant resources in the development of certain products utilizing physical vapor deposition technology which has been slow to gain customer acceptance. Further, after a product is developed, the combined company must be able to manufacture sufficient volumes quickly and at low costs. To accomplish this, it must accurately forecast volumes, mix of products and configurations that meet customer requirements, and it may not succeed.

The combined company's quarterly operating results may fluctuate because of many factors, which would cause its stock price to fluctuate.

Both Veeco's and FEI's net revenues and operating results have fluctuated in the past and the combined company's net revenues and operating results are likely to fluctuate significantly in the future on a quarterly and annual basis due to a number of factors, many of which are outside either company's control. Investors should not rely on the results of any one quarter or series of quarters as an indication of the combined company's future performance.

It is likely that in some future quarter or quarters the combined company's operating results will be below the expectations of public market analysts or investors. In such event, the market price of the combined company's common stock may decline significantly.

Because the combined company will have larger revenues and operations, third parties with potential litigation claims against either Veeco or FEI who decided not to pursue those claims against the individual companies may consider asserting those claims against the combined company, which could adversely affect its results of operations.

The combined company is expected to have significantly greater revenues and assets than either Veeco or FEI individually, operations in more countries than either Veeco or FEI individually, and more employees than either Veeco or FEI individually. As a result, it can be expected that some third parties who believe that they have claims against Veeco or FEI, but who chose not to assert those claims because of the size of the individual companies, may now choose to pursue those claims against the larger combined company.

The combined company cannot be certain that it will be able to compete successfully in its highly competitive industries.

The industries in which the combined company will operate are intensely competitive. Established companies, both domestic and foreign, will compete with each of its product lines. Many of the combined company's competitors will have greater financial, engineering, manufacturing and marketing resources. A substantial investment is required by customers to install and integrate capital equipment into a production line. As a result, once a manufacturer has selected a particular vendor's capital equipment, Veeco and FEI believe that the manufacturer generally relies upon that equipment for the specific production line application and frequently will attempt to consolidate its other capital equipment requirements with the same vendor. Accordingly, if a particular customer selects a competitor's capital equipment, the combined company will expect to experience difficulty selling to that customer for a significant period of time. The combined company's ability to compete successfully will depend on a number of factors both within and outside the combined company's control, including:

Price;

Product quality;

Breadth of product line;

System performance;

Cost of ownership;

Global technical service and support; and

Success in developing or otherwise introducing new products.

The combined company cannot be certain that it will be able to compete successfully in the future.

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The combined company could be subject to class action litigation due to stock price volatility, which, if it occurs, will distract management and result in substantial costs, and could result in judgments against the combined company.

In the past, securities class action litigation has often been brought against companies following periods of volatility in the market price of their securities. The combined company may be the target of similar litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources, which could cause serious harm to the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The combined company's revenues and selling, general and administrative expenses will suffer if it cannot continue to license or enforce the intellectual property rights on which its business will depend or if third parties assert that the combined company violates their intellectual property rights.

Several of the combined company's competitors hold patents covering a variety of technologies to be included in some of its products. In addition, some of the combined company's customers may use its microelectronics products for applications that are similar to those covered by these patents. From time to time, Veeco, FEI and their respective customers have received correspondence from their competitors claiming that some of Veeco's or FEI's products, as the case may be, as used by their customers, may be infringing one or more of these patents. As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, none of these allegations has resulted in litigation. Competitors or others may, however, assert infringement claims against the combined company or its customers in the future with respect to current or future products or uses, and these assertions may result in costly litigation or require the combined company to obtain a license to use intellectual property rights of others. If claims of infringement are asserted against the combined company's customers, those customers may seek indemnification from the combined company for damages or expenses they incur.

The combined company may also face greater exposure to claims of infringement in the future because PBE is no longer FEI's majority owner. As a result of PBE's reduction of ownership of FEI common stock in 2001, the combined company will not benefit from most of the Philips patent cross-licenses from which FEI benefited before that reduction.

If the combined company becomes subject to infringement claims, it will evaluate its position and consider the available alternatives, which may include seeking licenses to use the technology in question or defending its position. These licenses, however, may not be available on satisfactory terms or at all. If the combined company is not able to negotiate the necessary licenses on commercially reasonable terms or successfully defend the combined company's position, it could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition and operating results.

The combined company is exposed to the risks that third parties may violate its proprietary rights and the combined company's intellectual property rights may not be well protected in foreign countries.

The combined company's success will depend on the protection of its proprietary rights. In the combined company's industry, intellectual property is an important asset that is always at risk of infringement. The combined company will incur costs to obtain and maintain patents and defend its intellectual property. The combined company will rely upon the laws of the United States and of other countries in which it develops, manufactures or sells products to protect its proprietary rights. However, these proprietary rights may not provide the competitive advantages that the combined company expects, or other parties may challenge, invalidate or circumvent these rights.

Further, the combined company's efforts to protect its intellectual property may be less effective in some countries where intellectual property rights are not as well protected as in the United States. Many U.S. companies have encountered substantial problems in protecting their proprietary rights against infringement in foreign countries. Veeco derived approximately 50% of its sales from foreign countries in 2000, and approximately 46% of its sales from foreign countries in 2001. FEI derived approximately 58% of its sales from foreign countries in 2000, and approximately 57% of its sales from

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foreign countries in 2001. If the combined company fails to adequately protect its intellectual property in these countries, it could be easier for its competitors to sell competing products.

Infringement of the combined company's proprietary rights by a third party could result in lost market and sales opportunities for the combined company, as well as increased costs of litigation.

The loss of key management or the combined company's inability to attract and retain sufficient numbers of managerial, engineering and other technical personnel could have a material adverse effect on its business.

The combined company's continued success will depend, in part, upon key managerial, engineering and technical personnel as well as its ability to continue to attract and retain additional personnel. In particular, the combined company will depend on its President and Chief Executive Officer, Edward H. Braun, and its Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer, Vahé A. Sarkissian. The loss of key personnel could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition or operating results. The combined company may not be able to retain its key managerial, engineering and technical employees. The combined company's growth will be dependent on its ability to attract new highly skilled and qualified technical personnel, in addition to personnel that can implement and monitor its financial and managerial controls and reporting systems. Attracting qualified personnel is difficult, and the combined company cannot assure you that its recruiting efforts to attract and retain these personnel will be successful.

The combined company will be substantially leveraged.

After consummation of the merger, the combined company will have significant indebtedness. At June 30, 2002, on a pro forma basis after giving effect to the consummation of the merger, the combined company would have had total consolidated long-term debt (including current maturities) of approximately \$413 million.

The degree to which the combined company is leveraged could have important consequences to you including, but not limited to, the following:

Its ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, general corporate or other purposes may be limited;

The dilutive effects on the combined company's stockholders as a result of the ability of holders of Veeco convertible notes and FEI convertible notes to convert these notes into an aggregate of 5,712,802 and 4,788,470 shares of Veeco FEI common stock, respectively;

A substantial portion of its cash flow from operations will be dedicated to the payment of the principal of, and interest on, its indebtedness; and

Its substantial leverage may make it more vulnerable to economic downturns, limit its ability to withstand competitive pressures and reduce its flexibility in responding to changing business and economic conditions.

The ability of the combined company to pay interest and principal on its debt securities and to satisfy its other debt obligations and to make planned expenditures, will be dependent on its future operating performance, which could be affected by changes in economic conditions and other factors, including factors beyond its control. A failure to comply with the covenants and other provisions of its debt instruments could result in events of default under such instruments, which could permit acceleration of the debt under such instruments and in some cases acceleration of debt under other instruments that contain cross-default or cross-acceleration provisions. We believe that cash flow from operations will be sufficient to cover the combined company's debt service requirements and other requirements. However, if the combined company is at any time unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations to service its indebtedness, it may be required to seek to renegotiate the terms of the instruments relating to that indebtedness, seek to refinance all or a portion of that indebtedness or to obtain additional financing. There can be no assurance that the combined company will be able to successfully renegotiate such terms, that any such refinancing would be possible or that any additional financing could be obtained on terms that are favorable or acceptable to it.

The combined company may not be able to obtain sufficient affordable funds to fund its future needs for manufacturing capacity and research and development.

The combined company will need to continue to make significant capital expenditures to continue and expand its operations and to enhance its manufacturing capability to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies. Also, the industries in which the combined company operates are

characterized by the need for continued investment in research and development. If Veeco FEI fails to invest sufficiently in research and development, its products could become less attractive to existing and potential new customers. As a result of an emphasis on research and development and technological innovation, the combined company's operating costs may increase in the future. During the past few years, the markets for equity and debt securities have fluctuated significantly, especially with respect to technology-related companies, and during some periods offerings of those securities have been extremely difficult to complete. As a result, in the future the combined company may not be able to obtain the additional funds required to fund its operations and invest sufficiently in research and development on reasonable terms, or at all. Such a lack of funds could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, prospects, financial condition and operating results.

The combined company will be subject to increased operational costs and other risks because PBE no longer owns a majority of FEI's common stock.

Before FEI's most recent public offering of common stock in May 2001, PBE's ownership interest in FEI fluctuated within a few percentage points of 50% of FEI's outstanding shares and PBE and its affiliates provided various services for, and engaged in a variety of transactions with FEI, some of which were upon terms more favorable to FEI than otherwise attainable in the general marketplace. On June 30, 2002, PBE beneficially owned approximately 25% of FEI's common stock. Because PBE is no longer FEI's majority shareholder, some of the tangible and intangible benefits and arrangements previously provided to FEI by Philips have terminated and some of these are in the process of being terminated. In 2001, FEI paid Philips and its affiliates approximately \$4.5 million for certain administrative and other services. FEI will not have completed the replacement of all of its arrangements with Philips by the closing of the merger, and in some of these areas the combined company may not be able to find replacement services at a similar or lower cost. Even if these services are available at a similar cost, indirect costs are associated with obtaining new vendors, including diversion of management time and resources.

Some of the specific types of increased costs the combined company may incur in the future include the following:

Intellectual Property. FEI had access to some forms of technology through cross-licenses between Philips and several manufacturers in the electronics industry. Some of FEI's patents also are subject to these cross-licenses. Some of Philips' cross-licenses provided FEI with the right to use intellectual property that relates to its core technologies. In general, these cross-licenses were subject to majority ownership of FEI by PBE, and, because FEI is no longer majority owned by PBE, FEI has not been entitled to the benefits of these cross-licenses since May 22, 2001. Loss of the benefits of these cross-licenses could result in the inability to use the previously licensed technology, the necessity of undertaking new licensing arrangements and paying royalties of an undetermined amount, or being subject to patent infringement actions. FEI cannot estimate either the amount by which its revenues might decrease as a result of patent infringement claims or the amount by which its operational costs may increase as a result of any potential required future royalty payments or possible litigation expenses.

Labor Costs. Because PBE is no longer FEI's majority shareholder, some of FEI's non-U.S. employees were required to become part of new collective bargaining units, and FEI employee pension funds that were held within Philips' pension funds were transferred to new pension funds. For the past several years, Philips' pension fund has been in an overfunded position because the value of its pension assets has exceeded the pension benefit obligations. During that

time, Philips and its majority owned subsidiaries, including FEI, benefited from reduced pension contribution obligations and reduced pension expense. After FEI's employees were transferred out of Philips' pension plan, effective September 1, 2001, FEI's pension costs in the Netherlands increased by approximately \$3.5 million on an annualized basis due to FEI's loss of the benefit of the overfunding and the terms of the new collective bargaining arrangements. FEI's pension costs are expected to increase by approximately \$2.3 million in 2002 compared to 2001.

Payments by Philips. Under terms of the agreement with Philips, dated December 31, 2000, Philips agreed to pay FEI up to \$6 million over a three-year period primarily to reduce the effect of increased pension costs. These payments have been recorded by FEI as a reduction in costs and operating expenses. FEI recognized \$1.4 million of these payments as a reduction in expense in 2001, and \$2.3 million of these payments as a reduction in expense in the twenty-six weeks ended June 30, 2002. These payments terminate as of the earlier of the date of a change of control of FEI and December 31, 2003.

Research and Development. When PBE had majority control of FEI, FEI entered into research and development contracts with Philips' research laboratories to purchase research and development services. The combined company expects to continue to contract for research and development services from Philips in areas related to the combined company's

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business, but, as a result of PBE's ownership of FEI's common stock falling below 45% on May 22, 2001, the rates that Philips charges FEI for research and development have increased. In 2001, FEI paid Philips \$3.2 million for contract research and development services. Beginning January 1, 2002, the hourly rate for research and development services provided by Philips to FEI increased by approximately 40%. FEI, however, has offset most of this hourly rate increase in 2002 by purchasing a lower volume of these services from Philips.

Purchases Under Philips Arrangements and Terms. From time to time, FEI purchased materials, supplies and services under collective purchase agreements and purchase conditions negotiated by Philips for the benefit of its group of companies. These arrangements generally began to terminate on May 22, 2001. The benefits to FEI of these arrangements cannot be quantified, but FEI believes that the costs of procuring these goods and services on a stand-alone basis are higher than the costs under the Philips arrangements.

Insurance Costs. FEI's insurance costs, including director and officer liability insurance, have increased by approximately \$2 million per year since FEI ceased to participate in Philips' insurance programs. Some of this increase, however, is attributable to changes in policy terms and coverage and also to market conditions in the insurance industry.

Facilities Leased from Philips. In 2001, FEI paid approximately \$1.4 million for sales, service and administrative facilities leased from Philips in countries other than the United States. FEI does not expect these costs to increase significantly as a result of PBE no longer owning more than 45% of FEI's common stock.

Other Costs. FEI also has a variety of other arrangements with Philips, such as use of the Philips intranet system for various functions and use of various administrative services. Most of these arrangements will change because PBE no longer owns a majority of FEI's common stock and some of these changes will result in additional increased costs to FEI's business. FEI cannot estimate the amount by which its operational costs may increase as a result of any changes to these arrangements.

PBE will have significant influence on all combined company stockholder votes and may have different interests than other combined company's stockholders.

PBE will own approximately 15% of the outstanding Veeco FEI common stock after the merger. As a result, PBE will have significant influence on matters submitted to the combined company's stockholders, including proposals regarding:

Any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of its assets;

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The election of members of Veeco FEI's board of directors; and

A change of control of the combined company.

In addition to its significant influence, PBE's interests may be significantly different from the interests of other owners of the combined company's common stock, holders of the combined company's options to purchase common stock and holders of the combined company's debt securities. Under the investor agreement, PBE will also have the right to nominate a member of the combined company's board of directors for a certain period of time.

Terrorist acts and acts of war may seriously harm the combined company's business and revenues, costs and expenses and financial condition.

Terrorist acts or acts of war (wherever located around the world) may cause damage or disruption to the combined company, its employees, facilities, partners, suppliers, distributors and customers, which could significantly impact its revenues, costs and expenses and financial condition. The terrorist attacks that took place in the United States on September 11, 2001 were unprecedented events that have created many economic and political uncertainties, some of which may materially harm the combined company's business and results of operations. The potential for future terrorist attacks, the national and international responses to terrorist attacks, and other acts of war or hostility have created many economic and political uncertainties, which could adversely affect the business and results of operations of the combined company in ways that cannot presently be predicted. The combined company will be largely uninsured for losses and interruptions caused by terrorist acts and acts of war.

Unforeseen environmental costs could impact the future net earnings of the combined company.

Some of the combined company's operations will use substances regulated under various federal, state and international laws governing the environment. The combined company could be subject to liability for remediation if it does not handle these substances in compliance with applicable laws. It will be the combined company's policy to apply strict standards for environmental protection to sites inside and outside the United States, even when not subject to local government regulations. The combined company will record a liability for environmental remediation and related costs when it considers the costs to be probable and the amount of the costs can be reasonably estimated.

Veeco FEI's organizational documents will have anti-takeover provisions that might, among other things, discourage, prevent or delay a change of control of Veeco FEI that a holder of Veeco FEI stock might consider in its best interest.

Veeco FEI's board of directors will continue to have the authority to issue up to 500,000 shares of "blank check" preferred stock and to fix the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, of these shares without any further vote or action by Veeco FEI's stockholders. The rights of the holders of any preferred stock that may be issued in the future may adversely affect the rights of the holders of Veeco FEI common stock. The issuance of the preferred stock, while providing Veeco FEI with desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire a majority of Veeco FEI's outstanding voting stock. This could delay, defer or prevent a change of control of Veeco FEI that a holder of Veeco FEI common stock might consider in its best interests. Furthermore, such preferred stock may have other rights including economic rights senior to Veeco FEI common stock, and as a result, the issuance of the preferred stock could have a material adverse effect on the market value of Veeco FEI common stock. Veeco FEI has no present plan to issue shares of preferred stock.

Veeco FEI's board of directors will continue to be divided into three classes of directors with staggered terms. Directors will be elected to three-year terms and the term of one class of directors will expire each year. The existence of a classified board of directors is designed to provide continuity and stability to Veeco FEI's management, which results from directors serving for three-year, rather than one-year terms. The existence of a classified board of directors may make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of Veeco FEI in certain instances. This could delay, defer or prevent a change of control that a holder of Veeco FEI common stock might consider in its best interest. Further, if

Veeco stockholders are dissatisfied with the policies and/or decisions of Veeco FEI's board of directors, the existence of a classified board of directors will make it more difficult for the stockholders to change the composition (and therefore the policies) of Veeco FEI's board of directors in a relatively short period of time.

Veeco FEI will continue Veeco's rights plan, commonly called a "poison pill." This could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of Veeco FEI in certain circumstances. This could also delay, defer or prevent a change of control that a Veeco FEI stockholder might consider in its best interests.

Also, certain other provisions in Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will continue to be in Veeco FEI's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws relating to:

Actions required to be taken at a meeting of stockholders; and

The percentage of stockholders required to call a special meeting of stockholders,

which may delay, defer or prevent a takeover attempt that a holder of Veeco FEI common stock might consider in its best interest.

Furthermore, Veeco FEI may in the future adopt other measures that may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of Veeco FEI. Certain of these measures may be adopted without any further vote or action by the holders of Veeco FEI common stock.

The data storage industry is a relatively new and developing market for FEI and may not develop as much as FEI expects.

The data storage industry is a relatively new and developing market for FEI and may not develop as much as FEI expects. For 2001, net sales of FEI's products to the data storage industry accounted for approximately 12% of FEI's net product sales, and FEI expects sales to this industry to be an important contributing factor to future growth in FEI's total sales. The data storage industry is a newer market for FEI's products than the other markets that FEI serves and, as a result, involves greater uncertainties. These uncertainties could harm the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, although FEI views the data storage market as a growth market, the market may never fully develop as FEI expects, or alternative technologies or tools may be introduced. In addition, the data storage market recently has experienced a significant amount of consolidation. As a result, FEI's customers in the data storage industry are becoming greater in size and fewer in number, so that the loss of any single customer would have a greater adverse impact upon the combined company's results of

operations.

Risks Related to the Failure of Veeco's Stockholders to Approve the Change of Corporate Name Amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation

Veeco may be deemed to be in violation of contractual arrangements including the merger agreement.

If Veeco's stockholders do not approve the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc., then Veeco could be deemed to be in violation of contractual provisions in the merger agreement which, if deemed material, could give rise to FEI's right to terminate the merger agreement. In the case of such a termination by FEI, Veeco could be required to pay FEI's fees and expenses, up to \$5 million, incurred in connection with the merger agreement and the merger.

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**SELECTED HISTORICAL AND UNAUDITED PRO FORMA
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA OF VEECO AND FEI**

The following information is being provided to assist you in analyzing the financial aspects of the merger.

The historical selected financial information for Veeco for the six months ended June 30, 2002 and 2001 was derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements included in Veeco's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2002 incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The historical data presented for Veeco for the six months ended June 30, 2002 and 2001 is unaudited and, in the opinion of Veeco's management, includes all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair presentation of such data. Veeco's historical results for the six months ended June 30, 2002 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002. The historical selected statement of operations data for Veeco for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 and 1997 and the historical balance sheet data of Veeco as of December 31, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 and 1997 was derived from the historical audited consolidated financial statements of Veeco incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

The historical selected financial information for FEI for the twenty-six weeks ended June 30, 2002 and July 1, 2001 was derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements included in FEI's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2002 incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The historical data presented for FEI for the twenty-six weeks ended June 30, 2002 and July 1, 2001 is unaudited and, in the opinion of FEI's management, includes all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair presentation of such data. FEI's historical results for the twenty-six weeks ended June 30, 2002 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002. The historical selected statement of operations data for FEI for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999 and the historical consolidated balance sheet data of FEI as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 was derived from the historical audited consolidated financial statements of FEI incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The historical selected statement of operations data for FEI for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997 and the historical balance sheet data for FEI as of December 31, 1999, 1998 and 1997 have been derived from FEI's historical financial statements, which are not incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data is based upon the historical consolidated financial statements and notes thereto (as applicable) of Veeco and FEI, which are incorporated by reference herein. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated balance sheet data gives pro forma effect to the merger as if it had been consummated on June 30, 2002 and combines Veeco's June 30, 2002 unaudited consolidated balance sheet with FEI's June 30, 2002 unaudited consolidated balance sheet. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations data give pro forma effect to the merger as if it had been consummated on January 1, 2001 and combine Veeco's consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2001 with FEI's consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2001 and Veeco's unaudited consolidated statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2002, respectively, with FEI's unaudited consolidated statements of operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002, respectively. The pro forma adjustments are subject to change pending a final analysis of fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The impact of these changes could be material.

In addition, on September 17, 2001, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco merged with and into Applied Epi, Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota. As a result of that merger, Applied Epi became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations

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data for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and for the year ended December 31, 2001 give effect to the acquisition of Applied Epi by Veeco as if it occurred on January 1, 2001.

The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data is derived from the unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements included elsewhere herein and should be read in conjunction with those statements and notes thereto. See the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus titled "Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements." The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data is based upon the estimates and assumptions set forth in the introduction and notes to the Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere herein. The pro forma adjustments (including estimates and assumptions) made in connection with the preparation of the pro forma information are preliminary and have been made solely for purposes of preparing such pro forma information for illustrative purposes necessary to comply with the disclosure requirements of the SEC. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data does not purport to be indicative of the results of operations for future periods or the consolidated financial position or results that actually would have been realized for the periods presented had Veeco and FEI been a single entity during these periods. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data does not give effect to any synergies, cost savings, or integration costs that may result from the integration of Veeco's and FEI's businesses. Costs associated with the Veeco FEI transaction related to restructuring and integration have not yet been determined. In addition, FEI's operating costs have increased and may further increase due to the termination (and expected termination) of some of the tangible and intangible benefits and arrangements provided to FEI by Philips. Certain of these benefits and arrangements terminated prior to June 30, 2002 and a portion of these increased costs resulting therefrom have already been incurred by FEI. FEI has also received payments described herein from Philips, which have offset certain of these increased costs and have been recorded by FEI as a reduction in costs and operating expenses. The selected unaudited pro forma consolidated financial data excludes the effect of a portion of the additional operating costs which may be incurred in connection with the termination of certain arrangements between FEI and Philips, which costs cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. In addition, the selected unaudited pro forma consolidated data exclude the effect of a portion of the increased additional pension costs of FEI which will be incurred in connection with FEI's new collective bargaining agreements that took effect September 1, 2001. For more information concerning these additional costs, see the sections titled "Risk Factors" The combined company will be subject to increased operational costs and other risks because PBE no longer owns a majority of FEI's common stock" beginning on page 27 and "Relationship with Philips" beginning on page 100.

The following information should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and related notes contained in the annual, quarterly and other reports filed by Veeco and FEI with the SEC. See the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Six months ended June 30, | | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2002 | 2001 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| Statement of operations data (1), (2), (3): | | | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 157,488 | \$ 237,481 | \$ 449,251 | \$ 376,113 | \$ 312,446 | \$ 263,411 | \$ 266,551 |
| Cost of sales | 88,551 | 125,652 | 260,148(4) | 219,578(5) | 164,783 | 145,286 | 142,518 |
| Gross profit | 68,937 | 111,829 | 189,103 | 156,535 | 147,663 | 118,125 | 124,033 |
| Costs and expenses | 72,312 | 75,709 | 154,114 | 131,469 | 102,880 | 88,113 | 78,589 |
| Merger and restructuring expenses | 1,887(6) | 1,000(6) | 3,046(4) | 14,206(5) | 2,600(7) | 7,500(7) | 2,250(7) |
| Write-off of purchased in-process technology | | | 8,200(4) | | 2,474(8) | | 4,200(8) |
| Write-off of deferred charges | | | | | | 675 | |
| Asset impairment charge | | | 3,418(4) | 3,722(5) | | | |

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| | Six months ended June 30, | | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Operating (loss) income | (5,262) | 35,120 | 20,325 | 7,138 | 39,709 | 21,837 | 38,994 |
| Interest expense (income), net | 2,963 | (1,164) | (577) | (1,307) | (695) | 2,185 | 715 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | (8,225) | 36,284 | 20,902 | 8,445 | 40,404 | 19,652 | 38,279 |
| Income tax (benefit) provision | (3,454) | 12,593 | 6,020 | 5,780 | 15,302 | 6,012 | 9,393 |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | (4,771) | 23,691 | 14,882 | 2,665 | 25,102 | 13,640 | 28,886 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | | | |
| Loss from operations, net of taxes | | (818) | (2,450) | (2,163) | (1,387) | (3) | (225) |
| Loss on disposal, net of taxes | (346) | | (2,123) | | (1,734) | | |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of taxes | (346) | (818) | (4,573) | (2,163) | (3,121) | (3) | (225) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net of income taxes (9) | | | | (18,382) | | | |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (5,117) | \$ 22,873 | \$ 10,309 | \$ (17,880) | \$ 21,981(9) | \$ 13,637(9) | \$ 28,661 |
| (Loss) earnings per common share: | | | | | | | |
| (Loss) income per common share from continuing operations before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | \$ (0.16) | \$ 0.96 | \$ 0.57 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 1.22 | \$ 0.73 | \$ 1.57 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | (0.02) | (0.03) | (0.17) | (0.09) | (0.15) | (0.00) | (0.01) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | | (0.77) | | | |
| Net (loss) income per common share | \$ (0.18) | \$ 0.93 | \$ 0.40 | \$ (0.75) | \$ 1.07(10) | \$ 0.73(10) | \$ 1.56 |
| Diluted (loss) income per common share from continuing operations before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | \$ (0.16) | \$ 0.94 | \$ 0.56 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 1.17 | \$ 0.70 | \$ 1.49 |
| Loss from discontinued operations | (0.02) | (0.03) | (0.17) | (0.09) | (0.15) | (0.00) | (0.01) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | | | | (0.73) | | | |
| Diluted net (loss) income per common share | \$ (0.18) | \$ 0.91 | \$ 0.39 | \$ (0.71) | \$ 1.02(10) | \$ 0.70(10) | \$ 1.48 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 29,052 | 24,722 | 25,937 | 23,805 | 20,604 | 18,775 | 18,430 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 29,052 | 25,222 | 26,355 | 25,128 | 21,461 | 19,436 | 19,424 |

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| | As of December 31, | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|----|---------|
| | As of June 30, 2002 | | 2000 | | 1999 | | 1998 | | 1997 | | | |
| | | | 2001 | | | | | | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Data (1), (2), (3): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments | \$ | 221,343 | \$ | 203,154 | \$ | 90,314 | \$ | 80,739 | \$ | 23,599 | \$ | 23,307 |
| Working capital | | 378,350 | | 358,023 | | 220,463 | | 171,977 | | 97,977 | | 79,742 |
| Goodwill | | 125,585 | | 125,585 | | 9,481 | | 6,500 | | 4,187 | | 4,318 |
| Total assets | | 752,565 | | 755,519 | | 422,525 | | 338,744 | | 213,177 | | 204,035 |
| Long-term debt (including current installments) | | 238,248 | | 219,063 | | 16,062 | | 38,704 | | 35,865 | | 26,971 |
| Stockholders' equity | | 423,848 | | 423,971 | | 282,908 | | 223,944 | | 127,719 | | 107,575 |

- (1) During December 2001, Veeco classified its industrial measurement operating segment as a discontinued operation. The Consolidated Statements of Operations and Balance Sheet data for all years presented have been restated to reflect this. See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements included in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, incorporated by reference herein.
- (2) Prior to Veeco's merger with CVC, Inc. on May 5, 2000, CVC's fiscal year end was September 30. Therefore the Statement of Operations data for all years presented through 1999 was derived from CVC's financial statements for the respective twelve month periods ended September 30. In addition, the Balance Sheet Data through 1999 was derived from CVC's September 30 balance sheets.
- (3) Prior to Veeco's merger with Ion Tech, Inc. on November 4, 1999, Ion Tech's fiscal year end was June 30. In connection with the merger, the financial results of Ion Tech were recast for 1998 to conform to Veeco's December 31 year end. For the year ended December 31, 1997, historical results include those for Ion Tech's fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, thus resulting in six months of 1998 activity in the 1997 results of operations.
- (4) Veeco incurred merger and restructuring charges of \$28.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2001. Of these charges, \$13.6 million related to the write-off of inventory (included in cost of sales), \$8.2 million related to the write-off of purchased in-process technology (\$7.0 million resulting from the acquisition of Applied Epi, Inc. and \$1.2 million from the acquisition of Thermo Microscopes Corp.), \$3.0 million represented restructuring costs and \$3.4 million was for the write-down of long-lived assets. See Note 7 to Veeco's consolidated financial statements included in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, incorporated by reference herein.
- (5) Veeco incurred merger and reorganization charges of \$33.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2000, of which \$33.0 million related to the merger with CVC. Of these charges, \$15.3 million related to a write-off of inventory (included in cost of sales), \$14.0 million represented merger and reorganization costs (of which \$9.2 million related to investment banking, legal and other one-time transaction costs and \$4.8 million pertained to duplicate facility and personnel costs) and \$3.7 million was for the write-off of long-lived assets. See Note 2 to Veeco's consolidated financial statements included in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, incorporated by reference herein.
- (6) Veeco incurred restructuring expense of \$1.9 million during the six months ended June 30, 2002 related to the cost reduction efforts that were initiated during the fourth quarter of 2001 and the first quarter of 2002. Veeco incurred restructuring expenses of \$1.0 million during the six months ended June 30, 2001.
- (7) During 1999, Veeco recorded charges of \$2.6 million related to merger expenses in connection with the merger with Ion Tech. In 1998, Veeco recorded merger and reorganization expenses of \$7.5 million related to the merger with Digital Instruments, Inc. During 1997, Veeco incurred \$2.3 million of merger expenses in conjunction with the merger with Wyko Corporation.
- (8) During 1999, Veeco recorded a \$2.5 million charge related to the write-off of purchased in-process technology (\$1.3 million related to the acquisition of OptiMag, Inc. and \$1.2 million related to CVC's acquisition of Commonwealth Scientific Corporation). During 1997, Veeco recorded a \$4.2 million charge related to the write-off of purchased in-process technology in connection with the acquisition of physical vapor deposition assets.
- (9) Effective January 1, 2000, Veeco changed its method of accounting for revenue recognition in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101. See Note 1 to the audited consolidated financial statements contained in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, incorporated by reference herein.
- (10) Veeco adopted Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101 effective January 1, 2000. Had this adoption taken place on January 1, 1998, net income, net income per common share and diluted net income per common share on a pro forma basis for 1999 and 1998 would have been as follows:

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Net income | \$ 13,695 | \$ 12,682 |
| Net income per common share | \$ 0.66 | \$ 0.68 |
| Diluted net income per common share | \$ 0.64 | \$ 0.65 |

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FEI COMPANY
SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)

| | Twenty-Six weeks ended June 30, 2002 | Twenty-Six weeks ended July 1, 2001 | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| Statements of Operations Data: | | | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 172,379 | \$ 187,557 | \$ 376,004 | \$ 320,300 | \$ 216,152 | \$ 178,771 | \$ 168,796 |
| Cost of sales | 92,619 | 94,924 | 193,612 | 183,178 | 131,143 | 119,579 | 106,629 |
| Gross profit | 79,760 | 92,633 | 182,392 | 137,122 | 85,009 | 59,192 | 62,167 |
| Total operating expenses(1) | 60,151 | 58,964 | 123,318 | 100,602 | 87,524 | 68,768 | 95,040 |
| Operating income (loss) | 19,609 | 33,669 | 59,074 | 36,520 | (2,515) | (9,576) | (32,873) |
| Other expense, net(2) | 2,619 | 2,919 | 4,074 | 1,637 | 65 | 4,129 | 622 |
| Income before taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | 16,990 | 30,750 | 55,000 | 34,883 | (2,580) | (13,705) | (33,495) |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 6,201 | 11,959 | 22,494 | 14,073 | 4,800 | (4,797) | 3,107 |
| Income before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle | 10,789 | 18,791 | 32,506 | 20,810 | (7,380) | (8,908) | (36,602) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle(3) | | | | (7,499) | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 10,789 | \$ 18,791 | \$ 32,506 | \$ 13,311 | \$ (7,380) | \$ (8,908) | \$ (36,602) |
| Earnings per share: | | | | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | | | | |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle per share | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.64 | \$ 1.06 | \$ 0.74 | \$ (0.34) | \$ (0.49) | \$ (2.19) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle per share(3) | | | | (0.27) | | | |
| Net income (loss) per share | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.64 | \$ 1.06 | \$ 0.47 | \$ (0.34) | \$ (0.49) | \$ (2.19) |
| Diluted: | | | | | | | |
| Income (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle per share | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.61 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.70 | \$ (0.34) | \$ (0.49) | \$ (2.19) |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle per share(3) | | | | (0.25) | | | |
| Net income (loss) per share | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.61 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.45 | \$ (0.34) | \$ (0.49) | \$ (2.19) |

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| | Twenty-Six | Twenty-Six | Year ended December 31, | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| | weeks ended June 30, 2002 | weeks ended July 1, 2001 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Basic | 32,219 | 29,359 | 30,563 | 28,091 | 21,745 | 18,106 | 16,677 | | | | | |
| Diluted | 33,421 | 30,697 | 31,986 | 29,827 | 21,745 | 18,106 | 16,677 | | | | | |
| | | | As of December 31, | | | | | | | | | |
| | As of June 30, 2002 | | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 | | | | | |
| Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 187,105 | \$ | 176,862 | \$ | 24,031 | \$ | 11,124 | \$ | 15,198 | \$ | 16,394 |
| Working capital | | 312,098 | | 349,024 | | 91,175 | | 84,957 | | 70,350 | | 64,496 |
| Total assets | | 636,681 | | 607,476 | | 314,823 | | 288,100 | | 191,138 | | 183,022 |
| Long-term interest-bearing debt | | 175,000 | | 175,000 | | 25,674 | | 36,012 | | 26,349 | | 17,844 |
| Shareholders' equity | | 318,255 | | 296,516 | | 168,289 | | 152,577 | | 97,627 | | 104,889 |

- (1) Included in 1997 total operating expenses is a charge of \$38.0 million to write off in-process research and development in connection with the acquisition of the Philips electron optics business and a restructuring charge of \$2.5 million incurred in connection with consolidating FEI's Massachusetts operations. Included in 1998 operating expenses is a restructuring charge of \$5.3 million undertaken to consolidate operations, eliminate redundant facilities, reduce operating expenses and provide for outsourcing of certain manufacturing activities. Included in 1999 operating expenses is a charge of \$14.1 million to write off acquired in-process research and development in connection with the acquisition of Micrion Corporation in August 1999 and a restructuring charge of \$0.1 million. Included in 2001 operating expenses is a charge of \$3.4 million to write off acquired in-process research and development in connection with acquisitions. Included in the June 30, 2002 operating expenses is a merger charge of \$1.1 million relating to legal and accounting costs incurred in connection with FEI's proposed merger with Veeco.
- (2) Included in 1998 other expense, net is a valuation charge of \$3.3 million taken to reduce the carrying value of a cost method investment. Included in 2001 other expense, net is a valuation charge of \$3.7 million to adjust the carrying value of FEI's cost method investment in Surface Interface, Inc. to reflect the price FEI paid to acquire the rest of Surface/Interface in 2001.
- (3) Effective January 1, 2000, FEI changed its method of accounting for revenue recognition in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 101. See Note 1 to the audited consolidated financial statements contained in FEI's 2001 annual report on Form 10-K.

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**SELECTED UNAUDITED PRO FORMA
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA
(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)
(unaudited)**

| | Six months ended June 30, | | Year ended December 31, |
|--|------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2001 | 2001 |
| Statement of Operations Data: | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 329,867 | \$ 443,977 | \$ 858,455 |
| Cost of sales | 181,170 | 230,828 | 469,982 |
| Gross profit | 148,697 | 213,149 | 388,473 |
| Costs and expenses | 147,355 | 161,255 | 317,269 |
| Restructuring expense | 3,004 | 1,000 | 3,046 |
| Asset impairment charge | | 4,438 | 7,136 |
| Write-off of purchased in-process technology | | | 4,638 |
| Operating (loss) income | (1,662) | 46,456 | 56,384 |
| Interest expense (income), net | 4,731 | 262 | 2,163 |

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| | Six months ended June 30, | | Year ended December 31, |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| (Loss) income before income taxes | (6,393) | 46,194 | 54,221 |
| Income tax (benefit) provision | (2,558) | 17,258 | 17,987 |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (3,835) | \$ 28,936 | \$ 36,234 |
| (Loss) earnings per common share: | | | |
| Net (loss) income per common share | \$ (0.05) | \$ 0.42 | \$ 0.51 |
| Diluted net (loss) income per common share | \$ (0.05) | \$ 0.41 | \$ 0.49 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 72,709 | 68,386 | 71,234 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 72,709 | 71,006 | 73,806 |
| | | | As of June 30, 2002 |

Balance Sheet Data:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments | \$ 469,970 |
| Working capital | 698,115 |
| Goodwill | 613,986 |
| Total assets | 2,045,644 |
| Long-term debt (including current installments) | 413,248 |
| Stockholders' equity | 1,292,038 |

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**COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA
(Unaudited)**

The following table sets forth:

Certain historical per share data of Veeco and FEI; and

Unaudited pro forma combined per share data of Veeco and FEI based on a conversion ratio in the merger of 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock. This data should be read in conjunction with the selected financial data, the historical consolidated financial statements of Veeco and FEI and the notes thereto, which are included in or incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The pro forma combined and equivalent pro forma financial data are not necessarily indicative of the operating results or financial position that would have been achieved had the merger been consummated at the beginning of the periods presented, and should not be construed as indicative of future operations. Neither Veeco nor FEI has ever declared or paid cash dividends on its shares of capital stock.

| | Year Ended December 31, 2001 | Six Months Ended June 30, 2002 |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | _____ | _____ |
| Historical Veeco: | | |
| Income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.57 | \$ (0.16) |
| Diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.56 | \$ (0.16) |
| Book value per share(1) | \$ 14.62 | \$ 14.55 |

Historical FEI:

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| | Year Ended December 31, 2001 | Six Months Ended June 30, 2002 |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Income per common share from continuing operations | \$ 1.06 | \$ 0.33 |
| Diluted income per common share from continuing operations | \$ 1.02 | \$ 0.32 |
| Book value per share(1) | \$ 9.25 | \$ 9.82 |
| Pro Forma Combined: | | |
| Income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.51 | \$ (0.05) |
| Diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.49 | \$ (0.05) |
| Book value per share(2) | \$ 17.75 | \$ 17.69 |
| Equivalent Pro Forma FEI(3): | | |
| Income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.69 | \$ (0.07) |
| Diluted income (loss) per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.66 | \$ (0.07) |
| Book value per share | \$ 24.05 | \$ 23.97 |

- (1) Historical book value per common share is computed by dividing stockholders' equity by the number of shares of Veeco or FEI common stock outstanding at the end of each period.
- (2) Pro forma combined book value per common share is computed by dividing pro forma stockholders' equity by the sum of (a) the number of shares of Veeco common stock outstanding at the end of the period and (b) FEI common stock outstanding at the end of the period multiplied by 1.355.
- (3) Equivalent Pro Forma FEI per common share amounts are calculated by multiplying pro forma combined per share amounts by the exchange ratio in the merger of 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock.

THE VEECO SPECIAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place of Veeco Special Meeting

The Veeco special meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. (local time), on _____, _____, 2002, at the Corporate Center, 395 North Service Road, Melville, New York.

Purpose

The purpose of the Veeco special meeting is to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, the proposals to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of Veeco's authorized shares of common stock from 60,000,000 to 175,000,000 and to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and the proposal to amend Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares.

Record Date and Outstanding Shares

Only holders of record of Veeco common stock at the close of business on September 20, 2002, the Veeco record date, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Veeco special meeting. As of the Veeco record date, there were approximately 223 Veeco stockholders of record holding an aggregate of approximately 29,139,277 shares of Veeco common stock.

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On or about _____, 2002, this joint proxy statement/prospectus, which includes a notice satisfying the applicable requirements of Delaware law, is being mailed to all Veeco stockholders of record as of the Veeco record date.

Voting and Solicitation

At the Veeco special meeting, each Veeco stockholder will be entitled to one vote for each share of Veeco common stock held by it. Under Veeco's bylaws, the presence of the holders of at least 50% of all of the Veeco common stock entitled to vote, whether present in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Veeco's special meeting.

Under applicable rules of The Nasdaq National Market, if a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, whether in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting, is required to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in connection with the merger. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote, whether in person or by proxy, is required to approve the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco common stock from 60,000,000 to 175,000,000 and to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, whether in person or by proxy, at Veeco's special meeting is required to approve the proposal to amend Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares.

Shares of Veeco common stock that are voted "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" with respect to a matter, or are broker non-votes, will be treated as being present at the Veeco special meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum. For purposes of voting upon the approval of the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the effect of an abstention or a broker non-vote is the same as a vote against the proposal.

To vote by proxy, you should complete your proxy card and mail it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope.

If your shares are held in an account at a brokerage firm or bank, you must direct them on how to vote your shares. Your broker or bank will vote your shares only if you provide directions on how to vote by following the instructions provided to you by your broker or bank.

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The holders of approximately 12.8% of Veeco's outstanding common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have entered into voting agreements with FEI under which they have agreed to vote their shares of Veeco common stock in favor of approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger and the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock. These Veeco stockholders, however, may vote their Veeco shares in favor of a Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction. Such Veeco stockholders include certain executive officers and directors of Veeco and Chorus, L.P., Veeco's largest stockholder. These Veeco stockholders have also granted FEI irrevocable proxies to vote their Veeco common stock in this manner. See the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with Veeco Stockholders" on page 96.

All valid proxies received prior to the Veeco special meeting will be voted. All shares represented by a proxy will be voted, and where a stockholder specifies by means of the proxy a choice ("FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN") with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted in accordance with the specification so made. **If no choice is made on the proxy, the shares will be voted "FOR" the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, "FOR" the approval of the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and "FOR" the approval of the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan (other than broker non-votes, which shares will not be voted).**

The cost of this solicitation to Veeco stockholders will be borne by Veeco. Veeco has retained Georgeson to solicit proxies. Georgeson may contact Veeco stockholders by mail, telephone, telex, telegraph and personal interviews. Georgeson will receive from Veeco a fee of \$9,000 for its services, plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Veeco has agreed to indemnify Georgeson against certain liabilities and expenses in connection with such solicitation, including liabilities under the federal securities laws. In addition, Veeco may reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other fiduciaries representing beneficial owners of Veeco common stock for expenses incurred in forwarding solicitation material to such beneficial owners. Proxies also may be solicited by certain of Veeco's directors, officers and regular employees, personally or by telephone or telecopier. Such persons will not receive additional compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such solicitations.

Any Veeco stockholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time prior to the vote by:

Filing with Veeco's Secretary written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date; or

Voting in person at the Veeco special meeting.

Recommendation of Veeco's Board of Directors

Veeco's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and its stockholders. After careful consideration, Veeco's board of directors unanimously recommends that Veeco stockholders vote in favor of the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger. Veeco's board of directors also unanimously determined that the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco common stock from 60,000,000 to 175,000,000 and to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares are advisable and recommends that Veeco stockholders vote to approve each of these items.

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THE FEI SPECIAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place of FEI Special Meeting

The FEI special meeting will be held at _____ a.m. (local time), on _____, _____, 2002, at _____.

Purpose

The purpose of the FEI special meeting is to approve the merger. FEI shareholders may also be asked to consider and vote upon such other matters as may be properly brought before the FEI special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the FEI special meeting. Any adjournment or postponement could be used for the purpose of allowing additional time for soliciting additional votes to approve the merger.

Record Date and Outstanding Shares

Only holders of record of FEI common stock at the close of business on September 20, 2002, the FEI record date, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the FEI special meeting. As of the FEI record date, there were approximately 118 FEI shareholders of record holding an aggregate of approximately 32,545,290 shares of FEI common stock.

On or about _____, 2002, this joint proxy statement/prospectus, which includes a notice satisfying the applicable requirements of Oregon law, is being mailed to all FEI shareholders of record as of the FEI record date.

Voting and Solicitation

At the FEI special meeting, each shareholder will be entitled to one vote for each share of FEI common stock held by such shareholder. FEI's Restated Bylaws provide that the presence of the holders of a majority of all of the FEI common stock entitled to vote, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the FEI special meeting. Under the Oregon Business Corporation Act, the holders of a majority of the shares of FEI common stock entitled to vote must vote "**FOR**" the approval of the merger in order for the merger to be approved by FEI's shareholders.

Shares of FEI common stock that are voted "FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" with respect to a matter, or are broker non-votes, will be treated as being present at the FEI special meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum. For purposes of obtaining the required vote of a majority of the shares of FEI common stock entitled to vote to approve the merger, the effect of an abstention or a broker non-vote is the same as a vote against the proposal.

To vote by proxy, you should complete your proxy card and mail it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope.

If your shares are held in an account at a brokerage firm or bank, you must direct them on how to vote your shares. Your broker or bank will vote your shares only if you provide directions on how to vote by following the instructions provided to you by your broker or bank.

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Directors and executives officers of FEI and PBE, FEI's largest shareholder, who collectively held approximately 27.4% of FEI's outstanding common stock, as of June 30, 2002, have entered into voting agreements with Veeco under which they have agreed to vote their shares of FEI common stock in favor of the approval of the merger. These FEI shareholders, however, may vote their FEI shares in favor of a Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction. These FEI shareholders also have granted Veeco irrevocable proxies to vote their FEI common stock in this manner. See the section titled "Other Agreements Voting Arrangements with FEI Shareholders" beginning on page 96.

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All valid proxies received prior to the FEI special meeting will be voted. All shares represented by a proxy will be voted, and where a shareholder specifies by means of the proxy a choice ("FOR," "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN") with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the shares of FEI common stock will be voted in accordance with the specification so made. **If no choice is indicated on the proxy, the shares of FEI common stock will be voted "FOR" the approval of the merger (other than instances of broker non-votes, which shares will not be voted).**

The cost of this solicitation to FEI shareholders will be borne by FEI. FEI has retained Georgeson, to solicit proxies. Georgeson may contact FEI shareholders by mail, telephone, telex, telegraph and personal interviews. Georgeson will receive from FEI a fee of \$9,000 for its services, plus reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. FEI has agreed to indemnify Georgeson against certain liabilities and expenses in connection with such solicitation, including liabilities under the federal securities laws. In addition, FEI may reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other fiduciaries representing beneficial owners of FEI common stock for expenses incurred in forwarding solicitation material to such beneficial owners. Proxies may also be solicited by certain of FEI's directors, officers and regular employees, personally or by telephone or telecopier. Such persons will not receive additional compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such solicitations.

Any FEI shareholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time prior to the vote by taking any of the following actions:

Filing a written notice of revocation dated after the date of the proxy with FEI's secretary, Bradley J. Thies, in care of FEI Company at 7451 NW Evergreen Parkway, Hillsboro, OR 97124-5830, at or before the vote at the special meeting;

Signing a duly executed proxy bearing a later date relating to the same shares, and delivering it to FEI's secretary before the special meeting; or

Attending the special meeting and voting in person.

You should not send in any FEI stock certificates with your proxy card. The exchange agent will mail a transmittal letter to you containing instructions for the surrender of your FEI stock certificates as soon as practicable after the completion of the merger.

Recommendation of FEI's Board of Directors

FEI's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and its shareholders. After careful consideration, FEI's board of directors unanimously recommends that FEI's shareholders vote in favor of the approval of the merger.

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THE MERGER

This section of the joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the proposed merger. While FEI and Veeco believe that the description covers the material terms of the merger and the related transactions, this summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including its Appendices and the other documents referred to herein, carefully for a more complete understanding of the merger.

Background of the Merger

The merger agreement and the terms and conditions of the merger are the result of negotiations between representatives of Veeco and FEI. The following summary describes the background of these negotiations.

From time to time, both Veeco and FEI have conducted preliminary discussions with numerous merger and acquisition candidates. Before October 2001, Edward H. Braun, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Veeco, and Vahé A. Sarkissian, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of FEI, were familiar with one another and had come into contact with one another at industry trade shows, various conventions and in various other circumstances. In addition, prior to his employment at FEI, Mr. Sarkissian provided consulting services to Veeco on certain discrete projects.

On several occasions over the past several years, Mr. Braun and Mr. Sarkissian had discussed the possibility of a business combination or strategic relationship involving Veeco and FEI. However, on each occasion, these discussions were terminated and did not result in any further actions relating to any such business combination or strategic relationship.

During October and November 2001, Mr. Braun and Mr. Sarkissian had preliminary conversations and exchanged general information about Veeco's and FEI's businesses and the general possibility of a business combination was suggested. During December 2001 and January 2002, these discussions continued and Messrs. Braun and Sarkissian agreed to continue their discussions regarding a proposed strategic combination of Veeco and FEI.

On January 21 and 22, 2002, Mr. Braun and Mr. Sarkissian met in person in San Jose, California. The meeting focused on the two companies' business operations and strategy, whether a cultural fit existed between the two companies and how the two companies could be integrated. At this meeting, Mr. Braun made a proposal to Mr. Sarkissian regarding a potential business combination involving Veeco and FEI.

In January 2002, Veeco retained Salomon Smith Barney Inc. to act as its financial advisor in connection with a possible business combination with FEI and to assist Veeco in evaluating the proposed combination. Salomon Smith Barney had previously, from time to time, assisted Veeco in evaluating potential strategic relationships.

On January 25, 2002, FEI engaged Credit Suisse First Boston to act as its financial advisor in connection with a potential strategic transaction with Veeco.

On January 25, 2002, at its regularly scheduled board meeting, the Veeco board of directors discussed the potential transaction with FEI, among other things. The board determined that management should continue to evaluate and pursue the potential transaction with FEI.

On February 28, 2002, Veeco and FEI entered into a Mutual Confidentiality Agreement in connection with their ongoing negotiations and due diligence activities.

On March 16, 2002, the FEI board of directors met and discussed, among other things, the possibility of entering into a transaction with Veeco. The board considered background materials on Veeco presented by management, including information on its business and markets, historical financial results and the trading history of its common stock. The FEI board of directors also discussed other potential merger or acquisition candidates and FEI's prospects as a stand-alone entity. Based on its

discussions regarding potential alternatives, the board of directors determined that FEI management should continue to evaluate and pursue the business combination with Veeco.

On March 18 and 19, 2002, Messrs. Braun and Sarkissian met in New York, New York to further discuss FEI's and Veeco's businesses, the markets served by each company and how FEI and Veeco might complement each other as part of a combined entity. The parties also discussed the structure of a potential transaction, as well as roles of senior officers, the potential exchange ratio for the transaction, the potential management of the combined company and other general matters.

Between March 15 and April 9, 2002, discussions took place between certain of Veeco's and FEI's senior management personnel during which they reviewed the product offerings, markets served and technologies of each company, as well as the financial results and condition of each business. Also during this period, representatives of Veeco's and FEI's senior management engaged in discussions relating to the terms and

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conditions of a possible business combination. In addition, Veeco's outside legal counsel, Kaye Scholer LLP, had discussions with FEI's outside legal counsel, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, regarding the scope of the mutual due diligence to be conducted.

In March 2002, Veeco retained Ernst & Young LLP to perform certain accounting and financial due diligence services for it in connection with the proposed merger.

The discussions in late March and early April led to meetings involving members of senior management of each of Veeco and FEI and their outside legal and financial advisors in San Francisco, California on April 10 and 11, 2002. The main purpose of these meetings was for the management of each of the companies to meet each other and to become familiar with the business and operations of the other. At the meetings, members of management of each of Veeco and FEI presented an overview highlighting their respective operations, products, technology, research and development efforts and results of operations and financial condition. Members of both Veeco's and FEI's outside legal and financial advisors were also present at the meetings.

Between April 10 and July 11, 2002:

The companies and their respective outside advisors conducted extensive due diligence, including evaluations of various accounting, tax, employee benefits, intellectual property, legal, environmental and other matters related to FEI and Veeco;

The financial advisors continued evaluating the financial terms of the proposed transaction;

Management of both companies met to discuss combining operations of the two companies; and

Negotiations continued on the terms and conditions of the business combination agreements.

On April 15, 2002, Kaye Scholer LLP delivered an initial draft of the merger agreement to FEI and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Also on April 15, 2002, Merchant & Gould, LLP was retained by Veeco to conduct due diligence with respect to the intellectual property held and/or licensed by FEI.

On April 18, 2002, in a special meeting of the FEI board of directors, FEI management, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed with the FEI board of directors the transaction terms proposed by Veeco. In addition, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati reviewed with the board of directors their fiduciary duties in connection with the proposed transaction. FEI's board of directors considered the proposed transaction and determined that management should continue to evaluate and pursue the potential business combination.

On April 25, 2002, Veeco's board of directors held a meeting at which the directors discussed, among other things, the terms of the proposed merger transaction, valuation issues regarding the merger and issues requiring additional due diligence. Veeco's management discussed with the board of directors the business of FEI and the potential benefits to Veeco and its stockholders of a business combination with FEI. Management also explained the need to authorize additional capital stock for Veeco in order to provide the ability to pursue acquisitions such as the merger with FEI and for other corporate purposes. At this meeting, representatives of Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the strategic

rationale, financial terms and structure of the proposed merger. Although Veeco has from time to time considered numerous merger and acquisition candidates, none of these potential acquisitions were considered by the Veeco board of directors to be alternatives to the merger.

On April 30, 2002, Mr. Braun, Mr. John F. Rein, Jr., Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary of Veeco, and Veeco board members, Messrs. Richard D'Amore, Roger McDaniel and Walter Scherr, and Mr. Sarkissian and FEI board members, Messrs. Michael Attardo, William Curran and Gerhard Parker, met in New York, New York to further discuss the two companies' business operations and strategy and the feasibility of integrating the two companies.

From May 1 through May 3, 2002, Veeco's management and Kaye Scholer LLP discussed the status of negotiations and identified outstanding issues in connection with the potential merger and representatives of Veeco separately discussed various business and valuation issues with FEI, Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney.

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On May 7, 2002, the FEI board of directors held a special meeting to discuss the potential transaction. At the meeting, FEI management, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Credit Suisse First Boston and Deloitte & Touche, FEI's independent accounting firm, updated FEI's directors on their due diligence investigations and reviewed the terms of the proposed transaction, based upon the proposed definitive agreement and other materials previously circulated to the board. This meeting included a discussion of the material terms of the proposed transaction. FEI's board of directors discussed the proposed transaction and determined to continue to evaluate and pursue the proposed business combination further.

From May 2002 through July 2002, Veeco, FEI and PBE held discussions regarding, and negotiated the principal terms and conditions of, a voting agreement between Veeco and PBE and an investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE. During this period Veeco and FEI, and their respective financial advisors, held discussions for the purposes of negotiating the transaction exchange ratio and board composition of the combined company.

On May 16, 2002, the FEI board of directors held a special meeting to discuss the proposed transaction. At the meeting, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati reviewed with FEI's board of directors its fiduciary duties in connection with the proposed transaction and the status of the transaction negotiations. In addition, Credit Suisse First Boston updated the board on negotiations regarding the exchange ratio. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and Credit Suisse First Boston also reviewed with FEI's board of directors certain measures that FEI could take to deter an inadequate or coercive takeover of the company. FEI's board of directors considered the proposed transaction and determined that management should continue to evaluate and pursue the business combination with Veeco.

On May 20, 2002, Mr. Braun and Mr. Sarkissian met in San Francisco, California to discuss the proposed transaction and roles for senior managers, the integration process, integration teams and a preliminary organizational chart.

On May 22, 2002, the Veeco board of directors held a special meeting to discuss the proposed merger. At that meeting, Mr. Braun reviewed the proposed roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, the markets that the combined company would serve and products that the combined company would offer, and the benefits and risks of the proposed merger. Mr. Rein discussed the financial situation of Veeco and FEI and reviewed the status of due diligence efforts and accounting considerations, including the significance of which entity would be the continuing entity for accounting purposes. Representatives of Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the potential effects of the proposed merger on the combined company.

On May 24, 2002, the FEI board of directors held a special meeting to discuss the transaction. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati again reviewed with FEI's board of directors its fiduciary duties in connection with the proposed transaction, the negotiations on the definitive agreements that had taken place to date and the results of the due diligence process. Management reviewed with FEI's board of

directors the potential near-term and long-term synergies of the transaction, the negotiations concerning the exchange ratio for the transaction, the negotiations concerning the composition of Veeco FEI's board of directors and management of the combined company. Deloitte & Touche reviewed with FEI's board of directors certain accounting determinations that would be made in connection with the transaction, in particular, the accounting treatment of the combined entity. Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed with FEI's board of directors certain financial parameters of the transaction, as well as estimated pro forma financial data for the combined company and potential risks to FEI of the transaction and of remaining a stand-alone entity. Credit Suisse First Boston also summarized the recent negotiations with Veeco regarding the proposed exchange ratio and the discussions relating to the historical trading prices of the two companies' common stock. FEI's board of directors further considered the proposed transaction and FEI's prospects as a stand alone entity. FEI's board of directors determined that management should continue to evaluate and pursue the business combination. Following the meeting, the compensation committee of FEI's board of directors met to discuss the current employment terms for Messrs. Sarkissian and Braun and various potential approaches to their employment terms in connection with the proposed transaction.

On May 30, 2002, Salomon Smith Barney submitted to Credit Suisse First Boston, on behalf of Veeco, a revised proposal regarding the combination of Veeco and FEI.

On May 31, 2002, the parties discussed a proposed exchange ratio of 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock for each share of FEI common stock.

On June 4, 2002, the compensation committee of FEI's board of directors met to further discuss potential employment terms for Messrs. Sarkissian and Braun. At the meeting, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati updated the compensation committee on the discussions between Veeco and FEI regarding potential employment terms.

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On June 6, 2002, the Veeco board of directors held a special meeting to discuss the proposed merger. Mr. Braun reviewed the key terms of the proposed merger. Mr. Rein discussed the continuing accounting entity considerations and Veeco's plan to submit a letter to the SEC to confirm Veeco's determination that, based on the proposed structure of the merger, Veeco would be the continuing accounting entity. Mr. Rein also reviewed the status of due diligence and the negotiation of the definitive merger agreement.

On June 10, 2002, members of the management teams of Veeco and FEI met in New York, New York to further discuss the potential business combination and specific terms of the transaction.

On June 19, 2002, FEI held another special meeting of its board of directors to discuss the proposed transaction. At the meeting, management, along with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Credit Suisse First Boston and Deloitte & Touche, discussed with FEI's board of directors the status of the negotiations and, in particular, the accounting determination to be made in connection with the proposed transaction relating to the accounting treatment of the combined entity.

On June 21, 2002, Veeco submitted a letter to the staff of the SEC regarding its accounting determination that Veeco would be the acquiring entity for accounting purposes in the merger and sought the staff's concurrence with this position.

On June 27, 2002, Veeco and FEI, together with Kaye Scholer LLP and Wilson, Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and representatives from Ernst & Young LLP, Veeco's outside auditors, participated in a conference call with the staff of the SEC to answer the staff's questions regarding this determination. In response to a request made by the SEC staff, an additional submission was made by Veeco to the SEC on June 28, 2002.

On July 8, 2002, Veeco received confirmation from the staff of the SEC that it would not object to Veeco's determination that Veeco would be the acquiring entity for accounting purposes following the merger.

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On July 9, 2002, Veeco's board of directors held a meeting at which the board reviewed the terms of the revised merger agreement and ancillary agreements as well as the results of the due diligence review of FEI. During this meeting, Mr. Braun and Kaye Scholer LLP outlined the principal terms and conditions of the merger agreement, the voting agreements, the investor agreement and the other ancillary agreements, and answered questions posed by the board. Representatives from Salomon Smith Barney answered questions posed by the board and made a presentation regarding the financial terms of the merger. At the conclusion of the presentation, Salomon Smith Barney delivered to Veeco's board of directors an oral opinion, which opinion was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 11, 2002, the date of the merger agreement, to the effect that as of such date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco. After a comprehensive review and discussion of the potential merger, Veeco's board of directors unanimously approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and determined that the merger was advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and its stockholders. The board also authorized the amendment to Veeco's rights agreement to provide that the merger would not trigger the rights issued under that agreement. On July 10, 2002, the compensation committee of Veeco's board of directors held a meeting to further discuss the proposed employment terms for Messrs. Braun and Sarkissian.

On July 10, 2002, FEI's board of directors held a special meeting regarding the potential transaction. At the meeting, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati again reviewed with FEI's board of directors its fiduciary duties in connection with the transaction and the final proposed terms of the definitive agreements. Representatives of Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed with FEI's board of directors financial analyses prepared in connection with its fairness opinion. Credit Suisse First Boston then delivered to FEI's board of directors its oral opinion, which opinion was subsequently confirmed in writing on July 11, 2002, the date of the merger agreement, to the effect that, as of the date of the opinion and based upon and subject to the various considerations described in its opinion, the exchange ratio provided for in the merger was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates. Following these presentations and discussion, FEI's board of directors unanimously determined that the merger was advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and its shareholders and unanimously approved the merger, merger agreement and related transactions.

On July 11, 2002, Mr. Braun met with Mr. Sarkissian in New York to confirm that all transaction issues had been resolved and that all terms of the transaction had been agreed upon.

On the evening of July 11, 2002, the parties executed the merger agreement, the voting agreements, the investor agreement and the other ancillary agreements.

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On July 12, 2002, Veeco and FEI issued a joint press release announcing the agreement before the opening of The Nasdaq National Market.

Veeco's Reasons for the Merger

Veeco's board of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of Veeco's stockholders and that the terms of the merger are fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco and Veeco's stockholders. Veeco's board of directors came to its conclusion based upon a number of factors including the current financial condition and results of operations, as well as the prospects and future strategy, of Veeco and the risks involved in achieving those prospects and objectives without a strategic partner, and the factors described below. In particular, the Veeco board of directors, in its deliberations, focused on the current and expected trends in the semiconductor and data storage industries generally.

Veeco's board of directors believes that the merger is consistent with Veeco's objectives and strategies to gain access to new markets, technologies and products in order to maintain and expand its

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competitive position. Veeco's board of directors also believes that the merger will set the stage for increased levels of profitability as the company continues to grow and will create a stronger company, both from a financial and an operational standpoint.

In determining to enter into the merger agreement, Veeco's board of directors considered that the merger involving Veeco and FEI would create a combined company that would have had combined 2001 revenues of \$825 million and that Veeco and FEI together would have been the third-largest U.S. provider of semiconductor metrology equipment, the sixth-largest U.S. company serving the semiconductor equipment industry, and a leader in 3D metrology, a market which is projected to grow at an annual rate of 25% per year for the next three years. Further, the Veeco board of directors considered that the combined company would have a more favorable product mix consisting of approximately two-thirds metrology equipment and one-third process equipment, contrasted with Veeco's product mix, which, for its most recent fiscal year, had \$172 million in metrology product revenue and \$277 million in process equipment revenue. The Veeco board of directors also considered that the size of the metrology market is expected to increase to nearly \$15 billion by the year 2004, making it the fastest growth area in semiconductor equipment, and that the improved product mix likely would lead to improvements in Veeco's gross margins, possibly enabling the combined company to achieve Veeco's long-term 50% gross margin target. The Veeco board of directors also considered the complementary nature of Veeco's and FEI's technologies. Additionally, the Veeco board of directors considered the potential of annual cost savings of approximately \$8 to \$10 million that could result from the merger from near-term selling, general and administrative synergies and synergistic cost savings resulting from the integration of Veeco's and FEI's worldwide field sales and service organizations.

In rendering its decision, Veeco's board of directors, in addition to considering the anticipated benefits described above, consulted with Veeco's management, outside legal counsel and financial advisor and considered many other potential material factors that it believed made the merger advisable and that could contribute to the long-term success of Veeco, including that the merger would:

Improve Veeco's ability to provide more comprehensive product solutions for the data storage, semiconductor, telecommunications/wireless and scientific research industries as well as provide greater diversification of products and markets that could possibly offset industry cyclicality;

Lessen Veeco's present and future dependency on major customers because of a larger customer base;

Create a combined company with the critical mass and global presence to better serve the needs of Veeco's customers and potentially deepen its relationships with these customers;

Expand Veeco's product line with complementary metrology technologies as a result of the merger, the combined company would have been, based on 2001 revenue, the third largest provider of semiconductor equipment in the U.S. with more core products including little overlap;

Enhance Veeco's research and development efforts and efficiency and improve its ability to bring new products to market;

Enhance Veeco's purchasing power with its supplier base because of its increased size and buying power; and

Enhance Veeco's management team, therefore positioning the combined company to take advantage of future growth opportunities.

Veeco's board of directors also considered the following:

Information concerning Veeco's and FEI's respective businesses, historical financial performance and condition, operations, technology, products, strategic partners, customers, competitive positions, prospects and management;

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Current financial market conditions and the historical market prices, volatility and trading information of Veeco and FEI common stock;

The financial and other terms of the proposed merger, including the consideration to be paid to FEI securityholders in the merger, the relationship between the market value of Veeco and FEI common stock and a comparison of comparable merger transactions and the specific terms and conditions of the merger agreement and related agreements, which had been negotiated with FEI and others;

The oral opinion of Salomon Smith Barney, which opinion was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 11, 2002, to the effect that, as of such date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco. The full text of Salomon Smith Barney's opinion is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as [Appendix E](#). See the section titled "The Merger Opinion of Veeco's Financial Advisor" beginning on page 51;

The combined company will have a board of directors composed of 13 members, seven members nominated by Veeco, five members nominated by FEI and one member nominated by PBE;

The likelihood that the merger would be completed, including the limited conditions to the closing of the merger;

The potential impact of the merger on strategic partners, customers and employees of Veeco and FEI;

The likely reaction to the merger in the financial markets; and

Reports from management, legal and financial and other advisors as to the results of the due diligence review of FEI.

Veeco's board of directors also considered that the merger was expected, based upon its evaluation of the prospects of the companies, to be accretive to industry analysts' consensus estimates for Veeco FEI's pro forma earnings per share for the year ending December 31, 2003.

Veeco's board of directors also considered the potential risks and disadvantages of the merger, including, but not limited to, the following:

A significant portion of FEI's sales are attributable to the data storage and semiconductor industries, as is the case with Veeco. Accordingly, following the merger, the combined company would be heavily dependent on the data storage and semiconductor industries. The data storage and semiconductor industries have been characterized by cyclicity. As a result, Veeco may experience greater period-to-period fluctuations in future operating results due to general industry conditions or events occurring in the general economy than it would otherwise experience;

The risk that the potential synergies and other benefits sought in the merger might not be fully realized;

The challenges of integrating the management teams, strategies, cultures and organizations of the companies;

The risk that key management and other personnel might not remain employed by FEI or the combined company following the merger;

Risks associated with fluctuations in Veeco's stock price and FEI's stock price prior to closing of the merger;

The risk of disruption of sales momentum as a result of uncertainties created by the announcement of the merger;

The possibility that the merger might not be consummated, even if approved by each company's stockholders, including the possible effect of the termination fee;

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The substantial charges to be incurred in connection with the merger, including costs of integrating the businesses and transaction expenses arising from the merger;

Other applicable risks described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus in the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 14;

The substantial dilution in the percentage of the ownership of Veeco's common stock to existing Veeco stockholders that will result from the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger; and

The decreased likelihood that Veeco would receive a third-party acquisition proposal because of the termination fee and, to a lesser extent, the voting agreements.

The foregoing discussion of the information and factors considered by the Veeco board of directors is not intended to be exhaustive but is believed to include the material factors considered by the Veeco board of directors in connection with its review of the proposed merger. In view of the wide variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger, Veeco's board of directors did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise attempt to assign relative weights to different factors considered in reaching its determination. Rather, the Veeco board of directors viewed its position and recommendations as being based on the totality of the information presented to, and considered by, the Veeco board of directors. In addition, individual members of Veeco's board of directors may have given different weights to different factors. All of the factors described above were carefully considered by Veeco's board of directors. Based on the above-described analysis, Veeco's board of directors has determined that the terms of the merger are advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and Veeco's stockholders and has made the recommendation set forth below.

FEI's Reasons for the Merger

The FEI board of directors approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement because it determined that the combined company would have the potential to realize a stronger competitive position and improved long-term operating and financial results. The FEI board of directors came to its conclusion after considering a number of factors both for and against recommending the merger as described below.

During the course of its deliberations, FEI's board of directors considered a number of factors that it believed made the merger advisable and could contribute to the long-term success of the combined company. These factors include the potential that the merger will:

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Create a combined company with greater critical mass, stronger global presence and broader sales channels to better serve the needs of FEI's customers and deepen its relationships with these customers;

Expand FEI's product lines with complementary technologies, which should allow FEI to broaden its product offerings and accelerate building of new markets;

Enable the combined company to have a stronger presence in FEI's core target markets, including becoming a leading supplier of metrology and process equipment solutions;

Enhance the combined company's technology portfolio and research and development resources and improve its ability to bring new products and solutions to market;

Improve FEI's ability to provide more comprehensive product solutions for the semiconductor, data storage, telecommunications/wireless and scientific research industries;

Allow for annual selling, general and administrative synergies;

Enhance FEI's purchasing power with its supplier base because of the combined company's increased size and buying power; and

Strengthen the management team to position the combined company to take advantage of future growth opportunities.

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FEI's board of directors further considered:

FEI's prospects and future strategy as a stand-alone entity and potential alternative strategies;

The terms and conditions of the merger agreement and related agreements that had been negotiated with Veeco and PBE;

The oral opinion rendered by Credit Suisse First Boston, as subsequently confirmed in writing on July 11, 2002, to the effect that, as of the date of the opinion and based on and subject to the various considerations described in the opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates. This fairness opinion was based on a Veeco stock price that has declined significantly since the time the opinion was issued. The full text of Credit Suisse First Boston's opinion is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Appendix D;

The fact that the consideration to be offered to FEI shareholders as of the signing of the merger agreement on July 11, 2002, implies premiums relative to FEI's closing share price one day, one week, and four weeks prior to July 11, 2002, the date of the announcement of the execution of the merger agreement, of 48%, 39%, and 28% respectively; and

That the merger is expected to be tax-free to FEI shareholders (except for tax on gain resulting from the receipt of cash paid by Veeco instead of fractional shares) for federal income tax purposes.

In making its ultimate determinations to enter into the merger agreement, the FEI board of directors also considered the potential risks and disadvantages of the merger, including, but not limited to, the following:

The combined company's continued dependence on certain markets;

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The current depressed condition of the telecommunications equipment market and the risk that there will not be significant recovery in that market;

The risk that the potential synergies and other benefits sought in the merger might not be fully realized;

The challenges of integrating the management teams, strategies, cultures and organizations of the companies;

The risk that key management and other personnel might not remain employed by FEI or the combined company;

The risk of a fixed exchange ratio and the risk that Veeco's stock price could decline prior to, or after, the closing of the merger;

The risk of disruption of sales momentum as a result of uncertainties created by the announcement of the merger;

The possibility that the merger might not be consummated, even if approved by each company's stockholders;

The substantial charges to be incurred in connection with the merger, including costs of integrating the businesses and transaction expenses arising from the merger;

The decreased likelihood that FEI would receive a third-party acquisition proposal due to certain terms of the merger agreement and voting agreements; and

Other applicable risks described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus in the section titled "Risk Factors."

In view of the wide variety of factors considered in connection with its evaluation of the merger, the FEI board of directors did not find it practicable to, and did not, quantify or otherwise attempt to assign relative weights to different factors considered in reaching its determination. In addition,

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individual members of FEI's board of directors may have given different weights to different factors and may have considered other factors. The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive.

Recommendation of Veeco's Board of Directors

Veeco's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and its stockholders and has determined that the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock and to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan are advisable. After careful consideration, the Veeco board of directors unanimously recommends that Veeco stockholders vote "**FOR**" approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger, "**FOR**" the approval of the amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock from 60,000,000 shares to 175,000,000 shares and to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. and "**FOR**" the approval of the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan from 250,000 shares to 750,000 shares. As of the Veeco record date, members of Veeco's board of directors and management of Veeco held (together with entities with which they are affiliated), in the aggregate, approximately 0.4% of the outstanding Veeco common stock.

Recommendation of FEI's Board of Directors

FEI's board of directors unanimously has approved the merger, the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and has determined that the merger is advisable, consistent with and in furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and its shareholders. After careful consideration, FEI's board of directors unanimously recommends that FEI shareholders vote "**FOR**" the approval of the merger. As of the FEI record date, members of FEI's board of directors and management of FEI held (together with entities with which they are affiliated) in the aggregate, approximately 26.43% of the outstanding FEI common stock.

Opinion of Veeco's Financial Advisor

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Veeco retained Salomon Smith Barney Inc. to act as its financial advisor in connection with the proposed merger. In connection with this engagement, Veeco requested that Salomon Smith Barney evaluate the fairness, from a financial point of view, to Veeco of the exchange ratio provided for in the merger. On July 9, 2002, at a meeting of the Veeco board of directors held to evaluate the proposed merger, Salomon Smith Barney delivered to the Veeco board of directors an oral opinion, which opinion was confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated July 11, 2002, the date of the merger agreement, to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to the matters described in its opinion, the exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco.

In arriving at its opinion, Salomon Smith Barney:

Reviewed the merger agreement;

Held discussions with senior officers, directors and other representatives and advisors of Veeco and with senior officers and other representatives and advisors of FEI concerning the businesses, operations and prospects of Veeco and FEI;

Examined publicly available business and financial information relating to Veeco and FEI;

Examined financial forecasts and other information and data for Veeco and FEI, which were provided to or otherwise discussed with Salomon Smith Barney by the managements of Veeco and FEI, including information relating to the potential strategic implications and operational benefits anticipated by the managements of Veeco and FEI to result from the merger;

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Reviewed the financial terms of the merger as described in the merger agreement in relation to, among other things, current and historical market prices and trading volumes of Veeco common stock and FEI common stock, the historical and projected earnings and other operating data of Veeco and FEI, and the capitalization and financial condition of Veeco and FEI;

Considered, to the extent publicly available, the financial terms of other transactions effected which it considered relevant in evaluating the merger;

Analyzed financial, stock market and other publicly available information relating to the businesses of other companies whose operations it considered relevant in evaluating those of Veeco and FEI;

Evaluated the potential pro forma financial impact of the merger on Veeco; and

Conducted other analyses and examinations and considered other financial, economic and market criteria as it deemed appropriate in arriving at its opinion.

In rendering its opinion, Salomon Smith Barney assumed and relied, without independent verification, on the accuracy and completeness of all financial and other information and data publicly available or furnished to or otherwise reviewed by or discussed with it. With respect to financial forecasts and other information and data relating to Veeco and FEI provided to or otherwise discussed with Salomon Smith Barney, the managements of Veeco and FEI advised Salomon Smith Barney that the forecasts and other information and data were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the managements of Veeco and FEI as to the future financial performance of Veeco and FEI and the potential strategic implications and operational benefits anticipated to result from the merger, including the amount, timing and achievability of those strategic implications and operational benefits.

Salomon Smith Barney assumed, with Veeco's consent, that the merger will be consummated in accordance with its terms without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement and that, in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory or third party approvals and consents for the merger, no delay, limitation, restriction or condition will be imposed that would have an adverse effect on Veeco or FEI or the contemplated benefits of the merger. Salomon Smith Barney also assumed, with Veeco's consent, that the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Salomon Smith Barney's opinion relates to the relative values of Veeco and FEI. Salomon Smith Barney did not express any opinion as to what the value of the Veeco common stock actually will be when issued in the merger or the prices at which the FEI common stock will trade or otherwise be transferable at any time. Salomon Smith Barney did not make and was not provided with an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities, contingent or otherwise, of Veeco or FEI, and Salomon Smith Barney did not make any physical inspection of the properties or assets of Veeco or FEI.

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Salomon Smith Barney expressed no view as to, and its opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to any alternative business strategies that might exist for Veeco or the effect of any other transaction in which Veeco might engage. Salomon Smith Barney's opinion was necessarily based on information available, and financial, stock market and other conditions and circumstances existing and disclosed to Salomon Smith Barney, as of the date of its opinion. Although Salomon Smith Barney evaluated the exchange ratio from a financial point of view, Salomon Smith Barney was not asked to and did not recommend the specific consideration payable in the merger, which was determined through negotiations between Veeco and FEI. Veeco imposed no other instructions or limitations on Salomon Smith Barney with respect to the investigations made or procedures followed by Salomon Smith Barney in rendering its opinion.

The full text of Salomon Smith Barney's written opinion dated July 11, 2002, which describes the assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as [Appendix E](#) and is incorporated into this joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference. You should read this opinion carefully and in its entirety in

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connection with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Salomon Smith Barney's opinion is directed to the Veeco board of directors and relates only to the fairness of the exchange ratio from a financial point of view, does not address any other aspect of the merger or any related transaction and does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder with respect to any matters relating to the proposed merger.

In preparing its opinion, Salomon Smith Barney performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses, including those described below. The summary of these analyses is not a complete description of the analyses underlying Salomon Smith Barney's opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex analytical process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances and, therefore, a fairness opinion is not readily susceptible to summary description. Accordingly, Salomon Smith Barney believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on information presented in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the narrative description of the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the processes underlying its analyses and opinion.

In its analyses, Salomon Smith Barney considered industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters existing as of the date of its opinion, many of which are beyond the control of Veeco and FEI. No company, business or transaction used in those analyses as a comparison is identical to Veeco, FEI or the proposed merger, and an evaluation of those analyses is not entirely mathematical. Rather, the analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the acquisition, public trading or other values of the companies or business segments analyzed.

The estimates contained in Salomon Smith Barney's analyses and the valuation ranges resulting from any particular analysis are not necessarily indicative of actual values or predictive of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by its analyses. In addition, analyses relating to the value of businesses or securities do not necessarily purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which businesses or securities actually may be sold. Accordingly, Salomon Smith Barney's analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

Salomon Smith Barney's opinion and analyses were only one of many factors considered by the Veeco board of directors in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the Veeco board of directors or management with respect to the exchange ratio or the proposed merger.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses, each of which is a standard valuation methodology customarily undertaken in transactions of this type, performed by Salomon Smith Barney in connection with the rendering of its opinion dated July 11, 2002. **The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. In order to fully understand Salomon Smith Barney's financial analyses, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses. Considering the data in the tables below without considering the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of Salomon Smith Barney's financial analyses.**

Selected Companies Analysis. Salomon Smith Barney performed a selected companies analysis in order to derive an implied exchange ratio reference range for FEI common stock based on selected implied trading multiples of publicly traded companies in Veeco's and FEI's industry. In this analysis, using publicly available information, Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the market values and trading multiples of Veeco, FEI and the following 11 selected publicly held companies in the metrology and

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process control industry and the semiconductor capital equipment industry, in the later case, focusing on companies with market capitalizations of more than \$1.0 billion:

Metrology and Process Control

KLA-Tencor Corporation
Nanometrics Incorporated
Rudolph Technologies, Inc.
Therma-Wave, Inc.
Zygo Corporation

Large Cap Semiconductor Capital Equipment

Applied Materials, Inc.
ASML Holding N.V.
Axcelis Technologies, Inc.
KLA-Tencor Corporation
Lam Research Corporation
Novellus Systems, Inc.
Varian Semiconductor Equipment Associates, Inc.

All multiples were based on closing stock prices on July 8, 2002. Estimated financial data for the selected companies were based on publicly available research analysts' estimates. Estimated financial data for Veeco and FEI were based on, in the case of Veeco, internal estimates of Veeco's management and, in the case of FEI, internal estimates of FEI's management. Salomon Smith Barney reviewed firm values, calculated as equity value plus straight and convertible debt, straight and convertible preferred stock and minority interests, less cash and equity in unconsolidated affiliates, as a multiple of calendar years 2002 and 2003 estimated revenues and calendar year 2003 estimated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, commonly referred to as EBITDA. Salomon Smith Barney also reviewed equity market values as a multiple of calendar years 2002 and 2003 estimated earnings per share, commonly referred to as EPS. Salomon Smith Barney then applied a range of selected multiples derived from the selected companies to corresponding financial data of Veeco and FEI in order to derive implied equity reference ranges for each of Veeco and FEI. These implied equity reference ranges were then used to derive an implied exchange ratio reference range. This analysis indicated the following implied exchange ratio reference range, as compared to the exchange ratio provided for in the merger:

Implied Exchange Ratio Reference Range

0.88x 2.32x

Merger Exchange Ratio

1.355x

Precedent Transactions Analysis. Salomon Smith Barney performed a precedent transactions analysis in order to derive an implied exchange ratio reference range for FEI common stock based on selected aggregate transaction values and implied transaction multiples in mergers and acquisition transactions involving other companies in Veeco's and FEI's industry. In this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the aggregate transaction values and implied transaction multiples in the following nine selected merger and acquisition transactions in the semiconductor capital equipment industry:

Acquiror

Applied Materials, Inc.
ASM Lithography Holding N.V.
Brooks Automation, Inc.
KLA Instruments, Inc.
Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc.
Mattson Technology, Inc.
MKS Instruments, Inc.
Novellus Systems, Inc.
Veeco

Target

Etec Systems, Inc.
Silicon Valley Group, Inc.
PRI Automation, Inc.
Tencor Instruments, Inc.
Cerprobe Corporation
CFM Technologies, Inc.
Applied Science & Technology, Inc.
GaSonics International Corporation
CVC, Inc.

All multiples for the selected transactions were based on publicly available information at the time of announcement of the relevant transaction. Salomon Smith Barney reviewed transaction values in the selected transactions as a multiple of latest 12 months revenue and equity market values in the selected

transactions as a multiple of latest 12 months EPS. Salomon Smith Barney then applied a range of selected multiples derived from the selected companies to corresponding financial data of Veeco and FEI in order to derive implied equity reference ranges for each of Veeco and FEI. These implied equity reference ranges were then used to derive an implied exchange ratio reference range. This analysis indicated the following implied exchange ratio reference range, as compared to the exchange ratio provided for in the merger:

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**Implied Exchange
Ratio Reference Range**

**Merger
Exchange Ratio**

0.73x 1.75x

1.355x

Salomon Smith Barney also derived an implied exchange ratio reference range based upon the implied equity reference range for FEI as derived above, on the one hand, and the equity market value for Veeco based on the closing price of Veeco common stock on July 8, 2002, on the other hand. This analysis indicated the following implied exchange ratio reference range, as compared to the exchange ratio provided for in the merger:

**Implied Exchange
Ratio Reference Range**

**Merger
Exchange Ratio**

0.93x 1.48x

1.355x

Contribution Analysis. Salomon Smith Barney performed a contribution analysis in order to derive an implied exchange ratio reference range for FEI common stock based on the relative contributions of Veeco and FEI of certain operational metrics to the combined company. In this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the relative contributions of Veeco and FEI to the EBITDA, net income and earnings before interest, taxes and amortization of the combined company for estimated calendar years 2002 and 2003. Estimated financial data for Veeco and FEI were based on, in the case of Veeco, internal estimates of Veeco's management and, in the case of FEI, internal estimates of FEI's management. Salomon Smith Barney then derived an implied exchange ratio reference range based on the relative contributions of each of Veeco and FEI for each metric reviewed. This analysis indicated the following implied exchange ratio reference range, as compared to the exchange ratio provided for in the merger:

**Implied Exchange
Ratio Reference Range**

**Merger
Exchange Ratio**

1.42x 2.54x

1.355x

Historical Exchange Ratio Analysis. Salomon Smith Barney performed an historical exchange ratio analysis in order to compare the historical exchange ratio of FEI common stock to the implied exchange ratio in the merger. In this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the ratio of the closing price of Veeco common stock to the closing price of FEI common stock on July 8, 2002 and the high, low and average of the daily ratios of the closing prices of Veeco common stock and FEI common stock over the 12-month, 90-day, 60-day and 30-day trading periods ended July 8, 2002. This analysis indicated the following, as compared to the exchange ratio provided for in the merger:

| Period | Implied Exchange Ratio | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|
| | High | Average | Low |
| July 8, 2002 | | 0.940x | |
| Last 12 months | 1.236x | 0.988x | 0.821x |
| Last 90 days | 1.150x | 0.968x | 0.849x |
| Last 60 days | 1.061x | 0.923x | 0.849x |
| Last 30 days | 1.061x | 0.946x | 0.878x |
| Merger Exchange Ratio | | 1.355x | |

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Pro Forma Merger Analysis. Salomon Smith Barney performed a pro forma merger analysis in order to determine whether the merger would be accretive or dilutive to Veeco's estimated cash EPS. In this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney reviewed the potential pro forma effect of the merger on Veeco's cash EPS for estimated calendar years 2002 and 2003, both before and after giving effect to potential cost savings or other synergies that may result from the merger. Estimated financial data for Veeco and FEI were based on, in the case of Veeco, internal estimates of Veeco's management and, in the case of FEI, internal estimates of FEI's management. For purposes of this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney assumed a 35% tax rate and aggregate transaction costs for the merger of approximately \$20 million, based on the estimates of the managements of Veeco and FEI. In addition, with Veeco's consent, for purposes of this analysis, Salomon Smith Barney assumed that outstanding convertible debt was not converted into common stock. Based on the exchange ratio provided for in the merger, this analysis indicated that the merger could be accretive to Veeco's estimated cash EPS in each of the periods reviewed, both before and after giving effect to potential cost savings or other synergies that may result from the merger. The actual results achieved by the combined company may vary from projected results and the variations may be material.

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Other Factors. In the course of preparing its opinion, Salomon Smith Barney also reviewed and considered other information and data, including:

historical trading prices and trading volumes for Veeco common stock and FEI common stock during the 12-month period preceding July 8, 2002;

a comparison of firm value to forward year revenue and equity value to forward year earnings for Veeco common stock, FEI common stock and the common stock of selected companies in the metrology and process control industry and selected companies in the semiconductor capital equipment industry with market capitalizations of more than \$1.0 billion;

the relationship between movements in Veeco common stock, FEI common stock and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index;

the implied multiples for Veeco on a stand-alone basis and FEI both on a stand-alone basis and in the merger based on various operational and financial metrics;

profiles of Veeco's shareholder base and FEI's shareholder base; and

selected publicly available research analysts' reports for Veeco and FEI.

Miscellaneous. Under the terms of its engagement, Veeco has agreed to pay Salomon Smith Barney an aggregate fee of \$8,500,000 for its financial advisory services in connection with the merger. Veeco also has agreed to reimburse Salomon Smith Barney for reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Salomon Smith Barney in performing its services, including the reasonable fees and expenses of its legal counsel, and to indemnify Salomon Smith Barney and related persons against liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, arising out of its engagement.

Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates in the past have provided investment banking and financial services to Veeco unrelated to the proposed merger for which Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates have received approximately \$2,800,000 in fees during the past two years. In the ordinary course of business, Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates may actively trade or hold the securities of Veeco and FEI for their own account or for the account of customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in these securities. In addition, Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates, including Citigroup Inc. and its affiliates, may maintain relationships with Veeco, FEI and their affiliates.

Salomon Smith Barney is an internationally recognized investment banking firm and was selected by Veeco based on its reputation, experience and familiarity with Veeco and its business. Salomon Smith Barney regularly engages in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, competitive bids, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for estate, corporate and other purposes.

Opinion of FEI's Financial Advisor

FEI retained Credit Suisse First Boston to act as its financial advisor in connection with the merger. In connection with Credit Suisse First Boston's engagement, FEI requested that Credit Suisse First Boston evaluate the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger exchange ratio to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates. On July 10, 2002, the FEI board of directors met to review the proposed merger and the terms of the merger agreement. During this meeting, Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed with the FEI board of directors certain financial analyses, as described below, and rendered its oral opinion to the FEI board of directors, subsequently confirmed in writing on July 11, 2002, that, as of the date of its opinion and based upon and subject to the various considerations set forth in the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion, the merger exchange ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates.

The full text of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion, which sets forth, among other things, assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the scope of the review undertaken by Credit Suisse First Boston in rendering its opinion, is attached as [Appendix D](#) to this joint proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference in its entirety. FEI shareholders are urged to, and should, read the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion carefully and in its entirety. The Credit Suisse First Boston opinion addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger exchange ratio to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates, as of the date of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion, and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the merger. The summary of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion.

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In connection with its opinion, Credit Suisse First Boston, among other things,

Reviewed the merger agreement and certain other related agreements;

Reviewed certain publicly available business and financial information relating to FEI and Veeco;

Reviewed certain other information relating to FEI and Veeco, including financial forecasts, provided by or discussed with FEI and Veeco, and met with the managements of FEI and Veeco to discuss the business and prospects of FEI and Veeco, respectively;

Considered certain financial and stock market data of FEI and Veeco and compared that data with similar data for other publicly held companies in businesses which Credit Suisse First Boston deemed similar to those of FEI and Veeco;

Considered, to the extent publicly available, the financial terms of certain other business combinations and other transactions which have recently been effected or announced; and

Considered such other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and financial, economic and market criteria which Credit Suisse First Boston deemed relevant.

In connection with its review, Credit Suisse First Boston did not assume any responsibility for independent verification of any of the foregoing information and relied on such information being complete and accurate in all material respects. With respect to the publicly available financial forecasts that Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed, the managements of FEI and Veeco advised Credit Suisse First Boston, and Credit Suisse First Boston assumed, that such forecasts represent reasonable estimates and judgments as to the future financial performance of FEI and Veeco, respectively. With respect to the non-publicly available financial forecasts that Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed, the managements of FEI and Veeco advised Credit Suisse First Boston, and Credit Suisse First Boston assumed, that such forecasts represent the best currently available estimates and judgments of the managements of FEI and Veeco as to the future financial performance of FEI and Veeco, respectively.

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In addition, Credit Suisse First Boston relied upon, without independent verification, the assessments of the managements of FEI and Veeco as to:

The ability of FEI and Veeco to retain key employees;

The strategic benefits and potential cost savings (including the amount, timing and achievability of such benefits and savings) anticipated to result from the merger;

The existing technology, products and services of FEI and Veeco and the validity of, and risks associated with, the future technology, products and services of FEI and Veeco; and

Their ability to integrate the businesses of FEI and Veeco.

The management of FEI informed Credit Suisse First Boston, and Credit Suisse First Boston assumed, that the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Credit Suisse First Boston also assumed, with FEI's consent, that in the course of obtaining necessary regulatory and third party approvals and consents for the merger, no modification, delay, limitation, restriction or condition will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on FEI or Veeco or the contemplated benefits of the merger and that the merger will be consummated in accordance with the terms of the merger agreement, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement contained in the merger agreement. Credit Suisse First Boston was not requested to make, and did not make, an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of FEI or Veeco, nor was Credit Suisse First Boston furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals. The Credit Suisse First Boston opinion is necessarily based upon information made available to it as of the date of its opinion, and upon financial, economic, market and other conditions as they existed and could be evaluated on the date of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion. Credit Suisse First Boston did not express any opinion as to what the value of Veeco common stock actually will be when issued to holders of FEI common stock pursuant to the merger or the prices at which shares of Veeco common stock will trade at any time. The Credit Suisse First Boston opinion does not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to other business strategies that might be available to FEI, nor does it address the underlying business decision of FEI to proceed with the merger. Credit Suisse First Boston was not requested to, and did not, solicit third party indications of interest in acquiring all or any part of FEI.

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In preparing its opinion, Credit Suisse First Boston performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Credit Suisse First Boston believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and of the factors considered by it, without considering all analyses and factors, could create a misleading view of the processes underlying the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion. No company or transaction used in the analyses performed by Credit Suisse First Boston as a comparison is identical to FEI, Veeco or the contemplated merger. In addition, Credit Suisse First Boston may have given various analyses more or less weight than other analyses, and may have deemed various assumptions more or less probable than other assumptions, so that the range of valuation resulting from any particular analysis described below should not be taken to be Credit Suisse First Boston's view of the actual value of FEI or Veeco. The analyses performed by Credit Suisse First Boston are not necessarily indicative of actual values or actual future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. In addition, analyses relating to the value of businesses or assets do not purport to be appraisals or to necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or assets may actually be sold. The analyses performed were prepared solely as part of Credit Suisse First Boston's analysis of the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger exchange ratio to holders of FEI common stock, other than PBE and its affiliates, and were provided to the FEI board of directors in connection with the delivery of the Credit Suisse First Boston opinion.

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The following is a summary of material financial analyses performed by Credit Suisse First Boston in connection with the preparation of its opinion and reviewed with the FEI board of directors at a meeting of the FEI board of directors held on July 10, 2002. Certain of the following summaries of financial analyses that were performed by Credit Suisse First Boston include information presented in tabular format. In order to understand fully the material financial analyses that were performed by Credit Suisse First Boston, the tables should be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the material financial analyses.

Transaction Multiples

Credit Suisse First Boston calculated several values implied by the merger exchange ratio (based on Veeco's closing share price on July 8, 2002), including the implied price per FEI share, the implied premium to FEI's closing share price on July 8, 2002, the implied pro forma fully-diluted ownership of FEI shareholders in the combined company (assuming the conversion of outstanding convertible debt of FEI and Veeco) after the merger and the implied FEI fully-diluted equity value and aggregate value of FEI. The implied fully-diluted equity value was based on the most recently available number of shares of FEI common stock and employee options to purchase shares of FEI common stock outstanding. The implied fully-diluted aggregate value was calculated using the fully-diluted equity value, plus debt, less cash and cash equivalents. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

| Implied Price Per FEI Share | Implied Premium to Market Price of FEI Shares on July 8, 2002 | Implied Pro Forma Fully-Diluted FEI Ownership in Veeco | Implied FEI Fully-Diluted Equity Value | Implied FEI Fully-Diluted Aggregate Value |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| \$32.05 | 44.1% | 59.3% | \$ 1,089.1 million | \$ 1,007.1 million |

Credit Suisse First Boston also calculated the implied fully-diluted aggregate value of FEI and Veeco as a multiple of estimated revenues for calendar years 2002 and 2003 and the implied price per share as a multiple of estimated earnings per share for calendar years 2002 and 2003. These implied values were based on closing share prices for FEI and Veeco on July 8, 2002. These multiples were calculated using the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts. The multiples represent the implied value of the merger relative to FEI's and Veeco's stand-alone trading valuation. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

| Implied Multiples | Multiples Implied by Market Price Per Share | | Multiples Implied by Merger Exchange Ratio |
|--|--|-------|---|
| | Veeco | FEI | FEI |
| Implied Fully-Diluted Aggregate Value/Calendar Year 2002 Estimated Revenue | 2.0x | 2.0x | 3.0x |
| Implied Fully-Diluted Aggregate Value/Calendar Year 2003 Estimated Revenue | 1.6x | 1.6x | 2.4x |
| Implied Price Per Share/Estimated Earnings Per Share For Calendar Year 2002 | 157.7x | 28.1x | 40.6x |
| Implied Price Per Share/Estimated Earnings Per Share For Calendar Year 2003 | 24.4x | 15.2x | 21.9x |

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Veeco Historical Stock Trading Performance

Credit Suisse First Boston analyzed the prices at which Veeco common stock traded from January 2, 2001 through July 8, 2002. Credit Suisse First Boston noted that the high closing price of Veeco common stock during this period was \$64.13 on January 18, 2001, and that the low closing price of Veeco common stock was \$21.10 on September 20, 2001. Credit Suisse First Boston also noted the average closing price of Veeco common stock over various periods prior to July 8, 2002 as summarized below:

| Period Prior to July 8, 2002 | Average Closing Price |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 8, 2002 | \$ 23.65 |
| Last 5 trading days | \$ 22.67 |
| Last 10 trading days | \$ 22.60 |
| Last 30 trading days | \$ 25.46 |
| Last 60 trading days | \$ 28.47 |
| Last 90 trading days | \$ 29.43 |

Credit Suisse First Boston also analyzed the prices at which Veeco common stock traded from January 2, 1997 through July 8, 2002. Credit Suisse First Boston noted that the high closing price of Veeco common stock during this period was \$115.50 on September 27, 2000, and that the low closing price of Veeco common stock was \$19.19 on December 15, 1997. Credit Suisse First Boston also noted the average closing price of Veeco common stock over various periods prior to July 8, 2002 as summarized below:

| Period Prior to July 8, 2002 | Average Closing Price |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 8, 2002 | \$ 23.65 |
| Last 180 trading days | \$ 30.53 |
| Last Year | \$ 30.88 |
| Last 2 Years | \$ 44.70 |

FEI Historical Stock Trading Performance

Credit Suisse First Boston analyzed the prices at which FEI common stock traded from January 2, 2001 through July 8, 2002. Credit Suisse First Boston noted that the high closing price of FEI common stock during this period was \$42.10 on June 7, 2001, and that the low closing price of FEI common stock was \$18.38 on March 19, 2001. Credit Suisse First Boston also noted the average closing price of FEI common stock over various periods prior to July 8, 2002, as summarized below:

| Period Prior to July 8, 2002 | Average Closing Price |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 8, 2002 | \$ 22.23 |
| Last 5 trading days | \$ 22.51 |
| Last 10 trading days | \$ 22.71 |
| Last 30 trading days | \$ 23.99 |
| Last 60 trading days | \$ 26.16 |
| Last 90 trading days | \$ 28.44 |

Historical Indexed Trading Performance

Credit Suisse First Boston compared the recent stock price performance of FEI with the recent stock price performance of Veeco, a composite index comprising 6 large-cap semiconductor equipment companies and a composite index comprising 4 optical/metrology companies over the period from

January 2, 2001 through July 8, 2002. The following table sets forth the changes in such stock prices and indices over this period:

**Change from
January 2, 2001**

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| FEI | 15.11% |
| Large-Cap Index | (8.3%) |
| Veeco | (35.2%) |
| Optical/Metrology Index | (63.1%) |

Comparable Company Trading Analysis

Credit Suisse First Boston compared certain financial information of FEI and Veeco with that of other companies in the optical capital equipment/metrology and semiconductor equipment industries including:

Optical Capital Equipment/Metrology Companies

- Newport Corp.
- Rudolph Technologies Inc.
- Therma Wave Inc.
- Nanometrics Inc.

Large Cap Semiconductor Equipment Companies

- Applied Materials Inc.
- KLA-Tencor Corp.
- ASML Holding NV
- Novellus Systems Inc.
- Teradyne Inc.
- LAM Research Corp.

Mid-Cap Semiconductor Equipment Companies

- Varian Semiconductor Equipment
- Axcelis Technologies Inc.
- ASM International N V
- Brooks-PRI Automation Inc.
- SEZ Holding AG

Such information included, among other things, the mean and median of several financial metrics for the companies in each industry sector, including prices per share as a multiple of estimated earnings per share for calendar years 2002 and 2003 and fully-diluted aggregate values as a multiple of estimated revenues for calendar years 2002 and 2003. The financial metrics were based on share prices for the comparable companies on July 8, 2002 and the most recently available public financial information, including the most recently available number of shares and employee options to purchase shares outstanding for each comparable company. The multiples were calculated using publicly available information and the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts. This

analysis provides a comparison of the future estimated value of FEI and Veeco relative to other comparable companies in similar industries. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

| | Price Per Share/ Estimated Earnings Per Share | | Fully-Diluted Aggregate Value/Estimated Revenue | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Calendar Year 2002 | Calendar Year 2003 | Calendar Year 2002 | Calendar Year 2003 |
| FEI | 28.1x | 15.2x | 2.0x | 1.6x |
| Veeco | 157.7x | 24.4x | 2.0x | 1.6x |
| Optical Capital Equipment/Metrology Companies | | | | |
| Median | 49.0x | 31.8x | 2.9x | 1.7x |
| Mean | 49.0x | 47.3x | 2.8x | 1.8x |
| Large Cap Semiconductor Equipment Companies | | | | |
| Median | 65.9x | 23.4x | 3.9x | 2.4x |
| Mean | 59.0x | 25.8x | 3.8x | 2.6x |
| Mid-Cap Semiconductor Equipment Companies | | | | |
| Median | 183.6x | 26.5x | 2.6x | 1.8x |

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| | Price Per Share/ Estimated Earnings Per Share | | Fully-Diluted Aggregate Value/Estimated Revenue | |
|------|--|-------|--|------|
| Mean | 183.6x | 26.0x | 2.4x | 1.6x |

No company utilized as a comparison in the Comparable Company Trading Analysis is identical to FEI or Veeco. Mathematical analysis, such as determining the mean or the median, is not in itself a meaningful method of using comparable market trading data.

Exchange Ratio Analysis

Credit Suisse First Boston calculated the ratio of FEI's closing share price to Veeco's closing share price for each trading day over various periods ended July 8, 2002, and derived from such values the average of such ratios for each such period (the average market exchange ratio). Credit Suisse First Boston then compared the average market exchange ratio over such periods with the ratio of FEI's closing share price to Veeco's closing share price on July 8, 2002 (the market exchange ratio) and the merger exchange ratio to determine the premium/(discount) of the market exchange ratio and the merger exchange ratio to the average market exchange ratio for each period. This analysis provides an historical perspective of the exchange ratio premium to be received by FEI shareholders in the merger relative to premiums/discounts between FEI's share price and Veeco's share price in the past. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

| Observation Period | Average Market Exchange Ratio Over Period | Premium/(Discount) to Average Market Exchange Ratio Over Period | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | Market Exchange Ratio on July 8, 2002 | Merger Exchange Ratio |
| Since June 1, 1995, (Date of FEI initial public offering) | 0.527x | 78.5% | 157.3% |
| Last 180 trading days | 0.975x | (3.6%) | 39.0% |
| Last 90 trading days | 0.968x | (2.9%) | 40.0% |
| Last 60 trading days | 0.923x | 1.9% | 46.8% |
| Last 30 trading days | 0.947x | (0.7%) | 43.2% |
| Last 10 trading days | 1.006x | (6.5%) | 34.7% |
| July 8, 2002 | 0.940x | 0.0% | 44.1% |

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Contribution Analysis

Credit Suisse First Boston analyzed the relative contributions of FEI and Veeco to the pro forma revenue, operating income, net income and earnings per share of the combined company for calendar years 2000 through 2003. Estimates for calendar years 2002 and 2003 were based on the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts. For each value, Credit Suisse First Boston derived an implied pro forma fully-diluted ownership of FEI shareholders in the combined company based on FEI's relative contribution to the combined company. Credit Suisse First Boston used these implied values to calculate implied exchange ratios and the premium/(discount) to FEI's closing share price on July 8, 2002 implied by such implied exchange ratios. This analysis provides, in the form of an implied exchange ratio, a measure of FEI's relative contribution to various estimated financial metrics of the combined company. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

| | Implied Exchange Ratio | Implied Premium/(Discount) to Market Price Per Share |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Revenue | | |
| Calendar Year 2000A | 0.827x | (12.0%) |
| Calendar Year 2001A | 0.814x | (13.4%) |
| Calendar Year 2002E | 0.978x | 4.0% |
| Calendar Year 2003E | 0.953x | 1.4% |
| Gross Profit | | |
| Calendar Year 2000A | 0.780x | (17.1%) |

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| | Implied Exchange Ratio | Implied Premium/(Discount) to Market Price Per Share |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Calendar Year 2001A | 0.870x | (7.5%) |
| Calendar Year 2002E | 1.058x | 12.6% |
| Calendar Year 2003E | 1.025x | 9.0% |
| Operating Income | | |
| Calendar Year 2000A | 0.912x | (3.0%) |
| Calendar Year 2001A | 1.085x | 15.4% |
| Calendar Year 2002E | 3.032x | 222.6% |
| Calendar Year 2003E | 1.559x | 65.8% |
| Net Income | | |
| Calendar Year 2000A | 0.747x | (20.6%) |
| Calendar Year 2001A | 0.975x | 3.7% |
| Calendar Year 2002E | 4.445x | 372.8% |
| Calendar Year 2003E | 1.485x | 58.0% |
| Earnings Per Share | | |
| Calendar Year 2000A | 0.733x | (22.1%) |
| Calendar Year 2001A | 0.925x | (1.6%) |
| Calendar Year 2002E | 5.267x | 460.3% |
| Calendar Year 2003E | 1.505x | 60.1% |

Precedent Exchange Ratio Premiums Analysis

Credit Suisse First Boston reviewed the exchange ratio premiums paid in the following 25 merger-of-equals transactions in the technology industry since 1994:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SmartForce/SkillSoft | USWeb/Whittman-Hart |
| Oplink/Avanex | Interactive Pictures/Bamboo.com |
| Proxim/Western Multiplex | Earthlink/Mindspring |
| PRI Automation/Brooks Automation | JDS Fitel/Uniphase |
| Virata/GlobeSpan | Integrated Process Equipment/SpeedFam |

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| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| KANA/Broadbase | N2K/CDNow |
| Floware/BreezeCOM | Pure Atria/Rational Software |
| Software.com/Phone.com | U.S. Robotics/3Com |
| Jupiter/Media Metrix | Tencor Instruments/KLA Instruments |
| HMT Technology/Komag | Atria Software/Pure Software |
| Apex/Cybex Computer Products | Integrated Silicon Systems/ArcSys |
| Mission Critical Software/NetIQ | SynOptics/Wellfleet |
| Borland/Corel | |

For each transaction, Credit Suisse First Boston calculated the premium/(discount) implied by the exchange ratio in the transaction relative to the average of the daily ratio of the closing stock price for the target company and the acquirer company in the transaction over various periods prior to public announcement of the transaction. Credit Suisse First Boston applied the average of such premiums/(discounts) to the average of the daily ratio of the closing price of FEI common stock and Veeco common stock over the same periods to calculate the implied exchange ratios for such periods. The following table summarizes the results of this analysis:

**Exchange Ratio Premiums Paid in 25 Precedent Technology
Merger-of-Equals Transactions Since 1994**

| Trailing 90 Days | Trailing 60 Days | Trailing 30 Days | Trailing 10 Days | Market | Average |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|

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| | <u>Trailing 90 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 60 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 30 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 10 Days</u> | <u>Market</u> | <u>Average</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Average Premium/(Discount) in Precedent Transactions | 11.7% | 12.2% | 13.8% | 17.4% | 16.6% | 14.3% |
| Implied Merger Exchange Ratio Based on Precedent Average Premium/(Discount) | 1.082x | 1.035x | 1.077x | 1.181x | 1.096x | 1.094x |

Credit Suisse First Boston also reviewed the exchange ratio premiums/(discounts) paid in 299 precedent stock-for-stock transactions in the technology industry since January 1, 1990 and 99 precedent stock-for-stock transactions in the technology industry above \$1 billion since January 1, 1990. For each group of transactions, Credit Suisse First Boston calculated the premiums/(discounts) implied by the exchange ratio in each transaction relative to the average of the daily ratio of the closing stock price for the target company and the acquiror company in the transaction over various periods prior to public announcement of the transaction. Credit Suisse First Boston then applied the average of such premiums for each group to the average of the daily ratio of the closing price of FEI common stock and Veeco common stock over the same periods to calculate the implied exchange ratios. The following tables summarize the results of this analysis:

Exchange Ratio Premiums Paid in 299 Precedent Stock-for-Stock Technology Transactions Since January 1, 1990

| | <u>Last Twelve Months Average</u> | <u>Trailing 90 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 60 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 30 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 10 Days</u> | <u>Market</u> | <u>Average</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Average Premium/(Discount) in Precedent Transactions | 21.5% | 36.5% | 40.8% | 42.1% | 39.4% | 34.4% | 35.8% |
| Implied Merger Exchange Ratio Based on Precedent Average Premium/(Discount) | 1.200x | 1.322x | 1.299x | 1.345x | 1.401x | 1.263x | 1.306x |

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Exchange Ratio Premiums Paid in 99 Precedent Stock-for-Stock Technology Transactions Above \$1 Billion Since January 1, 1990

| | <u>Last Twelve Months Average</u> | <u>Trailing 90 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 60 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 30 Days</u> | <u>Trailing 10 Days</u> | <u>Market</u> | <u>Average</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Average Premium/(Discount) in Precedent Transactions | 39.0 % | 42.3% | 44.3% | 44.7% | 41.6% | 36.4% | 41.4% |
| Implied Merger Exchange Ratio Based on Precedent Average Premium/(Discount) | 1.373x | 1.378x | 1.332x | 1.370x | 1.424x | 1.283x | 1.360x |

No transaction utilized as a comparison in the precedent exchange ratio premiums analysis is identical to the merger. Mathematical analysis, such as determining the average or the median, is not in itself a meaningful method of using comparable transaction data.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

Using a discounted cash flow analysis of both FEI and Veeco on a stand-alone basis, Credit Suisse First Boston calculated various implied exchange ratios based on the values implied by the financial forecasts for calendar years 2002 through 2008 for FEI and Veeco. The forecasts for calendar years 2002 and 2003 were based on the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts. The forecasts for calendar years 2004 through 2008 were based on forecasts approved by the managements of FEI and Veeco, respectively. Such forecasts included various operating assumptions, such as assumptions relating to revenue growth rates, operating income margins, working capital, capital expenditures and depreciation. Credit Suisse First Boston arrived at the operating assumptions applied in the discounted cash flow analysis through analysis of historical operating results, publicly available forecasted operating assumptions and discussions with the managements of Veeco and FEI. Credit Suisse First Boston's analysis used discount rates ranging from 15% to 17% and terminal multiples of unlevered net income of 20.0x to 30.0x. This analysis provides estimated values for FEI and Veeco based on estimated future cash flows and compares, in the form of an implied exchange ratio, the relative implied values of FEI and Veeco resulting from this analysis. The following tables summarize the results of this analysis:

**Implied Exchange Ratio Based on an Unlevered
Forward Net Income Multiple of 25.0x**

| Veeco Discount Rate | FEI Discount Rate | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| | 15.0% | 16.0% | 17.0% |
| 15.0% | 1.253x | 1.203x | 1.154x |
| 16.0% | 1.308x | 1.256x | 1.205x |
| 17.0% | 1.366x | 1.310x | 1.258x |

**Implied Exchange Ratio
Based on a Discount Rate of 16.0%**

| Veeco Unlevered Forward Net Income Multiple | FEI Unlevered Forward Net Income Multiple | | |
|--|--|--------|--------|
| | 20.0x | 25.0x | 30.0x |
| 20.0x | 1.263x | 1.511x | 1.756x |
| 25.0x | 1.050x | 1.256x | 1.459x |
| 30.0x | 0.898x | 1.074x | 1.249x |

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Pro Forma Earnings Per Share Impact Analysis

Credit Suisse First Boston analyzed certain pro forma effects expected to result from the merger, including, among other things, the expected effect of the merger on the estimated earnings per share for FEI and Veeco for calendar year 2003. The following table sets forth estimated accretion/(dilution) to FEI's and Veeco's earnings per share for such periods based on the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts, and assuming no synergies arising from the merger:

Pro Forma Earnings Per Share Impact Excluding Synergies

| Accretion/(Dilution) to Veeco | | | Accretion/(Dilution) to FEI | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| March 31, 2003 | June 30, 2003 | Calendar Year 2003 | March 31, 2003 | June 30, 2003 | Calendar Year 2003 | |
| 20.9 | % | 10.2% | 9.6% | (10.3%) | (5.8%) | (5.5%) |

Credit Suisse First Boston also analyzed the expected effect of the merger on the estimated earnings per share for FEI and Veeco for calendar year 2003 based on synergies anticipated by the managements of FEI and Veeco to result from the merger. The following table sets forth estimated accretion/(dilution) to FEI's and Veeco's earnings per share for such periods based on the average of publicly available forecasts prepared by securities research analysts:

Pro Forma Earnings Per Share Impact Including Synergies

| Accretion/(Dilution) to Veeco | Accretion/(Dilution) to FEI |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Calendar Year 2003 | Calendar Year 2003 |
| 20.8% | 4.2% |

The actual results achieved by the combined company after the merger may vary from such estimated results and the variations may be material.

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Credit Suisse First Boston's opinion and presentation to the FEI board of directors was one of many factors taken into consideration by the FEI board of directors in making its determination to engage in the merger. Consequently, the analyses described above should not be viewed as determinative of the opinion of the FEI board of directors or the management of FEI with respect to the value of FEI or whether the FEI board of directors would have been willing to agree to a different exchange ratio.

The FEI board of directors retained Credit Suisse First Boston to act as its financial advisor in connection with the merger. Credit Suisse First Boston was selected by the FEI board of directors based on Credit Suisse First Boston's qualifications, expertise and reputation. Credit Suisse First Boston is an internationally recognized investment banking and advisory firm. Credit Suisse First Boston, as part of its investment banking business, is continuously engaged in the valuation of businesses and securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, negotiated underwritings, competitive biddings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for corporate and other purposes. In the past, Credit Suisse First Boston and its affiliates have provided advice and services to FEI on various issues relating to equity capital markets for which they have received compensation of approximately \$12,450,000. In addition, Credit Suisse First Boston may, in the future, provide investment banking and financial services to Veeco for which it would expect to receive compensation. In the ordinary course of its business, Credit Suisse First Boston and its affiliates may actively trade the debt and equity securities of FEI and Veeco for their own accounts and for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities.

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Pursuant to an engagement letter dated as of January 25, 2002, as amended, FEI engaged Credit Suisse First Boston to provide financial advisory services to the FEI board of directors in connection with the merger, including, among other things, rendering its opinion. Pursuant to the terms of the engagement letter, FEI has agreed to pay Credit Suisse First Boston a transaction fee equal to approximately \$8 million payable upon the consummation of the merger. FEI also has agreed to pay Credit Suisse First Boston a fee of \$1,625,000, which became payable upon delivery by Credit Suisse First Boston of its opinion, which amount will be credited against the transaction fee payable to Credit Suisse First Boston. In addition, FEI has agreed to reimburse Credit Suisse First Boston for its out-of-pocket expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred in connection with its engagement and to indemnify Credit Suisse First Boston and certain related persons against certain liabilities and expenses arising out of or in conjunction with its rendering of services under its engagement, including liabilities arising under the federal securities laws.

Structure of the Merger

Venice Acquisition Corp., a newly formed and wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco, will be merged with and into FEI. As a result of the merger, the separate corporate existence of Venice Acquisition Corp., will cease and FEI will survive the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. References to "Veeco FEI" in this joint proxy statement/prospectus are references to Veeco as it will be renamed following the merger.

Board of Directors and Management of Veeco FEI After the Merger

Board of Directors of Veeco FEI. The Veeco board of directors currently consists of nine members. Upon completion of the merger, Veeco FEI will increase the size of its board of directors to 13 directors, seven of whom will be nominated by Veeco from the current members of the Veeco board of directors (including Edward H. Braun), five of whom will be nominated by FEI from the current members of the FEI board of directors (including Vahé A. Sarkissian) and one of whom will be nominated by PBE, FEI's largest shareholder, in accordance with the terms of an investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE. Other than Edward H. Braun, the current Chairman, CEO and President of Veeco, and Vahé A. Sarkissian, the current Chairman, CEO and President of FEI, none of the other directors will be employees of Veeco FEI.

Veeco's bylaws provide for a staggered board of directors, composed of three separate classes, Class I, Class II and Class III. Veeco, FEI and PBE have agreed that two Veeco nominees and two FEI nominees will serve as Class III directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2003 annual meeting of stockholders, two Veeco nominees and two FEI nominees will serve as Class I directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2004 annual meeting of stockholders and three Veeco nominees, one FEI nominee and one PBE nominee will serve as Class II directors for terms expiring at Veeco FEI's 2005 annual meeting of stockholders. Under the Veeco FEI bylaws, directors may be removed only for cause and only by a vote of the stockholders.

PBE's right to appoint a director to the Veeco FEI board of directors will end upon the earlier to occur of:

Veeco FEI's 2005 annual meeting of stockholders; or

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The date when Philips ceases to own at least 7.5% of Veeco FEI's outstanding common stock.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board of directors of Veeco FEI will be required to change the size of the Veeco FEI board of directors.

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The individuals nominated by Veeco, FEI and PBE to be directors of Veeco FEI upon completion of the merger and their ages as of June 30, 2002 are:

| Name* | Age | Designee of: | Class | For a Term Expiring at the Annual Meeting Stockholders in: |
|--------------------|-----|--------------|-------|---|
| Edward H. Braun | 62 | Veeco | II | 2005 |
| TBD | | Veeco | II | 2005 |
| TBD | | Veeco | II | 2005 |
| TBD | | Veeco | I | 2004 |
| TBD | | Veeco | I | 2004 |
| TBD | | Veeco | III | 2003 |
| TBD | | Veeco | III | 2003 |
| Vahé A. Sarkissian | 59 | FEI | II | 2005 |
| TBD | | FEI | I | 2004 |
| TBD | | FEI | I | 2004 |
| TBD | | FEI | III | 2003 |
| TBD | | FEI | III | 2003 |
| TBD | | PBE | II | 2005 |

*

The other individuals who will serve on the Veeco FEI board of directors have not been determined as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

For information concerning the directors nominated by Veeco, see Veeco's proxy statement used in connection with its 2002 annual meeting of stockholders, the relevant portions of which are incorporated by reference into Veeco's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. For information concerning the directors nominated by FEI and PBE, see FEI's proxy statement used in connection with its 2002 annual meeting of shareholders, the relevant portions of which are incorporated by reference into FEI's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001.

Committees of the Veeco FEI Board of Directors. Upon completion of the merger, the board of directors of Veeco FEI will have three committees: (1) a nominating committee, (2) an audit committee and (3) a compensation committee. Each committee will be comprised of three members who will be elected by a majority of the Veeco FEI board of directors.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board of directors of Veeco FEI will be required to modify the powers and authority of any committee of the Veeco FEI board of directors. In addition, the Veeco FEI board of directors may remove a director from a committee, change the size of any committee, terminate any committee or change the chair of a committee only with the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Veeco FEI board of directors.

Compensation of Directors. In accordance with existing practice of Veeco, it is expected that directors of Veeco FEI who are also full-time employees of Veeco FEI will receive no additional compensation for their services as directors. Each non-employee director will be entitled to receive a fee of \$2,000 for each board meeting held in person, \$1,000 for each board meeting held by conference call and \$1,000 for each committee meeting and will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attending meetings. Pursuant to Veeco FEI's 2000 Stock Option Plan, each non-employee director who meets the eligibility criteria for such plan will receive an annual grant of options to purchase 7,000 shares of Veeco FEI common stock with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of a share of Veeco FEI common stock on the date of grant.

Executive Officers of Veeco FEI. The principal executive officers of Veeco FEI upon completion of the merger, and their ages as of June 30, 2002, will be as follows:

| Name | Age | Title |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| Edward H. Braun | 62 | President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Vahé A. Sarkissian | 59 | Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer |
| John F. Rein, Jr. | 55 | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary |

Veeco FEI expects to designate additional executive officers prior to completion of the merger the identities of which have not been determined as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Edward H. Braun, the current Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Veeco will remain the President and Chief Executive Officer of Veeco FEI. Vahé A. Sarkissian, the current Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of FEI will become the Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of Veeco FEI. John F. Rein, Jr., the current Chief Financial Officer of Veeco will remain the Chief Financial Officer of Veeco FEI.

A summary of the responsibilities of the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman is as follows:

President and Chief Executive Officer The President and Chief Executive Officer will be the chief executive officer of Veeco FEI and will be responsible for the general and active management of the business of Veeco FEI and for seeing that all orders and resolutions of the Veeco FEI board of directors are carried into effect. The President and Chief Executive Officer's role will be to run Veeco FEI and he will be responsible for its operating results. He will also be the chief external representative of Veeco FEI. The President and Chief Executive Officer will have general powers of supervision over the business of Veeco FEI. The officers of Veeco FEI will report to the President and Chief Executive Officer and the President and Chief Executive Officer will report to the Veeco FEI board of directors. The President and Chief Executive Officer will work with the Chairman to plan and develop the strategy for Veeco FEI and the setting of goals and financial performance measures. The President and Chief Executive Officer will co-chair Veeco FEI's Integration Steering Committee and Veeco FEI's Strategic Review Board and will also perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Veeco FEI board of directors. The President and Chief Executive Officer may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the Veeco FEI board of directors other than the officer proposed to be removed (if such officer is a member of the Veeco FEI board of directors).

Chairman The Chairman will preside at all meetings of the Veeco FEI board of directors and of the stockholders and will have the powers and duties commensurate with chairmen of publicly-traded entities. The Chairman will manage the board-level governance of Veeco FEI. The Chairman will work with the Chief Executive Officer of Veeco FEI to plan and develop the strategy for Veeco FEI and to set goals and financial performance measures of Veeco FEI. The Chairman will co-chair Veeco FEI's Integration Steering Committee and Veeco FEI's Strategic Review Board and will also perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Veeco FEI board of directors. The Chairman may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the Veeco FEI board of directors other than the officer proposed to be removed (if such officer is a member of the Veeco FEI board of directors).

The current heads of the respective divisions/segments of Veeco and FEI will continue in those roles and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of Veeco FEI.

For a more detailed description of the agreements between Veeco and each of Edward H. Braun and Vahé A. Sarkissian, respectively, see the section titled "The Merger Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger" beginning on page 70.

Compensation of Executive Officers. Other than the employment agreements between Veeco and each of Edward H. Braun and Vahé A. Sarkissian, which were executed on July 11, 2002 and have been approved by the Veeco board of directors, the form and amount of the compensation to be paid to each of Veeco FEI's executive officers in any future period will be determined by the compensation committee of the Veeco FEI board of directors.

For information concerning the compensation paid to, and the employment agreements with, the chief executive officer and the other four most highly compensated executive officers of Veeco for the 2001 fiscal year, see Veeco's proxy statement used in connection with its 2002

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annual meeting of stockholders, the relevant portions of which are incorporated by reference into Veeco's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. For information concerning the compensation paid to, and the employment agreements with, the chief executive officer and the other four most highly compensated executive officers of FEI for the 2001 fiscal year, see FEI's proxy statement used in connection with its 2002 annual meeting of shareholders, the relevant portions of which are incorporated by reference into FEI's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001.

Interests of Executive Officers and Directors in the Merger

General. Certain directors and officers of FEI and Veeco may have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of FEI shareholders and Veeco stockholders. Such additional interests are described below to the extent material.

Veeco FEI Board of Directors. In accordance with the terms of the merger agreement, the Veeco FEI board of directors will be comprised of 13 members, seven of whom will be nominated by Veeco from Veeco's current board of directors, five of whom will be nominated by FEI from FEI's current board of directors and one of whom will be nominated by PBE.

Vahé A. Sarkissian, , , and from FEI's board of directors have been nominated by FEI and has been nominated by PBE to join the Veeco FEI board of directors. Edward H. Braun, , , , and from Veeco's board of directors will continue as directors of Veeco FEI.

FEI Severance Agreements; Severance Payments. Several FEI officers, including Vahé A. Sarkissian, who is also a director, have severance agreements with FEI. These officers are, or may become, entitled to specific benefits under these agreements as a result of the merger. FEI has entered into severance agreements with each of the following FEI officers:

| Officers | Position |
|---------------------|--|
| Vahé A. Sarkissian | Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| John A. Doherty | Senior Vice President, Worldwide Sales |
| Jim D. Higgs | Senior Vice President, Human Resources |
| Bradley J. Thies | Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary |
| John M. Lindquist | Senior Vice President of Corporate Marketing |
| Stephen F. Loughlin | Vice President of Corporate Finance, acting Chief Financial Officer and Controller |
| Steven Berger | Senior Vice President and Chief Technical Officer |
| Michel Epsztein | Senior Vice President and General Manager, Microelectronics Product Group |

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Under his current severance agreement with FEI, Mr. Sarkissian would have been entitled to significant severance payments and other benefits upon the closing of the merger. Mr. Sarkissian has entered into an employment agreement with Veeco that will supersede his current severance agreement and he will not, therefore be entitled to or receive any severance payments or other benefits under his current severance agreement. Mr. Sarkissian's new employment agreement is described below in the section titled "Employment Agreements."

FEI has also entered into severance agreements with the seven other FEI officers listed above. Under the terms of these agreements, each officer is entitled to severance pay in the event his employment is terminated within 18 months following a "change in control" of FEI other than a termination by FEI for cause, death or disability or by the officer without "good reason." Upon such a termination, the executive officer is entitled to a severance payment equal to two times his annual salary plus an amount equal to his target annual bonus for the year in which he is terminated, certain insurance benefits and accelerated vesting of his stock options. The merger of Veeco and FEI is expected to constitute a change of control under these agreements.

If the employment of any of FEI's officers is terminated following the merger under circumstances entitling them to benefits under their FEI severance agreements, the approximate total amount of lump-sum severance payments that would be owed to each such terminated executive officer would be as follows: John A. Doherty, \$480,000, Jim D. Higgs, \$368,000, Bradley J. Thies, \$333,500, John M. Lindquist, \$492,000, Stephen F. Loughlin, \$460,000, Steven Berger, \$414,000, and Michael Epsztein, \$480,000.

Employment Agreements. Pursuant to the terms of the merger agreement, Veeco has entered into employment agreements, to be effective upon the closing of the merger, with Vahé A. Sarkissian, FEI's current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, and Edward H. Braun, Veeco's current Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President. Mr. Sarkissian's employment agreement provides that he will be the Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of Veeco FEI. Mr. Sarkissian's employment agreement will, when it becomes effective, supersede his severance

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agreement with FEI, and he will not be entitled to any severance payments or other benefits under his current severance agreement with FEI. Mr. Braun's employment agreement provides that he will be the President and Chief Executive Officer of Veeco FEI. Mr. Braun's employment agreement will supersede his current employment agreement with Veeco. The material terms of Messrs. Sarkissian's and Braun's employment agreements are substantially the same. The table below provides a summary of these employment agreements.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Annual Base Salary | \$600,000 |
| Bonus | Up to 100% of annual base salary if performance standards set by board of directors are met |
| Benefits and Perquisites | Car allowance, benefits and perquisites available to Veeco FEI executives generally and stock options under Veeco FEI stock option plans |
| Severance | If terminated by Veeco FEI for any reason other than for cause, or if resigns for good reason: Severance payment equal to three times annual base salary; 100% of target bonus for year in which termination or resignation occurs; and Accelerated vesting of options, and three years to exercise options. If terminated by Veeco FEI for cause or resigns without good reason: Vesting of options terminates immediately; All compensation payments terminate immediately; and |

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Severance benefits in accordance with Veeco FEI's established policies as then in effect, if any.
If terminated for any reason, or resigns for any reason for five years:
Participation in all group health and insurance programs, and all other benefits, fringe benefits and perquisites available generally to senior executives of Veeco FEI.

Under these agreements, termination for cause means:

Willful and continued failure by the executive to substantially perform reasonably assigned duties, other than a failure resulting from the executive's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, after the Veeco FEI board of directors delivers a demand for substantial performance which specifically identifies the manner in which the board believes that the executive has not substantially performed the executive's duties; or

Willful engagement by the executive in illegal conduct which is materially and demonstrably injurious to Veeco FEI. No act, or failure to act, on the executive's part will be considered "willful" unless done, or omitted to be done, without reasonable belief that the action or omission was in, or not opposed to, the best interests of Veeco FEI.

Under these agreements, resignation for good reason means:

The assignment of a different title, job or responsibilities that results in a substantial decrease in the level of the executive's responsibility with respect to Veeco FEI's business;

A reduction in the executive's base salary, other than a salary reduction that is part of a salary reduction affecting Veeco FEI employees generally;

A significant reduction by Veeco FEI in total benefits available to the executive under cash incentive, stock incentive and other employee benefit plans;

A material breach by Veeco FEI of its obligations under the employment agreement;

The requirement that the executive travel on Veeco FEI business to an extent substantially inconsistent with his duties as Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer (in the case of Mr. Sarkissian) or President and Chief Executive Officer (in the case of Mr. Braun); or

The movement of Veeco FEI's headquarters outside the continental United States.

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If the severance and other benefits provided for by the employment agreements or otherwise payable to an executive constitute "parachute payments" within the meaning of Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code and will be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, then the executive will receive:

A payment sufficient to pay such excise tax; and

An additional payment sufficient to pay the excise tax and federal and state income taxes arising from the payments made by Veeco FEI to the executive pursuant to the paragraph below.

If the excise tax incurred by the executive is determined by the IRS to be greater or less than the amount determined by the accounting firm the parties employed, then Veeco FEI and the executive agree to make such additional payment, including interest and any tax penalties, to the other party as the accountants reasonably determine is appropriate to ensure that the net economic effect to the executive, on an after-tax basis, is as if the Internal Revenue Code Section 4999 excise tax did not apply to him.

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Each executive has agreed that, during the employment term and for two years after termination of his employment with Veeco FEI, he will not, in the United States or anywhere else in the world where Veeco FEI conducts business:

Engage in any business that has a competing business purpose;

Have any ownership interest in a company that engages in a competing business purpose (except for passive ownership of no more than 1% of a publicly traded company); or

Participate in the financing, operation, management or control of any company that engages in a competing business purpose.

For purposes of these non-compete provisions, the phrase, "competing business purpose" means the designing, manufacturing, marketing and servicing of products that deposit or etch materials on a substrate or that provide critical measurements of certain features utilized in data storage and semiconductor devices.

In addition, each executive has agreed that he will not, directly or indirectly, solicit, encourage or take any other action that is intended to induce or encourage, or has the effect of inducing or encouraging:

Any employee of Veeco FEI to terminate his or her employment with Veeco FEI (during the executive's employment term and for three years after termination of the executive's employment with Veeco FEI); or

Any customer, supplier or other business contact of Veeco FEI to terminate his, her or its relationship with Veeco FEI (during the executive's employment term and for two years after termination of the executive's employment with Veeco FEI).

Under Mr. Sarkissian's employment agreement, Veeco acknowledged that FEI and Mr. Sarkissian had amended Mr. Sarkissian's Non-Negotiable Promissory Note dated June 25, 1998 (in the principal amount of \$1,115,530) to provide for (1) an extension of the due date of all amounts owed pursuant to such note from June 24, 2002 to June 24, 2005 and (2) an increase in the interest rate payable under such note from 5.58% per annum to 5.75% per annum. This amendment was made as of June 23, 2002.

FEI Option Plans. Under the merger agreement, all stock options to purchase shares of FEI common stock held by FEI officers and directors on the date of the merger will be converted into similar options to purchase Veeco FEI common stock.

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Indemnification; Directors and Officers Insurance. From and after the closing of the merger, Veeco will, and will cause FEI, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco, to, fulfill and honor in all respects the obligations of FEI pursuant to any indemnification agreements between FEI and its directors and officers in effect immediately prior to the closing of the merger, subject to applicable law. The articles of incorporation and bylaws of FEI following the closing of the merger will contain provisions with respect to exculpation and indemnification that are at least as favorable to these indemnified persons as those provisions contained in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of FEI as in effect on the date of the merger agreement, which provisions will not be amended, repealed or otherwise modified for a period of six years from the closing of the merger in any manner that would adversely affect the rights of the indemnified persons thereunder, unless such modification is required by law. Also, for six years after the closing of the merger, FEI will, and Veeco will cause FEI to, maintain FEI's directors' and officers' liability insurance policy in respect of acts or omissions occurring prior to the completion of the merger, covering each person covered by FEI's officers' and directors' liability insurance policy in effect on July 11, 2002. FEI may substitute its own directors' and officers' policy of comparable coverage, but will not be obligated to pay annual premiums in excess of 200% of the premium payable by FEI therefor as of July 11, 2002. If FEI cannot obtain such comparable coverage for such 200%

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amount, FEI shall be entitled to reduce the amount of coverage to an amount that can be obtained for a premium equal to such 200% amount.

PBE. William E. Curran and Jan C. Lobbezoo, representatives of PBE, currently serve on the FEI board of directors. has been nominated by PBE to serve on the Veeco FEI board of directors in accordance with the terms of an investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE. PBE also has entered into certain agreements with FEI and Veeco that will remain in effect after the merger, and PBE and Philips may enter into additional agreements with Veeco FEI after the merger. For additional information regarding certain of these agreements and other arrangements among FEI and Philips and PBE, see the section titled "Other Agreements" beginning on page 96 and the other public filings of FEI incorporated by reference herein. Also, see the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134.

Issuance of Shares in Connection with the Merger

The rules of The Nasdaq National Market, on which Veeco's common stock is listed, require stockholder approval for the issuance of shares of common stock in any transaction where the number of shares to be issued will be equal to 20% or more of the number of shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance. Veeco expects to issue approximately 44,000,000 shares of its common stock in the merger to FEI shareholders (and up to approximately 10,000,000 shares which may be issued in respect of FEI's options and other rights and convertible notes), representing approximately 185% of its shares of common stock outstanding before the issuance of its shares in the merger. Thus, Veeco is seeking stockholder approval of the issuance of the Veeco common stock in the merger (including shares that may be issued in respect of FEI's options and other rights and convertible notes).

Resale of Veeco Common Stock Issued in the Merger

The shares of Veeco FEI common stock to be issued in connection with the merger will be registered under the Securities Act, and will be freely transferable, except for shares of Veeco FEI common stock issued to any person deemed to be an "affiliate" of Veeco FEI for purposes of Rule 144 under the Securities Act, and to any person deemed to be an affiliate of FEI for purposes of Rule 145 under the Securities Act at the time the merger is submitted to a vote of the Veeco stockholders or the FEI shareholders, as applicable. Persons who may be deemed to be affiliates include individuals or entities that control, are controlled by, or are under common control with either Veeco or FEI, and may include some officers, directors and principal stockholders of Veeco and FEI. Affiliates of FEI prior to the merger may not sell shares of Veeco FEI common stock acquired in connection with the merger except pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act covering such shares, or in compliance with Rule 145 under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Affiliates of Veeco FEI after the merger may not sell shares of Veeco FEI common stock acquired in connection with the merger except pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act covering such shares, or in compliance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act or another applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Veeco's registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part does not cover the resale of Veeco FEI common stock to be received by FEI affiliates in the merger.

Listing of Veeco Common Stock Issued in the Merger

It is a condition to the closing of the merger that the shares of Veeco common stock to be issued in the merger be approved for listing on The Nasdaq National Market, subject to notice of issuance.

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Delisting and Deregistration of FEI Common Stock; Cessation of Periodic Reporting

If the merger is consummated, the FEI common stock will cease to be listed on The Nasdaq National Market. In such event, FEI intends to apply to the SEC for the deregistration of such securities. Upon such deregistration, FEI will no longer be required to make separate periodic filings with the SEC under the Exchange Act.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, and Kaye Scholer LLP, have provided opinions to FEI and Veeco, respectively, dated as of the effective date of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. These tax opinions have been filed with the SEC as exhibits 8.1 and 8.2 to the registration statement on Form S-4 of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part. The tax opinions rely on certain customary assumptions, including assumptions regarding the absence of changes in existing facts and the completion of the merger in accordance with this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the merger agreement. The tax opinions also rely on certain factual representations contained in officer's certificates of Veeco and FEI. These assumptions and representations must be true and accurate as of the effective date of the registration statement, and must continue to be true and accurate as of the closing of the merger, or the conclusions contained in the tax opinions and this tax discussion could be affected.

The tax opinions and this tax discussion assume that FEI shareholders hold their shares of FEI common stock as capital assets. Further, the tax opinions and this tax discussion do not address all of the U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to FEI shareholders in light of their particular circumstances; nor do the tax opinions or this tax discussion address the federal income tax consequences that may be applicable to taxpayers subject to special treatment under the Internal Revenue Code, such as:

Insurance companies;

Financial institutions;

Dealers in securities;

Traders that mark to market;

Tax-exempt organizations;

Shareholders who hold their shares as part of a hedge, appreciated financial position, straddle or conversion transaction;

Shareholders who acquired their FEI common stock through the exercise of options or otherwise as compensation or through a tax-qualified retirement plan;

Shareholders who are subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;

Shareholders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar; and

Foreign individuals (i.e., individuals who are not citizens or residents of the United States), foreign corporations, foreign partnerships or other foreign entities.

No information is provided in this document with respect to the tax consequences, if any, of the merger under applicable foreign, state, local and other tax laws. The tax opinions and this tax discussion are based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, applicable Treasury regulations, Internal Revenue Service rulings and judicial decisions, as in effect as of the date of this document. There can be no assurance that future legislative, administrative or judicial changes or interpretations, which changes or interpretations could apply retroactively, will not affect the accuracy of the statements or conclusions set forth in the tax opinions or this tax discussion. No rulings have been or will be sought from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the tax consequences of the merger, and the tax

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opinions and this tax discussion as to the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger will not be binding on the Internal Revenue Service or any court.

The tax opinions and this tax discussion do not purport to contain a complete analysis or discussion of all potential tax effects relevant to the merger. Thus, FEI shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to the specific tax consequences to them of the merger, including tax return reporting requirements, the applicability and effect of federal, state, local, foreign and other applicable tax laws and the effect of any proposed changes in the tax laws.

As set forth in the tax opinions, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to FEI, and Kaye Scholer LLP, counsel to Veeco, are of the opinion that the merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and that the following material U.S. federal income tax consequences will result from such qualification:

FEI shareholders will not recognize any gain or loss upon the exchange of their FEI common stock solely for shares of Veeco common stock pursuant to the merger, except for gain resulting from the receipt of cash instead of a fractional share of Veeco common stock;

The aggregate tax basis of the shares of Veeco common stock received solely in exchange for shares of FEI common stock pursuant to the merger, including fractional shares of Veeco common stock for which cash is received, will be the same as the aggregate tax basis of the shares of FEI common stock exchanged for them;

The holding period for shares of Veeco common stock received in exchange for shares of FEI common stock pursuant to the merger will include the holding period of the shares of FEI common stock exchanged for them; and

An FEI shareholder who receives cash instead of a fractional share of Veeco common stock will be treated as having received the fractional share in the merger and then as having the fractional share redeemed by Veeco in a distribution under section 302 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, these shareholders should generally recognize gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the tax basis of the fractional share and the amount of cash received. The gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss and, in the case of individuals, long-term capital gain (eligible for reduced rates of taxation) or loss if the FEI common stock exchanged has been held for more than one year.

In the event that Kaye Scholer LLP and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, are unable to deliver closing tax opinions substantially in the form of Exhibits 8.1 and 8.2, respectively, then it may be necessary to resolicit the votes of Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders and provide them with updated disclosure regarding the federal income tax consequences of the merger.

Other Tax Matters. It is a condition to the obligations of FEI and Veeco to consummate the merger that Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to FEI, and Kaye Scholer LLP, counsel to Veeco, each renders an opinion to its respective client, dated as of the closing date of the merger, to the effect that the merger will qualify as a "reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. These opinions will be based on updated representations contained in officer's certificates to be provided by FEI and Veeco as of the closing date of the merger, and on customary factual representations.

Accounting Treatment of the Merger

The merger will be accounted for using the purchase method for financial reporting and accounting purposes. After the merger, the results of operations of FEI will be included in the consolidated financial statements of Veeco.

Regulatory Filings and Approvals Required to Complete the Merger

The merger is subject to the requirements of the HSR Act, which prevents some transactions from being completed until required information and materials are furnished to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission and the appropriate waiting periods are terminated or expire. Veeco, FEI and Philips have filed the required information and materials with the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. The requirements of the HSR Act will be satisfied if the merger is completed within one year after the termination or expiration of this waiting period. Additionally, the transaction is subject to notification to the Federal Cartel Office pursuant to the competition laws of Germany.

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If, prior to the expiration of the waiting period, the FTC or the Antitrust Division should request additional information or documentary material under the HSR Act, completion of the merger could be delayed until after the companies have substantially complied with the request. On August 12, 2002, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice contacted Veeco and FEI and advised them that it intends to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the transaction. On September 18, 2002, Veeco and FEI received a request from the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice for additional information under the HSR Act regarding the merger. This second request has the effect of extending the waiting period under the HSR Act until 30 days after Veeco and FEI comply with the request. Veeco and FEI intend to promptly respond to the request. The companies currently cannot estimate how long it will take to comply with this request. There can be no assurances that regulators will terminate the waiting period under the HSR Act or allow the waiting period to expire or will not take action or prohibit the merger or condition the merger on restrictions that would negatively impact the combined company. At any time before or after the closing of the merger, the Federal Trade Commission, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice or any state or foreign competition authority could take any action under applicable antitrust or competition laws as it deems necessary or desirable, including challenging the merger. Other persons could take action under applicable antitrust laws, including seeking to enjoin the merger. Additionally, at any time before or after the completion of the merger, even if the applicable waiting period under the HSR Act expired or was terminated, any state could take action under applicable antitrust laws. A challenge could be made to the merger and, if such a challenge is made, FEI and Veeco might not prevail.

Both Veeco and FEI conduct business in a multitude of foreign nations. The laws of these nations may require Veeco and/or FEI to make certain filings with certain regulatory bodies in these countries. In Germany, Veeco and FEI made pre-merger notification filings with the German Federal Cartel Office. On September 19, 2002, Veeco and FEI were notified by the German Federal Cartel Office that the proposed merger will not be investigated as it does not meet the prerequisites for a prohibition pursuant to Sec. 36(1) of the Act Against Restraints of Competition. Veeco FEI also is required to make a post-closing notification filing in Japan in connection with the merger.

Neither Veeco nor FEI is aware of any other material governmental or regulatory approval required for closing the merger, other than the effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part and compliance with the Delaware General Corporation Law and the Oregon Business Corporation Act. See the section titled "The Merger Agreement Certain Covenants Antitrust Matters" on page 84.

Closing and Effectiveness of the Merger

Unless otherwise agreed by Veeco and FEI, the merger will be completed no later than the second business day following the date on which all of the conditions to closing of the merger are satisfied or waived, including the approval of the merger by the FEI shareholders and the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in connection with the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock by the Veeco stockholders. The merger will become effective upon the filing of articles of merger with the Secretary of State of Oregon.

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THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The following is a brief summary of certain material provisions of the merger agreement. This summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the merger agreement. The merger agreement is attached as Appendix A to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. We urge you to carefully review the merger agreement.

Structure of the Merger

The merger agreement provides that Venice Acquisition Corp. will be merged with and into FEI, the separate existence of Venice Acquisition Corp. will cease and FEI will continue as the surviving corporation and a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. As a result of the merger, the surviving corporation will possess all the property, rights and franchises of FEI and Venice Acquisition Corp., and will be subject to all the debts, restrictions and duties of FEI and Venice Acquisition Corp.

Closing of the Merger

The closing of the merger will take place no later than the second business day after satisfaction or waiver of the conditions to the merger (unless another time is agreed to by the parties). At such time, Veeco and FEI will file articles of merger with the Secretary of State of Oregon and make all other filings or recordings required by the Oregon Business Corporation Act in connection with the merger. The merger will become effective upon such filing with the Secretary of State of Oregon or at such later time as is specified in the articles of merger. If the FEI shareholders and the Veeco stockholders approve the merger, the closing of the merger is expected to occur as soon as practicable following the FEI special meeting and the Veeco special meeting.

Merger Consideration

General. As of the closing of the merger, each outstanding share of FEI common stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock. Veeco will not issue fractional shares of Veeco common stock in exchange for shares of FEI common stock in the merger. Veeco will pay a holder of shares of FEI common stock an appropriate amount of cash in lieu of any fractional shares otherwise issuable. Such cash amount will be based upon the closing price per share of Veeco common stock on the trading day immediately preceding the closing of the merger.

No Appraisal/Dissenters' Rights. In connection with the merger, neither Veeco stockholders nor FEI shareholders are entitled to dissent from the merger or request an appraisal of the value of their shares under the Delaware General Corporation Law or the Oregon Business Corporation Act.

Exchange of Certificates. On or prior to the closing date of the merger, Veeco will select a reputable bank or trust company to act as exchange agent in the merger. Promptly, but no more than three days after the closing of the merger, Veeco will deposit with the exchange agent certificates representing the shares of Veeco common stock issuable in the merger and cash sufficient to make payments in lieu of fractional shares in the merger.

As soon as is reasonably practicable after the closing of the merger, the exchange agent will mail to each record holder of a certificate which, before the merger, represented shares of FEI common stock:

A letter of transmittal; and

Instructions for use in effecting the surrender of the certificate(s) previously representing shares of FEI common stock in exchange for certificates representing Veeco common stock.

Upon surrender of such certificate(s) to the exchange agent, together with a properly completed letter of transmittal covering such shares and other customary documentation, the holder of such

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certificate(s) will be entitled to receive in exchange therefor a certificate representing the number of whole shares of Veeco common stock that such holder has the right to receive and cash in lieu of any fractional share. The stock certificate previously representing shares of FEI common stock shall be canceled. As of the closing of the merger, all shares of FEI common stock will no longer be outstanding and will automatically be canceled and retired and will cease to exist. Each holder of a certificate previously representing any such shares of FEI common stock will cease to have any rights with respect to those shares, other than the right to receive the shares of Veeco common stock (and cash in lieu of fractional shares) upon surrender of the certificate(s) representing such shares of FEI common stock, as contemplated by the merger agreement. **FEI shareholders should not forward their FEI stock certificates to the exchange agent without a letter of transmittal. FEI shareholders should NOT return their stock certificates with the enclosed proxy.**

FEI Options. As of the closing of the merger, each outstanding option to purchase shares of FEI common stock will be assumed by Veeco and converted, in accordance with its terms, into an option to purchase the number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock equal to 1.355 multiplied by the number of shares of FEI common stock which could have been obtained immediately prior to the merger upon the exercise of such option, rounded to the nearest whole share. Following the closing of the merger, the exercise price under any such option will be equal to the exercise price per share of FEI common stock thereunder immediately prior to the closing of the merger, divided by 1.355, rounded to the nearest whole cent. In general, the other terms and conditions of each FEI option will continue to apply in accordance with the terms of the stock option plan or other arrangement under which the option was issued. Not later than the date on which the merger becomes effective, Veeco will file a registration statement on Form S-8 with the SEC relating to the shares of Veeco common stock issuable upon the exercise of FEI options assumed by Veeco in the merger.

FEI Convertible Debt. The FEI notes shall become convertible solely into such number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock that would have been issued if the FEI notes had been converted into FEI common stock immediately prior to the closing of the merger. The FEI notes shall continue to be governed by and subject to the Indenture, dated as of August 3, 2001, between FEI and BNY Western Trust Company under which the FEI notes were originally issued, but shall be convertible solely into shares of Veeco FEI common stock as described above. On a date no later than the date on which the merger becomes effective, Veeco will file a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the resale of the FEI notes and the Veeco common stock issuable upon conversion of the FEI notes.

Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains generally reciprocal representations and warranties made by each of Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp., on the one hand, and FEI, on the other, regarding aspects of their respective businesses, financial condition and structure, as well as other facts pertinent to the merger. These representations and warranties relate to the following subject matters with respect to each party:

Due organization, existence and good standing, corporate power and authority, and qualifications or licensing to do business;

Capitalization;

The authorization, execution and delivery of the merger agreement and the validity and enforceability thereof;

Compliance in all material respects with the Securities Act and the Exchange Act in connection with the documents filed with the SEC;

The absence of undisclosed material liabilities;

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Compliance with laws;

The absence of violations, breaches or defaults under charter documents, laws, orders or material agreements resulting from the execution and delivery of the merger agreement and compliance therewith;

Consents and approvals necessary for consummation of the merger;

The absence of material agreements, judgments, injunctions, orders or decrees which could restrict any current or future business activities;

The identification of, and certain matters relating to, material agreements;

The absence of pending litigation and court orders or judgments;

Certain tax matters;

The absence of certain changes or events since December 31, 2001;

Certain employee benefit and labor matters;

Certain matters relating to owned or used intellectual property;

The absence of liens and title to property;

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Certain matters relating to environmental liabilities;

Arrangements with investment bankers or brokers;

The receipt of a fairness opinion from the respective parties' financial advisors, dated the date of the merger agreement; and

Approvals by the boards of directors.

In addition, Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. made an additional representation and warranty regarding:

The amendment to the Veeco Rights Agreement.

The representations and warranties of Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. and FEI set forth in the merger agreement are subject to exceptions set forth in a disclosure schedule, dated the date of the merger agreement, and to matters otherwise disclosed in the documents filed by Veeco and FEI with the SEC.

The representations and warranties of the parties under the merger agreement or in certificates delivered pursuant to the merger agreement expire upon completion of the merger.

Certain Covenants

Interim Operations. Veeco and FEI have agreed that, prior to the earlier to occur of termination of the merger agreement pursuant to its terms or the closing of the merger, they will conduct their businesses only in the ordinary course in substantially the same manner as conducted before the signing of the merger agreement and in compliance with all applicable laws. Veeco and FEI have also agreed during such time to attempt to preserve unimpaired at the closing of the merger their ongoing businesses by using their reasonable commercial efforts to:

Preserve intact their present lines of business;

Keep available the services of their officers and key employees; and

Maintain their rights and franchises and preserve their relationships with material customers, suppliers and others with whom they have business dealings.

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Veeco and FEI have agreed, prior to the closing of the merger, to confer with each other concerning material operational matters and to report to each other periodically concerning the status of their respective business, operations and finances. Further, subject to certain scheduled exceptions, Veeco and FEI (which shall include their subsidiaries) have specifically agreed not to do, cause or permit any of the following to occur, unless otherwise provided in the disclosure schedules to the merger agreement, without the prior written consent of the other (which consent is not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed):

Cause or permit amendments to their certificate or articles of incorporation or bylaws;

Declare or pay dividends or make other distributions on their capital stock, or split, combine or reclassify any of their capital stock or issue any securities in exchange or substitution for shares of their capital stock;

Repurchase or otherwise acquire any shares of their capital stock, except from former employees, directors and consultants in accordance with agreements in effect on the date of the merger agreement relating to repurchase of shares on termination

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of service;

Sell or issue any shares of capital stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of its capital stock, other than under option plans, upon exercise or conversion of options, convertible debt or other convertible securities of either Veeco or FEI or under either Veeco's or FEI's employee stock purchase plans;

Take or fail to take any action that would reasonably be expected to cause the merger to fail to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

Acquire or agree to acquire by merger or consolidation, or by purchasing a substantial portion of the assets of, or by any other manner, any business or any corporation, partnership, association or other business organization or division thereof or otherwise acquire or agree to acquire any assets which could be material to the acquiror (excluding the acquisition of assets in the ordinary course, which assets do not constitute a business unit, division or all or substantially all of the assets of the transferor);

Other than in the ordinary course of business (1) enter into any new material line of business or (2) incur or commit to any capital expenditures or any obligations or liabilities in connection therewith;

Issue, deliver, sell, pledge, dispose of, or otherwise encumber, or authorize or propose the issuance, delivery, sale, pledge, disposition or encumbrance of, any of their respective shares of capital stock of any class, any debt securities or any securities convertible into or exercisable for, or any rights, warrants, calls, or options to acquire, any such shares or debt securities, or enter into any commitment, arrangement, undertaking or agreement with respect to any of the foregoing, other than or in connection with (1) the issuance of shares upon the exercise of options or other convertible securities in accordance with their present terms or pursuant to options or other stock-based awards granted pursuant to clause (2) below, (2) the granting of options or other stock-based awards, under benefit plans outstanding on the date of the merger agreement in the ordinary course of business and in individual and aggregate amounts consistent with past practice or (3) issuances, sales or deliveries by a wholly-owned subsidiary to its parent;

Adopt a plan of complete or partial liquidation, dissolution, consolidation, restructuring, recapitalization or other reorganization;

Except as required by generally accepted accounting principles, make any change in accounting methods, principles or practices;

Enter into any material joint venture, partnership or similar arrangement;

Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of, or agree to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of, any of its assets (including capital stock of subsidiaries) other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

(1) Make any loans, advances or capital contributions to, or investments in, any other person, other than (A) loans or investments in a subsidiary or (B) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice which are not, individually or in the aggregate, material (provided that none of such transactions referred to in this clause (B) presents a material risk of making it more difficult to obtain any consent required in connection with the merger under applicable law) or (2) except in the ordinary course consistent with past practice, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money or guarantee any such indebtedness of another person, issue or sell any debt securities or warrants or other rights to acquire any debt securities, guarantee any debt securities of another person, enter into any "keep well" or other agreement to maintain any financial statement condition of another person (other than a wholly-owned subsidiary) or enter into any arrangement having the economic effect of any of the foregoing;

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Except as required by applicable law or by the terms of any collective bargaining agreement or other agreement in effect as of the date of the merger agreement, increase the amount of compensation of, or pay any severance to (other than in the ordinary course consistent with past practice), any director, officer or (other than in the ordinary course consistent with past practice) key employee, or make any increase in or commitment to increase or accelerate the payment of any employee benefits, grant any additional stock options, adopt or amend or make any commitment to adopt or amend any benefit plan or fund or make any contribution to any benefit plan or any related trust or other funding vehicles, other than regularly scheduled contributions to trust funding qualified plans; and shall not accelerate the vesting of, or the lapsing of restrictions with respect to any stock option, and any option granted or committed to be granted after the date of the merger agreement shall not accelerate as a result of approval or consummation of any transaction contemplated by the merger agreement;

Transfer or license to any person or otherwise extend, amend or modify any rights to any intellectual property owned by them or their subsidiaries, other than in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to any contracts currently in place (that have been disclosed in writing to the other party hereto prior to the date of the merger agreement);

Other than as expressly permitted under the merger agreement, take any action for the purpose of preventing, delaying or impeding the consummation of the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; or

Take, or agree to take, any of the actions described above.

Access. Until the closing of the merger, upon reasonable notice, Veeco and FEI have agreed to provide each other with reasonable access to their respective properties, books, records, tax returns, contracts, information, documents and personnel upon reasonable request during normal business hours.

Comfort Letters. Veeco and FEI have also agreed to use all reasonable efforts to cause Ernst & Young LLP, independent public accountants to Veeco, and Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent public accountants to FEI, to deliver customary "comfort letters" to Veeco and FEI, respectively, in connection with the filing with the SEC of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part.

Headquarters. Veeco and FEI have agreed that the headquarters of Veeco FEI will be located at the current headquarters of Veeco in Woodbury, New York.

Board of Directors; Officers. Veeco has agreed that, if the merger is completed, it will take all actions necessary to ensure that the Veeco FEI board of directors shall consist of 13 members, seven of whom shall be nominated by Veeco from the current members of its board of directors, five of whom

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shall be nominated by FEI from the current members of its board of directors and one of whom shall be nominated by PBE in accordance with the terms of an investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE. Veeco has also agreed that if the merger is completed, it will cause, as of the closing of the merger, Vahé A. Sarkissian to be appointed the Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of Veeco FEI. Edward H. Braun will remain Veeco FEI's President and Chief Executive Officer and John F. Rein, Jr. will remain Veeco FEI's Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary.

Employment Agreements. Veeco has agreed that, prior to the closing of the merger, Veeco shall use commercially reasonable efforts to enter into employment agreements, to be effective as of the closing of the merger, with senior officers of Veeco and FEI as mutually agreed upon by Veeco and FEI, which employment agreements shall have terms acceptable to the Veeco and FEI board of directors. As of the date of the merger agreement, Veeco and each of Edward H. Braun and Vahé A. Sarkissian executed employment agreements which will become effective at the closing of the merger.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Veeco has agreed that at the closing of the merger, the FEI Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or the FEI ESPP, and each outstanding purchase right with respect to all open offering periods under the FEI ESPP will be assumed by Veeco FEI. Each FEI purchase right shall continue to have, and be subject to, the terms and conditions set forth in the FEI ESPP and the documents governing the FEI purchase right, except that the purchase price of Veeco FEI common stock under each FEI purchase right shall be the lower of (1) the quotient determined by dividing eighty-five percent (85%) of the fair market value of a share of FEI common stock on the offering date of each assumed offering period by 1.355, the merger exchange ratio, or (2) eighty-five percent (85%) of the fair market value of Veeco FEI common stock on the applicable purchase date of each assumed offering period occurring after the closing of the merger. Subject to the other terms of the merger agreement, the FEI purchase rights shall be exercised at such times following the closing of the merger as set forth in the FEI ESPP, and each participant shall, accordingly, be issued Veeco FEI common stock at such times. Veeco also agreed that the employees of FEI who become

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employees of Veeco FEI or any subsidiary of Veeco FEI may participate in the employee stock purchase plan sponsored by Veeco, subject to the terms and conditions of such plan.

FEI has agreed that prior to the closing of the merger, it will take any and all action that may be necessary under the FEI ESPP to ensure that:

All offering periods under the FEI ESPP that are open at the closing of the merger and are assumed by Veeco under the merger agreement, shall terminate, and the applicable purchase date for all FEI purchase rights shall occur, on or before December 31, 2002;

The FEI ESPP shall terminate on or before December 31, 2002; and

The offering period scheduled to begin on or about September 1, 2002 shall be the last offering period to commence under the FEI ESPP, and such offering shall terminate, and the applicable purchase date shall occur, on December 31, 2002.

Veeco agreed to implement or continue, as applicable, the last offering period and all offering periods under the FEI ESPP that are open at the closing of the merger and are assumed by Veeco until the earlier of:

December 31, 2002; or

The date that the applicable offering period would have otherwise terminated, without additional corporate action, pursuant to the FEI ESPP.

Terms of Employment; Employee Benefits. Veeco has agreed that until the first anniversary of the closing of the merger, Veeco FEI shall (1) provide the employees of FEI who remain employed with Veeco FEI or any subsidiary of Veeco FEI in the U.S. after the closing of the merger with terms and conditions of employment that are substantially comparable in the aggregate to those provided to similarly situated employees of Veeco FEI or (2) continue to provide such employees with terms and

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conditions of employment that are substantially comparable in the aggregate to those provided by FEI immediately prior to the closing of the merger.

Except to the extent necessary to avoid duplication of benefits, and, to the extent permitted under applicable law, Veeco has also agreed to provide these continuing U.S. employees with full credit, for purposes of eligibility and vesting under any employee benefit plans or arrangements maintained by Veeco FEI or any subsidiary of Veeco FEI in which such employees are eligible to participate, for such employees' service with FEI to the same extent recognized by FEI immediately prior to the closing of the merger. Veeco FEI shall cause any and all pre-existing condition limitations, eligibility waiting periods and evidence of insurability requirements under any welfare plan to be waived with respect to these continuing U.S. employees and their eligible dependents and shall provide them with credit for any co-payments, deductibles and offsets (or similar payments) made prior to the closing of the merger for purposes of satisfying any applicable deductible, out-of-pocket, or similar requirement under any employee benefit plans or arrangements maintained by Veeco FEI or any subsidiary of Veeco FEI in which such employees are eligible to participate on and after the closing of the merger. Nothing contained in the merger agreement shall be construed to limit the ability of Veeco or a subsidiary of Veeco, following the closing of the merger, to terminate the employment of any employee or to amend or terminate any Veeco or FEI benefit plan in accordance with its terms.

Veeco has also agreed to provide employees of FEI who remain employed with Veeco FEI, or any subsidiary of Veeco FEI after the closing of the merger, with terms and conditions of employment that are substantially similar to those provided by FEI or any subsidiary of FEI immediately prior to the closing of the merger as and to the extent required by applicable law.

Disclosure. Veeco and FEI have agreed to consult with each other before issuing any press release or otherwise making any public statement with respect to the merger or the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

Registration Statement on Form S-3. Veeco has agreed that it shall file with the SEC, no later than the closing of the merger, a registration statement on Form S-3, relating to the resale of the FEI notes and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the FEI notes.

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Listing of Shares. Veeco has agreed to cause the shares of Veeco common stock being issued, and those being reserved for issuance, in the merger to be approved for listing (subject to notice of issuance) on The Nasdaq Stock Market.

Antitrust Matters. As contemplated by the merger agreement, Veeco and FEI have filed the required notifications and materials under the HSR Act. Under the merger agreement, FEI and Veeco agreed to respond as promptly as practicable to:

Any inquiries or requests received from the Federal Trade Commission or the Department of Justice for additional information or documentation; and

Any inquiries or requests received from any state attorney general, foreign antitrust authority or other governmental authority in connection with antitrust or related matters.

Neither Veeco nor FEI nor any of their respective subsidiaries shall be required to hold separate or to divest or agree to divest any of their respective businesses or assets, or to take or agree to take any action or agree to any limitation that would be reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on Veeco FEI (assuming the merger has been consummated) or would be reasonably likely to materially adversely impact the benefits expected to be derived by Veeco and FEI from consummation of the merger, and neither Veeco nor FEI shall be required to agree to or effect any divestiture, hold separate any business or take any other action that is not conditional on the consummation of the merger.

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Other Covenants. The merger agreement contains additional covenants of Veeco, Venice Acquisition Corp. and FEI customary for transactions of this type, including covenants relating to:

The parties' obligation to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain consents to the consummation of the merger;

The parties' obligation to continue to file their tax returns and pay their taxes and debts as they become due;

The obligation of the parties to give notice in the event they become aware of breaches, or circumstances that could lead to breaches, of representations and warranties or covenants;

Repayment of indebtedness owed to FEI and its subsidiaries by their affiliates;

Compliance by Veeco with "blue sky" laws in connection with the merger;

Cooperation in the preparation and filing of all returns, questionnaires, applications or other documents regarding any real property transfer or gains, sales, use, transfer, value added, stock transfer or stamp taxes, any transfer, recording, registration or other fees or any similar taxes, which become payable in connection with the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; and

The adoption of resolutions by each of the FEI board of directors and the Veeco board of directors that exempt for purposes of Section 16 of the Exchange Act the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement with respect to certain directors and executive officers of FEI.

Further, the merger agreement contains covenants relating to matters discussed elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including:

Veeco's obligations with respect to assumption of FEI stock options in connection with and following the completion of the merger; and

Veeco's obligations with respect to the continuation of existing indemnification arrangements relating to FEI's officers and directors as of the date of the merger agreement, and Veeco's obligations with respect to the continuation of a directors' and officers' liability insurance policy for such persons.

No Solicitation

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Veeco. Until the merger is completed or the merger agreement is terminated, Veeco has agreed not to take any of the following actions directly or indirectly and to use reasonable best efforts to cause its subsidiaries and its and their representatives, agents and employees not to directly or indirectly:

Solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of a Veeco Acquisition Proposal (as defined below);

Furnish information regarding Veeco or its subsidiaries to any person or entity in connection with or in response to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal or an inquiry or indication of interest that could lead to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal;

Engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity with respect to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal;

Approve, endorse or recommend any Veeco Acquisition Proposal; or

Enter into any letter of intent or similar document or any contract contemplating or otherwise relating to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal.

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A "Veeco Acquisition Proposal" means an offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest contemplating or otherwise relating to a Veeco Acquisition Transaction, and a "Veeco Acquisition Transaction" is any of the following:

Any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, recapitalization, business combination, issuance of securities, purchase or acquisition of securities, tender offer, exchange offer or other similar transaction in which (1) Veeco or any material Veeco subsidiary is a constituent corporation, (2) a person, entity or "group" (as defined and described under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act) of persons or entities directly or indirectly acquires beneficial ownership of securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of Veeco or a material Veeco subsidiary, or (3) Veeco or any material Veeco subsidiary issues securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of Veeco or such material Veeco subsidiary;

Any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, license, acquisition or disposition of any business or businesses or assets (other than in the ordinary course of business) that constitute or account for 15% or more of the consolidated net revenues, net income or assets (measured by fair market value) of Veeco and the Veeco subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis; or

Any liquidation or dissolution of Veeco.

However, before the approval of the issuance of the shares of Veeco common stock in the merger by Veeco's stockholders, Veeco can engage in discussions and take any other actions that may be reasonably required for the purpose of becoming informed with respect to, a *bona fide*, unsolicited, written Veeco Acquisition Proposal that is submitted to Veeco (and not withdrawn) if Veeco's board of directors reasonably determines in good faith after due consideration that such Veeco Acquisition Proposal would reasonably be likely to result in a Superior Veeco Proposal (as defined below) if:

Neither Veeco nor any representative of Veeco has violated the nonsolicitation and related obligations under the merger agreement;

Veeco's board of directors concludes in good faith that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of its fiduciary obligations to Veeco's stockholders under applicable law, after consultation with its outside legal counsel; and

Before any such discussions or other action, Veeco receives from the person or entity making the Veeco Acquisition Proposal an executed confidentiality arrangement containing customary limitations on the use and disclosure of all nonpublic written and oral information furnished to such person or entity by or on behalf of Veeco.

A "Superior Veeco Proposal" means an unsolicited, *bona fide*, written offer by a third party with respect to a Veeco Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read 50%) on terms that the board of directors of

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Veeco determines make it more favorable to the stockholders of Veeco than the terms of the merger; *provided*, that, any such offer will not be a Superior Veeco Proposal if any financing required to consummate the transaction contemplated by such offer is not committed and is not reasonably capable of being obtained by such third party. The board of directors must make this determination in good faith after taking into account, among other relevant considerations, consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation.

Veeco has agreed to promptly advise FEI of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such Veeco Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof, that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of the merger agreement. Veeco has also agreed to keep FEI reasonably informed as to the status of any such Veeco Acquisition Proposal.

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FEI. Until the merger is completed or the merger agreement is terminated, FEI has agreed not to take any of the following actions directly or indirectly and to use reasonable best efforts to cause its subsidiaries and their representatives, agents and employees not to directly or indirectly:

Solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of an FEI Acquisition Proposal (as defined below);

Furnish information regarding FEI or its subsidiaries to any person or entity in connection with or in response to an FEI Acquisition Proposal or an inquiry or indication of interest that could lead to an FEI Acquisition Proposal;

Engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity with respect to an FEI Acquisition Proposal;

Approve, endorse or recommend any FEI Acquisition Proposal; or

Enter into any letter of intent or similar document or any contract contemplating or otherwise relating to any FEI Acquisition Proposal.

An "FEI Acquisition Proposal" means an offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest contemplating or otherwise relating to an FEI Acquisition Transaction, and an "FEI Acquisition Transaction" is any of the following:

Any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, recapitalization, business combination, issuance of securities, purchase or acquisition of securities, tender offer, exchange offer or other similar transaction in which (1) FEI or any material FEI subsidiary is a constituent corporation, (2) a person, entity or "group" (as defined and described under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act) of persons or entities directly or indirectly acquires beneficial ownership of securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of FEI or a material FEI subsidiary, or (3) FEI or any material FEI subsidiary issues securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of FEI or such material FEI subsidiary;

Any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, license, acquisition or disposition of any business or businesses or assets (other than in the ordinary course of business) that constitute or account for 15% or more of the consolidated net revenues, net income or assets (measured by fair market value) of FEI and the other FEI subsidiaries, on a consolidated basis; or

Any liquidation or dissolution of FEI.

However, before the approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders, FEI can engage in discussions and take any other actions that may be reasonably required for the purpose of becoming informed with respect to a *bona fide*, unsolicited, written FEI Acquisition Proposal that is submitted to FEI (and not withdrawn) if FEI's board of directors reasonably determines in good faith after due consideration that such FEI Acquisition Proposal would reasonably be likely to result in a Superior FEI Proposal (as defined below) if:

Neither FEI nor any representative of FEI has violated the nonsolicitation and related obligations under the merger agreement;

FEI's board of directors concludes in good faith that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of its fiduciary obligations to FEI's shareholders under applicable law, after consultation with its outside legal

counsel; and

Before any such discussions or other action, FEI receives from the person or entity making the FEI Acquisition Proposal an executed confidentiality arrangement containing customary limitations on the use and disclosure of all nonpublic written and oral information furnished to such person or entity by or on behalf of FEI.

A "Superior FEI Proposal" means an unsolicited, *bona fide*, written offer made by a third party with respect to an FEI Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%"

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therein shall be deemed to read "50%") on terms that FEI's board of directors determines in good faith to be more favorable to FEI's shareholders than the terms of the merger after having taken into account, among other relevant considerations, consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation; *provided*, that, any such offer will not be a Superior FEI Proposal if any financing required to consummate the transaction contemplated by such offer is not committed and is not reasonably capable of being obtained by such third party.

FEI has agreed to promptly advise Veeco of any FEI Acquisition Proposal, including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such FEI Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof, that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of the merger agreement. FEI has also agreed to keep Veeco reasonably informed as to the status of any such FEI Acquisition Proposal.

Board Recommendations

Calling Veeco Special Meeting; Recommendation of Veeco Board. Under the merger agreement, Veeco agreed to call the Veeco special meeting as promptly as practicable after the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part is declared effective under the Securities Act by the SEC on a date mutually agreed upon by FEI and Veeco (but on a date no more than two business days after the FEI special meeting).

Under the merger agreement, Veeco has agreed that this joint proxy statement/prospectus will include a statement to the effect that Veeco's board of directors recommends that Veeco's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in connection with the merger and vote to approve the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting. Further, Veeco has agreed that such recommendation to Veeco's stockholders by Veeco's board of directors will not be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to FEI unless, at any time prior to the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco common stock by Veeco's stockholders the following occurs:

A Veeco Acquisition Proposal is made and is not withdrawn;

Veeco promptly provides FEI prior written notice of any meeting of Veeco's board of directors at which Veeco's board of directors will consider and determine whether such offer is a Superior Veeco Proposal;

Veeco's board of directors determines in good faith that such offer constitutes a Superior Veeco Proposal, after consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation;

Veeco's board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with Veeco's outside legal counsel that, in light of such Superior Veeco Proposal, the failure to withdraw or modify the Veeco board of directors' recommendation would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of Veeco's board of directors to Veeco's stockholders under applicable law; and

Neither Veeco nor any of its representatives has materially violated its nonsolicitation and related obligations under the merger agreement.

Under the merger agreement, even if Veeco's board of directors withdraws or modifies its recommendation of the merger in the manner discussed above, Veeco will remain obligated to call and hold the Veeco special meeting for Veeco's stockholders to consider and vote upon the issuance of Veeco common stock in connection with the merger, the approval of a proposal to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of shares of authorized Veeco common stock and the approval of a proposal to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc.

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Calling FEI Special Meeting; Recommendation of FEI Board. Under the merger agreement, FEI agreed to call the FEI special meeting as promptly as practicable after the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part is declared effective under the Securities Act by the SEC on a date mutually agreed upon by Veeco and FEI, but in no event later than 45 days after the date such registration statement is declared effective.

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Under the merger agreement, FEI has agreed that this joint proxy statement/prospectus will include a statement to the effect that FEI's board of directors recommends that FEI's shareholders vote to approve the merger at the FEI special meeting. Further, FEI has agreed that such recommendation to FEI's shareholders by FEI's board of directors will not be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to Veeco unless, at any time prior to the approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders, the following occurs:

An FEI Acquisition Proposal is made and is not withdrawn;

FEI promptly provides Veeco prior written notice of any meeting of FEI's board of directors at which FEI's board of directors will consider and determine whether such offer is a Superior FEI Proposal;

FEI's board of directors determines in good faith that such offer constitutes a Superior FEI Proposal, after consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation;

FEI's board of directors determines in good faith, after consultation with FEI's outside legal counsel that, in light of such Superior FEI Proposal, the failure to withdraw or modify the FEI board of directors' recommendation would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of FEI's board of directors to FEI's shareholders under applicable law; and

Neither FEI nor any of its representatives has materially violated its nonsolicitation and related obligations under the merger agreement.

Under the merger agreement, even if FEI's board of directors withdraws or modifies its recommendation of the merger in the manner discussed above, FEI will remain obligated to call and hold the FEI special meeting for FEI's shareholders to consider and vote upon the merger.

Conditions to the Merger

Conditions to the Obligations of Each Party. The obligations of FEI, Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions:

The registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part shall have been declared effective under the Securities Act and not be subject to any stop order or any proceeding seeking a stop order;

The merger shall have been approved by a majority vote of the holders of the shares of FEI common stock entitled to vote at the FEI special meeting in which a quorum is present;

The issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock shall have been approved by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote at the Veeco special meeting in which a quorum is present;

No suit, action or other legal proceeding by any governmental authority which seeks to restrain or prohibit the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement shall be pending, and no injunction or final judgment which restrains or prohibits the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement shall have been entered on the closing date of the merger before any court or governmental authority;

The shares of Veeco common stock to be issued in the merger shall have been approved for listing (subject to notice of issuance) on The Nasdaq National Market;

The applicable waiting period under the HSR Act relating to the merger shall have expired or been terminated and any similar waiting period under or consent required by any applicable foreign antitrust law or regulation shall have been obtained, other than where the failure for

such foreign waiting period to have expired or been terminated or foreign consent to have been obtained would not have a Material Adverse Effect, as defined below, on Veeco following the merger; and

No governmental authority shall have enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered any statute, rule, regulation or executive order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent), which is in effect and which has the effect of making the merger illegal or otherwise prohibiting consummation of the merger.

Conditions to the Obligations of Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. The obligations of Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. to complete the merger are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following further conditions:

FEI shall have performed and complied in all material respects with its covenants, agreements and conditions required by the merger agreement to be performed and complied with by FEI on or prior to the closing date of the merger;

The representations and warranties of FEI in the merger agreement shall be true and correct as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date of the merger as if made on and as of that date without regard to: (1) any materiality qualifications in any representation or warranty and (2) updates to FEI's disclosure schedules since the date of the merger agreement, except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI;

Veeco shall have received a legal opinion from Kaye Scholer LLP that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

Veeco shall have received a certificate, dated the closing date of the merger, executed on behalf of FEI by its chief executive officer, confirming that certain conditions set forth in the merger agreement have been duly satisfied; and

There shall have been no Material Adverse Effect with respect to FEI.

As used in the merger agreement, a "Material Adverse Effect" means, with respect to Veeco or FEI (as applicable), a material adverse effect on (1) the business, assets, financial condition, operations or results of operations of such company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole or (2) the ability of such company to consummate the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement prior to December 31, 2002; *provided, however,* that, for purposes of clause (1) above, in no event shall any of the following, alone or in combination with one another, be deemed to constitute, nor shall any of the following be taken into account in determining whether there has been or will be, a Material Adverse Effect:

Any effect resulting from compliance with the express terms and conditions of the merger agreement;

With limited exceptions, any effect resulting from the announcement or pendency of the merger;

Any changes in such company's stock price or trading volume (but excluding the reasons for such changes in the stock price or trading volume);

Any failure by such company to meet published revenue or earnings projections (but excluding the reasons for failing to meet such projections);

Any effect that results from changes affecting any of the industries in which such company operates generally or the United States economy generally (including prevailing interest rate and stock market levels);

Any effect that results primarily from changes affecting general worldwide economic or capital market conditions (which changes in each case do not disproportionately affect such company in any material respect); or

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Stockholder class action litigation arising from allegations of a breach of fiduciary duty relating to the merger agreement.

Conditions to the Obligations of FEI. The obligation of FEI to complete the merger is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following further conditions:

Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. shall have performed and complied in all material respects with their covenants, agreements and conditions required by the merger agreement to be performed and complied by them on or prior to the closing date of the merger;

The representations and warranties of Veeco and Venice Acquisition Corp. in the merger agreement shall be true and correct as of the date of the merger agreement and as of the closing date of the merger as if made on and as of that date without regard to (1) any materiality qualifications in any representation or warranty and (2) updates to Veeco's disclosure schedules since the date of the merger agreement, except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco;

FEI shall have received a legal opinion from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

FEI shall have received a certificate, dated the closing date of the merger, executed on behalf of Veeco by its chief executive officer, confirming that certain conditions set forth in the merger agreement have been duly satisfied; and

There shall have been no Material Adverse Effect with respect to Veeco.

Termination of the Merger Agreement

Termination by Veeco or FEI. Either Veeco or FEI may terminate the merger agreement prior to the closing of the merger (whether before or after approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders and whether before or after the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger by Veeco's stockholders) as follows:

By mutual written consent of Veeco and FEI;

If the merger has not been completed by December 31, 2002 (although in certain circumstances that date can be extended until January 30, 2003); *provided*, that, a party cannot terminate the merger agreement for such reason if the failure for the merger to be completed is attributable to a failure of the party seeking to terminate the merger agreement to perform a material obligation required to be performed by that party at or before the closing of the merger;

If a court or other governmental authority issues a final and nonappealable order, decree or ruling, or takes other action that permanently restrains, enjoins or otherwise prohibits the merger;

If FEI's shareholders do not approve the merger at the FEI special meeting; *provided*, that, a party cannot terminate the merger agreement for such reason if the failure to obtain the approval of FEI's shareholders is attributable to the failure of that party to perform any material obligation required to be performed by it at or before the closing of the merger; or

If Veeco's stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting; *provided*, that, a party cannot terminate the merger agreement for such reason if the failure to obtain the approval of Veeco's stockholders is attributable to the failure of that party to perform any material obligation required to be performed by it at or before the closing of the merger.

Termination by Veeco. Veeco may terminate the merger agreement prior to the closing of the merger as follows (whether before or after approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders and whether before or after the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger by Veeco stockholders):

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If at any time prior to the approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders an FEI Triggering Event (as defined below) occurs;

If any of FEI's covenants and agreements contained in the merger agreement are breached (and such breach is not cured within thirty days after notice thereof) and the effect of such breach is that FEI shall not have performed and complied in all material respects with its covenants, agreements and conditions required by the merger agreement to be performed and complied with by FEI on or prior to the closing of the merger; or

If FEI's representations and warranties are inaccurate as of the date of the merger agreement or become inaccurate as of a later date (as if made on such later date), with the effect that Veeco's closing condition described above relating to the accuracy of FEI's representations and warranties would not be satisfied; *provided*, that, if such breach is capable of cure, it has not been cured within thirty days after notice thereof.

An "FEI Triggering Event" will be deemed to have occurred if:

The board of directors of FEI fails to recommend that FEI's shareholders vote to approve the merger or withdraws or modifies its recommendation in a manner adverse to Veeco;

FEI fails to include in this joint proxy statement/prospectus a statement that the board of directors of FEI recommends that FEI's shareholders approve the merger;

The board of directors of FEI approves, endorses or recommends any FEI Acquisition Transaction;

FEI enters into a letter of intent or similar document or any contract providing for an FEI Acquisition Transaction;

FEI fails to hold the FEI special meeting as promptly as practicable, and in any event within 45 days after the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part is declared effective, unless a stop order is issued with respect to that registration statement or an injunction shall have been issued by a court or other governmental authority to restrain or prohibit consummation of the merger;

FEI or any of its subsidiaries violates in a material manner its nonsolicitation covenant set forth in the merger agreement;

FEI shall have failed to prepare and mail to its shareholders this joint proxy statement/prospectus;

A tender or exchange offer relating to FEI's securities shall have been commenced by a person or entity unaffiliated with Veeco, and FEI shall not have sent to its shareholders, pursuant to Rule 14e-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act, within ten business days after such tender or exchange offer is first published, sent, given or otherwise commenced, a statement disclosing that the FEI board of directors recommends rejection of such tender or exchange offer;

The FEI board of directors shall have granted any approval or taken any other step to exempt any transaction (other than the merger) from the requirements and provisions of Section 835 of the Oregon Business Corporation Act or other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations; or

FEI's board of directors shall have amended or resolved to amend any FEI preferred stock rights agreement, (commonly known as a "poison pill"), if any then in effect, so as to render it inapplicable to any FEI Acquisition Transaction (other than the merger).

Termination by FEI. FEI may terminate the merger agreement prior to the closing of the merger as follows (whether before or after approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders and whether before or after the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger by Veeco stockholders):

If at any time prior to the approval of the issuance of the Veeco common stock in the merger and the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock by Veeco's stockholders a Veeco Triggering Event (as defined below) occurs;

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If any of Veeco's covenants and agreements contained in the merger agreement are breached (and such breach is not cured within thirty days after notice thereof) and the effect of such breach is that Veeco shall not have performed and complied in all material respects with its covenants, agreements and conditions required by the merger agreement to be performed and complied with by Veeco on or prior to the closing date of the merger; or

If Veeco's representations and warranties are inaccurate as of the date of the merger agreement or become inaccurate as of a later date (as if made on such later date), with the effect that FEI's closing condition described above relating to the accuracy of Veeco's representations and warranties would not be satisfied; *provided*, that, if such breach is capable of cure, it has not been cured within thirty days after notice thereof.

A "Veeco Triggering Event" will be deemed to have occurred if:

The board of directors of Veeco fails to recommend that Veeco's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger or withdraws or modifies its recommendation to approve such share issuance or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock in a manner adverse to FEI;

Veeco fails to include in this joint proxy statement/prospectus a statement that the board of directors of Veeco recommends that Veeco's stockholders approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock;

The board of directors of Veeco approves, endorses or recommends any Veeco Acquisition Transaction;

Veeco enters into a letter of intent or similar document or any contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction;

Veeco fails to hold the Veeco special meeting as promptly as practicable after the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part is declared effective, and in any event within 2 business days after FEI's special shareholders meeting;

Veeco or any of its subsidiaries violates in a material manner its nonsolicitation covenant set forth in the merger agreement;

Veeco shall have failed to prepare and mail to its stockholders this joint proxy statement/prospectus;

A tender or exchange offer relating to Veeco's securities shall have been commenced by a person or entity unaffiliated with FEI, and Veeco shall not have sent to its stockholders, pursuant to Rule 14e-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act, within ten business days after such tender or exchange offer is first published, sent, given or otherwise commenced, a statement disclosing that the Veeco board of directors recommends rejection of such tender or exchange offer;

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The Veeco board of directors shall have granted any approval or taken any other step to exempt any transaction (other than the merger) from the requirements and provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law or other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations; or

Veeco's board of directors shall have amended or resolved to amend the Veeco Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company in a manner so as to render it inapplicable to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal (other than with respect to the merger).

Fees and Expenses

Payment of Fees and Expenses. Generally, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger agreement, the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement will be paid by the party incurring the fees or expenses (whether or not the merger is completed), except that Veeco and FEI will share equally the fees and expenses relating to:

The filing, printing and mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the related registration statement; and

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The filing of the premerger notification and report forms required by the HSR Act and any notice or other document required to be filed under any foreign antitrust law or regulation.

Veeco will be required to pay FEI's fees (including attorneys' fees, accountants' fees, financial advisory fees and filing fees) and reasonable, documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and negotiation of the merger agreement and otherwise in connection with the merger not in excess of \$5 million in the following circumstances:

In the event that the merger agreement is terminated by Veeco or FEI because Veeco stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger and the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting, and at or prior to the time of such termination a Veeco Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn.

If Veeco breaches its representations, warranties or covenants in a manner that gives FEI the right to terminate the merger agreement and FEI then terminates the merger agreement.

FEI will be required to pay Veeco's fees (including attorneys' fees, accountants' fees, financial advisory fees and filing fees) and reasonable, documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and negotiation of the merger agreement and otherwise in connection with the merger not in excess of \$5 million in the following circumstances:

In the event that the merger agreement is terminated by Veeco or FEI because FEI shareholders do not approve the merger at the FEI special meeting, and at or prior to the time of such termination an FEI Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn.

If FEI breaches its representations, warranties or covenants in a manner that gives Veeco the right to terminate the merger agreement and Veeco then terminates the merger agreement.

Termination Fees Payable by Veeco. Veeco will be required to pay FEI a termination fee of \$30 million if the merger agreement is terminated in the following circumstances:

By Veeco or FEI because Veeco's stockholders do not approve the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock at the Veeco special meeting and, at or prior to the time the merger agreement is so terminated, a Veeco Acquisition

Proposal has been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, and within 12 months following the termination either a Veeco Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated or Veeco enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following termination of the merger agreement.

By FEI (at any time prior to the approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock in the merger or the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco's common stock) in the event of a Veeco Triggering Event; *provided, however*, that if the merger agreement is terminated by FEI because of a breach by Veeco of its nonsolicitation obligations, then such termination fee will be payable only if within 12 months following the termination of the merger agreement, either a Veeco Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated, or Veeco enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of the merger agreement.

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Termination Fees Payable by FEI. FEI will be required to pay Veeco a termination fee of \$30 million if the merger agreement is terminated in the following circumstances:

By Veeco or FEI because FEI's shareholders do not approve the merger at the FEI special meeting and, at or prior to the time the merger agreement is so terminated, an FEI Acquisition Proposal has been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, and within 12 months following the termination either an FEI Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated or FEI enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for an FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following termination of the merger agreement.

By Veeco (at any time prior to the approval of the merger by FEI's shareholders) in the event of an FEI Triggering Event; *provided, however*, that if the merger agreement is terminated by Veeco because of a breach by FEI of its nonsolicitation obligations, then such termination fee will be payable only if within 12 months following the termination of the merger agreement, either an FEI Acquisition Transaction (as defined above, except that all references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%") is consummated, or FEI enters into a letter of intent or contract providing for an FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of the merger agreement.

Amendment; Waiver

The merger agreement may be amended with the approval of FEI's board of directors and Veeco's board of directors at any time prior to the closing of the merger. However, after FEI's shareholders have approved the merger and Veeco's stockholders have approved the issuance of the shares of Veeco common stock in the merger, no amendment may be made that by law or NASD regulation requires further approval of Veeco's stockholders or FEI's shareholders, without first obtaining such approval. Any amendment to the merger agreement must be in writing and must be signed by each of the parties thereto. Any waiver under the merger agreement must be in writing and must be signed by the party to be charged with that waiver.

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OTHER AGREEMENTS

Voting Arrangements With Veeco Stockholders

The following is a summary of voting agreements entered into by certain Veeco stockholders with, and related irrevocable proxies delivered by such stockholders to, FEI. Copies of such voting agreements and the irrevocable proxies granted to FEI by each Veeco stockholder party thereto are attached as Appendix C-1 and Appendix C-2 to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents. We urge you to carefully review such voting agreements and irrevocable proxies.

At the time of the execution of the merger agreement, Chorus, L.P., Veeco's largest stockholder, and each director and executive officer of Veeco, who held approximately 12.8% of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock at that time, entered into voting agreements with FEI.

As of the Veeco record date, these Veeco stockholders held approximately % of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock. Under these voting agreements, the Veeco stockholders have agreed to vote, and have granted irrevocable proxies to FEI to vote, their Veeco shares as follows:

In favor of approval of the issuance of Veeco common stock to FEI shareholders in the merger;

In favor of the approval of the amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation increasing the authorized shares of Veeco common stock; and

Against any transaction or proposal that would prevent or nullify the merger or the merger agreement.

The Veeco stockholders may, however, vote their Veeco shares in favor of a superior Veeco proposal or related Veeco acquisition transaction.

The Veeco stockholders, other than Chorus, L.P., have also agreed not to transfer their shares of Veeco common stock prior to the earlier of (1) the closing of the merger or (2) the termination of the merger agreement.

The voting agreements and the irrevocable proxies terminate upon the earliest to occur of:

The closing of the merger;

The termination of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms; and

The execution of an amendment to the merger agreement that would cause each share of FEI common stock to be converted into the right to receive greater than 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock.

Other than inducing FEI to enter into the merger agreement, none of these Veeco stockholders received any additional consideration in exchange for entering into the voting agreement and granting the irrevocable proxy.

Voting Arrangements With FEI Shareholders

The following is a summary of material provisions of voting agreements entered into by certain FEI shareholders with, and the related irrevocable proxies delivered by such shareholders to, Veeco. Copies of such voting agreements and the irrevocable proxies granted to Veeco by each FEI shareholder party thereto are attached as Appendix B-1 and Appendix B-2 to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such documents. We urge you to carefully review such voting agreements and irrevocable proxies.

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At the time of the execution of the merger agreement, PBE, FEI's largest shareholder, and each director and executive officer of FEI, who held collectively approximately 27.4% of the outstanding shares of FEI common stock at that time, entered into voting agreements with Veeco.

As of the FEI record date, these shareholders held approximately % of the outstanding shares of FEI common stock. Under these voting agreements, the FEI shareholders have agreed to vote, and have granted irrevocable proxies to Veeco to vote, their FEI shares as follows:

In favor of approval of the merger; and

Against any transaction or proposal that would prevent or nullify the merger or the merger agreement.

The FEI shareholders may, however, vote their FEI shares in favor of a superior FEI proposal or related FEI acquisition transaction.

With the exception of PBE, FEI shareholders have also agreed not to transfer their shares of FEI common stock prior to the earlier of (1) the closing of the merger or (2) the termination of the merger agreement. PBE has agreed not to transfer its shares except (1) to a transferee that agrees to be bound by the voting agreement between PBE and Veeco and that enters into standstill arrangements identical in substance to those contained in the investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE, or (2) in an FEI Acquisition Transaction, to a transferee that has made a Superior FEI Proposal.

The voting agreements and the irrevocable proxies terminate upon the earliest to occur of:

The closing of the merger;

The termination of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms; and

The execution of an amendment to the merger agreement that would cause each share of FEI common stock to be converted into the right to receive fewer than 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock.

Other than inducing Veeco to enter into the merger agreement, none of these FEI shareholders (other than PBE) received any additional consideration in exchange for entering into the voting agreement and granting the irrevocable proxy. As additional consideration for PBE entering into the voting agreement, Veeco also entered into an investor agreement with PBE and FEI, which agreement is more fully described below.

Investor Agreement With PBE

The following is a summary of material provisions of an investor agreement entered into among Veeco, FEI and PBE. A copy of such investor agreement is attached as Appendix G to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such document. We urge you to carefully review such investor agreement.

At the time of the execution of the merger agreement, PBE, FEI's largest shareholder, entered into an investor agreement with Veeco and FEI.

Registration Rights

Under the terms of the investor agreement, Veeco agreed to grant to PBE certain demand registration and "piggyback" registration rights with respect to the shares of Veeco FEI common stock to be acquired by PBE in connection with the merger.

Specifically, Veeco has agreed that at any time following the closing of the merger, to and including the date on which the shares of Veeco FEI common stock owned by PBE may be publicly offered for sale in the United States by PBE without restriction and without registration under the

Securities Act, PBE shall have the right on two occasions to require Veeco FEI to file a registration statement under the Securities Act in respect of at least one-third of the Veeco FEI common stock held by PBE and its affiliates at the time of the closing of the merger.

In addition, if, at any time following the closing of the merger, Veeco FEI proposes, subject to certain exceptions, to register any shares of Veeco FEI common stock under the Securities Act, Veeco FEI shall give prompt written notice to PBE of its intention to do so, and, upon the written direction of PBE, Veeco FEI shall include in such registration statement such number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock owned by PBE and its affiliates as PBE may request, subject to customary provisions regarding "cutbacks."

Representation on Veeco FEI Board of Directors

Under the investor agreement, Veeco also has agreed that from the closing of the merger until the earlier of:

The first date on which Philips ceases to beneficially own at least 7.5% of the total current voting power of Veeco FEI; and

The date of the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders of Veeco FEI,

PBE may request that Veeco FEI include, as a nominee or designee to Class II (with a term expiring in 2005) of Veeco FEI's board of directors, one person nominated by PBE and reasonably satisfactory to Veeco FEI's board of directors. In the event of the death, incapacity, resignation or removal from Veeco FEI's board of directors of any PBE stockholder nominee, Veeco FEI shall cause another PBE stockholder nominee to be elected or appointed as a director to fill the vacancy.

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Purchase of Additional Shares of Veeco FEI Common Stock

PBE and FEI also have agreed to terminate, as of the closing of the merger, Sections 2.1 and 5.18 of the Combination Agreement, dated November 15, 1996, between FEI and PBE and Section 4 of the Agreement, effective as of December 31, 2000, among FEI, PBE and Philips, which relate to the right of PBE to purchase additional shares of FEI common stock upon the exercise of FEI stock options. In return, Veeco assumed FEI's obligation to issue up to 401,007 additional Veeco shares of common stock to PBE upon the exercise of certain outstanding options. This includes the obligation to, at the sole option of PBE, transfer to PBE, no later than 30 calendar days following the close of the calendar quarter in which the closing of the merger occurs:

A number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock equal to the product of (1) 122.22%, multiplied by (2) the product of (A) the number of shares of FEI common stock issued and FEI stock options "cashed out" prior to the closing of the merger during such quarter upon exercise of such stock options, multiplied by (B) the exchange ratio in the merger; and

A number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock equal to the product of (1) 122.22%, multiplied by (2) the number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock issued and FEI stock options "cashed out" at or after the closing of the merger during such quarter upon exercise of such stock options.

Veeco FEI has also assumed FEI's obligation to, at the sole option of PBE, transfer to PBE, no later than 30 calendar days following the close of each calendar quarter following the calendar quarter of Veeco FEI in which the closing of the merger occurs, a number of securities equal to the product of (1) 122.22%, multiplied by (2) the number of securities issued and stock options "cashed out" during such quarter upon exercise of such stock options.

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Standstill Provisions

Under the investor agreement, until the earliest to occur of (1) the termination (prior to the closing of the merger) of the merger agreement, (2) a change in control of Veeco FEI, (3) the first date on which Philips ceases to beneficially own at least 7.5% of the total current voting power of Veeco FEI, and (4) the date of the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders of Veeco FEI, PBE is subject to certain standstill restrictions and has agreed that it shall not, and shall not permit its affiliates to, without the prior written approval of Veeco FEI:

Beneficially own or acquire beneficial ownership of Veeco FEI common stock or authorize or make a tender offer, exchange offer or other offer to acquire Veeco FEI common stock, if the number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock beneficially owned by Philips exceeds (or would exceed following such acquisition) (1) the number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock issued to PBE upon conversion of shares of FEI common stock in accordance with the merger agreement, plus (2) the number of shares of Veeco FEI common stock issuable to PBE pursuant to the exercise of FEI stock options assumed by Veeco in the merger, as described above, plus (3) the acquisition by PBE or its affiliates of up to an additional one percent (1%) of Veeco FEI's outstanding common stock;

Solicit or engage in any solicitation of proxies with respect to any Veeco FEI common stock;

Deposit any Veeco FEI common stock in a voting trust or subject any Veeco FEI common stock to any arrangement or agreement with any third party with respect to the voting of such Veeco FEI common stock;

Join a group of persons required to file a Schedule 13D under the Exchange Act (other than a group comprised solely of Philips entities);

Publicly announce any intention to seek amendment or rescission of the provisions of the investor agreement relating to the standstill restrictions of PBE or make any proposal to amend, support or rescind any proposal to amend or rescind, or publicly comment on any proposal to amend or rescind, the Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company or any other stockholder protection rights plan or "poison pill" adopted by

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or entered into by Veeco FEI by way of merger, in the case of each proposal, that has not received the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested directors of Veeco FEI or a unanimous written consent of the board of directors of Veeco FEI; or

Publicly announce any intention or desire to acquire Veeco FEI or all or a material portion of the assets of Veeco FEI, engage in a transaction that would result in a change of control of Veeco FEI or take any other action that would otherwise be prohibited under the standstill restrictions of the investor agreement.

Other Obligations of PBE. Other obligations of PBE under the investor agreement include PBE's obligation to promptly notify Veeco FEI upon PBE's or its affiliates' acquisition of additional Veeco FEI common stock and to be present (and to cause all of its affiliates holding Veeco FEI common stock to be present), at Veeco FEI's request, in person or by proxy, at all meetings of stockholders of Veeco FEI so that all such shares of Veeco FEI common stock may be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum at such meetings.

Veeco Stockholder Rights Plan. Under the investor agreement, Veeco also agreed that the rights under its Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as previously amended, will not be exercisable as a consequence of the beneficial ownership by Philips or its affiliates of the shares of Veeco common stock issued to PBE pursuant to the merger agreement or upon the future acquisition of shares of Veeco FEI common stock purchased pursuant to the exercise of FEI stock options assumed by Veeco FEI as discussed above.

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Termination of Investor Agreement. The investor agreement will terminate upon the earliest to occur of:

The date on which PBE shall have received a written opinion of legal counsel reasonably satisfactory to PBE and Veeco FEI and addressed to PBE and Veeco FEI stating that the shares of Veeco FEI common stock owned by PBE may be publicly offered for sale in the United States by PBE without restriction as to manner of sale and amount of securities sold and without registration under the Securities Act;

When all shares of Veeco FEI common stock held by PBE have been sold by PBE either pursuant to a registration statement or pursuant to a transaction or transactions exempt from the registration provisions of the Securities Act; and

The termination (prior to the closing of the merger) of the merger agreement in accordance with its terms.

Amendment Agreement among FEI, PBE and Philips

The following is a summary of material provisions of an amendment agreement entered into among FEI, Philips and PBE. A copy of such amendment agreement is attached as Appendix H to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary does not purport to be complete, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such document. We urge you to carefully review such amendment agreement.

At the time of the execution of the merger agreement, PBE, Philips and FEI entered into an agreement pursuant to which they agreed to terminate, at the closing of the merger, Section 5.16(e) of the Combination Agreement, dated November 15, 1996, between FEI and PBE, which subjects FEI's patents and patent applications to certain cross-licensing, pooling and other patent sharing or licensing arrangements with PBE. The termination of Section 5.16(e) does not modify or alter the validity or the scope of any cross-licensing, pooling or other patent sharing or licensing arrangements with PBE entered into prior to July 11, 2002.

Under the amendment agreement, PBE, Philips and FEI also have agreed to terminate, at the closing of the merger, Sections 1(b)(v) and 5 of the Agreement, effective as of December 31, 2000, among FEI, PBE and Philips, which provide for (1) FEI's opportunity to confidentially review Philips' patent applications in areas related to FEI's business and (2) cash payments to be made by Philips to FEI in 2002 and 2003.

RELATIONSHIP WITH PHILIPS

On February 21, 1997, FEI acquired substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Philips' electron optics business, in exchange for which PBE received 55% of the then outstanding FEI common stock and an obligation from FEI to issue additional shares of FEI common stock to PBE when FEI stock options outstanding as of February 21, 1997 are exercised. On December 31, 2000, FEI and Philips entered into an agreement to clarify certain relationships and transactions between the parties. This agreement provided that certain benefits that FEI had been receiving as a result of Philips having majority-control of FEI would cease on the first day after PBE's ownership of FEI fell below 45% of FEI's outstanding common stock and other benefits to FEI would cease 120 days after the day on which PBE's ownership of FEI fell below 45% and still other benefits to FEI would cease at subsequent future dates. PBE's ownership of FEI fell below 45% on May 22, 2001, the date on which FEI completed a secondary public offering. As a result, FEI has ceased to receive many of these benefits. In addition, certain ongoing separation payments that Philips agreed to make to FEI in the December 31, 2000 agreement will cease as of the closing of the merger. As a result, assuming the merger closes on December 31, 2002, FEI will not receive \$1 million from Philips that FEI likely would have received during 2003 if not for the closing of the merger.

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FEI's acquisition of Philips' electron optics business in 1997

On February 21, 1997, FEI acquired substantially all of the assets and liabilities of Philips' electron optics business, in exchange for which PBE received 55% of the then outstanding FEI common stock and an obligation from FEI to deliver to PBE additional shares of FEI common stock when FEI stock options outstanding as of February 21, 1997 are exercised. These additional shares are issuable at a rate of approximately 1.22 shares of FEI common stock for each share of FEI common stock issued upon exercise of the options. Pursuant to this arrangement, 295,946 shares of FEI common stock (equivalent to 401,007 shares of Veeco common stock after giving effect to the exchange ratio) potentially are issuable to PBE.

As long as PBE maintained majority control of FEI, FEI derived significant benefits from its relationship with Philips. These benefits included:

Access to certain patents in Philips' patent portfolio and patents of other companies through cross-licensing agreements;

Access to Philips' intellectual property and contract research and development services;

Participation in Philips' collective bargaining agreements and pension plans;

Participation in Philips' insurance programs;

Use of the Philips credit facility;

Access to Philips' information technology systems;

Access to export administration;

Access to Philips' internal audit and financial services;

Access to Philips' tax planning services;

Access to Philips' legal services; and

Access to facilities in various parts of the world.

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Certain subassemblies included in FEI's products are purchased from a Philips subsidiary. We do not expect that the merger will affect FEI's relationship with Philips' subsidiary suppliers. We do not expect that agreements between FEI and Philips' subsidiary suppliers will terminate, or that the terms of those agreements will change, as a result of the merger. The agreements between FEI and Philips' subsidiary suppliers were negotiated, and will continue to be negotiated, at arms length.

Clarification of Philips agreements in 2000

On December 31, 2000, FEI and Philips entered into an agreement that clarified certain relationships and transactions between the parties and contemplated that at some point in the future PBE would no longer hold majority control of FEI. The agreement provided, among other things, that certain benefits to FEI would cease on the first day after PBE's ownership of FEI fell below 45% of FEI's outstanding common stock and other benefits to FEI would cease 120 days after the day on which PBE's ownership of FEI fell below 45%. Additionally, the agreement required Philips to make certain ongoing separation payments to FEI, up to an aggregate of \$6 million, primarily to reduce the effect of increased pension costs on FEI. These payments were made by Philips in an aggregate of \$3 million in 2001, payable in equal monthly installments of \$250,000, and are to be made by Philips in an aggregate of \$2 million in 2002, payable in equal monthly installments of \$166,667, and in an aggregate of \$1 million in 2003, payable in equal monthly installments of \$83,333. These termination payments, however, terminate upon a change of control of FEI.

Changes resulting from FEI's secondary offering in 2001

On May 22, 2001, FEI completed a public offering of 3,066,666 shares of FEI common stock sold by FEI and 6,133,334 shares of FEI common stock sold by PBE. At the completion of this offering,

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PBE's ownership of FEI common stock was reduced to 8,111,211 shares, or 25.5% of the total shares of FEI common stock then outstanding, from its 49.8% ownership prior to the offering. As a result, PBE's ownership of FEI common stock fell below the 45% threshold and FEI began to lose the rights to the benefits identified in the list above. From and after May 22, 2001, FEI began to incur increased operating costs, which are reflected in FEI's income statement, due to the loss of some of these benefits and has replaced most of the arrangements with Philips by procuring services from other suppliers.

In 2001, FEI paid Philips approximately \$4.5 million for the services described above. Because FEI must now procure these services from third parties, who seek to earn profits in addition to their cost recovery, the cost of replacing these services has and will exceed the amounts previously paid to Philips for them, though FEI is not able to quantify the overall increase in costs because the services that FEI contracted changed from 2001 to 2002. Some of the specific types of increased costs the combined company has incurred or will incur, quantified where possible, include the following:

Intellectual Property. FEI had access to some forms of technology through cross-licenses between Philips and several manufacturers in the electronics industry. Some of FEI's patents also are subject to these cross-licenses. Some of Philips' cross-licenses provided FEI with the right to use intellectual property that relates to its core technologies. In general, these cross-licenses were subject to majority ownership of FEI by PBE, and, because FEI is no longer majority owned by PBE, FEI has not been entitled to the benefits of these cross-licenses since May 22, 2001. Loss of the benefits of these cross-licenses could result in the inability to use the previously licensed technology, the necessity of undertaking new licensing arrangements and paying royalties of an undetermined amount, or being subject to patent infringement actions. FEI cannot estimate either the amount by which its revenues might decrease as a result of patent infringement claims or the amount by which its operational costs may increase as a result of any potential required future royalty payments or possible litigation expenses.

Labor Costs. Because PBE is no longer FEI's majority shareholder, some of FEI's non-U.S. employees were required to become part of new collective bargaining units, and FEI employee pension funds that were held within Philips' pension funds were transferred to new pension funds. For the past several years, Philips' pension fund has been in an overfunded position because the value of its pension assets has exceeded the pension benefit obligations. During that time, Philips and its majority owned subsidiaries, including FEI, benefited from reduced pension contribution obligations and reduced pension expense. After FEI's employees were transferred out of Philips' pension plan, effective September 1, 2001, FEI's pension costs in the Netherlands increased by approximately \$3.5 million on an annualized basis due to FEI's loss of the benefit of

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the overfunding and the terms of the new collective bargaining arrangements. FEI's pension costs are expected to increase by approximately \$2.3 million in 2002 compared to 2001.

Payments by Philips. Under terms of the agreement with Philips, dated December 31, 2000, Philips agreed to pay FEI up to \$6 million over a three-year period primarily to reduce the effect of increased pension costs. These payments have been recorded by FEI as a reduction in costs and operating expenses. FEI recognized \$1.4 million of these payments as a reduction in expense in 2001, and \$2.3 million of these payments as a reduction in expense in the twenty-six weeks ended June 30, 2002. These payments terminate as of the earlier of the date of a change of control of FEI and December 31, 2003.

Research and Development. When PBE had majority control of FEI, FEI entered into research and development contracts with Philips' research laboratories to purchase research and development services. The combined company expects to continue to contract for research and development services from Philips in areas related to the combined company's business, but, as a result of PBE's ownership of FEI's common stock falling below 45% on May 22, 2001, the rates that Philips charges FEI for research and development have increased. In 2001, FEI paid Philips

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\$3.2 million for contract research and development services. Beginning January 1, 2002, the hourly rate for research and development services provided by Philips to FEI increased by approximately 40%. FEI, however, has offset most of this hourly rate increase in 2002 by purchasing a lower volume of these services from Philips.

Purchases Under Philips Arrangements and Terms. From time to time, FEI purchased materials, supplies and services under collective purchase agreements and purchase conditions negotiated by Philips for the benefit of its group of companies. These arrangements generally began to terminate on May 22, 2001. The benefits to FEI of these arrangements cannot be quantified, but FEI believes that the costs of procuring these goods and services on a stand-alone basis are higher than the costs under the Philips arrangements.

Insurance Costs. FEI's insurance costs, including director and officer liability insurance, have increased by approximately \$2 million per year since FEI ceased to participate in Philips' insurance programs. Some of this increase, however, is attributable to changes in policy terms and coverage and also to market conditions in the insurance industry.

Facilities Leased from Philips. In 2001, FEI paid approximately \$1.4 million for sales, service and administrative facilities leased from Philips in countries other than the United States. FEI does not expect these costs to increase significantly as a result of PBE no longer owning more than 45% of FEI's common stock.

Other Costs. FEI also has a variety of other arrangements with Philips, such as use of the Philips intranet system for various functions and use of various administrative services. Most of these arrangements will change because PBE no longer owns a majority of FEI's common stock and some of these changes will result in additional increased costs to FEI's business. FEI cannot estimate the amount by which its operational costs may increase as a result of any changes to these arrangements.

Changes resulting from merger

FEI expects the payments from Philips under the December 31, 2000 agreement with Philips, which originally were to be up to \$6 million, to end upon the closing of the merger. These separation payments were \$3 million in 2001 paid monthly, \$2 million in 2002 paid monthly and \$1 million in 2003 paid monthly. Accordingly, assuming the merger closes as of December 31, 2002, FEI expects to lose the right to \$1 million in reimbursement payments from Philips.

In connection with the merger, Veeco, FEI and PBE entered into an investor agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002. This investor agreement provides for, among other things, the following:

Registration rights for the shares of Veeco FEI common stock that PBE will receive in the merger;

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The right of PBE to designate one director to serve on Veeco FEI's board of directors for a specified period of time;

Restrictions prohibiting PBE and its affiliates from acquiring more than a specified percentage of outstanding Veeco FEI common stock or taking certain other actions for a specified period of time; and

Veeco's assumption of FEI's obligation to issue, at PBE's option, additional shares of FEI common stock upon the exercise of certain outstanding stock options by certain third parties.

The investor agreement is attached as [Appendix G](#) to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the investor agreement, see the section titled "Other Agreements-Investor Agreement with PBE" beginning on page 97.

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AMENDMENT TO VEECO'S AMENDED AND RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SHARES OF VEECO COMMON STOCK

Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the issuance of up to 60,000,000 shares of Veeco common stock. As of June 30, 2002, there were 29,134,679 shares of Veeco common stock issued and outstanding, and the following shares were reserved for issuance:

| Shares | Reserved for Issuance: |
|------------|---|
| 6,122,330 | Upon exercise of stock options which have been granted pursuant to Veeco's stock option plans or assumed by Veeco in connection with the mergers with CVC and Applied Epi |
| 211,603 | Upon exercise of warrants assumed in connection with the Applied Epi merger |
| 878,286 | Upon the exercise of stock options available for grant under Veeco's stock option plans |
| 78,155 | Upon the sale of stock pursuant to Veeco's employee stock purchase plan |
| 5,712,802 | Upon conversion of Veeco's 4 ¹ / ₈ % subordinated convertible notes due 2008 |
| 13,003,176 | Total Shares Reserved For Issuance |

After taking into account the shares issued and outstanding and the shares reserved for issuance as set forth above, but prior to consummation of the merger, Veeco has 17,862,145 shares of common stock available for issuance.

In connection with the merger, Veeco will be obligated to issue approximately 44,000,000 shares of Veeco common stock and to reserve the following shares for issuance:

| Approximate Shares | Reserved for Issuance: |
|--------------------|--|
| 4,206,854 | Upon exercise of stock options which have been granted pursuant to FEI's stock option plans and assumed by Veeco in connection with the merger |
| 401,007 | To PBE under the investor agreement |
| 530,679 | Upon the sale of stock pursuant to FEI's employee stock purchase plan |
| 4,788,470 | Upon conversion of FEI's 5.5% convertible subordinated notes due 2008 |
| 9,927,010 | Total Shares Reserved For Issuance |

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At the Veeco special meeting, the Veeco stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal, unanimously recommended and determined to be advisable by Veeco's board of directors, to amend Article 4 of Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, in order to increase the number of shares of Veeco common stock that Veeco has authority to issue from 60,000,000 shares to 175,000,000 shares. The purpose of the amendment is to provide Veeco with additional shares of Veeco common stock that may be used in connection with the merger and future acquisitions, for stock

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splits and stock dividends and for other corporate purposes, including the raising of additional capital, at times when the board of directors of Veeco, in its discretion, deems it advantageous to do so.

Assuming the approval and effectiveness of the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the completion of the merger, it is anticipated that Veeco will have approximately 79,000,000 authorized and unissued shares of Veeco common stock after the merger (after taking into account the number of issued and outstanding shares of Veeco common stock, the number of shares reserved for issuance by Veeco upon the exercise of Veeco's stock options and warrants, shares reserved for issuance under Veeco's employee stock purchase plan, shares reserved for issuance upon conversion of Veeco's outstanding convertible debt securities, shares to be issued to FEI shareholders in the merger, shares issuable upon the exercise of FEI options and upon conversion of the FEI notes assumed by Veeco in the merger, shares reserved for issuance under FEI's employee stock purchase plan assumed in the merger and shares that may become issuable to PBE under the investor agreement), which Veeco's board of directors would be able to authorize for issuance for the foregoing purposes, at any time, without obtaining further authorization from the holders of Veeco common stock, unless such authorization is required by applicable law, regulation or the rules of any stock exchange on which shares of Veeco's common stock may then be listed. Except as described above, no specific use of the additional shares of Veeco common stock is presently contemplated, although Veeco has considered additional acquisitions from time to time and reserves the right to use any additional authorized shares in the discretion of Veeco's board of directors. Holders of shares of Veeco common stock have no preemptive rights in connection with the issuance of additional shares of Veeco common stock. **A vote in favor of this proposal to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will not be deemed to be a vote to approve the issuance of Veeco shares in the merger, the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation relating to the change of the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. or the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan.**

The issuance of additional shares of Veeco common stock may dilute the present equity ownership position of Veeco stockholders. The issuance of additional shares of Veeco common stock may, among other things, have a dilutive effect on Veeco's earnings per share and on the equity and voting power of existing Veeco stockholders and may adversely affect the market price of the Veeco common stock.

The availability for issuance of additional shares of Veeco common stock could enable Veeco's board of directors to render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of Veeco. The additional shares of Veeco common stock also could be utilized to render more difficult a merger or similar transaction, even if it appears to be desirable to a majority of the Veeco stockholders. Veeco is not aware of any pending or threatened efforts to obtain control of Veeco.

If Veeco's stockholders do not approve the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Veeco would not have enough authorized shares to cover the shares to be issued to FEI shareholders in the merger and to be reserved for issuance upon the exercise of FEI stock options and conversion of the FEI notes to be assumed by Veeco in the merger. In that event, Veeco could be deemed to be in violation of contractual provisions in the merger agreement which, if deemed material, could give rise to FEI's right to terminate the merger agreement. In the case of such a termination by FEI, Veeco could be required to pay FEI's fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger agreement and the merger. In addition, Veeco would not have such additional shares of Veeco common stock available for use in connection with the future acquisitions, for stock splits and stock dividends, and for other corporate purposes, including the raising of additional capital.

The full text of the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation is set forth in Appendix F-1 hereto and the description of the proposed amendment herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to such Appendix F-1.

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The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote thereon will be required to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco common stock.

The board of directors of Veeco believes that approval of this amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation is in the best interests of Veeco and Veeco's stockholders and determined that this amendment is advisable. The board of directors of Veeco unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" approval of the amendment to increase the authorized number of shares of Veeco common stock as described above at Veeco's special meeting. In the event that this proposed amendment and the proposed amendment to change the name of Veeco to Veeco FEI are not approved by Veeco's stockholders at the Veeco special meeting, the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation in effect as of the date hereof will remain in full force and effect.

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**AMENDMENT TO VEECO'S AMENDED AND RESTATED
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO CHANGE THE
NAME OF VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC. TO VEECO FEI INC.**

At the Veeco special meeting, the Veeco stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal, unanimously recommended and determined to be advisable by Veeco's board of directors, to amend Article 1 of Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. Veeco has agreed and is obligated to change its corporate name under the terms of the merger agreement.

Assuming the approval of the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the completion of the merger, it is anticipated that Veeco will file the amendment immediately after the closing of the merger. **A vote in favor of this proposal to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will not be deemed to be a vote to approve the issuance of shares in the merger, the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation relating to the increase in the authorized shares of Veeco common stock or the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan relating to the increase in shares of Veeco common stock issuable under the plan.**

If Veeco's stockholders do not approve the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Veeco could be deemed to be in violation of contractual provisions in the merger agreement which, if deemed material, could give rise to FEI's right to obtain damages under the merger agreement.

The full text of the proposed amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation is set forth in Appendix F-2 hereto and the description of the proposed amendment herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to such Appendix F-2.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock entitled to vote thereon will be required to amend Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc.

The board of directors of Veeco believes that approval of this amendment to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation is in the best interests of Veeco and Veeco's stockholders and determined that this amendment is advisable. The board of directors of Veeco unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" approval of the amendment to change the name of Veeco Instruments Inc. to Veeco FEI Inc. as described above at Veeco's special meeting. In the event that this proposed amendment and the proposed amendment to increase the number of authorized shares of Veeco common stock are not approved by Veeco's stockholders at the Veeco special meeting, the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation in effect as of the date hereof will remain in full force and effect.

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**AMENDMENT TO VEECO'S FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

On June 15, 1995, a majority of Veeco's stockholders adopted an employee stock purchase plan under which 250,000 shares of Veeco common stock were reserved for issuance to Veeco employees. On October 26, 2000, the Veeco board of directors adopted Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan. On October 24, 2002, the Veeco board of directors approved an amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, subject to the approval of Veeco's stockholders.

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At the Veeco special meeting, the Veeco stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal, unanimously recommended and determined to be advisable by Veeco's board of directors, to amend Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The amendment will increase the number of shares issuable under the existing plan by 500,000 shares to a total number of 750,000 shares of Veeco common stock. The plan currently provides for the issuance of an aggregate of 250,000 shares, of which 78,155 shares remain available for issuance. Based on employee participation levels so far in 2002, Veeco expects to exhaust the remaining available shares upon the annual purchase following the end of 2002. Absent the proposed amendment, Veeco may have to cut-back the employee participation levels so as to not exceed the number of shares available for issuance at the time of the annual purchase following the end of 2002. The Veeco board of directors believes that increasing the number of shares that may be purchased under the plan is necessary to permit broad participation by employees in the plan. In the judgment of the Veeco board of directors, having too few shares eligible for issuance under the plan would reduce the number of purchases that could be made under the plan and would therefore reduce the extent to which employees could participate in the plan. If the merger is completed, FEI employees would also be able to participate in the plan, and the need for additional shares available for issuance under the plan would be increased. **A vote in favor of this amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan will not be deemed to be a vote to approve the issuance of shares in the merger or the proposed amendments to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.**

Description of First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as Amended

The following is a summary of the plan as in effect on the date hereof as well as the amendment currently proposed. This summary of the existing plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the plan as previously filed by Veeco as an exhibit to its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000. Copies of the complete plan may be obtained in the manner described under "Where You Can Find More Information" below. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached as Appendix I to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. As this plan will be the employee stock purchase plan for the combined company following the merger, Veeco stockholders and FEI shareholders are encouraged to read the summary of the proposed plan.

Purpose and Eligibility. Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended, is intended to provide an incentive to eligible employees of Veeco and any direct or indirect subsidiary of Veeco to have a greater interest in Veeco's growth by providing them with the opportunity to purchase Veeco common stock at favorable prices by means of payroll deductions. Each employee of Veeco or an affiliate of Veeco whose customary employment is expected to be at least 20 hours per week and more than five months per year, other than an employee who owns beneficially (or holds options to purchase) five percent or more of Veeco's total combined voting power or value of all classes of stock, will be eligible to participate in the plan. The approximate number of persons eligible to participate is 1,100. If the merger occurs, approximately 2,600 persons will be eligible to participate.

Administration. The plan shall be administered by the compensation committee of the Veeco board of directors. The committee shall consist of at least three directors appointed by the Veeco board of directors. All members of the committee shall be "disinterested persons" within the meaning of

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Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act and "outside directors" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not be eligible to participate in the plan. Subject to the express provisions of the plan, the committee shall have authority to interpret the terms and provisions of the plan, to adopt, amend and repeal such rules, regulations, agreements and instruments for implementing and administering the plan as it deems necessary or advisable and to make all other determinations and take all other actions necessary or advisable for the implementation and administration of the plan. The committee may also delegate its administrative duties to such other persons as it deems appropriate in administering the plan. All decisions made by the committee shall be binding and conclusive on all persons who have an interest under the plan.

Deferral of Compensation. Each person electing to participate in the plan must file a payroll deduction authorization with the administrator of the plan named by the committee, or his or her delegate, which indicates the amount to be deducted from the participant's paychecks. This deduction must be between 1% and 10% of the participant's base pay or such other percentage as may be established by the administrator of the plan.

Offering and Purchase of Stock. Offering periods to purchase Veeco common stock will begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year. In the case of an employee who is eligible to participate in the plan after November 30 and before the following June 1, the initial offering period for such participant will be the six-month period beginning on the following July 1 and ending December 31.

During an offering period, the purchase price of the Veeco common stock shall be the lesser of:

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85% of the fair market value on the first business day of the offering period; and

85% of the fair market value on the last business day of the offering period.

Unless a participant elects to withdraw prior to the close of an offering period, a participant's election to purchase stock shall be deemed to be exercised automatically on the last day of the offering period.

The number of shares of Veeco common stock purchased by a participant upon exercise shall be equal to (i) the amount credited to a participant's account as of the close of the offering period divided by (ii) the purchase price per share of Veeco common stock. No participant shall be permitted to purchase stock with an aggregate fair market value in excess of \$25,000 for any given offering period. The plan provides that, if any balance remains credited to a participant's account after exercise of the participant's option, Veeco shall pay an amount to the participant equal to such balance.

Reduction and Discontinuation of Payroll Deductions. A participant may elect to reduce his or her level of payroll deductions during an offering period at any time prior to November 30. A participant may make only one such election during an offering period, absent specific approval by the administrator of the plan. A participant may elect to discontinue his or her payroll deductions during an offering period at any time prior to November 30. A participant who elects to discontinue payroll deductions for an offering period may not again resume payroll deductions for that offering period.

Withdrawal. A participant may withdraw from an offering at any time prior to November 30. A participant who withdraws from an offering may not again participate in that offering, but a participant's withdrawal will not have any effect upon such participant's eligibility to participate in any succeeding offering. Upon withdrawal from the plan, the balance in the participant's stock purchase account will be returned to the participant.

In the event that a participant's employment is terminated for any reason other than death prior to the close of an offering, the participant will be considered to have withdrawn from the offering. In the event that a participant's employment is terminated because of such participant's death prior to the close of an offering, such participant's beneficiary shall have the right to elect to:

Withdraw from the offering and receive payment of the amount credited to such participant's account under the plan; or

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Continue to participate in the offering and purchase shares with the amount credited to such participant's account as of the date of the death.

Adjustment. If the number of shares of Veeco common stock outstanding is increased or decreased or changed into or exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or other securities of Veeco or of another corporation by reason of reorganization, merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, stock split, reverse stock split, combination of shares, or dividend payable in shares of Veeco common stock, the number of shares for which offerings may be made under the plan shall be increased or decreased proportionately, as the case may be, and the committee shall make the appropriate adjustment in the number and kind and price of shares subject to offerings then outstanding and unexercised.

Amendment and Termination. Veeco's board of directors or the compensation committee may amend, modify or terminate the plan; *provided, however,* that the Veeco board of directors or the committee may not, without stockholder approval:

Increase the total amount of Veeco common stock that may be offered under the plan;

Withdraw the administration of the plan from the compensation committee; or

Permit any person, while a member of the compensation committee, to be eligible to participate in the plan.

Federal Income Tax Consequences. The following discussion is a brief summary of the principal United States federal income tax consequences under current federal income tax laws relating to awards under the plan. This summary is not intended to be complete and, among other things, does not describe state, local or foreign income and other tax consequences. **PARTICIPANTS IN THE PLAN ARE URGED TO**

CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN.

The plan is intended to qualify as an "employee stock purchase plan" within the meaning of Section 423(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and is not qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. No income will be taxable to a participant until the shares purchased under the plan are sold or otherwise disposed. If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of more than two years from the applicable offering date and more than one year from the date of transfer of the shares to the participant, then the participant generally will recognize ordinary income measured as the lesser of:

The excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time of this sale or disposition over the purchase price; or

An amount equal to 15% of the fair market value of the shares as of the date of grant; any additional gain or loss should be treated as long-term capital gain or loss.

If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before the expiration of this holding period, the participant will recognize ordinary income generally measured as the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date the shares are purchased over the purchase price; any additional gain or loss on a sale or disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. There are special rules for recognizing income that apply in the case of death. Veeco is not entitled to a deduction for amounts taxed as ordinary income or capital gain to a participant except to the extent ordinary income is recognized by participants upon a sale or disposition of shares prior to the expiration of the holding periods described above. In all other cases, no deduction is allowed to Veeco.

Plan Benefits. Because the number of shares of Veeco common stock to be granted in the future under the plan is contingent upon the number of employees who elect to participate in the plan, it is

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not possible to determine the benefits or the amounts received under the plan by Veeco's officers and employees.

A majority of the votes cast at Veeco's special meeting (including votes cast by proxy) must vote "FOR" the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan in order for the proposal to be approved by Veeco stockholders.

The Veeco board of directors believes that approval of the amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan is in the best interests of Veeco and Veeco's stockholders and determined that this proposal to adopt such plan is advisable. The Veeco board of directors unanimously recommends a vote "FOR" approval of the proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan. In the event that this proposed amendment to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan is not approved by Veeco's stockholders at the Veeco special meeting, Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan as in effect on the date hereof will remain in full force and effect.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements are based upon the historical consolidated financial statements and notes thereto (as applicable) of Veeco and FEI, which are incorporated by reference herein. The unaudited consolidated balance sheet gives pro forma effect to the merger as if it had been consummated on June 30, 2002 and combines Veeco's June 30, 2002 unaudited consolidated balance sheet with FEI's June 30, 2002 unaudited consolidated balance sheet. The unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations give pro forma effect to the merger as if it had been consummated on January 1, 2001 and combine Veeco's consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2001 with FEI's consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2001 and Veeco's unaudited consolidated statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and 2002, respectively, with FEI's unaudited consolidated statements of operations for the twenty-six weeks ended July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002, respectively. The pro forma adjustments are subject to change pending a final analysis of fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The impact of these changes could be material.

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In addition, on September 17, 2001, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco merged with and into Applied Epi, Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota. As a result of that merger, Applied Epi became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. The unaudited pro forma consolidated statements of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2001 and for the year ended December 31, 2001 give effect to the acquisition of Applied Epi by Veeco as if it occurred on January 1, 2001.

The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements are based upon the estimates and assumptions set forth in the notes to the unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements. The pro forma adjustments (including estimates and assumptions) made in connection with the preparation of the pro forma information are preliminary and have been made solely for purposes of preparing such pro forma information for illustrative purposes necessary to comply with the disclosure requirements of the SEC. The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements do not purport to be indicative of the results of operations for future periods or the consolidated financial position or results that actually would have been realized for the periods presented had Veeco and FEI been a single entity during these periods. The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements do not give effect to any synergies, cost savings or integration costs that may result from the integration of Veeco's and FEI's businesses. Costs associated with the Veeco FEI transaction related to restructuring and integration have not yet been determined. In addition, FEI's operating costs have increased and may further increase due to the termination (and expected termination) of some of the tangible and intangible benefits and arrangements provided to FEI by Philips. Certain of these benefits and arrangements terminated prior to June 30, 2002 and a portion of these increased costs resulting therefrom have already been incurred by FEI. FEI has also received payments described herein from Philips which have offset certain of these increased costs and have been recorded by FEI as a reduction in costs and operating expenses. The unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements exclude the effects of a portion of the additional operating costs which may be incurred in connection with the termination of certain arrangements between FEI and Philips, which costs cannot reasonably be estimated at this time. In addition, the unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements exclude the effect of a portion of the increased additional pension costs which will be incurred in connection with FEI's new collective bargaining agreements, which took effect September 1, 2001. For more information concerning these additional costs, see the sections titled "Risk Factors The combined company will be subject to increased operational costs and other risks because PBE no longer owns a majority of FEI's common stock" beginning on page 27 and "Relationship with Philips" beginning on page 100.

These unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the historical consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto of Veeco and FEI, which are incorporated by reference herein.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AT JUNE 30, 2002 (Dollars in thousands)

| | Historical | | | | | | | | | | Pro forma Combined |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Veeco | FEI | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | |
| Assets | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 221,343 | \$ 187,105 | | | | | | | | | \$ 408,448 |
| Short-term investments | | 61,522 | | | | | | | | | 61,522 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 73,026 | 91,916 | | | | | | | 14,404 | | 179,346 |
| Inventories | 104,163 | 84,707 | | | | 20,465 | | | | | 209,335 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 7,715 | 10,300 | | | | | | | | | 18,015 |
| Deferred income taxes | 54,167 | 13,104 | | | | | | | | | 67,271 |
| Total current assets | 460,414 | 448,654 | | | | 20,465 | | | 14,404 | | 943,937 |
| Property, plant & equipment at cost, net | 74,711 | 39,122 | | | | | | | | | 113,833 |
| Long-term investments | 30,453 | 48,640 | | | | | | | | | 79,093 |
| Goodwill | 125,585 | 32,674 | | | | 488,401 | | (32,674) | | | 613,986 |
| Other assets, net | 61,402 | 67,591 | | | | 229,994 | (35,920) | (28,272) | | | 294,795 |
| Total assets | \$ 752,565 | \$ 636,681 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 738,860 | \$ (35,920) | \$ (60,946) | \$ 14,404 | \$ | \$ 2,045,644 |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | Historical | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Current liabilities: | | | | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 21,105 | \$ 35,417 | | | | | | | \$ 56,522 |
| Accrued expenses | 44,605 | 33,615 | | 20,000 | | | | | 98,220 |
| Deferred revenue | | 26,033 | | | | | | | 26,033 |
| Deferred gross profit | 6,757 | | | | | 14,404 | (7,202) | | 13,959 |
| Income taxes payable | 6,078 | 17,930 | | | | | | | 24,008 |
| Other current liabilities | 3,519 | 23,561 | | | | | | | 27,080 |
| Total current liabilities | 82,064 | 136,556 | | 20,000 | | 14,404 | (7,202) | | 245,822 |
| Long-term debt | 234,729 | 175,000 | | | | | | | 409,729 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 1,716 | 2,791 | | | | | | | 4,507 |
| Deferred taxes | 10,208 | 4,079 | | | 87,961 | | (8,700) | | 93,548 |
| Stockholders' equity: | | | | | | | | | |
| Common stock | 291 | 320,001 | (320,001) | 441 | | | | | 732 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 360,951 | | | 906,446 | | | | | 1,267,397 |
| Retained earnings | 63,367 | 421 | (421) | | | | (35,920) | | 27,447 |
| Unamortized deferred compensation | | | | (1,661) | | | | | (1,661) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (761) | (1,051) | 1,051 | | | | | | (761) |
| Other components of stockholders' equity | | (1,116) | | | | | | | (1,116) |
| Purchase accounting elimination | | | 319,371 | (925,226) | (87,961) | 738,860 | (52,246) | 7,202 | |
| Total stockholders' equity | 423,848 | 318,255 | | (20,000) | (87,961) | 738,860 | (35,920) | (52,246) | 7,202 |
| Total liabilities & stockholders' equity | \$ 752,565 | \$ 636,681 | \$ | \$ | \$ 738,860 | \$ (35,920) | \$ (60,946) | \$ 14,404 | \$ 2,045,644 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements.

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**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001
(In thousands, except per share data)**

| | Historical Veeco(1) | Historical Applied Epi | Applied Epi Pro Forma Adjustments | Veeco Pre-FEI Pro Forma Results | Historical FEI | Pro Forma | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | Adjustments | Combined |
| Net sales | \$ 431,499 | \$ 50,952 | \$ | \$ 482,451 | \$ 376,004 | \$ | \$ 858,455 |
| Cost of sales | 249,846 | 26,524 | | 276,370 | 193,612 | | 469,982 |
| Gross profit | 181,653 | 24,428 | | 206,081 | 182,392 | | 388,473 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | | | |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 80,468 | 7,072 | | 87,540 | 71,620 | | 159,160 |
| Research and development expense | 58,735 | 4,531 | | 63,266 | 41,503 | | 104,769 |
| Amortization expense | 4,471 | 180 | 11,433 (I) | 16,084 | 6,757 | 27,267 (L) | 50,108 |
| Other expense (income), net | 2,336 | | | 2,336 | (212) | | 2,124 |
| Restructuring expense | 3,046 | | | 3,046 | | | 3,046 |
| Asset impairment charge | 3,418 | | | 3,418 | 3,718 | | 7,136 |
| | 1,200 | | | 1,200 | 3,438 | | 4,638 |

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| | | | | Veeco Pre-FEI Pro Forma Results | | Pro Forma | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|--|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Write-off of purchased in process technology | | | | | | | |
| Deferred compensation expense | | | | | | 1,108 (M) | 1,108 |
| Operating income (loss) | 27,979 | 12,645 | (11,433) | 29,191 | 55,568 | (28,375) | 56,384 |
| Interest (income) expense net | (637) | 924 | 1,308 (J) | 1,595 | 568 | | 2,163 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 28,616 | 11,721 | (12,741) | 27,596 | 55,000 | (28,375) | 54,221 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 5,780 | | (357)(K) | 5,423 | 22,494 | (9,930)(N) | 17,987 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | \$ 22,836 | \$ 11,721 | \$ (12,384) | \$ 22,173 | \$ 32,506 | \$ (18,445) | \$ 36,234 |
| Earnings per common share: | | | | | | | |
| Income per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.88 | | | \$ 0.74 | \$ 1.06 | | \$ 0.51 |
| Diluted income per common share from continuing operations | \$ 0.87 | | | \$ 0.73 | \$ 1.02 | | \$ 0.49 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 25,938 | | | 29,821 | 30,563 | | 71,234 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 26,275 | | | 30,465 | 31,986 | | 73,806 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements.

- (1) Historical Veeco data is derived from Veeco's year ended December 31, 2001 operating results, excluding the operating results of Applied Epi, which was merged with and into Veeco on September 17, 2001.

**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2001
(In thousands, except per share data)**

| | Historical | | Applied Epi Pro Forma Adjustments | Veeco Pre FEI Pro Forma Results | | Historical FEI | | Pro forma | |
|---|------------|-------------|---|--|------------|-------------------|----------|------------|--|
| | Veeco | Applied Epi | | Results | FEI | Adjustments | Combined | | |
| Net sales | \$ 237,481 | \$ 18,939 | \$ | \$ 256,420 | \$ 187,557 | \$ | \$ | \$ 443,977 | |
| Cost of sales | 125,652 | 10,252 | | 135,904 | 94,924 | | | 230,828 | |
| Gross profit | 111,829 | 8,687 | | 120,516 | 92,633 | | | \$ 213,149 | |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | | | | | | |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 41,848 | 3,713 | | 45,561 | 35,308 | | | 80,869 | |
| Research and development expense | 29,912 | 1,973 | | 31,885 | 20,470 | | | 52,355 | |
| Amortization expense | 2,317 | | 7,526 (I) | 9,843 | 3,186 | 13,826 (L) | | 26,855 | |
| Other expense (income), net | 1,632 | (37) | | 1,595 | (973) | | | 622 | |
| Restructuring expense | 1,000 | | | 1,000 | | | | 1,000 | |

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| | | | | | | | Pro forma | |
|---|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----|
| | | | | | | | 554 (M) | 554 |
| Deferred compensation expense | | | | | | | | |
| Asset impairment charge | | 720 | | 720 | 3,718 | | 4,438 | |
| Operating income (loss) | 35,120 | 2,318 | (7,526) | 29,912 | 30,924 | (14,380) | 46,456 | |
| Interest (income) expense, net | (1,164) | 598 | 654 (J) | 88 | 174 | | 262 | |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 36,284 | 1,720 | (8,180) | 29,824 | 30,750 | (14,380) | 46,194 | |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 12,593 | | (2,261)(K) | 10,332 | 11,959 | (5,033)(N) | 17,258 | |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | \$ 23,691 | \$ 1,720 | \$ (5,919) | \$ 19,492 | \$ 18,791 | \$ (9,347) | \$ 28,936 | |
| Earnings per common share: | | | | | | | | |
| Income per share from continuing operations | \$ 0.96 | | | \$ 0.68 | \$ 0.64 | | \$ 0.42 | |
| Diluted income per share from continuing operations | \$ 0.94 | | | \$ 0.66 | \$ 0.61 | | \$ 0.41 | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 24,722 | | | 28,605 | 29,359 | | 68,386 | |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 25,222 | | | 29,412 | 30,697 | | 71,006 | |

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**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2002
(In thousands, except per share data)**

| | Historical | | Pro Forma | |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | Veeco | FEI | Adjustments | Combined |
| Net sales | \$ 157,488 | \$ 172,379 | \$ | \$ 329,867 |
| Cost of sales | 88,551 | 92,619 | | 181,170 |
| Gross profit | 68,937 | 79,760 | | 148,697 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 38,372 | 35,300 | | 73,672 |
| Research and development expense | 27,257 | 21,326 | | 48,583 |
| Amortization expense | 6,919 | 2,408 | 14,604 (L) | 23,931 |
| Other (income) expense, net | (236) | 851 | | 615 |
| Restructuring expense | 1,887 | 1,117 | | 3,004 |
| Deferred compensation expense | | | 554 (M) | 554 |

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| | Historical | | Pro Forma | |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Operating (loss) income | (5,262) | 18,758 | (15,158) | (1,662) |
| Interest expense, net | 2,963 | 1,768 | | 4,731 |
| (Loss) income before income taxes | (8,225) | 16,990 | (15,158) | (6,393) |
| Income tax (benefit) provision | (3,454) | 6,201 | (5,305)(N) | (2,558) |
| (Loss) income from continuing operations | \$ (4,771) | \$ 10,789 | \$ (9,853) | \$ (3,835) |
| (Loss) earnings per common share: | | | | |
| (Loss) income per common share from continuing operations | \$ (0.16) | \$ 0.33 | | \$ (0.05) |
| Diluted (loss) income per common share from continuing operations | \$ (0.16) | \$ 0.32 | | \$ (0.05) |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 29,052 | 32,219 | | 72,709 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 29,052 | 33,421 | | 72,709 |

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements.

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NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 Pro forma Balance Sheet Adjustments

On July 11, 2002, Veeco, Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco, and FEI entered into a merger agreement providing for the merger of Venice Acquisition Corp., with and into FEI Company. Upon completion of the merger, FEI will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Veeco. The acquisition will be accounted for as a purchase. Under the merger agreement, FEI shareholders will receive an aggregate of approximately 44.1 million shares of Veeco common stock and exchange and assume options of FEI for options to purchase approximately 4.2 million shares of Veeco's common stock and approximately 0.4 million shares of Veeco common stock issuable to PBE in connection with the investor agreement. The assumed options and shares issuable to PBE will be recorded at fair value. Veeco will also incur approximately \$20.0 million of acquisition related transaction costs. The merger consideration is computed as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Fair market value of shares issued | \$ 844,037 |
| Fair value of stock options assumed | 62,850 |
| Transaction costs | 20,000 |
| Total purchase price | \$ 926,887 |

The fair market value of the shares issued is based upon the average closing market price of Veeco common stock during the five-day period surrounding the announcement of the merger. The fair value of stock options assumed is determined by using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model.

The fair value of the net assets acquired were estimated as follows for the purpose of preparing the pro forma balance sheet (dollars in thousands):

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Tangible assets | \$ 613,381 |
| In-process technology | 35,920 |
| Goodwill | 488,401 |
| Amortizable intangible assets | 194,074 |
| Total assets | 1,331,776 |
| Liabilities assumed | (404,889) |

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| | | |
|----------------------|----|---------|
| Total purchase price | \$ | 926,887 |
|----------------------|----|---------|

The fair value of the net assets acquired was established based upon the unaudited June 30, 2002 consolidated balance sheet of FEI, as well as certain assumptions made by Veeco management regarding the difference between the historical value and the fair value of the net assets acquired.

The following notes explain the pro forma adjustments. The pro forma information excludes the effect of the potential issuance of up to 4,788,470 shares of Veeco common stock, in the aggregate, upon the conversion of FEI's \$175 million principal amount of 5.5% convertible subordinated notes due August 15, 2008, which notes will become convertible into Veeco common stock at the time of the merger.

- (A) Adjustment to record the elimination of FEI's equity, including approximately \$320.0 million of common stock, approximately \$0.4 million of retained earnings and approximately \$1.1 million of other accumulated comprehensive loss.
- (B) Adjustment to record the purchase of FEI, which includes the issuance of 44,098,055 shares of common stock using a price of \$19.14 per share, which reflects the average price of Veeco's common stock during the five-day period surrounding the announcement of the merger, the value of approximately \$62.9 million of stock options being assumed, which was determined using the Black-Scholes model, the value of approximately \$1.7 million of unvested stock options recorded as deferred compensation and approximately \$20.0 million of estimated transaction costs.
- (C) Adjustment to record approximately \$88.0 million of estimated deferred tax liability in connection with the intangible assets acquired in the transaction.

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- (D) Adjustment to record the estimated step-up of inventory to its fair value of approximately \$20.5 million, acquired goodwill of approximately \$488.4 million and the acquired intangible assets of approximately \$230.0 million.
- (E) Adjustment to account for the estimated write-off of purchased in-process technology of approximately \$35.9 million, which will be charged to the post-merger statement of operations.
- (F) Adjustment to eliminate FEI's recorded goodwill of approximately \$32.7 million and amortizable intangible assets of approximately \$28.3 million and related deferred tax liabilities of approximately \$8.7 million, as of June 30, 2002.
- (G) Adjustment to record FEI's accounts receivable and deferred gross profit of approximately \$14.4 million to conform FEI's balance sheet presentation to Veeco's balance sheet presentation under SAB 101.
- (H) Adjustment to reduce FEI's recorded \$14.4 million of deferred gross profit by \$7.2 million, to its estimated fair value, which gives consideration to the relative value of progress toward completing installation and customer acceptance prior to the consummation date of the merger.

Note 2 Pro forma Statements of Operations Adjustments

Details of the pro forma adjustments relating to the Veeco FEI merger and the Veeco/Applied Epi merger are set forth below:

- (I) Adjustment to record the amortization expense related to the amortizable intangible assets acquired in the Applied Epi merger.
- (J) Adjustment to record the reduction of interest income, due to the use of \$32.7 million of cash related to the purchase of Applied Epi.

(K)

Adjustment to record an income tax benefit for Applied Epi and pro forma adjustments using a 35% tax rate. Prior to the Applied Epi merger, Applied Epi was an S Corporation and was not taxed at the corporate level.

(L)

Adjustment to record the amortization expense related to the estimated \$194.1 million of amortizable intangible assets acquired, which is allocated as follows; \$107.9 million to core technology, amortizable over six years; \$7.2 million to non-compete agreements, amortizable over three years; \$57.5 million to customer related intangibles comprised of customer lists, order backlog, customer contracts and related customer relationships and non-contractual customer relationships, amortizable over five years; and \$21.5 million to trademarks and trade names, amortizable over ten years. The fair value of the amortizable intangible assets is preliminary and cannot be finalized prior to completion of the merger. An analysis based upon Veeco's most recent acquisitions utilizing the purchase method of accounting was performed and the midpoint of that analysis was used to calculate the preliminary estimates. The useful lives utilized in the preliminary estimates range from three to ten years and also are based upon Veeco's most recent acquisitions. The final valuation will be based on the actual net intangible assets of FEI that exist as of the date of completion of the merger. If the final valuation of amortizable intangible assets is different by \$10.0 million from the preliminary estimate, the annual effect on earnings would be approximately \$1.1 million for each \$10.0 million change.

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(M)

Adjustment to record the amortization expense related to deferred compensation, which is being amortized over one and one half years.

(N)

Adjustment to tax effect each of the above pro forma adjustments, utilizing a 35% tax rate.

The pro forma adjustments in the statements of operations do not give effect to the impact on gross profit of the adjustment to increase inventory by \$20.5 million to its estimated fair value and the impact on sales and gross profit of the adjustment to reduce deferred gross profit by approximately \$7.2 million to its estimated fair value. Such adjustments, which are reflected in the June 30, 2002 balance sheet, are required under the purchase method of accounting in accordance with regulation S-X.

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COMPARISON OF RIGHTS OF VEECO STOCKHOLDERS AND RIGHTS OF FEI SHAREHOLDERS

This section describes some of the differences as well as some of the similarities between the rights of holders of Veeco common stock and those of holders of FEI common stock. While we believe that the description covers the material differences between the two, this summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you, including information set forth in the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco, Articles of Incorporation of FEI and bylaws of each company. You should carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other documents we refer to for a more complete understanding of the differences between the rights of holders of Veeco common stock and those of holders of FEI common stock. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference without charge by following the instructions in the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 134.

When Veeco and FEI complete the merger, FEI shareholders will become Veeco stockholders. FEI shareholders currently are governed by the Oregon Business Corporation Act and FEI's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Restated Bylaws. After the merger, the rights of FEI shareholders who receive common stock of Veeco will be governed by the Delaware General Corporation Law and Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws as in effect at the closing of the merger.

Description of Capital Stock

Veeco. Veeco's amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes Veeco to issue up to 60,500,000 shares of capital stock, consisting of two classes: 60,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 500,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 30,000 shares of which have been designated as series A junior participating preferred stock in connection with the Veeco stockholder

rights plan. With respect to Veeco's undesignated preferred stock, Veeco's board of directors is authorized, without stockholder approval, to designate one or more series of preferred stock and to determine the number of shares included in any series and the designation, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each such series and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof. On June 30, 2002, there were 29,134,679 shares of Veeco common stock and no shares of Veeco preferred stock issued and outstanding.

FEI. FEI's articles of incorporation authorize FEI to issue up to 45,500,000 shares of capital stock, consisting of two classes: 45,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value, and 500,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value per share. With respect to FEI's undesignated preferred stock, FEI's board of directors is authorized to designate one or more series of preferred stock and to determine the number of shares included in any series and the designation, preferences, limitations and relative rights of the shares of any series. The FEI board of directors is also authorized to increase or decrease the number of shares of any series of preferred stock subsequent to the issuance of shares of that series, subject to certain limitations. On June 30, 2002, there were 32,393,766 shares of FEI common stock and no shares of FEI preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Voting Rights

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that each Veeco stockholder has the right to one vote for each share of Veeco common stock registered in the stockholder's name on each matter submitted to a stockholder vote. Generally, other than the election of directors, who are elected by a plurality vote, and except as otherwise provided by the Delaware General Corporation Law, all matters to be voted on by Veeco stockholders must be approved by a majority of the votes cast. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a certificate of incorporation may allow cumulative voting for election of directors of a corporation or elections held under specified circumstances. Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting.

FEI. FEI's articles of incorporation provide that each FEI shareholder has the right to one vote for each share of FEI common stock registered in the shareholder's name on each matter submitted to

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a shareholder vote. The FEI bylaws specify that, other than the election of directors and except as otherwise provided by the FEI articles of incorporation or by the Oregon Business Corporation Act, all matters to be voted on by FEI shareholders will be approved if the votes cast by shares entitled to vote favoring the action exceed the votes cast opposing the action. Unless otherwise provided in the FEI articles of incorporation, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by shares entitled to vote in the election at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The Oregon Business Corporation Act provides that articles of incorporation may allow cumulative voting for elections of directors of a corporation. FEI's articles of incorporation do not provide for cumulative voting.

Stockholder Actions Generally

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that, at each meeting of stockholders, the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of 50% of the shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that, at each meeting of shareholders, the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Veeco. Under Delaware law, a special meeting of stockholders may be called by the board of directors or any other person as may be provided in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws. Veeco's bylaws provide that special meetings of the Veeco stockholders may be called at any time by Veeco's board of directors or by the President or Chief Executive Officer of Veeco and shall be called by the President, Chief Executive Officer or Secretary of Veeco upon the written request of a majority of Veeco's board of directors then in office or of 50% of the outstanding Veeco shares entitled to vote. Only business related to the purposes set forth in the notice of the meeting may be transacted at a special meeting.

FEI. Oregon law provides that a special meeting of shareholders may be called by the holders of at least ten percent (10%) of all the votes entitled to be cast on any issue proposed to be considered at the proposed special meeting, or by a corporation's board of directors, or by such other persons as are authorized under the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws. FEI's bylaws provide that special meetings of FEI shareholders may be called by the President or by the board of directors of FEI and shall be called by the President of FEI at the request of not less than one-tenth of all outstanding shares of FEI entitled to vote at the meeting.

Action by Written Consent in Lieu of a Stockholder Meeting

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Veeco. Under Delaware law, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, any action which may be taken at a meeting of stockholders may be taken without a meeting and without prior notice if a consent in writing is signed by the holders of outstanding shares having at least the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted. Veeco's bylaws provide that no action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of stockholders may be taken by written consent without a meeting.

FEI. Under Oregon law, any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the shareholders may be taken without a meeting if the action is taken by all shareholders entitled to vote on the action. The action must be evidenced by one or more written consents describing the action taken and signed by all the shareholders entitled to vote on the action. FEI's bylaws provide that action required or permitted by law to be taken at a shareholders' meeting may be taken without a meeting if the action is taken by all the shareholders entitled to vote on the action and evidenced by one or more written consents signed by all the shareholders entitled to vote on the action.

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Appraisal/Dissenters' Rights

Veeco. Under Delaware law, a stockholder of a corporation participating in certain major corporate transactions may, under varying circumstances, be entitled to dissenters' rights or to appraisal rights pursuant to which such stockholder may receive cash in the amount of the fair market value of the shares held by such stockholder (as determined by a court or by agreement of the corporation and the stockholder) in lieu of the consideration such stockholder would otherwise receive in the transaction. Under Delaware law, such fair market value is determined exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger or consolidation, and such appraisal rights are not available in the following situations:

With respect to the sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets of a corporation;

With respect to a merger or consolidation by a corporation the shares of which are either listed on a national securities exchange (including The Nasdaq National Market) or are held of record by more than 2,000 stockholders if such stockholders receive only shares of the surviving corporation or shares of any other corporation that are either listed on a national securities exchange (including The Nasdaq National Market) or held of record by more than 2,000 holders, plus cash in lieu of fractional shares of such corporation; or

To stockholders of a corporation surviving a merger if no vote of the stockholders of the surviving corporation is required to approve the merger under Delaware law.

FEI. Under Oregon law, a shareholder is entitled to dissent from, and obtain payment of the fair value of the shareholder's shares in the event of, any of the following corporate acts: (1) consummation of a plan of merger to which the corporation is a party if shareholder approval is required and the shareholder is entitled to vote on the merger or if the corporation is a subsidiary that is merged with its parent; (2) consummation of a plan of share exchange to which the corporation is a party as the corporation whose shares will be acquired, if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the plan; (3) consummation of a sale or exchange of all or substantially all of the property of the corporation other than in the usual and regular course of business if the shareholder is entitled to vote on the sale or exchange, unless the sale is for cash pursuant to which all or substantially all of the net proceeds will be distributed to shareholders within one year; (4) an amendment of the articles of incorporation that materially and adversely affects rights in respect of a dissenter's shares because it (A) alters or abolishes a preemptive right of the holder of the shares to acquire shares or other securities or (B) reduces the number of shares owned by the shareholder to a fraction of a share if the fractional share so created is to be acquired for cash under Oregon law; or (5) any corporate action taken pursuant to a shareholder vote to the extent the articles of incorporation, bylaws or a resolution of the board of directors provides that voting or nonvoting shareholders are entitled to dissent and obtain payment for their shares. Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, dissenters' rights do not apply to the holders of shares of any class or series if the shares of the class or series were registered on a national securities exchange or quoted on The Nasdaq National Market on the record date for the meeting of shareholders at which the corporate action giving rise to dissenters' rights is to be approved.

Record Date for Determining Stockholders

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that Veeco's board of directors may fix a record date that is not more than 60 nor less than 10 days before the date of a Veeco stockholders meeting or more than 60 days before any other action.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that FEI's board of directors may fix, in advance, a record date that is not more than 70 nor less than 10 days before the date of an FEI shareholders meeting. A determination of shareholders entitled to notice of or to vote at a shareholders meeting is effective for any adjournment of the meeting unless FEI's board of directors fixes a new record date, which it must do if the meeting is adjourned

to a date more than 120 days after the date fixed for the original

meeting. If a court orders a meeting adjourned to a date more than 120 days after the date fixed for the original meeting, it may provide that the original record date continue in effect or it may fix a new record date.

Notice of Meetings

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that written notice of each meeting of Veeco's stockholders shall be given to each Veeco stockholder entitled to vote at the meeting, except that:

It shall not be necessary to give notice to any Veeco stockholder who submits a signed waiver of notice before or after the meeting; and

No notice of an adjourned meeting need be given if the time and place are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken except that, if adjournment is for more than thirty days or if, after the adjournment, a new record date is fixed for the meeting.

Each notice of a meeting shall be given, personally or by mail, not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the meeting and shall state the time and place of the meeting, and unless it is the annual meeting, shall state at whose direction or request the meeting is called and the purposes for which it is called.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide for notice provisions similar to those of Veeco's bylaws with respect to meetings of FEI shareholders, although its bylaws specify that no notice of an adjourned meeting need be given unless the FEI board of directors fixes a new record date more than 120 days after the date fixed for the original meeting.

Annual Meeting

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws specify that the annual meeting of Veeco's stockholders shall be held at a place and time determined by Veeco's board of directors. At the Veeco annual meeting, Veeco's stockholders elect directors and transact any other business that is properly brought before the meeting and described in the notice of meeting.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that the annual meeting of FEI's shareholders shall be held on the third Wednesday in May in each year at 10:00 a.m., unless a different date and time are fixed by the FEI board of directors and stated in the notice of the meeting.

Number, Class and Term of Directors

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that Veeco's board of directors shall be divided into three classes with staggered three-year terms. As a result, only one of the three classes of Veeco's board of directors will be elected each year. Veeco's bylaws provide that the exact number of the directors on the board of directors shall be not less than three, nor more than fifteen, the exact number of which shall be determined from time to time by resolution of Veeco's board of directors. Directors shall be elected at each annual meeting of Veeco's stockholders and shall hold office until the election and qualification of his or her successor or until his or her earlier resignation or removal by vote of Veeco's stockholders. As of the date of the mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, Veeco's board of directors was comprised of nine directors.

Upon completion of the merger, the board of directors of Veeco FEI will be comprised of 13 individuals, seven of whom will be nominated by Veeco, five of whom will be nominated by FEI and one of whom will be nominated by PBE pursuant to the terms of an investor agreement among Veeco, FEI and PBE.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that FEI's board of directors must be composed of between six and eleven directors, as fixed by the FEI board of directors or shareholders. As of the date of the mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the FEI board of directors had eight directors. The FEI board of directors is not classified into separate classes. The directors are elected each year at the annual meeting of shareholders.

Election of Directors

Veeco and FEI. The holders of Veeco and FEI common stock elect all members of their respective boards of directors. Veeco and FEI directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors.

Resignation and Removal of Directors

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that any Veeco director may resign at any time upon written notice to the Chief Executive Officer or Secretary of Veeco and be removed, with cause, by vote of Veeco's stockholders.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that any director may be removed from the FEI board of directors at any meeting of the shareholders called for that purpose by a majority of the FEI common stock represented and entitled to vote at the meeting. Any director may resign by delivering written notice to the FEI board of directors, its chairperson or to FEI. Such resignation shall be effective:

On receipt;

Five days after its deposit in the United States mails; or

On the date shown on the return receipt, if sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and the receipt is signed by addressee, unless the notice specifies a later effective date.

Once delivered, a notice of resignation is irrevocable unless revocation is permitted by the FEI board of directors.

Board of Directors Vacancies

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws state that any vacancy on the Veeco board of directors, including any newly created Veeco directorship resulting from an increase in the number of Veeco directors, may be filled only by the vote of a majority of the remaining Veeco directors, though less than a quorum.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that vacancies on the FEI board of directors may be filled by the shareholders, the FEI board of directors or the vote of a majority of the remaining directors if the remaining directors constitute less than a quorum of the FEI board of directors or by a sole remaining director. A director so elected to fill a vacancy serves until the next annual meeting of shareholders and until the director's successor is elected and qualified.

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that annual meetings of the Veeco board of directors, for the election of officers and consideration of other matters, shall be held either:

Without notice immediately after the annual meeting of Veeco stockholders and at the same place; or

At such time and place as the chairman of the board shall determine, with notice of the time and place of the meeting of the Veeco board of directors being given to each Veeco director by mailing it to him at his residence or usual place of business at least three days before the meeting, or by delivering or telephoning or telecopying it to him at least two days before the meeting.

FEI. FEI's bylaws state that the annual meeting of the FEI board of directors shall be held without notice other than FEI's bylaws, immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of shareholders.

Notice of Special Meetings of the Board of Directors

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws state that special meetings of Veeco's board of directors may be called by the Chief Executive Officer of Veeco or by a majority of the entire Veeco board of directors. Notice of the time and place of each special meeting of Veeco's board of directors shall be given to each Veeco

director by mailing it to him at his residence or usual place of business at least three days before the meeting, or by delivering or telephoning or telecopying it to him at least two days before the meeting. Notice of a special meeting of Veeco's board of directors shall also state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

FEI. FEI's bylaws state that special meetings of the board of directors of FEI may be called at the direction of the President of FEI or by a majority of FEI directors then in office. Notice of the date, time and place of any special meetings of the FEI board of directors shall be given in a manner reasonably likely to be received at least three days prior to the meeting by any means provided by law. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the FEI board of directors need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting.

Board Action

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws provide that a majority of the entire board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. Action of the board of directors shall be authorized by the vote of a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote if there is a quorum, unless otherwise provided in Veeco's bylaws or by applicable law. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the directors present may adjourn any meeting from time to time until a quorum is present.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that a majority of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the FEI board of directors. The act of the majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the FEI board of directors, unless a different number is provided by law, or by FEI's articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Actions in Writing; Participation by Conference Telephone

Veeco and FEI. Both Veeco's and FEI's bylaws provide that:

Action by the board of directors and committees thereof may be taken without a meeting if all of the members of the board of directors or committee consent thereto in writing, and the writing is filed with the minutes of proceedings of the board of directors or the appropriate committee; and

Members of the board of directors or a committee thereof may participate in a meeting by means of a telephone conference or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.

Action by Committees

Veeco. Veeco's bylaws create the following committees, with the following powers and duties:

Compensation Committee The Veeco compensation committee shall be comprised of three or more Veeco directors. The Veeco compensation committee shall fix the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and such other executive officers as it shall determine, and determine and administer any stock option, stock appreciation or other incentive compensation programs of Veeco.

Audit Committee The Veeco audit committee shall be comprised of three or more Veeco directors who are not employees of Veeco. The Veeco audit committee shall have full corporate power and authority to act in respect of any matter which may develop or arise in connection with any audit or the maintenance of internal accounting controls or any other matter relating to Veeco's financial affairs. The Veeco audit committee shall review, at least once each fiscal year, the services performed and to be performed by Veeco's independent public accountants and the fees charged therefor, and, in connection therewith, consider the effect of any nonaudit services on the independence of such accountants. The Veeco audit committee shall also review with Veeco's independent public accountants and its internal audit department the general scope of their respective audit coverages, the procedure and internal accounting controls adopted by Veeco and any significant matters encountered by any of them.

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Nominating Committee The Veeco nominating committee shall be comprised of three or more directors. The Veeco nominating committee shall provide to the Veeco board of directors its recommendations regarding individuals to be considered for election as directors of Veeco at meetings of the Veeco stockholders and shall have such other powers and duties as may be determined by the Veeco board of directors from time to time.

Veeco's bylaws also provide that the Veeco board of directors may designate one or more directors as alternate members of any Veeco committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member. In the absence or disqualification of any member of a Veeco committee, the member or members present at a meeting of the committee and not disqualified, whether or not a quorum, may unanimously appoint another Veeco director to act at the meeting in place of the absent or disqualified member. All action of a Veeco committee shall be reported to the Veeco board of directors at its next meeting.

FEI. Unless FEI's articles of incorporation provide otherwise, FEI's bylaws authorize the FEI board of directors to create one or more committees and appoint members of the FEI board of directors to serve on them. Each committee shall have two or more members, who serve at the direction of the FEI board of directors. A majority of all directors in office must approve the creation of a committee and the appointment of its members. The creation of a committee, the delegation of authority to it or action by a committee shall not alone constitute compliance by a director with standards of conduct prescribed by law. No member of any committee shall continue to be a member thereof after ceasing to be an FEI director. The FEI board of directors shall have the power at any time to increase or decrease the number of members of any committee, to fill vacancies thereon, to change any member thereof and to change the functions or terminate the existence thereof.

A committee shall not have the authority of the FEI board of directors in reference to:

Authorizing dividends;

Approving or proposing to shareholders actions that the law requires to be approved by shareholders;

Filling vacancies on the FEI board of directors or on any of its committees;

Amending FEI's articles of incorporation;

Adopting, amending or repealing FEI's bylaws;

Approving a plan of merger not requiring shareholder approval;

Authorizing or approving reacquisition of shares, except according to a formula or method prescribed by the FEI board of directors; or

Authorizing or approving the issuance or sale or contract for sale of shares, or determining the designation and relative rights, preferences and limitations of a class or series of shares, except where the FEI board of directors has authorized a committee or a senior executive officer of FEI to do so within limits specifically prescribed by the FEI board of directors.

FEI has the following standing committees with the following powers and duties:

Audit Committee The audit committee makes recommendations concerning the engagement of the independent public accountants, reviews with the independent public accountants the plans and results of the audit engagement, approves professional services provided by the independent public accountants, reviews the independence of the independent public accountants, considers the range of the audit and non-audit fees and reviews the adequacy and completeness of FEI's internal accounting controls and financial statements.

Compensation Committee The compensation committee determines compensation for FEI's executive officers and administers FEI's stock incentive plans and employee stock purchase plan.

Nominating Committee The nominating committee reviews qualifications and makes recommendations to the board concerning nominees to the board of directors and board membership. The nominating committee has not put in place a procedure for considering nominees recommended by security holders.

Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Incorporation

Veeco. Section 242 of the Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes a corporation to amend its certificate of incorporation in any way so long as the certificate of incorporation, as amended, would only contain provisions lawful and proper for insertion in an original certificate of incorporation. Section 242 of the Delaware General Corporation Law requires that, to amend a certificate of incorporation:

The Veeco board of directors must approve a resolution describing the proposed amendment and determine that the proposed amendment is advisable; and

A majority of the outstanding stock entitled to vote on the proposed amendment must approve the amendment at a special or annual meeting of the stockholders.

FEI. The FEI board of directors may make specified minor changes to FEI's articles of incorporation without shareholder action. In general, other amendments to FEI's articles of incorporation must be recommended to FEI shareholders by the FEI board of directors and approved by a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by any voting group with which the amendment would create dissenters' rights and a majority of the shares that have a right to vote on the amendment, unless a higher percentage is specified by the Oregon Business Corporation Act, FEI's articles of incorporation or the FEI board of directors.

Amendment of Bylaws

Veeco and FEI. The bylaws of both Veeco and FEI provide that FEI's and Veeco's respective boards of directors have the power to adopt, amend or repeal their respective bylaws. The stockholders of Veeco and the shareholders of FEI also have the power to adopt, amend or repeal their respective bylaws. The bylaws of Veeco FEI will require a vote of two-thirds of the entire board of directors to amend, alter or repeal the provisions of Veeco FEI's bylaws relating to the resignation and removal of, and the roles of, the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman.

Dividends and Repurchase of Shares

Veeco. Delaware law permits a corporation to declare and pay dividends out of surplus or, if there is no surplus, out of net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or for the preceding fiscal year. If the amount of capital of the corporation following the declaration and payment of the dividend is less than the aggregate amount of the capital represented by the issued and outstanding stock of all classes having a preference upon the distribution of assets, the directors may not declare and pay out a dividend from the corporation's net profits. In addition, Delaware law generally provides that a corporation may redeem or repurchase its shares only if the capital of the corporation is not impaired and such redemption or repurchase would not impair the capital of the corporation.

FEI. Under Oregon law, the board of directors of a corporation may authorize and the corporation may make distributions (including dividends) to shareholders only if after giving effect to the distribution (1) the corporation would be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business and (2) the corporation's total assets would at least equal the sum of the total liabilities plus, unless the corporation's articles of incorporation permit otherwise, the amount that would be needed if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution to satisfy the

preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Limitation of Director Liability

Veeco and FEI. The Veeco certificate of incorporation and the FEI bylaws limit the liability of Veeco's and FEI's respective directors to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law and Oregon Business Corporation Act, respectively.

Indemnification

Veeco. Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws provide that its directors, officers, employees and agents shall be indemnified to the fullest extent authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law.

FEI. FEI's bylaws provide that FEI shall indemnify to the fullest extent not prohibited by law any current or former officer or director who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to an action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or otherwise (including an action, suit or proceeding by or in the right of FEI) by reason of the fact that the person is or was acting as a director, officer or agent of FEI or as a fiduciary within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to any employee benefit plan of FEI, or serves or served at the request of FEI as a director or officer, or as a fiduciary of an employee benefit plan, of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in the official capacity of the person indemnified and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

Interested Director Transactions

Veeco. The Veeco amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not specifically address interested director transactions. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, certain contracts or transactions in which one or more of the directors of Veeco has an interest are void or voidable unless:

The stockholders of Veeco approve the contract or transaction after full disclosure of material facts;

The Veeco board of directors approves the transaction after full disclosure of material facts and the transaction is fair, and approved by a majority of the disinterested directors of Veeco, even though less than a quorum; or

The contract or transaction must have been fair to Veeco at the time it was authorized, approved or ratified, by Veeco's board of directors, a committee, or the stockholders.

FEI. The FEI articles of incorporation do not specifically address interested director transactions. Under the Oregon Business Corporation Act, a conflict of interest transaction is not voidable by FEI solely because of a director's interest in the transaction if:

The material facts of the transaction and the director's interest were disclosed to the FEI board of directors or a committee thereof and the transaction has been authorized, approved or ratified by FEI's board of directors or a committee thereof; or

The transaction was fair to FEI.

Interested Stockholder Transactions

Veeco and FEI. Veeco and FEI are subject to the provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the Oregon Business Corporation Act, respectively, which both prohibit a corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for three years following the date the stockholder became an interested stockholder. The Delaware General Corporation Law specifically excepts such business combinations where:

Prior to the date the stockholder became an interested stockholder, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

Upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction began; or

On or following the date the stockholder became an interested stockholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder.

A business combination is defined to include:

Any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

Any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

Subject to limited exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

Any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

The receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

Generally, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with its affiliates and associates, owns 15% or more of the corporation's voting stock or owned 15% of such voting stock within three years before the proposed business combination, or is affiliated with the corporation.

Although the Oregon business combination statute generally replicates Delaware's business combination statute, the Oregon statute omits a significant provision dealing with competitive bidding contests for corporate control. Section 203(b)(6) of the Delaware General Corporation Law generally relieves a bidder from the restrictions of the business combination statute if the board of directors has approved or not opposed a combination with a competing bidder. The basic policy behind Section 203(b)(6) is that once the board of directors has decided to sell the corporation or a majority of its assets or has approved, or not opposed, a tender or exchange offer for 50% or more of the corporation's outstanding stock, the stockholders of the corporation are benefited by the promotion of bidding contests. Section 203(b)(6) allows a bidder who announces a transaction subsequent to the public announcement of a management-approved transaction and prior to the completion or abandonment of the approved transaction to be free of the requirements of Section 203.

Oregon also has enacted a control share statute that is contained in the Oregon Business Corporation Act. The Oregon Control Share Act provides that "control shares" of a corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except as granted by the shareholders of

the corporation. "Control shares" are shares which, when added to shares then owned or controlled by a shareholder, increase the shareholder's control of voting power above one of three thresholds:

More than one-fifth of the outstanding voting power of the corporation;

More than one-third of the outstanding voting power of the corporation; or

More than one-half of the outstanding voting power of the corporation.

A majority of the votes cast by holders of shares entitled to vote, excluding shares voted or controlled by the acquiring person and officers and directors, must approve voting rights for shares acquired in a control share acquisition. No such approval, however, is required for gifts or other transactions not involving consideration, for a merger to which the corporation is a party, or other transactions described in the Oregon Control Share Act.

Submission for shareholder consideration of a resolution to grant voting rights to control shares must be preceded by the filing with the corporation of a statement by the acquiring person providing certain specified information. If the acquiring person requests a special meeting of shareholders when it delivers its statement and submits an undertaking to pay the corporation's expenses, the corporation shall call a special meeting to consider solely the voting rights to be accorded the voting shares acquired in the control share acquisition, not later than 10 days from the date of receipt of the acquiring person's statement. Unless the acquiring person agrees otherwise in writing, the special meeting of shareholders shall be held no sooner than 30 days and no later than 50 days after receipt by the corporation of the acquiring person's statement. If no request for a special meeting of shareholders is made in the acquiring person's statement, the board of directors shall present to the next annual or special meeting of shareholders occurring more than 60 days after the filing of the acquiring person's statement, the voting rights to be accorded the voting shares acquired in the control share acquisition.

Unless otherwise provided in a corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws, if control shares acquired in a control share acquisition are accorded full voting rights and the acquiring person has acquired a majority of all voting power of the corporation, the shareholders of the corporation, other than the acquiring person, have dissenters' rights and shall be entitled to obtain the fair value of the holder's shares. "Fair value" means a value not less than the highest price paid per share by the acquiring person in the control share acquisition.

Liquidation

Veeco and FEI. Under both the Delaware General Corporation Law and the Oregon Business Corporation Act, in the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of a corporation, after payment of any amounts owed to creditors, subject to preferences of any outstanding preferred stock, the remaining assets of the corporation will be divided equally, on a share for share basis, among the holders of common stock of the corporation.

Rights Plan

Veeco. Veeco and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as rights agent, entered into a rights agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001. Pursuant to the rights agreement, on March 13, 2001 Veeco's board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one right for each outstanding share of Veeco common stock to stockholders of record at the close of business on March 30, 2001. Each right entitled the registered holder to purchase from Veeco a unit consisting of one ten-thousandth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, at a purchase price of \$200 per unit.

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Subject to certain exceptions specified in the rights agreement, the rights are separate from the Veeco common stock and a distribution date will occur upon the earlier of:

10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has acquired beneficial ownership of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco's common stock; or

10 business days following the commencement of a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person or group acquiring 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco's common stock.

The rights are not exercisable until the distribution date and will expire on March 30, 2011, unless such date is extended or the rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by Veeco.

If a person acquires 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco's common stock, except pursuant to an offer for all outstanding shares of common stock that the independent directors determine to be fair and not inadequate to, and to otherwise be in the best interests of Veeco and its stockholders, after receiving advice from one or more investment banking firms, then each holder of a right will have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of Veeco) having a value equal to two times the

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exercise price of the right. All rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the rights agreement) were beneficially owned by the person who acquired 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock become null and void.

If, at any time following the date of public announcement that a person has acquired 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco common stock:

Veeco engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which Veeco is not the surviving corporation (other than in limited circumstances);

Veeco engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which Veeco is the surviving corporation and the common stock of Veeco is changed or exchanged; or

50% or more of Veeco's assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred,

then each holder of a right (except rights which have previously been voided as set forth above) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the right.

At any time after a person acquires 15% or more of the outstanding shares of Veeco's common stock and prior to the acquisition by such person or group of fifty percent (50%) or more of the outstanding common stock, the Veeco board of directors may exchange the rights (other than rights owned by such person or group which have become void), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one ten-thousandth of a share of preferred stock (or of a share of a class or series of Veeco's preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per right (subject to adjustment).

In certain circumstances, Veeco may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.01 per right (payable in cash, common stock or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Veeco board of directors). Immediately upon the action of the Veeco board of directors ordering redemption of the rights, the rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of rights will be to receive the \$0.01 redemption price.

FEI. FEI does not have a shareholder rights plan in place.

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EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, have audited Veeco's consolidated financial statements and schedule included in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, as set forth in their report, which is incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and which is based in part on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent auditors. Veeco's consolidated financial statements and schedule are incorporated by reference in reliance on such reports, given on the authority of such firms as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of Applied Epi and subsidiaries as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to Veeco's Amendment No. 3 to its Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on November 30, 2001, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their report, incorporated by reference herein, and has been incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements and financial statement schedule incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus from FEI Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in its reports, which are incorporated by reference herein and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon its authority as an expert in accounting and auditing.

LEGAL MATTERS

Kaye Scholer LLP will provide a legal opinion as to the legality of the shares of Veeco common stock offered under this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Kaye Scholer LLP will pass upon certain federal income tax consequences of the merger. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, will pass upon certain federal income tax consequences of the merger.

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**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS
JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS**

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates documents by reference which are not presented in or delivered with it.

All documents filed by Veeco and FEI under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, after the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and before the Effective Date, are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus and will constitute a part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus from the date of filing of those documents.

You should rely only on the information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or information to which we have referred you. Neither FEI nor Veeco has authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different.

Veeco filed the Veeco registration statement on Form S-4 to register with the SEC the shares of Veeco common stock to be issued to FEI shareholders in the merger. This joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part of that registration statement and constitutes a prospectus of Veeco, as well as a proxy statement of Veeco and FEI for both the Veeco special meeting of stockholders and the FEI special meeting of shareholders.

As allowed by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, this joint proxy statement/prospectus does not contain all the information you can find in the Veeco registration statement or the exhibits to the registration statement. The Securities and Exchange Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that Veeco and FEI have previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These documents contain important information about Veeco and FEI and their respective financial conditions.

| VEECO SEC FILINGS | PERIOD, FILING OR EFFECTIVE DATE |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Annual Report on Form 10-K | Year ended December 31, 2001, filed on March 27, 2002 |
| Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q | Quarterly period ended March 31, 2002, filed on May 9, 2002 and quarterly period ended June 30, 2002 filed on August 14, 2002 |
| Reports on Form 8-K | Filed on September 14, 2001, September 21, 2001, December 26, 2001, July 12, 2002, August 19, 2002 and September 18, 2002 |
| Reports on Form 8-K/A | Filed on October 1, 2001, October 2, 2001, November 30, 2001 and July 22, 2002 |
| Registration Statement on Form 8-A | Effective on November 29, 1994 |
| Registration Statement on Form 8-A | Effective on March 15, 2001 |
| Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A | Effective on September 21, 2001 |
| Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A | Effective on August 8, 2002 |

| FEI SEC FILINGS | PERIOD, FILING OR EFFECTIVE DATE |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Annual Report on Form 10-K | Year ended December 31, 2001, filed on April 1, 2002 |
| Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q | Quarterly period ended March 31, 2002, filed on May 15, 2002 and quarterly period ended June 30, 2002, filed on August 14, 2002 |
| Report on Form 8-K | Filed on July 15, 2002, August 19, 2002 and September 19, 2002 |
| Registration Statement on Form 8-A | Effective on May 31, 1995 |

Veeco has supplied all information contained or incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus relating to Veeco, and FEI has supplied all such information relating to FEI.

All documents subsequently filed by FEI or Veeco pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the date on which the latest to occur of the FEI special meeting of shareholders or Veeco special meeting of stockholders is to be held, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

To the extent that any statement in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is inconsistent with any statement that is incorporated by reference, the statement in this joint proxy statement/prospectus will control. The incorporated statement will not be deemed, except as modified or superseded, to be a part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about Veeco and FEI that has not been included or delivered with this prospectus. The documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus are available from Veeco or FEI upon request. We will provide to you without charge, upon your written or oral request, a copy of all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, except for exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **You should make any request for documents by _____, 2002 to ensure timely delivery of the documents.**

Reports, proxy statements and other information regarding FEI or Veeco may be inspected at:

The National Association of Securities Dealers
1735 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Requests for documents relating to Veeco should be directed to either:

Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc.
17 State Street, 28th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 805-7000

or

Veeco Instruments Inc.
Investor Relations
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 677-0200, Ext. 1403

Requests for documents relating to FEI should be directed to either:

Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc.
17 State Street, 28th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 805-7000

or

FEI Company
Investor Relations
7451 NW Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503) 640-7500, Ext. 7527

Veeco and FEI each file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these reports, proxy statements and other information may be read and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Securities and Exchange Commission at:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Judiciary Plaza | Citicorp Center |
| Room 1204 | 500 West Madison Street |
| 450 Fifth Street, N.W. | Suite 1400 |
| Washington, D.C. 20549 | Chicago, Illinois 60661 |

Copies of these materials can also be obtained by mail at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20549 or by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may obtain information on the operations of the Public Reference Room by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding each of us. The address of this website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Veeco has filed a registration statement on Form S-4 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to Veeco common stock to be issued to FEI shareholders in the merger. This joint proxy statement/prospectus constitutes the prospectus of Veeco filed as part of that registration statement on Form S-4. This joint proxy statement/prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in that registration statement on Form S-4 because some parts of the registration statement are omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may inspect and copy Veeco's registration statement on Form S-4 and its exhibits at any of the addresses listed above.

OTHER MATTERS

Deadline for Veeco Annual Meeting Proxy Proposals

Veeco stockholder proposals intended to be included in the proxy statement and form of proxy for Veeco's annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2003, in addition to meeting certain eligibility requirements established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, must be in writing and received by the Secretary of Veeco at Veeco's principal executive offices on or before December 13, 2002. Alternate notice deadlines apply if the date of Veeco's annual meeting differs by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's annual meeting.

Deadline for FEI Annual Meeting Proxy Proposals

As a result of the merger, FEI does not anticipate holding its 2003 annual meeting of shareholders. If such meeting is held, FEI shareholder proposals intended to be included in the proxy statement and form of proxy for FEI's annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2003, in addition to meeting certain eligibility requirements established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, must be in writing and received by the Secretary of FEI at FEI's principal executive offices on or before December 16, 2002. If notice of a shareholder proposal to be raised at FEI's 2003 annual shareholders meeting is received at the principal executive offices of FEI after March 1, 2003 (45 days before the month and date in

2002 corresponding to the date on which FEI mailed its proxy materials for the 2002 annual meeting), such proposal will be considered untimely. Alternate notice deadlines apply if the date of FEI's annual meeting differs by more than 30 days from the date of the previous year's annual meeting.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell, or solicitation of an offer to purchase, the Veeco common stock or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom or from whom it is unlawful to make the offer, solicitation of an offer or proxy solicitation in that jurisdiction. Neither the delivery of this joint proxy statement/prospectus nor any distribution of securities means, under any circumstances, that there has been no change in the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or in Veeco's or FEI's affairs since the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus with respect to FEI and its subsidiaries was provided by FEI and the information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus with respect to Veeco and its subsidiaries was provided by Veeco.

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

AMONG

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.,

VENICE ACQUISITION CORP.

AND

FEI COMPANY

July 11, 2002

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AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

This AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER (this "Merger Agreement") is made as of July 11, 2002, by and among Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Veeco"), Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco ("Acquisition"), and FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI").

WHEREAS, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth herein and in accordance with the provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL") and the Oregon Business Corporation Act (the "OBCA"), Veeco, FEI and Acquisition are entering into a business combination pursuant to which Acquisition will merge with and into FEI, with the result that FEI shall be the surviving corporation and shall become a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco (the "Merger"), all upon the terms and conditions set forth herein.

WHEREAS, the Boards of Directors of FEI, Veeco and Acquisition have (i) determined that the Merger is consistent with and in furtherance of their long-term business strategies and fair to, advisable and in the best interests of their respective stockholders; (ii) approved this Merger Agreement and all other agreements and transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement; and (iii) in the case of the Board of Directors of FEI, determined to recommend that its stockholders vote to approve the Merger, and, in the case of the Board of Directors of Veeco, determined to recommend that its stockholders vote to approve the issuance of the Veeco Shares in the Merger.

WHEREAS, Veeco has entered into those certain Voting Agreements in the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements"), dated as of the date hereof, with the stockholders of FEI listed on Schedule A to this Merger Agreement. Pursuant to the FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements, such stockholders of FEI have granted to Veeco irrevocable proxies to vote the shares of FEI Common Stock (as defined below) held by them in favor of approving the Merger, and against any alternative proposals, action, failure to act, or agreement that would result in a breach of any covenant, representation or agreement of FEI under this Merger Agreement.

WHEREAS, FEI has entered into those certain Voting Agreements in the forms attached hereto as Exhibit B (the "Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements"), dated as of the date hereof, with the stockholders of Veeco listed on Schedule B to this Merger Agreement. Pursuant to the Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements, such stockholders of Veeco have granted to FEI irrevocable proxies to vote the Veeco Shares (as defined below) held by them in favor of approving the issuance of the Veeco Shares in the Merger, and against any alternative proposals, action, failure to act, or agreement that would result in a breach of any covenant, representation or agreement of Veeco under this Merger Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Merger is intended to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code (as defined below).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

1.01 Certain Definitions. For purposes of this Merger Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Acquisition" shall have the meaning set forth in the introductory paragraph of this Merger Agreement.

"Affiliate" of any Person shall mean, with respect to any Person, an affiliate of such Person within the meaning of Rule 405 promulgated under the Securities Act.

"Articles of Merger" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.02.

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"Assumed Purchase Right" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.06(a).

"Benefit Plan" shall mean, with respect to any Person, any employee benefit plan, program, policy, practice, agreement, contract or other arrangement providing benefits to any current or former employee, officer or director of such Person or any of its ERISA Affiliates or any beneficiary or dependent thereof that is sponsored or maintained by such Person or any of its ERISA Affiliates or to which such Person or any of its ERISA Affiliates contributes or is obligated to contribute, whether or not written, including any employee welfare benefit plan within the meaning of Section 3(1) of ERISA, any employee pension benefit plan within the meaning of Section 3(2) of ERISA (whether or not such plan is subject to ERISA), any employment or severance agreement, and any bonus, incentive, deferred compensation, vacation, stock purchase, stock option, severance, change of control or fringe benefit plan, program or policy.

"business day" shall mean any day other than Saturday, Sunday or other day on which commercial banks in New York, New York are authorized or required by law to close.

"Closing" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.03(a).

"Closing Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.03(a).

"Closing Price Per Share" shall mean the closing price per Veeco Share as reported by the NASDAQ on the trading day immediately preceding the Closing Date.

"Code" shall mean the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or any successor statute thereto.

"Consent" shall mean any approval, permit, consent, ratification, permission, waiver or authorization (including any License or governmental authorization).

"Constituent Corporations" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.01.

"Contract" shall mean any agreement, arrangement, commitment, understanding, indemnity, indenture, instrument or lease, including any and all amendments, supplements, and modifications (whether oral or written) thereto, whether or not in writing.

"Controlled Group Liability" shall mean any and all liabilities (a) under Title IV of ERISA, other than for payment of premiums to the PBGC (including without limitation on account of a complete or partial withdrawal from, or unpaid contribution to, a "multiemployer plan" within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA), (b) under Section 302 of ERISA, (c) under Sections 412 and 4971 of the Code, (d) for violation of the continuation coverage requirements of Section 601 et seq. of ERISA and Section 4980B of the Code or the group health requirements of Section 701 et seq. of ERISA, or the provisions of law enacted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, and (e) under corresponding or similar provisions of foreign laws or regulations.

"DGCL" shall have the meaning set forth in the first WHEREAS clause to this Merger Agreement.

"Effective Time" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.02.

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"Environment" shall mean the soil, land surface or subsurface strata, surface waters (including navigable waters, ocean waters, streams, ponds, drainage basins and wetlands), groundwaters, drinking water supply, stream sediments, ambient air (including indoor air), plant and animal life, and any other environmental medium or natural resource.

"Environmental Laws" shall mean any foreign, state, federal or local laws, ordinances, codes, regulations, statutes and orders promulgated by any Governmental Authority relating to Hazardous Substances, pollution, natural resources, protection of the Environment or public health and safety, including, without limitation, laws and regulations relating to the use, treatment, storage, release, disposal or transportation of Hazardous Substances or the handling and disposal of medical and biological waste.

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"Environmental Permits" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.15(a).

"Equity Securities" shall mean any (i) capital stock or any securities representing any other equity interest or (ii) any securities convertible into or exchangeable for capital stock or any other equity interest, or any other rights, warrants or options to acquire any of the foregoing securities.

"ERISA" shall mean the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

"ERISA Affiliate" shall mean with respect to any Person (a) any corporation that is a member of a controlled group of corporations, within the meaning of Section 414(b) of the Code, of which that Person is a member, (b) any trade or business (whether or not incorporated) that is a member of a group of trades or businesses under common control, within the meaning of Section 414(c) of the Code, of which that Person is a member, and (c) any member of an affiliated service group, within the meaning of Section 414(m) and (o) of the Code, of which that Person or any entity described in clause (a) or (b) is a member.

"Exchange Act" shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

"Exchange Agent" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.08(a).

"Exchange Fund" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.08(a).

"Exchange Ratio" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.06(a).

"Existing Policy" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.08(b).

"FEI" shall have the meaning set forth in the introductory paragraph to this Merger Agreement.

"FEI Acquisition Proposal" shall mean any offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest (other than an offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest by Veeco) contemplating or otherwise relating to any FEI Acquisition Transaction.

"FEI Acquisition Transaction" shall mean any transaction or series of related transactions (other than the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement) involving:

(a) any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, recapitalization, business combination, issuance of securities, purchase or acquisition of securities, tender offer, exchange offer or other similar transaction (i) in which FEI or any other Material FEI Entity is a constituent corporation, (ii) in which a Person or "group" (as defined and described under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder) of Persons directly or indirectly acquires beneficial or record ownership of securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of FEI or another Material FEI Entity, or (iii) in which FEI or any other Material FEI Entity issues securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of FEI or such Material FEI Entity;

(b) any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, license, acquisition or disposition of any business or businesses or assets (other than in the ordinary course of business) that constitute or account for 15% or more of the consolidated net revenues, net income or assets (measured by fair market value) of FEI and the other FEI Entities, on a consolidated basis; or

(c) any liquidation or dissolution of FEI.

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"FEI Authorizations" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.06(b).

"FEI Balance Sheet" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.05.

"FEI Balance Sheet Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.11.

"FEI Benefit Plan" shall mean any Benefit Plan maintained or contributed to by FEI, a Subsidiary of FEI or an ERISA Affiliate of either, or to which FEI, a Subsidiary of FEI or an ERISA Affiliate of either is required to contribute.

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"FEI Board Recommendation" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.22(b).

"FEI's Broker" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.16.

"FEI Common Stock" shall mean the common stock of FEI, no par value per share.

"FEI Confidential IP Information" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.13(f).

"FEI Contract" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.08(a).

"FEI Convertible Debt" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.02(b).

"FEI Disclosure Schedule" shall mean the disclosure schedule that has been prepared by FEI in accordance with the requirements of Section 10.07 hereof and that has been delivered by FEI to Veeco on the date of this Merger Agreement.

"FEI Entities" shall mean FEI and each of its Subsidiaries.

"FEI ESPP" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.06(a).

"FEI Financial Statements" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.04.

"FEI Insider" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.24.

"FEI Intellectual Property" shall mean all Intellectual Property used in or necessary for the conduct of FEI's and its Subsidiaries' businesses as currently conducted.

"FEI Options" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.02(b).

"FEI-Owned IP" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.13(c).

"FEI Rights Agreement" shall mean any preferred stock rights agreement (commonly known as a "poison pill") entered into or put in place by FEI.

"FEI SEC Documents" shall mean each statement, report, form, schedule, registration statement (including the related prospectus in the form filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act) and proxy statement or information statement, and all other filings filed with the SEC by FEI since January 1, 1999.

"FEI Stock Certificate" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.07.

"FEI Stockholders' Meeting" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.22(a).

"FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements" shall have the meaning set forth in the third WHEREAS clause to this Merger Agreement.

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"FEI Triggering Event" shall be deemed to have occurred if: (i) the Board of Directors of FEI shall have failed to recommend that FEI's stockholders vote to approve the Merger, or shall have withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to Veeco the FEI Board Recommendation; (ii) FEI shall have failed to include in the Joint Proxy Statement the FEI Board Recommendation; (iii) the Board of Directors of FEI shall have approved, endorsed or recommended any FEI Acquisition Transaction; (iv) FEI shall have entered into any letter of intent or similar document or any Contract providing for any FEI Acquisition Transaction; (v) FEI shall have failed to hold the FEI Stockholders' Meeting in accordance with Section 5.22; (vi) FEI shall have failed to prepare and mail to its stockholders the Joint Proxy Statement in accordance with Section 5.21; (vii) a tender or exchange offer relating to FEI's securities shall have been commenced by a Person unaffiliated with Veeco, and FEI shall not have sent to its stockholders, pursuant to Rule 14e-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act, within ten business days after such tender or exchange offer is first published, sent, given or otherwise commenced, a statement disclosing that the Board of Directors of FEI recommends rejection of such tender or exchange offer; (viii) the Board of Directors of FEI shall have granted any approval or taken any other step to exempt any transaction (other than the Merger and the other transactions with Veeco and Acquisition contemplated by this Merger Agreement) from the requirements and provisions of Section 835 of the OBCA or other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations; (ix) FEI's Board of

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Directors shall have amended or resolved to amend the FEI Rights Agreement, if in effect, in a manner so as to render it inapplicable to any FEI Acquisition Transaction (other than with respect to the Merger and other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement) or (x) any of the FEI Entities shall have violated in a material manner any of the restrictions set forth in Section 5.16.

"Foreign Continuing Employees" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.07(d).

"Form S-4 Registration Statement" shall mean the registration statement on Form S-4 to be filed with the SEC by Veeco in connection with the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger, as said registration statement may be amended from time to time prior to or after the time it is declared effective by the SEC.

"GAAP" shall mean United States generally accepted accounting principles.

"Governmental Authority" shall mean any government or any agency, bureau, board, commission, court, department, official, political subdivision, tribunal or other instrumentality of any government, whether federal, state or local, domestic or foreign.

"Hazardous Substances" shall mean (i) any waste, substance or material that is prohibited, limited, or regulated by any Environmental Law, or that has been designated by any Governmental Authority to be radioactive, toxic, hazardous or otherwise a danger to health, reproduction or the environment; (ii) asbestos-containing material, (iii) medical and biological waste, (iv) polychlorinated biphenyls, and (v) petroleum products, including gasoline, fuel oil, crude oil and other various constituents of such products.

"Hazardous Substance Activities" shall mean the transportation, transfer, recycling, storage, use, treatment, manufacture, removal, remediation, release, exposure of others to, sale or distribution of any Hazardous Substance or any product containing a Hazardous Substance.

"HSR Act" shall mean the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended.

"Indemnified Persons" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.08(a).

"Intellectual Property" means shall mean any or all of the following and all rights in, arising out of, or associated therewith: (i) all United States, international and foreign patents and applications therefor and all reissues, divisions, renewals, extensions, provisionals, continuations and continuations-in-part thereof; (ii) all inventions (whether patentable or not), invention disclosures, improvements, trade secrets, proprietary information, know how, technology, technical data and customer lists, and all documentation relating to any of the foregoing; (iii) all copyrights, copyrights registrations and applications therefor, and all other rights corresponding thereto throughout the world; (iv) all industrial designs and any registrations and applications therefor throughout the world; (v) all mask works and any registrations and applications therefor throughout the world (vi) all trade names, logos, URLs, common law trademarks and service marks, trademark and service mark registrations and applications therefor throughout the world; (vii) all databases and data collections and all rights therein throughout the world; (viii) all moral and economic rights of authors and inventors, however denominated, throughout the world; and (ix) any similar or equivalent rights to any of the foregoing throughout the world.

"IRS" shall mean the Internal Revenue Service of the United States or any successor agency, and, to the extent relevant, the United States Department of the Treasury.

"Joint Proxy Statement" shall mean the joint proxy statement/prospectus to be sent to FEI's stockholders in connection with the FEI Stockholders' Meeting and to Veeco's stockholders in connection with the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting.

"knowledge" shall mean, (i) with respect to an individual, the actual knowledge of such individual and (ii) with respect to any Person other than an individual, the actual knowledge of any officer or

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director of a corporate entity or other Person performing similar functions for any other type of non-individual Person.

"Law" shall mean any constitutional provision or any statute or other law, rule or regulation of any Governmental Authority and any decree, injunction, judgment, order, ruling, assessment or writ.

"Legal Proceeding" shall mean any action, suit, litigation, arbitration, proceeding (including any civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or appellate proceeding), hearing, inquiry, audit, examination or investigation commenced, brought, conducted or heard by or before, or otherwise involving, any court or other Governmental Authority or any arbitrator or arbitration panel.

"Lien" shall mean any lien, pledge, mortgage, deed of trust, security interest, attachment, claim, lease, charge, option, right of first refusal, easement, servitude, encroachment or other survey defect, transfer restriction or other encumbrance of any nature whatsoever, except for liens for Taxes not yet due and payable.

"Material Adverse Effect" shall mean, with respect to any Person, a material adverse effect on (i) the business, assets, financial condition, operations or results of operations of such Person and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole or (ii) the ability of such Person to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement prior to the Termination Date; *provided, however*, that, for purposes of clause (i) above, in no event shall any of the following, alone or in combination with one another, be deemed to constitute, nor shall any of the following be taken into account in determining whether there has been or will be, a Material Adverse Effect: (A) any effect resulting from compliance with the express terms and conditions of this Agreement; (B) any effect resulting from the announcement or pendency of the Merger (provided that the exception in this clause (B) shall not apply to the use of the term "Material Adverse Effect" in Sections 7.01 and 8.01 with respect to the representations and warranties contained in Sections 3.03, 3.07, 3.08, 3.13(b), 4.03, 4.07, 4.08, and 4.13(b)); (C) any changes in the Person's stock price or trading volume (but excluding the reasons for such changes in the stock price or trading volume); (D) any failure by the Person to meet published revenue or earnings projections (but excluding the reasons for failing to meet such projections); (E) any effect that results from changes affecting any of the industries in which the Person operates generally or the United States economy generally (including prevailing interest rate and stock market levels); (F) any effect that results primarily from changes affecting general worldwide economic or capital market conditions (which changes in each case do not disproportionately affect the Person in any material respect); or (G) stockholder class action litigation arising from allegations of a breach of fiduciary duty relating to this Agreement.

"Material FEI Entity" shall mean any FEI Entity that is a "significant subsidiary" (as such term is defined in Regulation 210.1-02(w) of Regulation S-X of the SEC) of FEI.

"Material Veeco Entity" shall mean any Veeco Entity that is a "significant subsidiary" (as such term is defined in Regulation 210.1-02(w) of Regulation S-X of the SEC) of Veeco.

"Merger" shall have the meaning set forth in the first WHEREAS clause to this Merger Agreement.

"Merger Agreement" shall mean this Agreement and Plan of Merger, as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time.

"Merger Consideration" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.06(a).

"NASDAQ" shall mean The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.

"OBCA" shall have the meaning set forth in the first WHEREAS clause to this Merger Agreement.

"Party(ies)" shall mean FEI or Veeco and all of their respective Subsidiaries, including Acquisition.

"PBGC" shall mean the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or any successor thereto.

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"Person" shall mean any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, or other entity or organization, whether or not a legal entity, and including, without limitation, any Governmental Authority.

"Philips" shall mean Philips Business Electronics International B.V.

"Qualifying Amendment" shall mean an amendment or supplement to the Joint Proxy Statement or Form S-4 Registration Statement (including by incorporation by reference) to the extent it contains (a) a change in the Veeco Board Recommendation or a change in the FEI Board Recommendation (as the case may be), (b) a statement of the reasons of the Board of Directors of Veeco or FEI (as the case may be) for making such change in the Veeco Board Recommendation or the FEI Board Recommendation (as the case may be) and (c) additional information reasonably related to the foregoing.

"Regulatory Law" shall mean the HSR Act, and all other federal, state and foreign, if any, statutes, rules, regulations, orders, decrees, administrative and judicial doctrines and other laws that are designed or intended to prohibit, restrict, or regulate (a) mergers, acquisitions or other business combinations, (b) foreign investment or (c) actions having the purpose or effect of monopolization or restraint of trade or lessening of competitions.

"Release" shall mean any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, depositing, escaping, leaching, dumping, or other releasing, whether intentional or unintentional.

"Representatives" shall mean, with respect to any Person, its officers, directors, attorneys, accountants, advisors and other representatives.

"Required FEI Stockholder Vote" shall mean the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of FEI Common Stock entitled to vote at the FEI Stockholders Meeting in which a quorum is present in conformance with the requirements of OBCA, FEI's articles of incorporation, charter documents and by-laws, and NASDAQ.

"Required Veeco Stockholder Vote" shall mean the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Veeco Shares entitled to vote at the Veeco Stockholders Meeting in which a quorum is present in conformance with the requirements of DGCL, Veeco's certificate of incorporation, charter documents and by-laws, and NASDAQ.

"SEC" shall mean the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Securities Act" shall mean the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

"Subsidiary" shall mean a Person shall be deemed to be a "Subsidiary" of another Person if such Person directly or indirectly owns, beneficially or of record, (a) an amount of voting securities or other interests in such Person that is sufficient to enable such Person to elect at least a majority of the members of such Person's Board of Directors or other governing body, or (b) at least 50% of the outstanding equity or financial interests of such Person.

"Superior FEI Proposal" shall mean an unsolicited, *bona fide*, written offer made by a third party (other than by Veeco or by a Veeco Entity) with respect to a FEI Acquisition Transaction on terms that the Board of Directors of FEI determines in good faith make it more favorable to the stockholders of FEI for FEI to consummate such FEI Acquisition Transaction, than for FEI to consummate the Merger, after, among other relevant considerations, consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation; *provided, however*, that any such offer shall not be deemed to be a "Superior FEI Proposal" if any financing required to consummate the transaction contemplated by such offer is not committed and is not reasonably capable of being obtained by such third party. For purposes of this definition, the term "FEI Acquisition Transaction" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in this Article I, except that references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "50%."

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"Superior Veeco Proposal" shall mean an unsolicited, *bona fide*, written offer made by a third party (other than by FEI or by a FEI Entity) with respect to a Veeco Acquisition Transaction on terms that the Board of Directors of Veeco determines in good faith make it more favorable to the stockholders of Veeco for Veeco to consummate such Veeco Acquisition Transaction, than for Veeco to consummate the Merger, after, among other relevant considerations, consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation; *provided, however*, that any such offer shall not be deemed to be a "Superior Veeco Proposal" if any financing required to consummate the transaction contemplated by such offer is not committed and is not reasonably capable of being obtained by such third party. For purposes of this definition, the term "Veeco Acquisition Transaction" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in this Article I, except that references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "50%."

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"Surviving Corporation" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.01.

"Tax" or "Taxes" shall mean any and all taxes (whether Federal, state, local or municipal, and whether domestic or foreign), including, without limitation, income, profits, franchise, gross receipts, payroll, sales, employment, use, property, withholding, excise, occupation, value added, *ad valorem*, transfer and other taxes, duties or assessments of any nature whatsoever, together with any interest, penalties or additions to tax imposed with respect thereto.

"Tax Returns" shall mean any returns (including any information returns), reports and forms required to be filed with any Governmental Authority in connection with the determination, assessment, collection or payment of any Taxes or in connection with the administration, implementation or enforcement of or compliance with any Law relating to any Tax.

"Termination Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 9.01(b).

"Termination Fee" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 9.03(b).

"Threatened" shall mean: a claim, proceeding, dispute, action or other matter will be deemed to have been "Threatened" if any demand or statement has been made (orally or in writing) or any notice has been given (orally or in writing) that would lead a prudent Person to conclude that such a claim, proceeding dispute, action or other matter is likely to be asserted, commenced, taken or otherwise pursued in the near future.

"Transaction Expenses" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 9.03(b).

"U.S. Continuing Employees" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.07(a).

"Veeco" shall have the meaning set forth in the introductory paragraph of this Merger Agreement.

"Veeco Acquisition Proposal" shall mean any offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest (other than an offer, proposal, inquiry or indication of interest by FEI) contemplating or otherwise relating to any Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

"Veeco Acquisition Transaction" shall mean any transaction or series of related transactions (other than the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement) involving:

- (a) any merger, reorganization, consolidation, share exchange, recapitalization, business combination, issuance of securities, purchase or acquisition of securities, tender offer, exchange offer or other similar transaction (i) in which Veeco or any other Material Veeco Entity is a constituent corporation, (ii) in which a Person or "group" (as defined and described under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder) of Persons directly or indirectly acquires beneficial or record ownership of securities representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of Veeco or another Material Veeco Entity, or (iii) in which Veeco or any other Material Veeco Entity issues securities

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representing more than 15% of the outstanding securities of any class of voting securities of Veeco or such Material Veeco Entity;

- (b) any sale, lease, exchange, transfer, license, acquisition or disposition of any business or businesses or assets (other than in the ordinary course of business) that constitute or account for 15% or more of the consolidated net revenues, net income or assets (measured by fair market value) of Veeco and the other Veeco Entities, on a consolidated basis; or

- (c) any liquidation or dissolution of Veeco.

"Veeco Authorizations" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.06(b).

"Veeco Balance Sheet" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.05.

"Veeco Balance Sheet Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.11.

"Veeco Benefit Plan" shall mean any Benefit Plan maintained or contributed to by Veeco, a Subsidiary of Veeco or an ERISA Affiliate of either, or to which Veeco, a Subsidiary of Veeco or an ERISA Affiliate of either is required to contribute.

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"Veeco Benefits" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.07(a).

"Veeco Board Recommendation" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.23(b).

"Veeco's Broker" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.16.

"Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment" shall mean the Certificate of Amendment of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C.

"Veeco Confidential IP Information" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.13(f).

"Veeco Contract" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.08(a).

"Veeco Convertible Debt" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.02(b).

"Veeco Disclosure Schedule" shall mean the disclosure schedule that has been prepared by Veeco in accordance with the requirements of Section 10.07 hereof and that has been delivered by Veeco to FEI on the date of this Merger Agreement.

"Veeco Entities" shall mean Veeco and each of its Subsidiaries.

"Veeco ESPP" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.06(b).

"Veeco Financial Statements" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.04.

"Veeco Investor Agreement" shall mean that certain Investor Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, by and among Veeco, Philips and FEI.

"Veeco Intellectual Property" shall mean all Intellectual Property used in or necessary for the conduct of Veeco's and its Subsidiaries' businesses as currently conducted.

"Veeco Options" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.02(b).

"Veeco-Owned IP" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.13(c).

"Veeco Rights Agreement" shall mean that certain Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as amended.

"Veeco SEC Documents" shall mean each statement, report, form, schedule, registration statement (including the related prospectus in the form filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act) and

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proxy statement or information statement, and all other filings filed with the SEC by Veeco since January 1, 1999.

"Veeco Shares" shall mean the common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of Veeco.

"Veeco Stockholders' Meeting" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.23(a).

"Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements" shall have the meaning set forth in the fourth WHEREAS clause to this Merger Agreement.

"Veeco Triggering Event" shall be deemed to have occurred if: (i) the Board of Directors of Veeco shall have failed to recommend that Veeco's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger, or shall have withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to FEI the Veeco Board Recommendation; (ii) Veeco shall have failed to include in the Joint Proxy Statement the Veeco Board Recommendation; (iii) the Board of Directors of Veeco shall have approved, endorsed or recommended any Veeco Acquisition Transaction; (iv) Veeco shall have entered into any letter of intent or similar document or any Contract providing for any Veeco Acquisition Transaction; (v) Veeco shall have failed to hold the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting in accordance with Section 5.23; (vi) Veeco shall have failed to prepare and mail to its

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stockholders the Joint Proxy Statement in accordance with Section 5.21; (vii) a tender or exchange offer relating to Veeco's securities shall have been commenced by a Person unaffiliated with FEI, and Veeco shall not have sent to its stockholders, pursuant to Rule 14e-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act, within ten business days after such tender or exchange offer is first published, sent, given or otherwise commenced, a statement disclosing that the Board of Directors of Veeco recommends rejection of such tender or exchange offer; (viii) the Board of Directors of Veeco shall have granted any approval or taken any other step to exempt any transaction (other than the Merger and the other transactions with FEI contemplated by this Merger Agreement) from the requirements and provisions of Section 203 of the DGCL or other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations; (ix) Veeco's Board of Directors shall have amended or resolved to amend the Veeco Rights Agreement in a manner so as to render it inapplicable to any Veeco Acquisition Transaction (other than with respect to the Merger and other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement) or (x) any of the Veeco Entities shall have violated in a material manner any of the restrictions set forth in Section 5.17.

"Voting Debt" shall mean any bonds, debentures, notes or other indebtedness having the right to vote on any matters on which holders of capital stock of the same issuer may vote.

1.02 The words "hereof," "herein," "hereby" and "hereunder," and words of like import, refer to this Merger Agreement as a whole and not to any particular Section hereof. References herein to any Section, Schedule or Exhibit refer to such Section of, or such Schedule or Exhibit to, this Merger Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires. All pronouns and any variations thereof refer to the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, singular or plural, as the context may require. The word "including," when used herein, means "including, without limitation."

II. THE MERGER

2.01 The Merger. At the Effective Time of the Merger, Acquisition shall be merged with and into FEI. The separate existence of Acquisition shall thereupon cease and FEI shall continue its corporate existence as the surviving corporation (the "*Surviving Corporation*") under the Laws of the State of Oregon under its present name. FEI and Acquisition are sometimes referred to collectively herein as the "*Constituent Corporations*."

2.02 Effective Time of the Merger. At the Closing, the parties hereto shall cause articles of merger substantially in the form of *Exhibit D* to be executed and filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Oregon, as provided in Section 481 of the OBCA (the "*Articles of Merger*"), and shall take all

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such other and further actions as may be required by Law to make the Merger effective. The Merger shall become effective as of the date and time of the filing of the Articles of Merger. The date and time of such effectiveness are referred to herein as the "*Effective Time*."

2.03 Closing of the Merger

(a) Unless this Merger Agreement shall theretofore have been terminated pursuant to the provisions of Section 9.01 hereof, the closing of the Merger (the "Closing") shall take place as promptly as practicable, but no later than the second business day, following the day on which the last of the conditions (other than conditions which, by their nature, are to be satisfied at Closing, but subject to those conditions) set forth in Articles VI, VII and VIII hereof are fulfilled or waived (by the relevant party or parties), subject to applicable Laws (the "Closing Date"), at the offices of Kaye Scholer LLP, 425 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, unless another time, date or place is agreed to in writing by the parties hereto.

(b) Subject to the provisions of this Merger Agreement, Veeco, Acquisition and FEI shall cause to be executed and filed at the Closing the Articles of Merger, and shall cause the Articles of Merger to be recorded in accordance with the provisions of the OBCA and shall take any and all other lawful actions and do any and all other lawful things to cause the Merger to become effective.

2.04 Effects of the Merger. At the Effective Time of the Merger:

(a) the separate existence of Acquisition shall cease and Acquisition shall be merged with and into FEI, which shall be the Surviving Corporation;

(b) the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of Acquisition as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Surviving Corporation, until each shall thereafter be amended in accordance with each of their terms and as provided by Law;

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(c) the directors and officers of the Surviving Corporation immediately after the Effective Time shall be the individuals set forth on Schedule 2.04(c);

(d) the Surviving Corporation shall possess all the rights, privileges, immunities and franchises, of a public as well as of a private nature, of each of the Constituent Corporations, and all property, real, personal, and mixed, and all debts due on whatever account, and all other choses in action, and all and every other interest of or belonging to or due to each of the Constituent Corporations shall be taken and deemed to be transferred to and vested in the Surviving Corporation without further act or deed;

(e) the Surviving Corporation shall thenceforth be responsible and liable for all liabilities and obligations of each of the Constituent Corporations, and any claim existing or action or proceeding pending by or against either of the Constituent Corporations may be prosecuted as if the Merger had not taken place or the Surviving Corporation may be substituted in its place. Neither the rights of creditors nor Liens upon the property of either of the Constituent Corporations shall be impaired by the Merger; and

(f) the FEI Convertible Debt shall become convertible solely into a number of Veeco Shares equal to the number of Veeco Shares that would have been issued if the FEI Convertible Debt had been converted into FEI Common Stock immediately prior to the Effective Time.

2.05 Amendment of Veeco's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws.

(a) Immediately following the Effective Time, Article I of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco shall be amended in its entirety to provide that "The name of the corporation is Veeco FEI Inc. (the "Corporation")."

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(b) Immediately following the Effective Time, the Bylaws of Veeco shall be amended and restated as set forth in *Exhibit E*.

2.06 Conversion of Shares. As of the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any further action on the part of Veeco, Acquisition, FEI or any holder of any Equity Securities of the Constituent Corporations:

(a) Each share of FEI Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be converted into the right to receive 1.355 Veeco Shares (the "Merger Consideration"). Accordingly, 1.355 is hereinafter referred to as the "Exchange Ratio."

(b) Each share of common stock of Acquisition issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be converted into and exchanged for one validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of common stock of the Surviving Corporation.

(c) The Exchange Ratio shall be adjusted to reflect fully the effect of any stock split, reverse split, stock dividend (including any dividend or distribution of securities convertible into Veeco Shares or FEI Common Stock), reorganization, recapitalization or other like change with respect to Veeco Shares or FEI Common Stock occurring after the date of this Merger Agreement and prior to the Effective Time or after the Effective Time if the record date with respect thereto is set after the date of this Merger Agreement and prior to the Effective Time.

(d) No fraction of a Veeco Share will be issued in exchange for surrendered shares of FEI Common Stock, but in lieu thereof each holder of shares of FEI Common Stock who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a Veeco Share (after aggregating all fractional shares of Veeco Shares to be received by such holder) shall receive from Veeco an amount of cash (rounded to the nearest whole cent), without interest, equal to the product of (i) such fraction, multiplied by (ii) the Closing Price Per Share.

(e) All FEI Common Stock, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of the holders thereof, shall no longer be outstanding and shall be canceled and retired and shall cease to exist, and each holder of a FEI Stock Certificate shall thereafter cease to have any rights with respect to the shares of FEI Common Stock represented thereby, except the right to receive the Merger Consideration for such FEI Common Stock upon the surrender of such FEI Stock Certificate in accordance with this Section and Section 2.08 hereof.

(f) If any shares of FEI Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time are unvested or are subject to a repurchase option, risk of forfeiture or other condition under any applicable restricted stock purchase agreement or other agreement with FEI or any other FEI Entity or under which FEI or any other FEI Entity has any rights, then the Veeco Shares issued in exchange for such shares of FEI Common Stock will also be unvested and subject to the same repurchase option, risk of forfeiture or other

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condition, and the certificates representing such Veeco Shares may accordingly be marked with appropriate legends. FEI shall use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that, from and after the Effective Time, Veeco is entitled to exercise any such repurchase option or other right set forth in any such restricted stock purchase agreement or other agreement.

2.07 Closing of FEI's Transfer Books. At the Effective Time, the stock transfer books of FEI shall be closed with respect to all shares of FEI Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time. No further transfer of any such shares of FEI Common Stock shall be made on such stock transfer books after the Effective Time. If, after the Effective Time, a valid certificate previously representing any shares of FEI Common Stock (a "FEI Stock Certificate") is presented to the Exchange Agent or to the Surviving Corporation or Veeco, such FEI Stock Certificate shall be canceled, and shall be exchanged as provided in Section 2.08 hereof.

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2.08 Exchange of Certificates.

(a) On or prior to the Closing Date, Veeco shall select a reputable bank or trust company to act as exchange agent in the Merger (the "Exchange Agent"). Promptly (but in no event more than three business days) after the Effective Time, Veeco shall deposit with the Exchange Agent (i) certificates representing the Veeco Shares issuable pursuant to this Article II and (ii) cash sufficient to make payments in lieu of fractional shares in accordance with Section 2.06(d) hereof. The Veeco Shares and cash amounts so deposited with the Exchange Agent, together with any dividends or distributions received by the Exchange Agent with respect to such shares, are referred to herein collectively as the "Exchange Fund."

(b) As soon as reasonably practicable after the Effective Time (but in no event more than three business days after the Effective Time), the Exchange Agent will mail to the record holders of FEI Stock Certificates: (i) a letter of transmittal in customary form and containing such provisions as Veeco may reasonably specify (including a provision confirming that delivery of FEI Stock Certificates shall be effected, and risk of loss and title to FEI Stock Certificates shall pass, only upon delivery of such FEI Stock Certificates to the Exchange Agent), and (ii) instructions for use in effecting the surrender of FEI Stock Certificates in exchange for certificates representing Veeco Shares as contemplated by this Article II. Upon surrender of a FEI Stock Certificate to the Exchange Agent for exchange, together with a duly executed letter of transmittal and such other documents as may be reasonably required by the Exchange Agent or Veeco, (1) the holder of such FEI Stock Certificates shall be entitled to receive in exchange therefor a certificate representing the number of whole Veeco Shares that such holder has the right to receive pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.06 hereof (and an appropriate amount of cash in lieu of any fractional Veeco Share otherwise issuable), and (2) the FEI Stock Certificate so surrendered shall be canceled. Until surrendered as contemplated by this Section 2.08, each FEI Stock Certificate shall be deemed, from and after the Effective Time, to represent only the right to receive Veeco Shares (and an appropriate amount of cash in lieu of any fractional Veeco Share otherwise issuable) as contemplated by this Article II. If any FEI Stock Certificate shall have been lost, stolen or destroyed, Veeco may, in its reasonable discretion and as a condition precedent to the issuance of any certificate representing Veeco Shares hereunder, require the owner of such lost, stolen or destroyed FEI Stock Certificate to provide an appropriate affidavit and to deliver a bond (in such sum as Veeco may reasonably direct) as indemnity against any claim that may be made against the Exchange Agent, Veeco or the Surviving Corporation with respect to such FEI Stock Certificate.

(c) No dividends or other distributions declared or made with respect to Veeco Shares with a record date after the Effective Time shall be paid to the holder of any unsurrendered FEI Stock Certificate with respect to the Veeco Shares that such holder has the right to receive in the Merger until such holder surrenders such FEI Stock Certificate in accordance with this Section 2.08 (at which time such holder shall be entitled, subject to the effect of applicable escheat or similar Laws, to receive all such dividends and distributions, without interest).

(d) Any portion of the Exchange Fund that remains undistributed to holders of FEI Stock Certificates as of the date that is 180 days after the Effective Time shall be delivered to Veeco upon demand, and any holders of FEI Stock Certificates who have not theretofore surrendered their FEI Stock Certificates in accordance with this Section 2.08 shall thereafter look only to Veeco for satisfaction of their claims for Veeco Shares, cash in lieu of fractional Veeco Shares and any dividends or distributions with respect to Veeco Shares.

(e) Each of the Exchange Agent, Veeco and the Surviving Corporation shall be entitled to deduct and withhold from any consideration payable or otherwise deliverable pursuant to this Merger Agreement to any holder or former holder of FEI Common Stock such amounts as may be required to be deducted or withheld therefrom under the Code or any provision of state, local

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or foreign Tax Law or under any other applicable Law. To the extent such amounts are so deducted or withheld, such amounts shall be treated for all purposes under this Merger Agreement as having been paid to the Person to whom such amounts would otherwise have been paid.

(f) Neither Veeco nor the Surviving Corporation shall be liable to any holder or former holder of FEI Common Stock or to any other Person with respect to any Veeco Shares (or dividends or distributions with respect thereto), or for any cash amounts, delivered to any public official pursuant to any applicable abandoned property Law, escheat Law or similar Law.

2.09 Tax Consequences. For federal income tax purposes, the Merger is intended to constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code. The parties to this Merger Agreement hereby adopt this Merger Agreement as a "plan of reorganization" as described in Sections 1.368-2(g) and 1.368-3(a) of the United States Treasury Regulations.

2.10 Subsequent Action. If, at any time after the Effective Time, Veeco of the Surviving Corporation shall determine or be advised that any deeds, bills of sale, assignments, assurances and any other actions or things are necessary, desirable or proper to vest, perfect or confirm, of record or otherwise, in the Surviving Corporation its right, title or interest in, to or under any of the rights, or to otherwise carry out the purposes of Merger, the officers and directors of Veeco and the Surviving Corporation shall be authorized (in the name and on behalf of Acquisition, in the name and on behalf of FEI or otherwise) to execute and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the Constituent Corporations or otherwise, all such deeds, bills of sale, assignments and assurances and to take and do, in the name and on behalf of the Constituent Corporations or otherwise, all such other actions and things as may be necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm any and all right, title and interest in, to and under such rights, properties or assets in the Surviving Corporation or otherwise to carry out the purposes of this Merger Agreement.

III. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF FEI

FEI hereby represents and warrants to and covenants and agrees with Veeco and Acquisition that, except as set forth in the FEI Disclosure Schedule:

3.01 Corporate Organization.

(a) FEI is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Oregon. FEI has the corporate power and authority to own or lease all of its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted, and is duly licensed or qualified to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or location of the properties and assets owned or leased by it makes such licensing or qualification necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified would not, either individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI. True and complete copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of FEI, as in effect as of the date of this Merger Agreement, have been filed by FEI as part of the FEI SEC Documents.

(b) Each Subsidiary of FEI (i) is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, (ii) is duly qualified to do business and in good standing in all jurisdictions (whether federal, state or local or foreign) where its ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified and (iii) has all requisite corporate power and authority to own or lease its properties and assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, in each case, except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI. Section 3.01(b) of the FEI Disclosure Schedule contains a complete and accurate list of each Subsidiary of FEI, indicating the jurisdiction of incorporation or organization of each such Subsidiary and FEI's percentage ownership interest therein (including each type of security held by FEI of each Subsidiary).

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3.02 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of FEI consists of 45,000,000 shares of FEI Common Stock, of which 32,393,766 were issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2002, and 500,000 shares of preferred stock, none of which are outstanding. All of the outstanding shares of FEI Common Stock have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and nonassessable, are free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof, and were issued in conformity with applicable Laws.

(b) As of June 30, 2002, 3,080,783 shares of FEI Common Stock (in the aggregate) were issuable upon the exercise of options previously granted, and 1,502,299 shares of FEI Common Stock (in the aggregate) were reserved for issuance upon the exercise of options available for grant, under FEI's stock option plans (collectively, the "FEI Options"), 3,533,926 shares of FEI Common Stock

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(in the aggregate) were issuable upon the conversion of FEI's outstanding \$175 million 5.5% Convertible Subordinated Notes due August 15, 2008 (the "FEI Convertible Debt") and 391,645 shares of FEI Common Stock (in the aggregate) were reserved for issuance under the FEI ESPP. Except as set forth above, there are no outstanding Equity Securities, or other obligations to issue or grant any rights to acquire any Equity Securities, of FEI or any Contracts to restructure or recapitalize FEI. Other than in connection with the FEI Convertible Debt, there are no outstanding Contracts of FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any Equity Securities of FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI. From December 31, 2001 to the date of this Merger Agreement, no shares of FEI capital stock have been issued except pursuant to the exercise of FEI Options, the FEI Convertible Debt or under the FEI ESPP. As of June 30, 2002, no shares of FEI capital stock were reserved for issuance, except for 1,893,944 shares of FEI Common Stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of FEI Options, the FEI Convertible Debt and under the FEI ESPP. FEI has no issued or outstanding Voting Debt.

(c) FEI owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity ownership interests of each Subsidiary of FEI, free and clear of any Liens, and all of such shares or equity ownership interests are duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, non-assessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. No Subsidiary of FEI has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other Equity Security of such Subsidiary or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or any other equity security of such Subsidiary. Section 3.02(c) of the FEI Disclosure Schedule sets forth a list of each material investment of FEI in the equity (or any security convertible or exchangeable into equity) of any Person other than its Subsidiaries.

3.03 Authorization. FEI has full corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform this Merger Agreement and the Articles of Merger, and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The execution, delivery and performance of this Merger Agreement, the Articles of Merger and all other documents and agreements to be delivered pursuant hereto and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly and validly authorized by the Board of Directors of FEI, and no other corporate proceedings on the part of FEI (other than the Required FEI Stockholder Vote and the filing of the Articles of Merger) are necessary to authorize this Merger Agreement, the Articles of Merger and any such related documents or agreements or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Merger Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by FEI and the Articles of Merger, when executed at the Closing, will be duly and validly executed and delivered by FEI. This Merger Agreement, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by each of the other parties hereto, constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of FEI, enforceable in accordance with its terms, and the Articles of Merger, when executed by FEI at the Closing, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by each of the other

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parties thereto, will be legal, valid and binding agreements of FEI, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms except as may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, moratorium, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance or other Laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally or by general equitable principles.

3.04 Reports. All FEI SEC Documents were filed as and when required by the Exchange Act or the Securities Act, as applicable. All documents required to be filed as exhibits to the FEI SEC Documents have been so filed. The FEI SEC Documents include all statements, reports and documents required to be filed by FEI pursuant to the Exchange Act and the Securities Act. The FEI SEC Documents comply in all material respects with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the Securities Act, as applicable, and none of the FEI SEC Documents, as of their respective filing dates, contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements made therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading. None of FEI's Subsidiaries is required to file any statements, reports or documents with the SEC. The financial statements of FEI and its Subsidiaries, including the notes thereto, included in the FEI SEC Documents (the "FEI Financial Statements") complied in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements and with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto as of their respective dates (except as may be indicated in the notes thereto or, in the case of unaudited statements included in Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, as permitted by Form 10-Q of the SEC). The FEI Financial Statements fairly present the consolidated financial condition, operating results and cash flows of FEI and its Subsidiaries at the dates and during the periods indicated therein in accordance with GAAP consistently applied (subject, in the case of unaudited statements, to normal year-end adjustments and additional footnote disclosures). There has been no material change in FEI's accounting policies except as described in the notes to the FEI Financial Statements. At all times since January 1, 1999, FEI has (i) filed as and when due all documents required to be filed with NASDAQ, and (ii) otherwise timely performed all of FEI's obligations pursuant to the rules and regulations of NASDAQ.

3.05 No Undisclosed Liabilities. The FEI Entities do not have any obligations or liabilities of any nature (whether matured or unmatured, absolute, accrued, fixed or contingent) other than those (i) set forth or adequately provided for in the Balance Sheet of FEI and its Subsidiaries included in FEI's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 (the "FEI Balance Sheet"), (ii) not required to be set forth on the FEI Balance Sheet under GAAP consistently applied, (iii) incurred in the ordinary course of business since the FEI Balance Sheet Date, and consistent with past practice or (iv) which, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

3.06 Compliance with Law: Governmental Authorizations.

(a) Each of the FEI Entities has complied with, is not in violation of, and has not received any notices of violation with respect to, any federal, state, local or foreign statute, Law or regulation with respect to the conduct of its business, or the ownership or operation of its business, except for such violations or failures to comply as could not be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

(b) Each of the FEI Entities has obtained each federal, state, county, local or foreign governmental Consent, approval, certificate, license, permit, grant, or other authorization of a Governmental Authority that is required for the operation of its business or the holding of any interest in its properties (collectively, the "FEI Authorizations"), and all of such FEI Authorizations are in full force and effect, except where the failure to obtain or have any of such FEI Authorizations could not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

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3.07 No Conflicts.

(a) The execution, delivery and performance by FEI of this Merger Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will not (i) violate any provision of the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws or other organizational documents of FEI or any other FEI Entity, (ii) violate, or be in conflict with, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in or provide the basis for the termination of, or accelerate the performance required by, or excuse performance by any Person of any of its obligations under, or cause the acceleration of the maturity, or trigger any repurchase obligation, of any debt or obligation pursuant to, or result in the creation or imposition of any Lien upon any property or assets of FEI or any other FEI Entity under, any material Contract to which FEI or any other FEI Entity is a party or by which any of their respective properties or assets are bound, or to which any of the property or assets of FEI or any other FEI Entity are subject, except for Contracts wherein the other party thereto has consented to the consummation of the Merger or irrevocably waived in writing its right to take any action contemplated in this clause (ii), (iii) violate any Law applicable to FEI or any other FEI Entity or (iv) violate or result in the revocation or suspension of any material license, permit, certificate, Consent or approval from a Governmental Authority that is necessary for the business and operations of FEI or any other FEI Entity.

(b) No filing or registration with, or permit, authorization, Consent or approval of, or notification or disclosure to, any Governmental Authority is required by FEI or any other FEI Entity in connection with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement or the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, except (i) in connection with the applicable requirements of the HSR Act or any other Regulatory Law and any other applicable anti-trust or competition approvals, (ii) in connection with the provisions of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, (iii) the filing of appropriate merger documents as required by the DGCL and OBCA, (iv) Consents, filings or exemptions in connection with compliance with the rules of NASDAQ, (v) such Consents, orders, registrations, declarations and filings as may be required under the laws of various states or (vi) such other Consents, filings and registrations the failure of which to obtain would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

3.08 Contracts.

(a) Neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or is bound by any written contract, arrangement or commitment (i) with respect to the employment of any directors, officers or employees other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (ii) which, upon the consummation or stockholder approval of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, will (either alone or upon the occurrence of any additional acts or events) result in any payment (whether of severance pay or otherwise) becoming due from FEI, Veeco, the Surviving Corporation or any of their respective Subsidiaries to any officer or employee thereof, (iii) which is a "material contract" (as such term is defined in Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K of the SEC) to be performed, entirely or in part, after the date of this Merger Agreement, but which has not been previously filed with the SEC, (iv) which are of the type required to be disclosed under Item 404 of Regulation S-K of the SEC, but which has not been previously filed with the SEC, (v) which materially restricts the conduct of any line of business by FEI or any Subsidiary thereof or, upon consummation of the Merger, will materially restrict the ability of Veeco or the Surviving Corporation or any Subsidiary thereof to engage in any proposed line of business or (vi) which, upon the consummation or stockholder approval of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, will result in any of the Veeco Entities or any of the FEI Entities, granting any rights or licenses to any material Intellectual Property of any of the Veeco

Entities or any of the FEI Entities, to any third party. Each contract, arrangement, commitment or understanding of the type described in this Section 3.08(a), whether or not set forth in the FEI Disclosure Schedule, is referred to herein as a "FEI Contract".

(b) (i) Each FEI Contract is valid and binding on FEI and any of its Subsidiaries that is a party thereto, as applicable, and is in full force and effect (except to the extent such contract has expired or terminated according to its terms), (ii) FEI and each of its Subsidiaries has in all material respects performed all obligations required to be performed by it to date under each FEI Contract, except where such noncompliance, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, and (iii) neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries, knows of, or has received notice of, the existence of any event or condition which constitutes, or, after notice or lapse of time or both, will constitute, a material default on the part of FEI or any of its Subsidiaries under any such FEI Contract, except where such default, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

3.09 Litigation. Except as disclosed in the FEI SEC Documents prior to the date hereof, (i) there is no private or governmental action, suit, proceeding, claim, arbitration or investigation pending before any agency, court or tribunal, foreign or domestic, or, to the knowledge of FEI, Threatened against FEI or any other FEI Entity or any of their respective properties or any of their respective officers or directors (in their capacities as such) that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, and (ii) there is no judgment, decree or order against FEI or any other FEI Entity or, to the knowledge of FEI, any of their respective directors or officers (in their capacities as such) that could prevent, enjoin, alter or materially delay any of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, or that could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

3.10 Taxes. FEI and each of the FEI Entities has filed or caused to be filed on a timely basis all Tax Returns that are or were required to be filed by FEI and/or any of the other FEI Entities, either separately or as part of an affiliated group of corporations, pursuant to the Laws of any Governmental Authority with taxing power over any of the FEI Entities or its assets and business. All Tax Returns filed by any of the FEI Entities are true, correct and complete. FEI and each of the FEI Entities has paid all Taxes that have become due by it pursuant to those Tax Returns or pursuant to any assessment received by any of the FEI Entities, except such Taxes, if any, as are being contested in good faith and as to which adequate reserves have been provided in the FEI Financial Statements. All Taxes that FEI or any of the FEI Entities is, or was, required by Law to withhold and collect have been duly withheld and collected and, to the extent required, have been paid to the appropriate Governmental Authority. There is no agreement, plan, arrangement or other contract covering any employee or independent contractor of FEI or any of the FEI Entities that would give rise to the payment of any amount that would not be deductible by Veeco or any of the Veeco Entities or the Surviving Corporation pursuant to Section 280G or Section 162(m) of the Code. FEI is not a "United States real property holding corporation," as defined in Section 897(c)(2) of the Code. The charges, accruals and reserves with respect to Taxes on the FEI Financial Statements with respect to each of the FEI Entities (excluding any provision for deferred income taxes established to reflect timing differences between book and tax income) for all tax periods (or portions thereof) ending on or before the Closing Date (including any period for which no Tax Return has yet been filed) are adequate.

3.11 Absence of Certain Changes. Except as disclosed in or filed as an exhibit to the FEI SEC Documents prior to the date hereof, since December 31, 2001 (the "FEI Balance Sheet Date"), the FEI Entities have conducted their business in the ordinary course consistent with past practice and there has not occurred: (i) any change, event or condition (whether or not covered by insurance) that has resulted in, or might reasonably be expected to result in, a Material Adverse Effect to FEI; (ii) any acquisition, sale or transfer of any material asset of the FEI Entities other than in the ordinary course

of business and consistent with past practice; (iii) any change in accounting methods or practices (including any change in depreciation or amortization policies or rates) by FEI or any revaluation by FEI of any of its assets; (iv) any declaration, setting aside, or payment of a dividend or other distribution with respect to the shares of FEI Common Stock or any other FEI Equity Securities (excluding interest payments on the FEI Convertible Debt contemplated by the Indenture relating thereto), or any direct or indirect redemption, purchase or other acquisition by FEI of any of its shares of capital stock; (v) any material Contract entered into by any FEI Entity, other than in the ordinary course of business, or any material amendment or termination of, or default under, any material Contract to which any FEI Entity is a party or by which any of them is bound; or (vi) any agreement by any FEI Entity to do any of the things described in the preceding clauses (i) through (v) (other than negotiations with Veeco and its Representatives regarding the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement).

3.12 Employee Benefit Plans; Labor Matters.

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(a) There does not now exist any and, to the knowledge of FEI, there are no existing circumstances that could reasonably be expected to result in, any Controlled Group Liability to FEI or any of its Subsidiaries that, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI. No FEI Benefit Plan is (i) a "multiemployer plan" within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA, (ii) a "multiple employer plan" as defined in ERISA or the Code, or (iii) a "funded welfare plan" within the meaning of Section 419 of the Code. None of the FEI Benefit Plans provides for any welfare or other non-pension benefits to retired or former employees, except to the extent required by the continuation coverage requirements of Section 601 et. seq. of ERISA, Section 4980B of the Code or similar state law.

(b) Except as would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, (i) each of the FEI Benefit Plans has been operated and administered in all material respects in accordance with applicable law and administrative rules and regulations of any Governmental Authority, including, but not limited to, ERISA and the Code, and (ii) there are no pending or, to the knowledge of FEI, Threatened claims (other than claims for benefits in the ordinary course), lawsuits or arbitrations that have been asserted or instituted, and, to the knowledge of FEI, no set of circumstances exists, that may reasonably give rise to a claim or lawsuit, against the FEI Benefit Plans, any fiduciaries thereof with respect to their duties to the FEI Benefit Plans or the assets of any of the trusts under any of the FEI Benefit Plans that could reasonably be expected to result in any material liability of FEI or any of its Subsidiaries to the PBGC, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Labor, any FEI Benefit Plan, any participant in a FEI Benefit Plan, or any other party. There are no unpaid contributions due prior to the date hereof with respect to any FEI Benefit Plan that are required to have been made under its terms and provisions, any related insurance contract or any applicable law.

(c) Neither FEI nor any Subsidiary of FEI is a party to any collective bargaining or other labor union contract applicable to individuals employed by FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI, and no collective bargaining agreement or other labor union contract is being negotiated by FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, (i) there is no labor dispute, strike, slowdown or work stoppage against FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI pending or, to the knowledge of FEI, Threatened against FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI and (ii) no unfair labor practice or labor charge or complaint has occurred with respect to FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI.

(d) Neither the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby (either alone or in conjunction with any other event) will (i) result in any payment or benefit (including, without limitation, option acceleration, severance,

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unemployment compensation, "excess parachute payment" (within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code), forgiveness of indebtedness or otherwise) becoming due to any director, consultant or any current or former employee of FEI or any Subsidiaries of FEI under any FEI consultant Benefit Plan or otherwise; (ii) increase any benefits otherwise payable under any FEI Benefit Plan; (iii) result in any acceleration of the time of payment or vesting of any such benefits; (iv) require the funding of any trust or other funding vehicle; or (v) limit or prohibit the ability to amend, merge, terminate or receive a reversion of assets from any FEI Benefit Plan or related trust.

(e) There has been no disallowance of a deduction, or reasonable expectation of a disallowance of a deduction, under Section 162(m) of the Code for employee compensation of any amount paid or payable by FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI that, either individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

(f) Section 3.12(f) of the FEI Disclosure Schedule sets forth a list of each material FEI Benefit Plan.

(g) FEI has heretofore made available to Veeco true and complete copies of each of the FEI Benefit Plans (and all related trust agreements, insurance contracts and other ancillary documents) and, to the extent applicable, (i) the actuarial report for such FEI Benefit Plan for each of the last two years, (ii) the most recent determination letter from the IRS for such FEI Benefit Plan, (iii) the summary plan description for such FEI Benefit Plan, and (iv) the Form 5500 for such FEI Benefit Plan for each of the last two years, and all schedules thereto. Since the date of the documents made available, there has not been any material change in the assets or liabilities of any of the FEI Benefit Plans or any change in their terms and operations that could reasonably be expected to affect or alter the tax status or materially affect the cost of maintaining such Plan, and none of the FEI Benefit Plans has been or will be amended prior to the Closing Date to the extent such amendment will materially affect the cost of maintaining such Plans. Each of the FEI Benefit Plans can be amended, modified or terminated by FEI or a Subsidiary of FEI within a period of 30 days, without payment of any additional compensation or amount or the additional vesting or acceleration of any such benefits, except to the extent that such

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vesting is required under the Code upon the complete or partial termination of any FEI Benefit Plan intended to be qualified within the meaning of Section 401(a) of the Code.

(h) Each FEI Benefit Plan that is intended to be qualified under Section 401 of the Code has received a favorable determination letter from the IRS as to the qualification of such plan (or is a prototype plan entitled to rely on a favorable determination, opinion or advisory letter issued to the prototype sponsor), or has remaining a period of time under applicable Treasury regulations or IRS pronouncements in which to receive such a determination. For each FEI Benefit Plan that has received such a determination, such letter has not been modified, revoked or limited by the failure to satisfy any condition thereof or by a subsequent amendment thereto, or failure to amend such FEI Benefit Plan.

(i) Except as, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, no individual who has been classified by FEI as a non-employee (such as an independent contractor, leased employee or consultant) would reasonably be expected to have a claim against FEI for eligibility to participate in any FEI Benefit Plan, if such individual is later reclassified as a FEI employee.

(j) Except as, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, all FEI Benefit Plans subject to the laws of any jurisdiction outside of the United States (i) have been maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements, (ii) if they are intended to qualify for special tax treatment meet all requirements for such treatment, and (iii) if they are intended to be funded and/or book-reserved are fully funded and/or book reserved, as appropriate, based upon reasonable actuarial assumptions.

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3.13 Intellectual Property Rights.

(a) FEI and its Subsidiaries own, or are licensed to use, all FEI Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of FEI, the business and operations of FEI and its Subsidiaries as they are currently conducted do not infringe on the rights of any third party where such infringement, individually or in the aggregate, would be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on any Material FEI Entity or any material business or product offering of FEI or any of its Subsidiaries, and, to the extent material FEI Intellectual Property is licensed from a third party, FEI's use of such Intellectual Property is in accordance in all material respects with the applicable license pursuant to which FEI acquired the right to use such Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of FEI, no third party is challenging, infringing on or otherwise violating any right of FEI in the FEI Intellectual Property where such infringement, individually or in the aggregate, would be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on any Material FEI Entity or any material business or product offering of FEI or any of its Subsidiaries. Neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any written notice of any pending claim, order or proceeding with respect to any material FEI Intellectual Property, nor has FEI received any written demand from any other party to cease and desist from infringement of such other party's Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of FEI, no material Intellectual Property owned or licensed by FEI is being used or enforced by FEI or its Subsidiaries in a manner that would reasonably be expected to result in the abandonment, estoppel, cancellation or unenforceability of such Intellectual Property.

(b) The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by FEI and the consummation by FEI of the transactions contemplated hereby will not (i) constitute a breach by FEI or its Subsidiaries of any material instrument or agreement governing any FEI Intellectual Property, (ii) pursuant to the terms of any material license or agreement relating to any FEI Intellectual Property, cause the material modification of any terms of any such license or agreement, including but not limited to the modification of the effective rate of any royalties or other payments provided for in any such license or agreement, (iii) cause the forfeiture or termination of any FEI Intellectual Property under the terms thereof, (iv) give rise to a right of forfeiture or termination of any FEI Intellectual Property under the terms thereof or (v) impair the right of FEI, its Subsidiaries or, to FEI's knowledge, Veeco to make, have made, offer for sale, use, sell, export or license any products or processes used by FEI, its Subsidiaries or, to FEI's knowledge, Veeco in the conduct of their business as it is currently configured, except in each case for those matters that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI.

(c) Each item of material FEI Intellectual Property owned by FEI or a Subsidiary thereof (the "FEI-Owned IP") (i) is free and clear of any Liens or filings required under the Uniform Commercial Code in effect in any jurisdiction; (ii) is not subject to any outstanding judicial order, decree, judgment or stipulation or to any agreement materially restricting the scope of FEI's or such Subsidiary's use thereof; and (iii) together with each item of material FEI Intellectual Property which FEI or such Subsidiary has a right to use or practice pursuant to one or more license or similar agreements, is not subject to any suits, actions, written claims or

demands of any third party and no action or proceeding, whether judicial, administrative, has been instituted, is pending or, to FEI's knowledge, Threatened, which challenges or affects the rights of FEI or such Subsidiary in the same manner.

(d) Neither FEI nor any Subsidiary thereof has entered into any agreement to indemnify any third party against any claim of infringement, misappropriation or other violation of FEI Intellectual Property rights other than indemnification provisions contained in purchase orders, customer agreements or similar agreements arising in the ordinary course of business.

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(e) To the knowledge of FEI and its Subsidiaries, (a) all rights in all inventions and discoveries made, developed or conceived by any current or former officer, employee, independent contractor, consultant or any other agent of FEI or any Subsidiary thereof during the course of their employment (or other retention) by FEI or a Subsidiary thereof and material to the business of FEI or a Subsidiary thereof and which are the subject of one or more issued letters patent or applications for letters patent have been assigned in writing to FEI or a Subsidiary thereof; and (b) the policy of FEI or a Subsidiary thereof requires each employee of FEI or a Subsidiary thereof to sign documents confirming that he or she assign to FEI or a Subsidiary thereof all Intellectual Property rights made, written, developed or conceived by him or her during the course of his or her employment (or other retention) by FEI or a Subsidiary thereof and relating to the business of FEI or a Subsidiary thereof to the extent that ownership of any such Intellectual Property rights does not vest in FEI or a Subsidiary thereof by operation of Law.

(f) FEI believes that FEI and its Subsidiaries have taken reasonable and practicable steps to protect and preserve the confidentiality of any material FEI Intellectual Property that it wishes to remain confidential ("**FEI Confidential IP Information**"). FEI believes that all use by FEI and its Subsidiaries of FEI Confidential IP Information not owned by FEI and its Subsidiaries has been and is pursuant to the terms of a written agreement between FEI or a Subsidiary thereof and the owner of such Confidential Information, or is otherwise lawful.

3.14 Absence of Liens: Title to Property.

(a) For purposes of this Agreement, "FEI Real Property" means all interests in real property including, fee estates, leaseholds and subleaseholds, purchase options, easements, licenses, privileges, hereditaments, appurtenances, rights to access and rights of way, and all fixtures, buildings, structures and other improvements thereon, owned or used by FEI, together with any additions thereto or replacements thereof.

(b) Section 3.14(b) of the Disclosure Schedule contains the true and correct street address of all FEI Real Property owned by FEI (the "FEI Owned Real Property") and contains the true and correct street address of all FEI Real Property leased by FEI and exceeding 10,000 square feet of leased area, excluding, however, any FEI Owned Real Property or leased FEI Real Property identified in FEI's financial statements or the FEI SEC Documents (the "FEI Leased Real Property"). There is no other material real property that is owned or leased by FEI or used in or necessary for the conduct of business as presently conducted.

(c) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, all leases for material FEI Leased Real Property (the "FEI Leases") are in good standing, valid and effective in accordance with their respective terms, and neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor to FEI's knowledge, any other party to a FEI Lease, is in material breach, violation or default under, and neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries has received written notice that it has breached, violated or defaulted under, any of the terms or conditions of any FEI Lease. FEI has provided Veeco with true, complete and correct copies of each FEI Lease.

(d) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, the FEI Real Property and all present uses and operations of the FEI Real Property comply with all applicable Laws, Court Orders, Governmental Permits, restrictions of any Governmental Body having jurisdiction over any portion of the FEI Real Property (including, those relating to zoning, land use, safety, health, employment and employment practices and access by the handicapped), covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, disposition agreements and similar matters affecting the FEI Real Property. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI, FEI has obtained all approvals of any Governmental Body (including, certificates of use and occupancy, licenses and permits) required in connection with the construction, ownership, use, and occupation of the FEI Real Property and operation of its business.

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(e) FEI and each of its Subsidiaries has good and valid title to, or, in the case of leased assets, valid leasehold interests in, all of its material tangible assets used in its business, free and clear of any Liens, except (i) Liens reflected in the FEI Financial Statements or the FEI SEC Documents; (ii) Liens for Taxes not yet due and payable; and (iii) Liens which are not material to FEI and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

3.15 Environmental Matters.

Except as disclosed in the FEI SEC Documents:

(a) The FEI Entities have conducted all Hazardous Substance Activities relating to the business in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Environmental Laws. The Hazardous Substance Activities of the FEI Entities prior to the Closing have not resulted in the exposure of any person to a Hazardous Substance in a manner which could reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on FEI. The FEI Entities have obtained all material permits, licenses and approvals necessary or required under all applicable Environmental Laws for the ownership and operation of their business ("Environmental Permits"). All such Environmental Permits are valid and in full force and effect. The FEI Entities have not received written notice of any action to revoke or modify any of such Environmental Permits, and, to FEI's knowledge, the ownership and operation of the FEI Entities' business is and has been in material compliance with all terms and conditions thereof. The FEI Entities have not received notice of any pending or Threatened claim by any Governmental Authority or any other Person concerning potential liability of any of the FEI Entities under Environmental Laws in connection with the ownership or operation of its business. Except in compliance with Environmental Laws and in a manner that could not reasonably be expected to subject the FEI Entities to material liability, to the knowledge of the FEI Entities, no Hazardous Substances are present on any real property currently owned, operated, occupied, controlled or leased by the FEI Entities or were present on any other real property at the time it ceased to be owned, operated, occupied, controlled or leased by the FEI Entities.

(b) The FEI Entities have made all disclosures, including notice of a Release or Threatened Release of a Hazardous Substance, required of any FEI Entity under any Environmental Law.

(c) No FEI Entity has received written notice, or otherwise obtained knowledge, of the existence of any circumstances or conditions that would reasonably be expected to result in any material environmental liability.

(d) No FEI Entity has received written notice or otherwise obtained knowledge of any material liability with respect to any Hazardous Substance, which it has transported or arranged for the transportation of to premises not owned or operated by any FEI Entity.

3.16 Brokers and Finders. Except for Credit Suisse First Boston ("FEI's Broker"), no broker, finder, agent or similar intermediary has acted on FEI's behalf in connection with this Merger Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, and there are no brokerage commissions, finders' fees or similar fees or commissions payable in connection therewith based on any Contract with FEI or any action taken by FEI. FEI shall pay all fees and disbursements of FEI's Broker.

3.17 Reorganization. Neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries has taken any action or has knowledge of any fact or circumstance that would reasonably be expected to cause the Merger to fail to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

3.18 Board Approval. The Board of Directors of FEI has unanimously (i) determined that the Merger is advisable, consistent with and in the furtherance of the long-term business strategy of FEI and fair to, and in the best interests of, FEI and its stockholders, (ii) approved this Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement and (iii) determined to recommend approval of the Merger by the stockholders of FEI.

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3.19 Opinion of FEI's Broker. The Board of Directors of FEI has received the opinion of FEI's Broker, dated the date of this Agreement, to the effect that, as of such date, the Exchange Ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to the stockholders of FEI (other than Philips and its Affiliates).

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3.20 Restrictions on Business Activities. There is no material agreement, judgment, injunction, order or decree binding upon FEI or any of its Subsidiaries which has or, to its knowledge, reasonably could be expected to have the effect of prohibiting or materially impairing any current or proposed future business practice of FEI or any of its Subsidiaries, any proposed acquisition of property by FEI or any of its Subsidiaries or the conduct of business by FEI or any of its Subsidiaries as currently conducted or as proposed to be conducted by FEI or any of its Subsidiaries.

3.21 State Anti-takeover Statutes. FEI has granted all approvals and taken all other steps necessary to exempt the FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby from the requirements and provisions of Section 835 of the OBCA and other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations to the extent applicable such that none of the provisions of such "business combination," "moratorium," "control share," or other state anti-takeover statute or regulation (a) applies to this Merger Agreement or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (b) prohibits or restricts FEI's ability to perform its obligations under this Merger Agreement or its ability to consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, (c) would have the effect of invalidating or voiding this Merger Agreement or any provisions hereof or (d) would subject FEI to any material impediment or condition in connection with the exercise of any of its rights under this Merger Agreement.

3.22 Ownership of Veeco Stock. As of the date of this Merger Agreement, neither FEI nor any of its Subsidiaries own any Veeco Shares.

3.23 Form S-4 Registration Statement; Joint Proxy Statement. None of the information to be supplied by FEI or its Subsidiaries in (i) the Form S-4 Registration Statement will, at the time it becomes effective under the Securities Act, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading and (ii) the Joint Proxy Statement will, on the date of the mailing of the Joint Proxy Statement and any amendments or supplements thereto, at the time of each of the FEI Stockholders' Meeting and the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting, and at the Effective Time, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not false or misleading, or omit to state any material fact necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the solicitation of proxies for the FEI Stockholders Meeting or the Veeco Stockholders Meeting, which has become false or misleading. The Joint Proxy Statement will comply, as of its mailing date, as to form in all material respects with all applicable Laws, including the provisions of the Exchange Act, except that no representation is made by FEI with respect to information supplied by Veeco or Acquisition for inclusion therein.

IV. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OF VEECO AND ACQUISITION

Veeco and Acquisition, jointly and severally, hereby represent and warrant to and covenant and agree with FEI that, except as set forth in the Veeco Disclosure Schedule:

4.01 Corporate Organization.

(a) Veeco is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware. Veeco has the corporate power and authority to own or lease all of its properties and assets and to carry on its business as it is now being conducted, and is duly licensed or qualified to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of the business conducted by it or the character or location of the properties and assets owned or leased by it makes such licensing or qualification necessary, except where the failure to be so licensed or qualified would

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not, either individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco. True and complete copies of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws of Veeco, as in effect as of the date of this Merger Agreement, have been filed by Veeco as part of the Veeco SEC Documents.

(b) Each Subsidiary of Veeco (i) is duly organized and validly existing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, (ii) is duly qualified to do business and in good standing in all jurisdictions (whether federal, state or local or foreign) where its ownership or leasing of property or the conduct of its business requires it to be so qualified and (iii) has all requisite corporate power and authority to own or lease its properties and assets and to carry on its business as now conducted, in each case, except as would not have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco. Section 4.01(b) of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule contains a complete and accurate list of each Subsidiary of Veeco, indicating the jurisdiction of incorporation or organization of each such Subsidiary and Veeco's percentage ownership interest therein (including each type of security held by Veeco of each Subsidiary).

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(c) Acquisition is a wholly owned Subsidiary of Veeco and has conducted and will conduct no business or activity, nor has incurred or will incur any liability or obligation, other than hereunder or in accordance with the Merger.

4.02 Capitalization.

(a) The authorized capital stock of Veeco consists of 60,000,000 Veeco Shares, of which 29,134,679 were issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2002, and 500,000 shares of preferred stock, none of which are outstanding. All of the outstanding Veeco Shares have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and nonassessable, are free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof, and were issued in conformity with applicable Laws.

(b) As of June 30, 2002, 6,122,330 Veeco Shares (in the aggregate) were issuable upon the exercise of options previously granted, and 878,286 Veeco Shares (in the aggregate) were reserved for issuance upon the exercise of options available for grant, under Veeco's stock option plans (collectively, the "Veeco Options"), 5,712,802 Veeco Shares (in the aggregate) were issuable upon the conversion of Veeco's outstanding \$220 million 4.125% Convertible Subordinated Notes due December 21, 2008 (the "Veeco Convertible Debt") and 78,155 shares of Veeco Shares (in the aggregate) were reserved for issuance under the Veeco ESPP. Except as set forth above, there are no outstanding Equity Securities, or other obligations to issue or grant any rights to acquire any Equity Securities, of Veeco, or any Contracts to restructure or recapitalize Veeco. Other than in connection with the Veeco Convertible Debt, there are no outstanding Contracts of Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco to repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any Equity Securities of Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco. From December 31, 2001 to the date of this Merger Agreement, no shares of Veeco capital stock have been issued except pursuant to the exercise of Veeco Options, the Veeco Convertible Debt and under the Veeco ESPP. As of June 30, 2002, no shares of Veeco capital stock were reserved for issuance, except for 7,000,616 Veeco Shares reserved for issuance upon exercise of Veeco Options, the Veeco Convertible Debt and under the Veeco ESPP. Veeco has no issued or outstanding Voting Debt.

(c) Veeco owns, directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity ownership interests of each Subsidiary of Veeco, free and clear of any Liens, and all of such shares or equity ownership interests are duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid, non-assessable and free of preemptive rights, with no personal liability attaching to the ownership thereof. No Subsidiary of Veeco has or is bound by any outstanding subscriptions, options, warrants, calls, commitments or agreements of any character calling for the purchase or issuance of any shares of capital stock or any other Equity Security of such Subsidiary or any securities representing the right to purchase or otherwise receive any shares of capital stock or any other equity security of such Subsidiary. Section 4.02(c) of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule sets

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forth a list of each material investment of Veeco in the equity (or any security convertible or exchangeable into equity) of any Person other than its Subsidiaries.

4.03 Authorization. Veeco has full corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform this Merger Agreement and the Articles of Merger, and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The execution, delivery and performance of this Merger Agreement, the Articles of Merger and all other documents and agreements to be delivered pursuant hereto and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly and validly authorized by the Board of Directors of Veeco, and no other corporate proceedings on the part of Veeco (other than the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote and the filing of the Articles of Merger) are necessary to authorize this Merger Agreement, the Articles of Merger and any such related documents or agreements or to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. This Merger Agreement has been duly and validly executed and delivered by Veeco and the Articles of Merger, when executed at the Closing, will be duly and validly executed and delivered by Veeco. This Merger Agreement, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by each of the other parties hereto, constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of Veeco, enforceable in accordance with its terms, and the Articles of Merger, when executed by Veeco at the Closing, assuming the due authorization, execution and delivery by each of the other parties thereto, will be legal, valid and binding agreements of Veeco, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms except as may be limited by applicable bankruptcy, moratorium, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance or other Laws affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally or by general equitable principles.

4.04 Reports. All Veeco SEC Documents were filed as and when required by the Exchange Act or the Securities Act, as applicable. All documents required to be filed as exhibits to the Veeco SEC Documents have been so filed. The Veeco SEC Documents include all statements, reports and documents required to be filed by Veeco pursuant to the Exchange Act and the Securities Act. The Veeco SEC Documents comply in all material respects with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the Securities Act, as applicable, and none of the Veeco SEC Documents, as of their respective filing dates, contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein

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or necessary to make the statements made therein, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading. None of Veeco's Subsidiaries is required to file any statements, reports or documents with the SEC. The financial statements of Veeco and its Subsidiaries, including the notes thereto, included in the Veeco SEC Documents (the "Veeco Financial Statements") complied in all material respects with applicable accounting requirements and with the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto as of their respective dates (except as may be indicated in the notes thereto or, in the case of unaudited statements included in Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, as permitted by Form 10-Q of the SEC). The Veeco Financial Statements fairly present the consolidated financial condition, operating results and cash flows of Veeco and its Subsidiaries at the dates and during the periods indicated therein in accordance with GAAP consistently applied (subject, in the case of unaudited statements, to normal year-end adjustments and additional footnote disclosures). There has been no material change in Veeco's accounting policies except as described in the notes to the Veeco Financial Statements. At all times since January 1, 1999, Veeco has (i) filed as and when due all documents required to be filed with NASDAQ, and (ii) otherwise timely performed all of Veeco's obligations pursuant to the rules and regulations of NASDAQ.

4.05 No Undisclosed Liabilities. The Veeco Entities do not have any obligations or liabilities of any nature (whether matured or unmatured, absolute, accrued, fixed or contingent) other than those (i) set forth or adequately provided for in the Balance Sheet of Veeco and its Subsidiaries included in Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 (the "Veeco Balance Sheet"), (ii) not required to be set forth on the Veeco Balance Sheet under GAAP consistently applied, (iii) incurred in the ordinary course of business since the Veeco Balance Sheet Date and consistent with

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past practice or (iv) which, individually or in the aggregate, would not have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

4.06 Compliance with Law: Governmental Authorizations.

(a) Each of the Veeco Entities has complied with, is not in violation of, and has not received any notices of violation with respect to, any federal, state, local or foreign statute, Law or regulation with respect to the conduct of its business, or the ownership or operation of its business, except for such violations or failures to comply as could not be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

(b) Each of the Veeco Entities has obtained each federal, state, county, local or foreign governmental Consent, approval, certificate, license, permit, grant, or other authorization of a Governmental Authority that is required for the operation of its business or the holding of any interest in its properties (collectively, the "Veeco Authorizations"), and all of such Veeco Authorizations are in full force and effect, except where the failure to obtain or have any of such Veeco Authorizations could not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

4.07 No Conflicts.

(a) The execution, delivery and performance by Veeco and Acquisition of this Merger Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will not (i) violate any provision of the Certificate of Incorporation or By-Laws or other organizational documents of Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity, (ii) violate, or be in conflict with, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute a default) under, or result in or provide the basis for the termination of, or accelerate the performance required by, or excuse performance by any Person of any of its obligations under, or cause the acceleration of the maturity, or trigger any repurchase obligation, of any debt or obligation pursuant to, or result in the creation or imposition of any Lien upon any property or assets of Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity under, any material Contract to which Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity is a party or by which any of their respective properties or assets are bound, or to which any of the property or assets of Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity are subject, except for Contracts wherein the other party thereto has consented to the consummation of the Merger or irrevocably waived in writing its right to take any action contemplated in this clause (ii), (iii) violate any Law applicable to Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity or (iv) violate or result in the revocation or suspension of any material license, permit, certificate, Consent or approval from a Governmental Authority that is necessary for the business and operations of Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity.

(b) No filing or registration with, or permit, authorization, Consent or approval of, or notification or disclosure to, any Governmental Authority is required by Veeco or Acquisition or any other Veeco Entity in connection with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement or the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, except (i) in connection with the applicable requirements of the HSR Act or any other Regulatory Law and any other applicable anti-trust or competition approvals, (ii) in connection with the provisions of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, (iii) the filing of appropriate merger documents as required by the

DGCL and OBCA, (iv) Consents, filings or exemptions in connection with compliance with the rules of NASDAQ, (v) such Consents, orders, registrations, declarations and filings as may be required under the laws of various states or (vi) such other Consents, filings and registrations the failure of which to obtain would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

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4.08 Contracts.

(a) Neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries is a party to or is bound by any written contract, arrangement or commitment (i) with respect to the employment of any directors, officers or employees other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (ii) which, upon the consummation or stockholder approval of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, will (either alone or upon the occurrence of any additional acts or events) result in any payment (whether of severance pay or otherwise) becoming due from FEI, Veeco, the Surviving Corporation or any of their respective Subsidiaries to any officer or employee thereof, (iii) which is a "material contract" (as such term is defined in Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K of the SEC) to be performed, entirely or in part, after the date of this Merger Agreement, but which has not been previously filed with the SEC, (iv) which are of the type required to be disclosed under Item 404 of Regulation S-K of the SEC, but which has not been previously filed with the SEC, (v) which materially restricts the conduct of any line of business by Veeco or any Subsidiary thereof or, upon consummation of the Merger, will materially restrict the ability of Veeco or the Surviving Corporation or any Subsidiary thereof to engage in any proposed line of business or (vi) which, upon the consummation or stockholder approval of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, will result in any of the FEI Entities or any of the Veeco Entities, granting any rights or licenses to any material Intellectual Property of any of the FEI Entities or any of the Veeco Entities, to any third party. Each contract, arrangement, commitment or understanding of the type described in this Section 4.08(a), whether or not set forth in the Veeco Disclosure Schedule, is referred to herein as a "Veeco Contract".

(b) (i) Each Veeco Contract is valid and binding on Veeco and any of its Subsidiaries that is a party thereto, as applicable, and is in full force and effect (except to the extent such contract has expired or terminated according to its terms), (ii) Veeco and each of its Subsidiaries has in all material respects performed all obligations required to be performed by it to date under each Veeco Contract, except where such noncompliance, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, and (iii) neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries, knows of, or has received notice of, the existence of any event or condition which constitutes, or, after notice or lapse of time or both, will constitute, a material default on the part of Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries under any such Veeco Contract, except where such default, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

4.09 Litigation. Except as disclosed in the Veeco SEC Documents prior to the date hereof, (i) there is no private or governmental action, suit, proceeding, claim, arbitration or investigation pending before any agency, court or tribunal, foreign or domestic, or, to the knowledge of Veeco, Threatened against Veeco or any other Veeco Entity or any of their respective properties or any of their respective officers or directors (in their capacities as such) that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, and (ii) there is no judgment, decree or order against Veeco or any other Veeco Entity or, to the knowledge of Veeco, any of their respective directors or officers (in their capacities as such) that could prevent, enjoin, alter or materially delay any of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, or that could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

4.10 Taxes. Veeco and each of the Veeco Entities has filed or caused to be filed on a timely basis all Tax Returns that are or were required to be filed by Veeco and/or any of the other Veeco Entities, either separately or as part of an affiliated group of corporations, pursuant to the Laws of any Governmental Authority with taxing power over any of the Veeco Entities or its assets and business. All Tax Returns filed by any of the Veeco Entities are true, correct and complete. Veeco and each of the Veeco Entities has paid all Taxes that have become due by it pursuant to those Tax Returns or pursuant to any assessment received by any of the Veeco Entities, except such Taxes, if any, as are being

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contested in good faith and as to which adequate reserves have been provided in the Veeco Financial Statements. All Taxes that Veeco or any of the Veeco Entities is, or was, required by Law to withhold and collect have been duly withheld and collected and, to the extent required, have been paid to the appropriate Governmental Authority. There is no agreement, plan, arrangement or other contract covering any employee or independent contractor of Veeco or any of the Veeco Entities that would give rise to the payment of any amount that would not be deductible by Veeco or any of the Veeco Entities or the Surviving Corporation pursuant to Section 280G or Section 162(m) of the Code. Veeco is not a

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"United States real property holding corporation," as defined in Section 897(c)(2) of the Code. The charges, accruals and reserves with respect to Taxes on the Veeco Financial Statements with respect to each of the Veeco Entities (excluding any provision for deferred income taxes established to reflect timing differences between book and tax income) for all tax periods (or portions thereof) ending on or before the Closing Date (including any period for which no Tax Return has yet been filed) are adequate.

4.11 Absence of Certain Changes. Except as disclosed in or filed as an exhibit to the Veeco SEC Documents prior to the date hereof, since December 31, 2001 (the "Veeco Balance Sheet Date"), the Veeco Entities have conducted their business in the ordinary course consistent with past practice and there has not occurred: (i) any change, event or condition (whether or not covered by insurance) that has resulted in, or might reasonably be expected to result in, a Material Adverse Effect to Veeco; (ii) any acquisition, sale or transfer of any material asset of the Veeco Entities other than in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice; (iii) any change in accounting methods or practices (including any change in depreciation or amortization policies or rates) by Veeco or any revaluation by Veeco of any of its assets; (iv) any declaration, setting aside, or payment of a dividend or other distribution with respect to the Veeco Shares or any other Veeco Equity Securities (excluding interest payments on the Veeco Convertible Debt contemplated by the Indenture relating thereto), or any direct or indirect redemption, purchase or other acquisition by Veeco of any of its shares of capital stock; (v) any material Contract entered into by any Veeco Entity, other than in the ordinary course of business, or any material amendment or termination of, or default under, any material Contract to which any Veeco Entity is a party or by which any of them is bound; or (vi) any agreement by any Veeco Entity to do any of the things described in the preceding clauses (i) through (v) (other than negotiations with FEI and its Representatives regarding the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement).

4.12 Employee Benefit Plans; Labor Matters.

(a) There does not now exist any and, to the knowledge of Veeco, there are no existing circumstances that could reasonably be expected to result in, any Controlled Group Liability to Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries that, individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco. No Veeco Benefit Plan is (i) a "multiemployer plan" within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA, (ii) a "multiple employer plan" as defined in ERISA or the Code, or (iii) a "funded welfare plan" within the meaning of Section 419 of the Code. None of the Veeco Benefit Plans provides for any welfare or other non-pension benefits to retired or former employees, except to the extent required by the continuation coverage requirements of Section 601 et. seq. of ERISA, Section 4980B of the Code or similar state law.

(b) Except as would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, (i) each of the Veeco Benefit Plans has been operated and administered in all material respects in accordance with applicable law and administrative rules and regulations of any Governmental Authority, including, but not limited to, ERISA and the Code, and (ii) there are no pending or, to the knowledge of Veeco, Threatened claims (other than claims for benefits in the ordinary course), lawsuits or arbitrations that have been asserted or instituted, and, to the knowledge of Veeco, no set of circumstances exists, that may reasonably give

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rise to a claim or lawsuit, against the Veeco Benefit Plans, any fiduciaries thereof with respect to their duties to the Veeco Benefit Plans or the assets of any of the trusts under any of the Veeco Benefit Plans that could reasonably be expected to result in any material liability of Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries to the PBGC, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Labor, any Veeco Benefit Plan, any participant in a Veeco Benefit Plan, or any other party. There are no unpaid contributions due prior to the date hereof with respect to any Veeco Benefit Plan that are required to have been made under its terms and provisions, any related insurance contract or any applicable law.

(c) Neither Veeco nor any Subsidiary of Veeco is a party to any collective bargaining or other labor union contract applicable to individuals employed by Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco, and no collective bargaining agreement or other labor union contract is being negotiated by Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, (i) there is no labor dispute, strike, slowdown or work stoppage against Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco pending or, to the knowledge of Veeco, Threatened against Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco and (ii) no unfair labor practice or labor charge or complaint has occurred with respect to Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco.

(d) Neither the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby (either alone or in conjunction with any other event) will (i) result in any payment or benefit (including, without limitation, option acceleration, severance, unemployment compensation, "excess parachute payment" (within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code), forgiveness of indebtedness or otherwise) becoming due to any director, consultant or any current or former employee of Veeco or any

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Subsidiaries of Veeco under any Veeco consultant Benefit Plan or otherwise; (ii) increase any benefits otherwise payable under any Veeco Benefit Plan; (iii) result in any acceleration of the time of payment or vesting of any such benefits; (iv) require the funding of any trust or other funding vehicle; or (v) limit or prohibit the ability to amend, merge, terminate or receive a reversion of assets from any Veeco Benefit Plan or related trust.

(e) There has been no disallowance of a deduction, or reasonable expectation of a disallowance of a deduction, under Section 162(m) of the Code for employee compensation of any amount paid or payable by Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco that, either individually or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

(f) Section 4.12(f) of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule sets forth a list of each material Veeco Benefit Plan.

(g) Veeco has heretofore made available to FEI true and complete copies of each of the Veeco Benefit Plans (and all related trust agreements, insurance contracts and other ancillary documents) and, to the extent applicable, (i) the actuarial report for such Veeco Benefit Plan for each of the last two years, (ii) the most recent determination letter from the IRS for such Veeco Benefit Plan, (iii) the summary plan description for such Veeco Benefit Plan, and (iv) the Form 5500 for such Veeco Benefit Plan for each of the last two years, and all schedules thereto. Since the date of the documents made available, there has not been any material change in the assets or liabilities of any of the Veeco Benefit Plans or any change in their terms and operations that could reasonably be expected to affect or alter the tax status or materially affect the cost of maintaining such Plan, and none of the Veeco Benefit Plans has been or will be amended prior to the Closing Date to the extent such amendment will materially affect the cost of maintaining such Plans. Each of the Veeco Benefit Plans can be amended, modified or terminated by Veeco or a Subsidiary of Veeco within a period of 30 days, without payment of any additional compensation or amount or the additional vesting or acceleration of any such benefits, except to the extent that such vesting is required under the Code upon the complete or partial termination of any Veeco Benefit Plan intended to be qualified within the meaning of Section 401(a) of the Code.

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(h) Each Veeco Benefit Plan that is intended to be qualified under Section 401 of the Code has received a favorable determination letter from the IRS as to the qualification of such plan (or is a prototype plan entitled to rely on a favorable determination, opinion or advisory letter issued to the prototype sponsor), or has remaining a period of time under applicable Treasury regulations or IRS pronouncements in which to receive such a determination. For each Veeco Benefit Plan that has received such a determination, such letter has not been modified, revoked or limited by the failure to satisfy any condition thereof or by a subsequent amendment thereto, or failure to amend such Veeco Benefit Plan.

(i) Except as, either individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, no individual who has been classified by Veeco as a non-employee (such as an independent contractor, leased employee or consultant) would reasonably be expected to have a claim against Veeco for eligibility to participate in any Veeco Benefit Plan, if such individual is later reclassified as a Veeco employee.

(j) Except as, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, all Veeco Benefit Plans subject to the laws of any jurisdiction outside of the United States (i) have been maintained in accordance with all applicable requirements, (ii) if they are intended to qualify for special tax treatment meet all requirements for such treatment, and (iii) if they are intended to be funded and/or book-reserved are fully funded and/or book reserved, as appropriate, based upon reasonable actuarial assumptions.

4.13 Intellectual Property Rights.

(a) Veeco and its Subsidiaries own, or are licensed to use, all Veeco Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of Veeco, the business and operations of Veeco and its Subsidiaries as they are currently conducted do not infringe on the rights of any third party where such infringement, individually or in the aggregate, would be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on any Material Veeco Entity or any material business or product offering of Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries, and, to the extent material Veeco Intellectual Property is licensed from a third party, Veeco's use of such Intellectual Property is in accordance in all material respects with the applicable license pursuant to which Veeco acquired the right to use such Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of Veeco, no third party is challenging, infringing on or otherwise violating any right of Veeco in the Veeco Intellectual Property where such infringement, individually or in the aggregate, would be reasonably expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on any Material Veeco Entity or any material business or product offering of Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries. Since Neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries has received any written notice of any pending claim, order or proceeding with respect to any material Veeco Intellectual

Property, nor has Veeco received any written demand from any other party to cease and desist from infringement of such other party's Intellectual Property. To the knowledge of Veeco, no material Intellectual Property owned or licensed by Veeco is being used or enforced by Veeco or its Subsidiaries in a manner that would reasonably be expected to result in the abandonment, estoppel, cancellation or unenforceability of such Intellectual Property.

(b) The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement by Veeco and the consummation by Veeco of the transactions contemplated hereby will not (i) constitute a breach by Veeco or its Subsidiaries of any material instrument or agreement governing any Veeco Intellectual Property, (ii) pursuant to the terms of any material license or agreement relating to any Veeco Intellectual Property, cause the material modification of any terms of any such license or agreement, including but not limited to the modification of the effective rate of any royalties or other payments provided for in any such license or agreement, (iii) cause the forfeiture or termination of any Veeco Intellectual Property under the terms thereof, (iv) give rise to a right of forfeiture or termination of any Veeco Intellectual Property under the terms thereof or (v) impair the right of Veeco, its Subsidiaries or, to Veeco's knowledge, FEI to make, have made, offer for

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sale, use, sell, export or license any products or processes used by Veeco, its Subsidiaries or, to Veeco's knowledge, FEI in the conduct of their business as it is currently configured, except in each case for those matters that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco.

(c) Each item of material Veeco Intellectual Property owned by Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof (the "Veeco-Owned IP") (i) is free and clear of any Liens or filings required under the Uniform Commercial Code in effect in any jurisdiction; (ii) is not subject to any outstanding judicial order, decree, judgment or stipulation or to any agreement materially restricting the scope of Veeco's or such Subsidiary's use thereof; and (iii) together with each item of material Veeco Intellectual Property which Veeco or such Subsidiary has a right to use or practice pursuant to one or more license or similar agreements, is not subject to any suits, actions, written claims or demands of any third party and no action or proceeding, whether judicial, administrative, has been instituted, is pending or, to Veeco's knowledge, Threatened, which challenges or affects the rights of Veeco or such Subsidiary in the same manner.

(d) Neither Veeco nor any Subsidiary thereof has entered into any agreement to indemnify any third party against any claim of infringement, misappropriation or other violation of Veeco Intellectual Property rights other than indemnification provisions contained in purchase orders, customer agreements or similar agreements arising in the ordinary course of business.

(e) To the knowledge of Veeco and its Subsidiaries, (a) all rights in all inventions and discoveries made, developed or conceived by any current or former officer, employee, independent contractor, consultant or any other agent of Veeco or any Subsidiary thereof during the course of their employment (or other retention) by Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof and material to the business of Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof and which are the subject of one or more issued letters patent or applications for letters patent have been assigned in writing to Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof; and (b) the policy of Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof requires each employee of Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof to sign documents confirming that he or she assign to Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof all Intellectual Property rights made, written, developed or conceived by him or her during the course of his or her employment (or other retention) by Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof and relating to the business of Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof to the extent that ownership of any such Intellectual Property rights does not vest in Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof by operation of Law.

(f) Veeco believes that Veeco and its Subsidiaries have taken reasonable and practicable steps to protect and preserve the confidentiality of any material Veeco Intellectual Property that it wishes to remain confidential ("Veeco Confidential IP Information"). Veeco believes that all use by Veeco and its Subsidiaries of Veeco Confidential IP Information not owned by Veeco and its Subsidiaries has been and is pursuant to the terms of a written agreement between Veeco or a Subsidiary thereof and the owner of such Confidential Information, or is otherwise lawful.

4.14 Absence of Liens; Title to Property.

(a) For purposes of this Agreement, "Veeco Real Property" means all interests in real property including, fee estates, leaseholds and subleaseholds, purchase options, easements, licenses, privileges, hereditaments, appurtenances, rights to access and rights of way, and all fixtures, buildings, structures and other improvements thereon, owned or used by Veeco, together with any additions thereto or replacements thereof.

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(b) Section 4.14(b) of the Disclosure Schedule contains the true and correct street address of all Veeco Real Property owned by Veeco (the "Veeco Owned Real Property") and contains the true and correct street address of all Veeco Real Property leased by Veeco and exceeding 10,000 square feet of leased area, excluding, however, any Veeco Owned Real Property or leased Veeco Real Property identified in Veeco's financial statements or the Veeco SEC Documents (the "Veeco

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Leased Real Property"). There is no other material real property that is owned or leased by Veeco or used in or necessary for the conduct of business as presently conducted.

(c) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, all leases for material Veeco Leased Real Property (the "Veeco Leases") are in good standing, valid and effective in accordance with their respective terms, and neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries, nor to Veeco's knowledge, any other party to a Veeco Lease, is in material breach, violation or default under, and neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries has received written notice that it has breached, violated or defaulted under, any of the terms or conditions of any Veeco Lease. Veeco has provided FEI with true, complete and correct copies of each Veeco Lease.

(d) Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, the Veeco Real Property and all present uses and operations of the Veeco Real Property comply with all applicable Laws, Court Orders, Governmental Permits, restrictions of any Governmental Body having jurisdiction over any portion of the Veeco Real Property (including, those relating to zoning, land use, safety, health, employment and employment practices and access by the handicapped), covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, disposition agreements and similar matters affecting the Veeco Real Property. Except as would not reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco, Veeco has obtained all approvals of any Governmental Body (including, certificates of use and occupancy, licenses and permits) required in connection with the construction, ownership, use, and occupation of the Veeco Real Property and operation of its business.

(e) Veeco and each of its Subsidiaries has good and valid title to, or, in the case of leased assets, valid leasehold interests in, all of its material tangible assets used in its business, free and clear of any Liens, except (i) Liens reflected in the Veeco Financial Statements or the Veeco SEC Documents; (ii) Liens for Taxes not yet due and payable; and (iii) Liens which are not material to Veeco and its Subsidiaries taken as a whole.

4.15 Environmental Matters. Except as disclosed in the Veeco SEC Documents:

(a) The Veeco Entities have conducted all Hazardous Substance Activities relating to the business in compliance in all material respects with all applicable Environmental Laws. The Hazardous Substance Activities of the Veeco Entities prior to the Closing have not resulted in the exposure of any person to a Hazardous Substance in a manner which could reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco. The Veeco Entities have obtained all material Environmental Permits. All such Environmental Permits are valid and in full force and effect. The Veeco Entities have not received written notice of any action to revoke or modify any of such Environmental Permits, and, to Veeco's knowledge the ownership and operation of the Veeco Entities' business is and has been in material compliance with all terms and conditions thereof. The Veeco Entities have not received notice of any pending or Threatened claim by any Governmental Authority or any other Person concerning potential liability of any of the Veeco Entities under Environmental Laws in connection with the ownership or operation of its business. Except in compliance with Environmental Laws and in a manner that could not reasonably be expected to subject the Veeco Entities to material liability, to the knowledge of the Veeco Entities, no Hazardous Substances are present on any real property currently owned, operated, occupied, controlled or leased by the Veeco Entities or were present on any other real property at the time it ceased to be owned, operated, occupied, controlled or leased by the Veeco Entities.

(b) The Veeco Entities have made all disclosures, including notice of a Release or Threatened Release of a Hazardous Substance, required of any Veeco Entity under any Environmental Law.

(c) No Veeco Entity has received written notice, or otherwise obtained knowledge, of the existence of any circumstances or conditions that would reasonably be expected to result in any material environmental liability.

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(d) No Veeco Entity has received written notice or otherwise obtained knowledge of any material liability with respect to any Hazardous Substance, which it has transported or arranged for the transportation of to premises not owned or operated by any Veeco Entity.

4.16 Brokers and Finders. Except for Salomon Smith Barney Inc. ("Veeco's Broker"), no broker, finder, agent or similar intermediary has acted on Veeco's or Acquisition's behalf in connection with this Merger Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby, and there are no brokerage commissions, finders' fees or similar fees or commissions payable in connection therewith based on any Contract with Veeco or Acquisition or any action taken by Veeco or Acquisition. Veeco shall pay all fees and disbursements of Veeco's Broker.

4.17 Reorganization. Neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries has taken any action or has knowledge of any fact or circumstance that would reasonably be expected to cause the Merger to fail to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

4.18 Board Approval. The Board of Directors of Veeco has unanimously (i) determined that the Merger is advisable, consistent with and in the furtherance of the long-term business strategy of Veeco and fair to, and in the best interests of, Veeco and its stockholders, (ii) approved this Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement and (iii) approved and determined to recommend that the stockholders of Veeco vote to approve the issuance of the Veeco Shares in the Merger.

4.19 Opinion of Veeco's Broker. The Board of Directors of Veeco has received the opinion of Veeco's Broker, dated as of the date of this Merger Agreement, to the effect that, as of such date, the Exchange Ratio was fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco.

4.20 Restrictions on Business Activities. There is no material agreement, judgment, injunction, order or decree binding upon Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries which has or, to its knowledge, reasonably could be expected to have the effect of prohibiting or materially impairing any current or proposed future business practice of Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries, any proposed acquisition of property by Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries or the conduct of business by Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries as currently conducted or as proposed to be conducted by Veeco or any of its Subsidiaries.

4.21 State Anti-takeover Statutes. Veeco has granted all approvals and taken all other steps necessary to exempt the Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby from the requirements and provisions of Section 203 of the DGCL and other state anti-takeover statutes or regulations to the extent applicable such that none of the provisions of such "business combination," "moratorium," "control share," or other state anti-takeover statute or regulation (a) applies to this Merger Agreement or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (b) prohibits or restricts Veeco's ability to perform its obligations under this Merger Agreement or its ability to consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, (c) would have the effect of invalidating or voiding this Merger Agreement or any provisions hereof or (d) would subject Veeco to any material impediment or condition in connection with the exercise of any of its rights under this Merger Agreement.

4.22 Ownership of FEI Stock. As of the date of this Merger Agreement, neither Veeco nor any of its Subsidiaries own any shares of FEI Common Stock.

4.23 Form S-4 Registration Statement; Joint Proxy Statement. None of the information to be supplied by Veeco or its Subsidiaries in (i) the Form S-4 Registration Statement will, at the time it becomes effective under the Securities Act, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading and (ii) the Joint Proxy Statement will, on the date of the mailing of the Joint Proxy Statement and any amendments or supplements thereto, at the time of each of the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting and the FEI Stockholders' Meeting, and at the Effective Time, contain any

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untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not false or misleading, or omit to state any material fact necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the solicitation of proxies for the FEI Stockholders Meeting or the Veeco Stockholders Meeting, which has become false or misleading. The Joint Proxy Statement will comply, as of its mailing date, as to form in all material respects with all applicable Laws, including the provisions of the Exchange Act, except that no representation is made by Veeco with respect to information supplied by FEI for inclusion therein.

4.24 Veeco Rights Agreement. The Board of Directors of Veeco has amended (in the form provided to FEI) the Veeco Rights Agreement so that none of FEI or its Affiliates shall become an "Acquiring Person," and no "Distribution Date" or "Triggering Event" (as such

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terms are defined in the Veeco Rights Agreement) will occur as a result of the approval, execution or delivery of this Merger Agreement or the Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements or the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby.

V. COVENANTS

5.01 Access. Between the date hereof and the Closing Date, upon reasonable notice, FEI shall, and shall cause each of the other FEI Entities to, provide Veeco, Acquisition and each of their authorized Representatives with such reasonable access to the properties, books, records, Tax Returns, Contracts, information, documents and personnel of the FEI Entities as they relate to the FEI Entities' business during normal business hours as Veeco or Acquisition may reasonably request for the purpose of making such investigation of the business, properties, financial condition, operations and results of operations of the FEI Entities' business as Veeco or Acquisition may deem appropriate or necessary. Between the date hereof and the Closing Date, upon reasonable notice, Veeco shall, and shall cause each of the other Veeco Entities to, provide FEI and each of its authorized Representatives with such reasonable access to the properties, books, records, Tax Returns, Contracts, information, documents and personnel of the Veeco Entities as they relate to the Veeco Entities' business during normal business hours as FEI may reasonably request for the purpose of making such investigation of the business, properties, financial condition, operations and results of operations of the Veeco Entities' business as FEI may deem appropriate or necessary. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, if any party is prohibited from disclosing confidential information to another party by Law or by preexisting confidentiality obligations, then such party shall inform the other party of such prohibition and the parties shall work together to resolve any related due diligence matters without violating such Laws or confidentiality obligations, including using reasonable best efforts to obtain third party Consents to such disclosure, if appropriate.

5.02 Conduct of the Business of the Parties Pending the Closing Date. During the period commencing with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, except (i) as otherwise expressly permitted by this Merger Agreement, (ii) in the case of FEI as provided in Schedule 5.02 of the FEI Disclosure Schedule and in the case of Veeco and Acquisition as provided in Schedule 5.02 of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule, or (iii) to the extent that the other party shall otherwise consent in writing (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), each of FEI (which for the purposes of this Section 5.02 shall include FEI and each of its Subsidiaries) and Veeco (which for the purposes of this Section 5.02 shall include Veeco and each of its Subsidiaries), shall (a) carry on its respective businesses in the usual, regular and ordinary course consistent with past practice in all material respects, in substantially the same manner as heretofore conducted and in compliance with all applicable Laws, (b) shall use its reasonable commercial efforts to keep available the services of its present officers and key employees, consistent with past practice, preserve intact its present lines of business, maintain its rights and franchises and preserve its relationships with material

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customers, suppliers and others having business dealings with it to the end that its ongoing businesses shall not be impaired in any material respect on or after the Closing Date, (c) pay its debts and Taxes when due (unless being contested or disputed in good faith), (d) pay or perform other material obligations when due, (e) keep in force all insurance policies, and (f) otherwise ensure that its ongoing businesses shall not be impaired in any material respect on or after the Closing Date. Except as otherwise expressly permitted by this Merger Agreement, during the period commencing with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, none of FEI, Veeco or Acquisition shall, without the prior consent of the other Parties (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), take any affirmative action, or fail to take any reasonable action within its control, as a result of which any of the changes or events listed in Section 3.11 or 4.11, as applicable, of this Merger Agreement is reasonably likely to occur. During the period commencing with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, FEI shall confer with Veeco concerning operational matters of the FEI Entities of a material nature and otherwise report periodically to Veeco concerning the status of the FEI Entities' business, operations and finances. During the period commencing with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, Veeco shall confer with FEI concerning operational matters of the Veeco Entities of a material nature and otherwise report periodically to FEI concerning the status of the Veeco Entities' business, operations and finances. In furtherance of the foregoing and subject to applicable Law, FEI and Veeco shall confer, as promptly as practicable, prior to taking any material actions or making any material management decisions with respect to the conduct of its business during the foregoing period.

5.03 Restricted Conduct. Without limiting Section 5.02, except as expressly contemplated by this Merger Agreement or as set forth in Schedule 5.03 of the FEI Disclosure Schedule or of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule, during the period commencing with the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, neither FEI (which for the purposes of this Section 5.03 shall include FEI and each of its Subsidiaries) nor Veeco (which for the purposes of this Section 5.03 shall include Veeco and each of its Subsidiaries) shall do, cause or permit any of the following without the prior written consent of the other (which consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed):

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(a) Charter Documents. Cause or permit any amendments to its Certificate of Incorporation or Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws or other governing documents;

(b) Dividends; Changes in Capital Stock. Declare or pay any dividends on, or make any other distributions (whether in cash, stock or property) in respect of, any of its capital stock, or split, combine or reclassify any of its capital stock or issue or authorize the issuance of any other securities in respect of, in lieu of or in substitution for shares of its capital stock, or repurchase or otherwise acquire, directly or indirectly, any shares of its capital stock except from former employees, directors and consultants in accordance with currently effective agreements providing for the repurchase of shares in connection with any termination of service to it or its Subsidiaries; or sell or otherwise issue any shares of its capital stock or securities exercisable or exchangeable for or convertible into shares of its capital stock, other than in accordance with or pursuant to existing option plans or upon the exercise or conversion of Veeco Options outstanding as of the date of this Merger Agreement, FEI Options outstanding as of the date of this Merger Agreement, the Veeco Convertible Debt, the FEI Convertible Debt, under the Veeco ESPP or under the FEI ESPP or other convertible or exchangeable securities outstanding as of the date of this Merger Agreement;

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(c) Reorganization. Take or fail to take any action that would reasonably be expected to cause the Merger to fail to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code.

(d) No Acquisitions. Acquire or agree to acquire by merger or consolidation, or by purchasing a substantial portion of the assets of, or by any other manner, any business or any corporation, partnership, association or other business organization or division thereof or otherwise acquire or agree to acquire any assets which could be material to the acquiror (excluding the acquisition of assets used in the operations of its and its Subsidiaries' business in the ordinary course, which assets do not constitute a business unit, division or all or substantially all of the assets of the transferor);

(e) Ordinary Course. Other than in the ordinary course of business (i) enter into any new material line of business or (ii) incur or commit to any capital expenditures or any obligations or liabilities in connection therewith;

(f) Issuance of Securities. Issue, deliver, sell, pledge, dispose of, or otherwise encumber, or authorize or propose the issuance, delivery, sale, pledge, disposition or encumbrance of, any shares of its capital stock of any class, any Voting Debt or any securities convertible into or exercisable for, or any rights, warrants, calls, or options to acquire, any such shares or Voting Debt, or enter into any commitment, arrangement, undertaking or agreement with respect to any of the foregoing, other than or in connection with (A) the issuance of shares upon the exercise of Veeco Options or FEI Options (as applicable) or the Veeco Convertible Debt or the FEI Convertible Debt (as applicable) in accordance with their present terms or pursuant to Veeco Options or FEI Options (as applicable) or other stock-based awards granted pursuant to clause (B) below, (B) the granting of Veeco Options or FEI Options (as applicable) or other stock-based awards, (excluding the granting of "reload" stock options (e.g. stock options that, pursuant to the terms thereof require a new grant of options to the holder upon the exercise of such initial options)), under Benefit Plans outstanding on the date hereof in the ordinary course of business and in individual and aggregate amounts consistent with past practice or (C) issuances, sales or deliveries by a wholly owned Subsidiary to its parent;

(g) Liquidation; Dissolution. Adopt a plan of complete or partial liquidation, dissolution, consolidation, restructuring, recapitalization or other reorganization;

(h) Changes in Accounting Methods. Except as required by GAAP, make any change in accounting methods, principles or practices;

(i) Joint Ventures. Enter into any material joint venture, partnership or similar arrangement;

(j) No Dispositions. Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of, or agree to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of, any of its assets (including capital stock of Subsidiaries) other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

(k) Investments; Indebtedness. (A) Make any loans, advances or capital contributions to, or investments in, any other Person, other than (I) loans or investments in a Subsidiary or (II) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice which are not, individually or in the aggregate, material (provided that none of such transactions referred to in this Clause (II) presents a material risk of making it more difficult to obtain any Consent required in connection with the Merger under Regulatory Law) or (B) except in the ordinary course consistent with past practice, incur any indebtedness for borrowed money or guarantee any such indebtedness of another Person, issue or sell any debt securities or warrants or other rights to acquire any debt securities, guarantee any debt securities of another Person, enter into any "keep well" or other agreement to maintain

any financial statement condition of another Person (other than a wholly owned Subsidiary) or enter into any arrangement having the economic effect of any of the foregoing;

(l) Compensation. Except as required by Law or by the terms of any collective bargaining agreement or other agreement in effect as of the date of this Merger Agreement, increase the amount of compensation of, or pay any severance to (other than in the ordinary course consistent with past practice), any director, officer or (other than in the ordinary course consistent with past practice) key employee, or make any increase in or commitment to increase or accelerate the payment of any employee benefits, grant any additional stock options (except as permitted by Section 5.03(f)), adopt or amend or make any commitment to adopt or amend any Benefit Plan or fund or make any contribution to any Benefit Plan or any related trust or other funding vehicles, other than regularly scheduled contributions to trust funding qualified plans; and shall not accelerate the vesting of, or the lapsing of restrictions with respect to any stock option, and any option granted or committed to be granted after the date of this Merger Agreement shall not accelerate as a result of approval or consummation of any transaction contemplated by this Merger Agreement;

(m) Intellectual Property. Transfer or license to any Person or otherwise extend, amend or modify any rights to any intellectual property owned by it or its Subsidiaries, other than in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to any Contracts currently in place (that have been disclosed in writing to the other party hereto prior to the date of this Merger Agreement);

(n) Certain Actions. Other than as expressly permitted by Section 5.16 in the case of FEI or 5.17 in the case of Veeco, take any action for the purpose of preventing, delaying or impeding the consummation of the Merger or the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement; or

(o) Other. Take, or agree in writing or otherwise to take, any of the actions described in Sections 5.03(a) through (n) above.

5.04 Consents.

(a) FEI, Veeco and Acquisition shall cooperate and use their respective reasonable best efforts to obtain, prior to the Effective Time, all licenses, permits, Consents, approvals, authorizations, qualifications and orders of Governmental Authorities, parties to the FEI Contracts and the Veeco Contracts and any other Persons as are necessary for consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement and for the Surviving Corporation to enjoy all rights under such FEI Contracts and Veeco Contracts after the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement.

(b) FEI and Veeco shall use their respective reasonable best efforts to file, as soon as practicable after the date of this Merger Agreement, all notices, reports and other documents required to be filed with any Governmental Authority with respect to the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, and to submit promptly any additional information requested by any such Governmental Authority. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, FEI and Veeco shall, promptly after the date of this Merger Agreement, prepare and file the notifications required under the HSR Act (within 20 days following the date of this Merger Agreement) and any applicable foreign antitrust Laws or regulations in connection with the Merger that are reasonably determined by the parties to apply. FEI and Veeco shall respond as promptly as practicable to (i) any inquiries or requests received from the Federal Trade Commission or the Department of Justice for additional information or documentation and (ii) any inquiries or requests received from any state attorney general, foreign antitrust authority or other Governmental Authority in connection with antitrust or related matters. Each of FEI and Veeco shall (1) give the other party prompt notice of the commencement or threat of commencement of any Legal Proceeding by or before any Governmental Authority with respect to the Merger or any

of the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, (2) keep the other party informed as to the status of any such Legal Proceeding or threat, and (3) promptly inform the other party of any communication to or from the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice or any other Governmental Authority regarding the Merger. Except as may be prohibited by any Governmental Authority or by any Law, FEI and Veeco will consult and cooperate with one another, and will consider in good faith the views of one another, in connection with any analysis, appearance, presentation, memorandum, brief, argument, opinion or proposal made or

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submitted in connection with any Legal Proceeding under or relating to the HSR Act or any other foreign, federal or state antitrust or fair trade Law. In addition, except as may be prohibited by any Governmental Authority or by any Law, in connection with any Legal Proceeding under or relating to the HSR Act or any other foreign, federal or state antitrust or fair trade Law or any other similar Legal Proceeding, each of FEI and Veeco will permit authorized outside legal counsel of the other party, to the extent necessary for any joint defense or mutually agreed to by FEI's and Veeco's respective outside legal counsel, to be present at each meeting or conference relating to any such Legal Proceeding and to have access to and be consulted in connection with any document, briefing, opinion or proposal made or submitted to any Governmental Authority in connection with any such Legal Proceeding. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Merger Agreement, neither Veeco nor FEI nor any of their respective Subsidiaries shall be required to hold separate (including by trust or otherwise) or to divest or agree to divest any of their respective businesses or assets, or to take or agree to take any action or agree to any limitation that would be reasonably likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco (assuming the Merger has been consummated) or would be reasonably likely to materially adversely impact the benefits expected to be derived by Veeco and FEI from consummation of the Merger, and neither Veeco nor FEI shall be required to agree to or effect any divestiture, hold separate any business or take any other action that is not conditional on the consummation of the Merger.

5.05 Stock Options.

(a) At the Effective Time, all rights with respect to FEI Common Stock under FEI Options then outstanding shall be converted into and become rights with respect to Veeco Shares, and Veeco shall assume each such FEI Option in accordance with the terms (as in effect as of the date of this Merger Agreement) of the stock option plan or other arrangement under which it was issued and the terms of the stock option agreement by which it is evidenced. From and after the Effective Time, (i) each FEI Option assumed by Veeco may be exercised by the holder thereof solely for Veeco Shares, (ii) the number of Veeco Shares subject to each such FEI Option shall be equal to the product of (A) the number of shares of FEI Common Stock subject to such FEI Option immediately prior to the Effective Time multiplied by (B) the Exchange Ratio, rounding to the nearest whole share, (iii) the per share exercise price under each such FEI Option shall be adjusted by dividing (x) the per share exercise price under such FEI Option by (y) the Exchange Ratio and rounding to the nearest cent and (iv) any restriction on the exercise or transfer of any such FEI Option shall continue in full force and effect in accordance with its terms and the term, exercisability, vesting schedule and other provisions of or relating to such FEI Option shall otherwise remain unchanged. Veeco shall file with the SEC, no later than the date on which the Merger becomes effective, a registration statement on Form S-8 relating to the Veeco Shares issuable with respect to FEI Options assumed by Veeco in accordance with this Section 5.05(a).

(b) It is the intention of the parties that the FEI Options so assumed by Veeco shall qualify, to the maximum extent permissible following the Effective Time, as incentive stock options, as defined in Section 422 of the Code, to the extent the FEI Options so assumed qualified as incentive stock options prior to the Effective Time.

(c) Prior to the Effective Time, FEI shall take all action that may be necessary (under the plans pursuant to which FEI Options are outstanding and otherwise) to effectuate the provisions

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of this Section 5.05 and to ensure that, from and after the Effective Time, holders of FEI Options have no rights with respect thereto other than those specifically provided in this Section 5.05.

5.06 ESPP.

(a) At the Effective Time, the FEI Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "FEI ESPP") and each outstanding purchase right with respect to all open offering periods under the FEI ESPP (each an "Assumed Purchase Right") shall be assumed by Veeco. Each Assumed Purchase Right shall continue to have, and be subject to, the terms and conditions set forth in the FEI ESPP and the documents governing the Assumed Purchase Right, except that the purchase price of Veeco Shares under each Assumed Purchase Right shall be the lower of (i) the quotient determined by dividing eighty-five percent (85%) of the fair market value of a share of FEI Common Stock on the offering date of each assumed offering period by the Exchange Ratio (with the purchase price rounded up to the nearest whole cent) or (ii) eighty-five percent (85%) of the fair market value of a Veeco Share on the applicable purchase date of each assumed offering period occurring after the Effective Time. Subject to Section 5.06(b), the Assumed Purchase Rights shall be exercised at such times following the Effective Time as set forth in the FEI ESPP, and each participant shall, accordingly, be issued Veeco Shares at such times.

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(b) Prior to the Effective Time, FEI shall take any and all action that may be necessary under the FEI ESPP (or otherwise) to ensure that (i) all offering periods under the FEI ESPP that are open at the Effective Time and are assumed by Veeco pursuant to Section 5.06(a), shall terminate, and the applicable purchase date for all Assumed Purchase Rights shall occur, on or before December 31, 2002, (ii) the FEI ESPP shall terminate on or before December 31, 2002, and (iii) the offering period scheduled to begin on or about September 1, 2002 shall be the last offering period to commence under the FEI ESPP (the "September Offering"), and the September Offering shall terminate, and the applicable purchase date shall occur, on December 31, 2002. Veeco agrees to implement or continue, as applicable, the September Offering and all Assumed Purchase Rights until the earlier of (i) December 31, 2002, or (ii) the date that the applicable offering period would have otherwise terminated, without additional corporate action, pursuant to the FEI ESPP.

(c) Veeco agrees that the employees of FEI who become employees of Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco may participate in the employee stock purchase plan sponsored by Veeco (the "Veeco ESPP"), subject to the terms and conditions of the Veeco ESPP.

5.07 Employee Matters.

(a) Until the first anniversary of the Effective Time, Veeco shall, or shall cause a Subsidiary of Veeco to, (i) provide the employees of FEI who remain employed with Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco in the U.S. after the Effective Time (the "U.S. Continuing Employees") with terms and conditions of employment that are substantially comparable in the aggregate to those provided to similarly situated employees of Veeco (the "Veeco Benefits") or (ii) continue to provide the U.S. Continuing Employees with terms and conditions of employment that are substantially comparable in the aggregate to those provided by FEI immediately prior to the Effective Time. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the ability of Veeco or a Subsidiary of Veeco, following the Effective Time, to terminate the employment of any employee or to amend or terminate any Veeco or FEI Benefit Plan in accordance with its terms.

(b) Except to the extent necessary to avoid duplication of benefits, and, to the extent permitted under applicable law (after adoption of any amendments necessary to implement the following), Veeco shall provide the U.S. Continuing Employees with full credit, for purposes of eligibility and vesting under any employee benefit plans or arrangements maintained by Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco in which such employees are eligible to participate, for such employees'

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service with FEI to the same extent recognized by FEI immediately prior to the Effective Time. Veeco shall cause any and all pre-existing condition (or actively-at-work or similar) limitations, eligibility waiting periods and evidence of insurability requirements under any welfare plan to be waived with respect to the U.S. Continuing Employees and their eligible dependents and shall provide them with credit for any co-payments, deductibles and offsets (or similar payments) made prior to the Effective Time for purposes of satisfying any applicable deductible, out-of-pocket, or similar requirement under any employee benefit plans or arrangements maintained by Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco in which such employees are eligible to participate on and after the Effective Time.

(c) Nothing herein expressed or implied shall confer upon any of the U.S. Continuing Employees or any other current or former employee or legal representative thereof, any rights or remedies, including, without limitation, any right to employment, or continued employment for any specified period, of any nature or kind whatsoever under or by reason of this Agreement.

(d) Veeco shall provide employees of FEI who remain employed with Veeco or any Subsidiary of Veeco outside the U.S. after the Effective Time (the "Foreign Continuing Employees") with terms and conditions of employment that are substantially similar to those provided by FEI or any Subsidiary of FEI immediately prior to the Effective Time as and to the extent required by applicable Law.

(e) Until such time as that certain Employment Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, between Veeco and Vahé Sarkissian is terminated, Veeco will continue in effect the FEI Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan on substantially the same terms and conditions as existing on the date of this Agreement (or will put in place a successor plan with substantially the same terms and conditions, which may permit participation by other employees of Veeco and its Subsidiaries); provided, however, that in no event shall the Company be required to make any contributions to such plan.

5.08 Indemnification of Officers and Directors.

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(a) From and after the Effective Time, Veeco will, and will cause the Surviving Corporation to, fulfill and honor in all respects the obligations of FEI pursuant to any indemnification agreements between FEI and its directors and officers immediately prior to the Effective Time (collectively, the "Indemnified Persons"), subject to applicable law. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Surviving Corporation will contain provisions with respect to exculpation and indemnification that are at least as favorable to the Indemnified Persons as those provisions contained in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of FEI as in effect on the date of this Merger Agreement, which provisions will not be amended, repealed or otherwise modified for a period of six years from the Effective Time in any manner that would adversely affect the rights thereunder of an Indemnified Person, unless such modification is required by law.

(b) From the Effective Time until the sixth anniversary of the Effective Time, the Surviving Corporation shall maintain in effect (and Veeco shall cause the Surviving Corporation to maintain in effect), for the benefit of the Indemnified Persons, with respect to acts or omissions occurring prior to the Effective Time, the existing policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance maintained by FEI as of the date of this Merger Agreement in the form disclosed by FEI to Veeco prior to the date of this Merger Agreement (the "Existing Policy"); *provided, however*, that (i) the Surviving Corporation may in its sole discretion determine to substitute for the Existing Policy a policy or policies of comparable coverage, and (ii) the Surviving Corporation shall not be required to pay annual premiums for the Existing Policy (or for any such substitute policies) in excess of 200% of the premium payable by FEI therefor as of the date of this Merger Agreement, in the aggregate. In the event any future annual premium for the Existing Policy (or any such substitute

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policies) exceeds 200% of the premium payable by FEI therefor as of the date of this Merger Agreement, in the aggregate, the Surviving Corporation shall be entitled to reduce the amount of coverage of the Existing Policy (or any such substitute policies) to the amount of coverage that can be obtained for a premium equal to 200% of the premium payable by FEI therefor as of the date of this Merger Agreement.

(c) This Section 5.08 is intended to be for the benefit of, and shall be enforceable by the Indemnified Persons and their heirs and personal representatives and shall be binding on Veeco, the Surviving Corporation and their successors and assigns. In the event Veeco, the Surviving Corporation or their respective successors or assigns (i) consolidates with or merges into any other Person and shall not be the continuing or surviving Person in such consolidation or merger or (ii) transfers all or substantially all of its properties and assets to any Person, then, and in each case, proper provision shall be made so that the successor and assign of Veeco or the Surviving Corporation, as applicable, honor the obligations set forth in this Section 5.08.

5.09 Registration Statement on Form S-3. Veeco shall file with the SEC, no later than the date on which the Merger becomes effective, a registration statement on Form S-3, relating to the resale of the FEI Convertible Debt and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the FEI Convertible Debt.

5.10 Tax Matters.

(a) (i) Between the date hereof and the Closing Date, FEI shall file or cause to be filed on a timely basis all Tax Returns that are required to be filed by it or by any of the other FEI Entities, either separately or as part of an affiliated group of corporations, pursuant to the Laws of each Governmental Authority with taxing power over it or any of the other FEI Entities or any of the FEI Entities' assets and businesses. Each of such Tax Returns will be true, correct and complete in all material respects when filed. Neither FEI nor any FEI Entity shall (i) make any election or (ii) file any amended Tax Return reflecting any position, in the case of each of (i) and (ii) that could result in a material adverse Tax consequence to Veeco, Acquisition, FEI or any FEI Entity or Veeco Entity for any period beginning on or after the Effective Time. FEI shall timely file all required transfer Tax Returns and/or notices of the transfer of the FEI Entities' business, if any, with the appropriate Governmental Authority. Veeco shall cooperate with FEI in connection with the matters contemplated by this Section 5.10(a)(i), which cooperation shall include, without limitation, providing information and executing and delivering documents, in connection with FEI's or any of the FEI Entities' obligations under this Section 5.10(a)(i).

(ii) Between the date hereof and the Closing Date, Veeco shall file or cause to be filed on a timely basis all Tax Returns that are required to be filed by it or by any of the other Veeco Entities, either separately or as part of an affiliated group of corporations, pursuant to the Laws of each Governmental Authority with taxing power over it or any of the other Veeco Entities or any of the Veeco Entities' assets and businesses. Each of such Tax Returns will be true, correct and complete in all material respects when filed. Neither Veeco nor any Veeco Entity shall (i) make any election or (ii) file any amended Tax Return reflecting any position, in the case of each of (i) and (ii) that could result in a material adverse Tax

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consequence to Veeco, Acquisition, FEI or any FEI Entity or any Veeco Entity for any period beginning on or after the Effective Time. Veeco shall timely file all required transfer Tax Returns and/or notices of the transfer of the Veeco Entities' business, if any, with the appropriate Governmental Authority. FEI shall cooperate with Veeco in connection with the matters contemplated by this Section 5.10(a)(ii), which cooperation shall include, without limitation, providing information and executing and delivering documents, in connection with Veeco's or any of the Veeco Entities' obligations under this Section 5.10(a)(ii).

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(b) At or prior to the filing of the Form S-4 Registration Statement, FEI and Veeco shall execute and deliver to Kaye Scholer LLP, counsel to Veeco, and to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to FEI, tax representation letters in form and substance satisfactory to such counsel. Further, Veeco, Acquisition and FEI shall execute and deliver to Kaye Scholer LLP and to Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, tax representation letters substantially identical to the tax representation letters delivered pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence dated as of the Closing Date, and modified to reflect changes in law, if any, and such other matters as Kaye Scholer LLP and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, may reasonably request. Following delivery of the tax representation letters contemplated pursuant to the first sentence of this Section 5.10(b), each of Veeco and FEI shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause Kaye Scholer LLP to deliver to Veeco, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, to deliver to FEI, a tax opinion with respect to such matters as are appropriate for description, and inclusion as exhibits, in the Form S-4 Registration Statement and the Joint Proxy Statement, such opinions to be substantially similar in substance. In rendering such opinions, each of such counsel shall be entitled to rely on the tax representation letters referred to in this Section 5.10(b).

(c) None of Veeco, Acquisition or FEI will take any action prior or subsequent to the Effective Time that would reasonably be expected to cause the Merger to fail to qualify as a reorganization as described in Section 368(a) of the Code.

5.11 Letters of the Parties' Accountants.

(a) FEI shall use all reasonable efforts to cause to be delivered to Veeco a letter of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent public accountant for FEI, dated no more than two business days before the date on which the Form S-4 Registration Statement becomes effective (and reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to Veeco), that is customary in scope and substance for letters delivered by independent public accountants in connection with registration statements similar to the Form S-4 Registration Statement.

(b) Veeco shall use all reasonable efforts to cause to be delivered to FEI a letter of Ernst & Young LLP, independent public accountant for Veeco, dated no more than two business days before the date on which the Form S-4 Registration Statement becomes effective (and reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to FEI), that is customary in scope and substance for letters delivered by independent public accountants in connection with registration statements similar to the Form S-4 Registration Statement.

5.12 Listing. Veeco shall cause the Veeco Shares being issued, and those being reserved for issuance, in the Merger to be approved for listing (subject to notice of issuance) on NASDAQ.

5.13 Board of Directors; Committees; Officers; Headquarters.

(a) Veeco shall take all actions necessary such that, effective as of immediately following the Effective Time, Veeco's Board of Directors shall consist of thirteen (13) members, seven (7) of whom shall be nominated by Veeco from the current members of its board of directors, five (5) of whom shall be nominated by FEI from the current members of its board of directors, and one (1) of whom shall be nominated by Philips in accordance with the terms of the Veeco Investor Agreement. In addition, Veeco shall take all actions necessary such that, effective as of immediately following the Effective Time, two (2) of the Veeco nominees and two (2) of the FEI nominees shall serve as Class III directors for terms expiring at Veeco's 2003 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders, two (2) of the Veeco nominees and two (2) of the FEI nominees shall serve as Class I directors for terms expiring at Veeco's 2004 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders and three (3) of the Veeco nominees, one (1) of the FEI nominees and the Philips nominee shall serve as Class II directors for terms expiring at Veeco's 2005 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders.

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(b) Veeco shall cause, as of the Effective Time, the individuals set forth on Schedule 5.13(b) to be appointed to the position(s) set forth opposite their respective names.

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(c) Prior to the Effective Time, Veeco shall use commercially reasonable efforts to enter into employment agreements, to be effective as of the Effective Time, with such senior officers of Veeco and FEI as are mutually agreed by Veeco and FEI, which employment agreements shall have terms acceptable to the board of directors of each of Veeco and FEI.

(d) Following the Effective Time, the headquarters for Veeco FEI Inc. shall be located at the current headquarters of Veeco.

5.14 Notice of Breach; Disclosure. Each party shall promptly notify the other of (i) any event, condition or circumstance of which such party becomes aware after the date hereof and prior to the Closing Date that would constitute a violation or breach of this Merger Agreement (or a breach of any representation or warranty contained herein) or, if the same were to continue to exist as of the Closing Date, would constitute the non-satisfaction of any of the conditions set forth in Article VI, VII or VIII hereof, as the case may be or (ii) any event, occurrence, transaction, or other item of which such party becomes aware which would have been required to have been disclosed on either the FEI Disclosure Schedule or the Veeco Disclosure Schedule or any statement delivered hereunder had such event, occurrence, transaction or item existed as of the date hereof. The disclosure of any matter as provided in this Section 5.14 shall not limit or otherwise affect the remedies available hereunder to the party receiving such notice.

5.15 Payment of Indebtedness by Affiliates. FEI shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cause all indebtedness owed to any FEI Entity by any FEI Affiliate to be paid in full prior to Closing, other than as provided in Sections 3.02(b) and 3.08 of the FEI Disclosure Schedule, and advances of, or reimbursements for, expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred by officers, directors and employees of the FEI Entities in the ordinary course of business and in compliance with the relevant FEI Entity's policy, if any, relating thereto.

5.16 No Solicitation FEI.

(a) During the period commencing with the execution of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, FEI shall not directly or indirectly, and shall use reasonable best efforts to cause the other FEI Entities and their respective Representatives, employees and agents not directly or indirectly, to (i) solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any FEI Acquisition Proposal, (ii) furnish any information regarding any of the FEI Entities to any Person in connection with or in response to a FEI Acquisition Proposal or an inquiry or indication of interest that could reasonably be expected to lead to a FEI Acquisition Proposal, (iii) engage in discussions or negotiations with any Person with respect to any FEI Acquisition Proposal, (iv) approve, endorse or recommend any FEI Acquisition Proposal or (v) enter into any letter of intent or similar document or any Contract contemplating or otherwise relating to any FEI Acquisition Transaction; *provided, however*, that prior to the approval of the Merger by the Required FEI Stockholder Vote, this Section 5.16(a) shall not prohibit FEI from engaging in discussions and taking such other actions as may be reasonably required for the purpose of becoming informed with respect to a *bona fide* unsolicited written FEI Acquisition Proposal that is submitted to FEI (and not withdrawn) if the Board of Directors of FEI reasonably determines in good faith after due consideration that such FEI Acquisition Proposal would reasonably be likely to result in a Superior FEI Proposal and (1) neither FEI nor any Representative of any of the FEI Entities shall have violated any of the restrictions set forth in this Section 5.16, (2) the Board of Directors of FEI concludes in good faith that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of the Board of Directors of FEI to FEI's stockholders under applicable Law, after consultation with its

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outside legal counsel, and (3) prior to any such discussion or other action FEI receives from such Person an executed confidentiality agreement containing customary limitations on the use and disclosure of all nonpublic written and oral information furnished to such Person by or on behalf of FEI.

(b) FEI shall promptly advise Veeco of any FEI Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the Person making or submitting such FEI Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is made or submitted by any Person after the date of this Merger Agreement. FEI shall keep Veeco reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such FEI Acquisition Proposal.

(c) On the date hereof, FEI shall immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing discussions with any Person that relate to any FEI Acquisition Proposal or FEI Acquisition Transaction.

(d) FEI agrees not to release or permit the release of any Person from, or to waive or permit the waiver of any provision of, any confidentiality, "standstill" or similar agreement to which any of the FEI Entities is a party, and will use its best efforts to enforce or cause to be enforced each such agreement at the request of Veeco. FEI also will promptly request each Person that has executed, within 12 months prior to the date of this Merger Agreement, a confidentiality agreement in connection with its consideration of a possible FEI Acquisition Transaction, to return all confidential information heretofore furnished to such Person by or on behalf of any of the FEI Entities.

5.17 No Solicitation Veeco.

(a) During the period commencing with the execution of this Merger Agreement and continuing until the earlier to occur of the termination of this Merger Agreement pursuant to its terms and the Closing Date, Veeco shall not directly or indirectly, and shall use reasonable best efforts to cause the other Veeco Entities and their respective Representatives, employees and agents not directly or indirectly, to (i) solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, (ii) furnish any information regarding any of the Veeco Entities to any Person in connection with or in response to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal or an inquiry or indication of interest that could reasonably be expected to lead to a Veeco Acquisition Proposal, (iii) engage in discussions or negotiations with any Person with respect to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, (iv) approve, endorse or recommend any Veeco Acquisition Proposal or (v) enter into any letter of intent or similar document or any Contract contemplating or otherwise relating to any Veeco Acquisition Transaction; *provided, however*, that prior to the approval of the issuance of the Veeco Shares in the Merger by the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote, this Section 5.17(a) shall not prohibit Veeco from engaging in discussions and taking such other actions as may be reasonably required for the purpose of becoming informed with respect to a *bona fide* unsolicited written Veeco Acquisition Proposal that is submitted to Veeco (and not withdrawn) if the Board of Directors of Veeco reasonably determines in good faith after due consideration that such Veeco Acquisition Proposal would reasonably be likely to result in a Superior Veeco Proposal and (1) neither Veeco nor any Representative of any of the Veeco Entities shall have violated any of the restrictions set forth in this Section 5.17, (2) the Board of Directors of Veeco concludes in good faith that failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of the Board of Directors of Veeco to Veeco's stockholders under applicable Law, after consultation with its outside legal counsel, and (3) prior to any such discussion or other action Veeco receives from such Person an executed confidentiality agreement containing customary limitations on the use and disclosure of all nonpublic written and oral information furnished to such Person by or on behalf of Veeco.

(b) Veeco shall promptly advise FEI of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the Person making or submitting such Veeco Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is

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made or submitted by any Person after the date of this Merger Agreement. Veeco shall keep FEI reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such Veeco Acquisition Proposal.

(c) On the date hereof, Veeco shall immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing discussions with any Person that relate to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal or Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

(d) Veeco agrees not to release or permit the release of any Person from, or to waive or permit the waiver of any provision of, any confidentiality, "standstill" or similar agreement to which any of the Veeco Entities is a party, and will use its best efforts to enforce or cause to be enforced each such agreement at the request of FEI. Veeco also will promptly request each Person that has executed, within 12 months prior to the date of this Merger Agreement, a confidentiality agreement in connection with its consideration of a possible Veeco Acquisition Transaction, to return all confidential information heretofore furnished to such Person by or on behalf of any of the Veeco Entities.

5.18 Blue Sky Laws. Veeco shall take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to comply with the securities and blue sky laws of all jurisdictions which are applicable to the issuance of Veeco Shares in connection with the Merger. FEI shall use its reasonable efforts to assist Veeco as may be necessary to comply with the securities and blue sky laws of all jurisdictions which are applicable in connection with the issuance of Veeco Shares in connection with the Merger.

5.19 Additional Agreements. Subject to Section 5.04(b), Veeco and FEI shall each use reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions necessary to consummate the Merger and make effective the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, as promptly as practicable following the execution and delivery of this Merger Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, but subject to Section 5.04(b), each party to this Merger Agreement (i) shall make all filings (if any) and give all notices (if any) required to be made and given by such party in connection with the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement, and (ii) shall use reasonable best efforts to lift any restraint, injunction or other legal bar to the Merger. Each of Veeco and FEI shall promptly deliver to the other a copy of each such filing made, each such notice given and each such Consent obtained by it following the date hereof.

5.20 Disclosure. Veeco and FEI shall consult with each other before issuing any press release or otherwise making any public statement with respect to the Merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, neither Veeco nor FEI shall, and neither Veeco nor FEI shall permit any of its Representatives to, make any disclosure regarding the Merger or any of the other transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement unless (a) the other party shall have approved such disclosure or (b) such party shall have been advised by its outside legal counsel that such disclosure is required by applicable Law.

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5.21 Registration Statement; Joint Proxy Statement. As promptly as practicable after the date of this Merger Agreement, Veeco and FEI shall prepare and cause to be filed with the SEC the Joint Proxy Statement and Veeco shall prepare and cause to be filed with the SEC the Form S-4 Registration Statement, in which the Joint Proxy Statement will be included as a prospectus. Each of Veeco and FEI shall use reasonable best efforts to cause the Form S-4 Registration Statement and the Joint Proxy Statement to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, to respond promptly to any comments of the SEC or its staff and to have the Form S-4 Registration Statement declared effective under the Securities Act as promptly as practicable after it is filed with the SEC. Each of Veeco and FEI shall, as promptly as practicable after receipt thereof, provide the other party with copies of any written comments and advise each other of any oral comments with respect to the Joint Proxy Statement or Form S-4 Registration Statement. Veeco will use reasonable best efforts to cause the Joint Proxy Statement to be mailed to Veeco's stockholders, and FEI will use reasonable best efforts to cause the Joint Proxy Statement to be mailed to FEI's stockholders, as promptly as

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practicable after the Form S-4 Registration Statement is declared effective under the Securities Act. FEI and Veeco shall promptly furnish to one another all information concerning the FEI Entities and FEI's stockholders and Veeco and Veeco's stockholders that may be required or reasonably requested in connection with any action contemplated by this Section 5.21. If any event relating to any of the FEI Entities occurs, or if FEI becomes aware of any information, that should be disclosed in an amendment or supplement to the Form S-4 Registration Statement or the Joint Proxy Statement, then FEI shall promptly inform Veeco thereof and shall cooperate with Veeco in filing such amendment or supplement with the SEC and provide Veeco with a reasonable opportunity to comment on any such amendment or supplement prior to filing with the SEC and, if appropriate, shall cooperate with Veeco in mailing such amendment or supplement to the stockholders of FEI. If any event relating to any of the Veeco Entities occurs, or if Veeco becomes aware of any information, that should be disclosed in an amendment or supplement to the Form S-4 Registration Statement or the Joint Proxy Statement, then Veeco shall promptly inform FEI thereof and shall cooperate with FEI in filing such amendment or supplement with the SEC and provide FEI with a reasonable opportunity to comment on any such amendment or supplement prior to filing with the SEC and, if appropriate, cooperate with FEI in mailing such amendment or supplement to the stockholders of Veeco. Notwithstanding any other provision herein to the contrary, no amendment or supplement (including by incorporation by reference) to the Joint Proxy Statement or the Form S-4 Registration Statement shall be made without the approval of both Veeco and FEI, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed; *provided*, that, with respect to documents filed by a party hereto that are incorporated by reference in the Form S-4 Registration Statement or Joint Proxy Statement, this right of approval shall apply only with respect to information relating to the other party or its business, financial condition, or results of operations; and *provided, further*, that Veeco, in connection with a change in the Veeco Board Recommendation (to the extent permitted by Section 5.23(c) hereof), and FEI, in connection with a change in the FEI Board Recommendation (to the extent permitted by Section 5.22(c) hereof), may amend or supplement the Joint Proxy Statement or Form S-4 Registration Statement (including by incorporation by reference) pursuant to a Qualifying Amendment to effect such a change, and in such event, this right of approval shall apply only with respect to information relating to the other party or its business, financial condition or results of operations, and shall be subject to the right of each party to have its Board of Directors' deliberations and conclusions be accurately described. Each party hereto will advise the other party, promptly after it receives notice thereof, of the time when the Form S-4 Registration Statement has become effective, the issuance of any stop order, the suspension of the qualification of the Veeco Shares issuable in connection with the Merger for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, or any request by the SEC for amendment of the Joint Proxy Statement or Form S-4 Registration Statement. If, at any time prior to the Effective Time, any information relating to Veeco or FEI, or any of their respective Affiliates, officers or directors, is discovered by Veeco or FEI and such information should be set forth in an amendment or supplement to (i) the Form S-4 Registration Statement so that such document would not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading or (ii) the Joint Proxy Statement so that such document would not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not false or misleading, or omit to state any material fact necessary to correct any statement in any earlier communication with respect to the solicitation of proxies for the FEI Stockholders Meeting or the Veeco Stockholders Meeting, which has become false or misleading, the party hereto discovering such information shall promptly notify the other parties hereto and, to the extent required by Law, an appropriate amendment or supplement describing such information shall be promptly filed with the SEC and disseminated to the stockholders of Veeco and FEI.

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5.22 FEI Stockholders' Meeting.

(a) FEI shall take all action necessary under all applicable Laws to call, give notice of and hold a meeting of the holders of FEI Common Stock to vote on a proposal to approve the Merger (the "FEI Stockholders' Meeting"). The FEI Stockholders' Meeting shall be held as promptly as practicable after the Form S-4 Registration Statement is declared effective under the Securities Act on a date or dates determined in accordance with the mutual agreement of FEI and Veeco, but in no event later than 45 days after the Form S-4 Registration Statement is declared effective under the Securities Act, unless a stop order shall have been issued by the SEC with respect to the Form S-4 Registration Statement or an injunction shall have been issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or other

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appropriate Governmental Authority to restrain or prohibit the consummation of the Merger. FEI shall ensure that all proxies solicited in connection with the FEI Stockholders' Meeting are solicited in compliance with all applicable Laws.

(b) Subject to Section 5.22(c): (i) the Joint Proxy Statement shall include a statement to the effect that the Board of Directors of FEI recommends that FEI's stockholders vote to approve the Merger at the FEI Stockholders' Meeting (such recommendation of FEI's Board of Directors that FEI's stockholders vote to approve the Merger being referred to as the "FEI Board Recommendation"); and (ii) the FEI Board Recommendation shall not be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to Veeco, and no resolution by the Board of Directors of FEI or any committee thereof to withdraw or modify the FEI Board Recommendation in a manner adverse to Veeco shall be adopted.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Section 5.22(b), at any time prior to the approval of the Merger by the Required FEI Stockholder Vote, the FEI Board Recommendation may be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to Veeco if: (i) a FEI Acquisition Proposal is made and is not withdrawn; (ii) FEI promptly provides Veeco prior written notice of any meeting of FEI's Board of Directors at which such Board of Directors will consider and determine whether such offer is a Superior FEI Proposal; (iii) FEI's Board of Directors determines in good faith that such offer constitutes a Superior FEI Proposal (after consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation); (iv) FEI's Board of Directors determines in good faith, after consultation with FEI's outside legal counsel, that, in light of such Superior FEI Proposal, the failure to withdraw or modify the FEI Board Recommendation would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of FEI's Board of Directors to FEI's stockholders under applicable Law; and (v) neither FEI nor any of its Representatives shall have materially violated any of the restrictions set forth in Section 5.16.

(d) FEI's obligation to call, give notice of and hold the FEI Stockholders' Meeting in accordance with Section 5.22(a) hereof shall not be limited or otherwise affected by the commencement, disclosure, announcement or submission of any Superior FEI Proposal or other FEI Acquisition Proposal, or by any withdrawal or modification of the FEI Board Recommendation.

5.23 Veeco Stockholders' Meeting.

(a) Veeco shall take all action necessary under all applicable Laws to call, give notice of and hold a meeting of the holders of Veeco Shares to vote on the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment (the "Veeco Stockholders' Meeting"). The Veeco Stockholders' Meeting shall be held as promptly as practicable after the Form S-4 Registration Statement is declared effective under the Securities Act on a date determined in accordance with the mutual agreement of FEI and Veeco (but on a date no more than two business days after the FEI Stockholders' Meeting). Veeco shall ensure that all proxies solicited in connection with the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting are solicited in compliance with all applicable Laws.

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(b) Subject to Section 5.23(c): (i) the Joint Proxy Statement shall include a statement to the effect that the Board of Directors of Veeco recommends that Veeco's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment (such recommendation of Veeco's Board of Directors that Veeco's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment being referred to as the "Veeco Board Recommendation"); and (ii) the Veeco Board Recommendation shall not be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to FEI, and no resolution by the Board of Directors of Veeco or any committee thereof to withdraw or modify the Veeco Board Recommendation in a manner adverse to FEI shall be adopted.

(c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Section 5.23(b), at any time prior to the approval of the issuance of the Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment by the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote, the Veeco Board Recommendation may be withdrawn or modified in a manner adverse to FEI if: (i) a Veeco Acquisition Proposal is made and is not withdrawn; (ii) Veeco promptly provides FEI prior written notice of any meeting of Veeco's Board of Directors at which such Board of Directors will consider and determine whether such offer is a Superior Veeco Proposal; (iii) Veeco's Board of Directors determines in good faith that such offer constitutes a Superior Veeco Proposal (after consultation with an independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation); (iv) Veeco's Board of Directors determines in good faith, after consultation with Veeco's outside legal counsel, that, in light of such Superior Veeco Proposal, the failure to withdraw or modify the Veeco Board Recommendation would be reasonably likely to result in a breach of the fiduciary obligations of Veeco's Board of Directors to Veeco's stockholders under applicable Law; and (v) neither Veeco nor any of its Representatives shall have materially violated any of the restrictions set forth in Section 5.17.

(d) Veeco's obligation to call, give notice of and hold the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting in accordance with Section 5.23(a) hereof shall not be limited or otherwise affected by the commencement, disclosure, announcement or submission of any Superior Veeco Proposal or other Veeco Acquisition Proposal, or by any withdrawal or modification of the Veeco Board Recommendation.

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5.24 Section 16 Matters. Prior to the Effective Time, the Board of Directors of each of FEI and Veeco shall adopt a resolution consistent with the interpretative guidance of the SEC, if any, to the effect that (i) the assumption of FEI Options held by FEI Insiders (as defined below) pursuant to this Agreement, (ii) the acquisition or exercise of other rights to receive or purchase equity securities of FEI or Veeco pursuant to agreements entered into in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement, and (iii) the receipt by FEI Insiders of Veeco Shares in exchange for FEI Common Stock pursuant to the Merger, shall be exempt transactions for purposes of Section 16 of the Exchange Act by any officer or director (or any entity which may be deemed to be a "director by deputization" as a result of its relationship with a director of FEI) of FEI who may become a covered person for purposes of Section 16 of the Exchange Act (a "FEI Insider").

5.25 Acquisition Compliance. Veeco shall cause Acquisition to comply with all of Acquisition's obligations under or relating to this Merger Agreement. Acquisition shall not engage in any business that is not in connection with the Merger pursuant to this Merger Agreement.

5.26 Conveyance Taxes. Veeco, Acquisition and FEI shall cooperate in the preparation, execution and filing of all returns, questionnaires, applications or other documents regarding any real property transfer or gains, sales, use, transfer, value added, stock transfer or stamp taxes, any transfer, recording, registration or other fees or any similar taxes, which become payable in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement that are required or permitted to be filed on or before the Effective Time. All such taxes will be paid by the party bearing the legal responsibility for such payment.

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VI. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

The obligations of the parties to enter into and complete the Closing are conditioned upon the satisfaction or waiver in writing by the parties, on or before the Closing Date, of the following conditions:

6.01 Effectiveness of Registration Statement. The Form S-4 Registration Statement shall have become effective in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Act, and no stop order shall have been issued, and no proceeding for that purpose shall have been initiated or be Threatened, by the SEC with respect to the Form S-4 Registration Statement.

6.02 Stockholder Approval. The Merger shall have been duly approved by the Required FEI Stockholder Vote and the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment shall have been duly approved by the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote.

6.03 Litigation. No suit, action or other Legal Proceeding by any Governmental Authority shall be pending in which it is sought to restrain or prohibit the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby, and no injunction or final judgment shall have been entered on the Closing Date before any court or Governmental Authority restraining or prohibiting the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby.

6.04 No Order. No Governmental Authority shall have enacted, issued, promulgated, enforced or entered any statute, rule, regulation or executive order (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent), which is in effect and which has the effect of making the Merger illegal or otherwise prohibiting consummation of the Merger.

6.05 HSR Act. (a) The waiting period applicable to the consummation of the Merger under the HSR Act shall have expired or been terminated, and (b) any similar waiting period under any applicable foreign antitrust Law or regulation to the consummation of the Merger shall have expired or been terminated, and any Consent required under any applicable foreign antitrust Law or regulation shall have been obtained, except where the failure for such waiting period to have expired or been terminated or for such Consent to have been obtained would not have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco (following the Merger).

6.06 Listing. The Veeco Shares to be issued in the Merger and such other shares required to be reserved for issuance in connection with the Merger shall be approved for listing (subject to notice of issuance) on the Nasdaq National Market.

VII. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO VEECO'S AND ACQUISITION'S OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of Veeco and Acquisition to enter into and complete the Closing are conditioned upon the satisfaction or waiver in writing by Veeco (on behalf of Veeco and Acquisition), on or before the Closing Date, of all of the following conditions:

7.01 Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of FEI contained in this Merger Agreement shall (i) be true and correct as of the date of this Merger Agreement, except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI and (ii) be true and correct as of the Closing Date with the same force and effect as if made

on and as of the Closing Date (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date), except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on FEI; *provided, however*, that, for purposes of determining the accuracy of such representations and warranties as of the date of this Merger Agreement or as of the Closing Date, (i) all "Material Adverse Effect" qualifications and other materiality qualifications and any similar qualifications contained in such representations and warranties shall be disregarded and (ii) any update of or modification to the FEI Disclosure Schedule hereto made or purported to have been made after the date of this Merger Agreement shall be disregarded.

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7.02 Performance of Covenants. FEI shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all of the agreements, covenants and conditions required by this Merger Agreement to be performed and complied with by it prior to or on the Closing Date.

7.03 Material Adverse Effect. There shall not have been any Material Adverse Effect with respect to FEI from the date hereof to the Closing Date.

7.04 Agreements and Documents. Veeco and Acquisition shall have received the following agreements and documents, each of which shall be in full force and effect:

(a) a legal opinion of Kaye Scholer LLP, counsel to Veeco, dated as of the Closing Date and addressed to Veeco, to the effect that the Merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code (it being understood that in rendering such opinion, Kaye Scholer LLP may rely upon tax representation letters, dated as of the Closing Date, and substantially identical to the tax representation letters referred to in Section 5.10(b), modified to reflect changes in law, if any, and such other matters as Kaye Scholer LLP and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, may reasonably request); and

(b) a certificate, dated the Closing Date, executed on behalf of FEI by its Chief Executive Officer, confirming that the conditions set forth in Sections 7.01 and 7.02 hereof have been duly satisfied.

VIII. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO FEI'S OBLIGATIONS.

FEI's obligation to enter into and complete the Closing is conditioned upon the satisfaction or waiver in writing by FEI, on or before the Closing Date, of all of the following conditions:

8.01 Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of Veeco and Acquisition contained in this Merger Agreement shall (i) be true and correct as of the date of this Merger Agreement, except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco and (ii) be true and correct as of the Closing Date with the same force and effect as if made on and as of the Closing Date (except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date), except where the failure to be so true and correct would not, in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect on Veeco; *provided, however*, that, for purposes of determining the accuracy of such representations and warranties as of the date of this Merger Agreement or as of the Closing Date, (i) all "Material Adverse Effect" qualifications and other materiality qualifications and any similar qualifications contained in such representations and warranties shall be disregarded and (ii) any update of or modification to the Veeco Disclosure Schedule hereto made or purported to have been made after the date of this Merger Agreement shall be disregarded.

8.02 Performance of Covenants. Each of Veeco and Acquisition shall have performed and complied in all material respects with all of the agreements, covenants and conditions required by this Merger Agreement to be performed and complied with by them prior to or on the Closing Date.

8.03 Material Adverse Effect. There shall not have been any Material Adverse Effect with respect to Veeco from the date hereof to the Closing Date.

8.04 Documents. FEI shall have received the following documents:

(a) a legal opinion of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to FEI, dated as of the Closing Date, to the effect that the Merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code (it being understood that in rendering such opinion, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati may rely upon tax representation letters dated as of the Closing Date, and substantially identical to the tax representation letters referred to in Section 5.10(b), modified to reflect changes in law, if any, and such other matters as Kaye Scholer

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LLP and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, may reasonably request); and

(b) a certificate, dated the Closing Date, executed on behalf of Veeco by its Chief Executive Officer, confirming that the conditions set forth in Sections 8.01 and 8.02 hereof have been duly satisfied.

IX. TERMINATION.

9.01 Termination. This Merger Agreement may be terminated prior to the Effective Time (whether before or after approval of the Merger by FEI's stockholders and whether before or after approval of the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger by Veeco's stockholders):

(a) by mutual written consent of Veeco and FEI;

(b) by either Veeco or FEI if the Merger shall not have been consummated by December 31, 2002 (the "Termination Date") or, if later, the day following the last day of any cure period under Section 9.01(h) or 9.01(i) (but in no event beyond January 30, 2003) (unless the failure to consummate the Merger is significantly attributable to a failure on the part of the party seeking to terminate this Merger Agreement to perform any material obligation required to be performed by such party at or prior to the Effective Time);

(c) by either Veeco or FEI if a court of competent jurisdiction or other Governmental Authority shall have issued a final and nonappealable order, decree or ruling, or shall have taken any other action, having the effect of permanently restraining, enjoining or otherwise prohibiting the Merger;

(d) by either Veeco or FEI if (i) the FEI Stockholders' Meeting (including any adjournments and postponements thereof) shall have been held and completed and FEI's stockholders shall have taken a final vote on a proposal to approve the Merger, and (ii) the Merger shall not have been approved at such meeting by the Required FEI Stockholder Vote (and shall not have been adopted at any adjournment or postponement thereof); *provided, however*, that (A) a party shall not be permitted to terminate this Merger Agreement pursuant to this Section 9.01(d) if the failure to obtain such stockholder approval is attributable to a failure on the part of such party to perform any material obligation required to be performed by such party at or prior to the Effective Time, and (B) FEI shall not be permitted to terminate this Merger Agreement pursuant to this Section 9.01(d) unless FEI shall have paid to Veeco any fee required to be paid to Veeco pursuant to Section 9.03(b);

(e) by either Veeco or FEI if (i) the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting (including any adjournments and postponements thereof) shall have been held and completed and Veeco's stockholders shall have taken a final vote on the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment, and (ii) the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger or the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment shall not have been approved at such meeting (and shall not have been approved at any adjournment or postponement thereof) by the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote; *provided, however*, that (A) a party shall not be permitted to terminate this Merger Agreement pursuant to this Section 9.01(e) if the failure to obtain such stockholder vote is attributable to a failure on the part of the party seeking to terminate this Merger Agreement to perform any material obligation required to be performed by such party at or prior to the Effective Time, and (B) Veeco shall not be permitted to terminate this Merger Agreement pursuant to this Section 9.01(e) unless Veeco shall have paid to FEI any fee required to be paid to FEI pursuant to Section 9.03(b);

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(f) by Veeco (at any time prior to the approval of the Merger by the Required FEI Stockholder Vote) if a FEI Triggering Event shall have occurred;

(g) by FEI (at any time prior to the approval of the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment) by the Required Veeco Stockholder Vote) if a Veeco Triggering Event shall have occurred;

(h) by Veeco if (i) any of FEI's representations and warranties contained in this Merger Agreement shall be inaccurate as of the date of this Merger Agreement, or shall have become inaccurate as of a date subsequent to the date of this Merger Agreement (as if made on such subsequent date, except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date) and such breach has not been cured within 30 days after notice thereof, such that the condition set forth in Section 7.01 would not be satisfied, or (ii) any of FEI's covenants or agreements contained in this Merger Agreement shall have been breached (and any such breach shall not have been cured within

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30 days after notice thereof) such that the condition set forth in Section 7.02 would not be satisfied; or

(i) by FEI if (i) any of Veeco's representations and warranties contained in this Merger Agreement shall be inaccurate as of the date of this Merger Agreement, or shall have become inaccurate as of a date subsequent to the date of this Merger Agreement (as if made on such subsequent date, except to the extent expressly made as of an earlier date) and such breach has not been cured within 30 days after notice thereof, such that the condition set forth in Section 8.01 would not be satisfied, or (ii) if any of Veeco's covenants or agreements contained in this Merger Agreement shall have been breached (and any such breach shall not have been cured within 30 days after notice thereof) such that the condition set forth in Section 8.02 would not be satisfied.

9.02 Effect of Termination. In the event of the termination of this Merger Agreement as provided in Section 9.01, this Merger Agreement shall be of no further force or effect; *provided, however*, that (i) Sections 9.02 and 9.03 and Article X shall survive the termination of this Merger Agreement and shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) the termination of this Merger Agreement shall not relieve any party from any liability for any willful breach of any representation, warranty or covenant contained in this Merger Agreement.

9.03 Expenses; Termination Fees.

(a) Except as set forth in this Section 9.03, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with this Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated by this Merger Agreement shall be paid by the party incurring such expenses, whether or not the Merger is consummated; *provided, however*, that Veeco and FEI shall share equally all fees and expenses, other than attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with (A) the filing, printing and mailing of the Form S-4 Registration Statement and the Joint Proxy Statement and any amendments or supplements thereto and (B) the filing by the parties hereto of the premerger notification and report forms relating to the Merger under the HSR Act and the filing of any notice or other document under any applicable foreign antitrust law or regulation.

(b) Termination Fees.

(i) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(h) or FEI pursuant to Section 9.01(i), then the non-terminating Party shall make a nonrefundable cash payment to the other Party, within two business days after such termination, in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of all fees and reasonable, documented, out-of-pocket expenses (the "Transaction Expenses") (including, with respect to fees, all attorneys' fees, accountants' fees, financial advisory fees and filing fees) that have been paid or that may become payable by or on behalf of that Party in connection with the

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preparation and negotiation of this Merger Agreement and otherwise in connection with the Merger (such cash payment shall not exceed, in the aggregate, five million dollars (\$5,000,000)).

(ii) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(d) and at or prior to the time of such termination a FEI Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, FEI shall pay to Veeco within two business days after demand by Veeco an amount equal to Veeco's Transaction Expenses, by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated in writing by Veeco.

(iii) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(e) and at or prior to the time of such termination a Veeco Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, Veeco shall pay to FEI within two business days after demand by FEI an amount equal to FEI's Transaction Expenses, by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated in writing by FEI.

(iv) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by FEI pursuant to Section 9.01(g) or by Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(f), the non-terminating Party shall pay to the terminating party within two business days after such termination a fee equal to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated in writing by the recipient (the "Termination Fee"); *provided, however*, that if this Merger Agreement is terminated (A) by FEI pursuant to Section 9.01(g) because an event specified in clause (x) of the definition of Veeco Triggering Event has occurred, the Termination Fee shall be payable only if within 12 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, either a Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated, or Veeco enters into a letter of intent or Contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement or (B) by Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(f) because an event specified

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in clause (x) of the definition of FEI Triggering Event has occurred, the Termination Fee shall be payable only if within 12 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, either a FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated, or FEI enters into a letter of intent or Contract providing for a FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement. For purposes of this Section 9.03(b)(iv), the terms "FEI Acquisition Transaction" and "Veeco Acquisition Transaction" shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in Article I, except that references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%."

(v) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(d) and (A) at or prior to the time of such termination a FEI Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, and (B) within 12 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, either a FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated, or FEI enters into a letter of intent or Contract providing for a FEI Acquisition Transaction and such FEI Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, FEI shall pay to Veeco within two business days after demand by Veeco a fee equal to the Termination Fee, by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated in writing by Veeco. For purposes of this Section 9.03(b)(v), the term "FEI Acquisition Transaction" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Article I, except that references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%."

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(vi) In the event that this Merger Agreement is terminated by FEI or Veeco pursuant to Section 9.01(e) and (A) at or prior to the time of such termination a Veeco Acquisition Proposal shall have been publicly disclosed, announced, commenced, submitted or made and not subsequently unconditionally withdrawn, and (B) within 12 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, either a Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated, or Veeco enters into a letter of intent or Contract providing for a Veeco Acquisition Transaction and such Veeco Acquisition Transaction is consummated within 24 months following the termination of this Merger Agreement, Veeco shall pay to FEI within two business days after demand by Veeco a fee equal to the Termination Fee, by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated in writing by FEI. For purposes of this Section 9.03(b)(vi), the term "Veeco Acquisition Transaction" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Article I, except that references to "15%" therein shall be deemed to read "40%."

(vii) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 9.03, in no event shall any party hereto be entitled under this Section 9.03(b) to receive (i) the Termination Fee or the Transaction Expenses more than once or (ii) the Transaction Expenses if such party has received the Termination Fee. In addition, if a party has received the Transaction Expenses and subsequently becomes entitled to receive the Termination Fee, such party shall receive the Termination Fee less any Transaction Expenses previously received.

(viii) The Parties acknowledge that the agreements contained in this Section 9.03 are an integral part of the transaction contemplated by this Merger Agreement, and that, without these agreements, neither Party would have entered into this Merger Agreement. Accordingly, if either Party fails to pay in a timely manner the amounts due pursuant to this Section 9.03 and, in order to obtain such payment, either Party makes a claim that results in a judgment against either Party for the amounts set forth in this Section 9.03, such Party shall pay to the other its reasonable costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) in connection with such suit, together with interest on the amounts set forth in this Section 9.03 at the prime rate of JP Morgan Chase in effect on the date such payment was required to be made. Payment of the fees described in this Section 9.03 shall not be in lieu of damages incurred in the event of breach of this Agreement.

X. MISCELLANEOUS.

10.01 Successors. This Merger Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

10.02 Amendment. This Merger Agreement may be amended with the approval of the respective Boards of Directors of FEI and Veeco at any time (whether before or after approval of the Merger by the stockholders of FEI and whether before or after approval of the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger by Veeco's stockholders); *provided, however*, that (i) after any such approval of the Merger by FEI's stockholders, no amendment shall be made which by Law requires further approval of the stockholders of FEI without the further approval of such stockholders, and (ii) after any such approval of the issuance of Veeco Shares in the Merger by Veeco's stockholders, no amendment shall be made which by Law or NASD regulation requires further approval of Veeco's stockholders without the further approval of such stockholders.

This Merger Agreement may not be amended except by an instrument in writing signed on behalf of each of the parties hereto.

10.03 Waiver.

(a) No failure on the part of any party to exercise any power, right, privilege or remedy under this Merger Agreement, and no delay on the part of any party in exercising any power,

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right, privilege or remedy under this Merger Agreement, shall operate as a waiver of such power, right, privilege or remedy; and no single or partial exercise of any such power, right, privilege or remedy shall preclude any other or further exercise thereof or of any other power, right, privilege or remedy.

(b) No party shall be deemed to have waived any claim arising out of this Merger Agreement, or any power, right, privilege or remedy under this Merger Agreement, unless the waiver of such claim, power, right, privilege or remedy is expressly set forth in a written instrument duly executed and delivered on behalf of such party; and any such waiver shall not be applicable or have any effect except in the specific instance in which it is given.

10.04 No Survival of Representations and Warranties. None of the representations and warranties contained in this Merger Agreement or in any certificate delivered pursuant to this Merger Agreement shall survive the Merger.

10.05 Entire Agreement: Counterparts. This Merger Agreement (together with the agreements, certificates and other documents referred to herein, the Schedules and Exhibits hereto and the FEI Disclosure Schedule and the Veeco Disclosure Schedule) constitutes the entire agreement among the parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all other prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among or between any of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof; *provided, however*, that the certain Mutual Confidentiality Agreement dated February 28, 2002 between FEI and Veeco shall not be superseded and shall remain in full force and effect. This Merger Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

10.06 Governing Law. THIS MERGER AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND PERFORMED IN SUCH STATE AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAW DOCTRINES EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT CERTAIN MATTERS ARE PREEMPTED BY FEDERAL LAW OR ARE GOVERNED BY THE LAW OF THE JURISDICTION OF ORGANIZATION OF THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

10.07 Disclosure Schedules. The FEI Disclosure Schedule shall be arranged in separate parts corresponding to the numbered and lettered Sections contained in Article III. Any matter or item disclosed pursuant to any Section of the FEI Disclosure Schedule shall be deemed to be disclosed only for purposes of disclosure under that Section; provided, that any matter or item disclosed in one Section of the FEI Disclosure Schedule will be deemed disclosed with respect to another Section of the FEI Disclosure Schedule if such disclosure is made in such a way as to make its relevance with respect to such other Section reasonably apparent. The Veeco Disclosure Schedule shall be arranged in separate parts corresponding to the numbered and lettered Sections contained in Article IV. Any matter or item disclosed pursuant to any Section of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule shall be deemed to be disclosed only for purposes of disclosure under that Section; provided, that any matter or item disclosed in one Section of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule will be deemed disclosed with respect to another Section of the Veeco Disclosure Schedule if such disclosure is made in such a way as to make its relevance with respect to such other Section reasonably apparent. The inclusion of any information in the FEI Disclosure Schedule or Veeco Disclosure Schedule shall not be deemed to be an admission or acknowledgment, in and of itself, that such information is required by the terms hereof to be disclosed, is material, has or would have a Material Adverse Effect, or is outside the ordinary course of business.

10.08 Attorneys' Fees. In any action at law or suit in equity to enforce this Merger Agreement or the rights of any of the parties hereunder, the prevailing party in such action or suit shall be entitled to receive a reasonable sum for its attorneys' fees and all other reasonable costs and expenses incurred in such action or suit.

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10.09 Assignment. Neither Veeco, Acquisition nor FEI may assign this Merger Agreement to any other Person without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto.

10.10 Notices. All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given (a) when delivered personally, (b) when transmitted by telecopy (transmission confirmed), (c) on the fifth business day following mailing by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested), or (d) on the next business day following deposit with an overnight delivery service of national reputation, to the parties at the following addresses and telecopy numbers (or at such other address or telecopy number for a party as may be specified by like notice):

If to Veeco or Acquisition:
c/o Veeco Instruments Inc.
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, New York 11797
Attention: Gregory Robbins
Telephone: (516) 677-0200
Telecopy: (516) 677-0380
With a copy to:
Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Attention: Rory A. Greiss, Esq.
Telephone: (212) 836-8261
Telecopy: (212) 836-7152

If to FEI:
FEI Company
7425 NW Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
Attention: Bradley J. Thies
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopy: (503) 640-7570
With a copy to:
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
Attention: Larry Sonsini, Esq.
Telephone: (650) 493-9300
Telecopy: (650) 493-6811

10.11 Headings. The headings contained in this Merger Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Merger Agreement.

10.12 Exhibits and Schedules. The Exhibits and Schedules to this Merger Agreement are incorporated by reference herein and are made a part hereof as if they were fully set forth herein. References herein to "this Merger Agreement," "herein," "hereof" and phrases of like import are references to this Merger Agreement, together with the Exhibits and Schedules hereto, including the FEI Disclosure Schedule and the Veeco Disclosure Schedule.

10.13 Severability. The invalidity of any term or terms of this Merger Agreement shall not affect any other term of this Merger Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect.

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10.14 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Other than the Indemnified Persons, there are no third party beneficiaries of this Merger Agreement or of the transactions contemplated hereby and nothing contained herein shall be deemed to confer upon anyone other than the parties hereto (and their permitted successors and assigns) and, with respect to the obligations of Veeco pursuant to Section 5.08 the Indemnified Persons, any right to insist upon or to enforce the performance of any of the obligations contained herein. Without limiting the foregoing, it is expressly understood and agreed that the provisions of Sections 5.05, 5.06, 5.07, 5.09 and 5.13 are statements of intent and no U.S. Continuing Employee, Foreign Continuing Employee or other Person (other than the parties hereto) shall have any rights or remedies, including rights of enforcement,

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with respect thereto and no U.S. Continuing Employee, Foreign Continuing Employee or other Person is or is intended to be a third-party beneficiary thereof.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Merger Agreement as of the date first above written.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun
Title: Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President

FEI COMPANY

By: /s/ VAHE A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahe A. Sarkissian
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

VENICE ACQUISITION CORP.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun
Title: President

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Schedule A

**FEI Stockholders Party to
FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements**

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Schedule B

**Veeco Stockholders Party to
Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements**

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Exhibit A

FEI Stockholder Voting Agreements

(Attached hereto as appendices B-1 and B-2)

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Exhibit B

Veeco Stockholder Voting Agreements

(Attached hereto as appendices C-1 and C-2)

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Exhibit C

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT
OF THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.**

It is hereby certified that:

1. The name of the corporation (the "Corporation") is Veeco Instruments Inc.

2. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation was filed with the Secretary of State on the 8th day of August, 1989. The Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State on December 1, 1994. Certificates of Amendment were filed with the Secretary of State on each of November 20, 1989, January 17, 1990, January 19, 1990, March 25, 1992, May 3, 1994, June 2, 1997, July 25, 1997 and May 5, 2000.

3. Article 4 of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation, as amended to date, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"4. The corporation shall have authority to issue a total of _____ shares, to be divided into _____ shares of common stock with par value of \$0.01 per share and 500,000 shares of preferred stock with par value of \$0.01 per share."

4. The amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective hereby and herein certified has been duly adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 242 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Corporation has caused this Certificate of Amendment to be executed by its duly authorized officer, who acknowledges and affirms under the penalties of perjury that this certificate is the act and deed of the Corporation and that the facts stated herein are true this _____ day of _____, 2002.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: _____
Name:

Title:

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Exhibit D

**STATE OF OREGON
CORPORATION DIVISION
151 Public Service Building
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-1237**

Registry Number of Surviving Corporation: _____

**ARTICLES OF MERGER
OF VENICE ACQUISITION CORP.
WITH AND INTO FEI COMPANY**

These Articles of Merger are filed pursuant to ORS 60.481 and ORS 60.494 by FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI"), to be the surviving corporation in the merger of Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation ("Acquisition Corp."), with and into FEI (the "Merger").

Plan of Merger. The plan of merger is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

Shareholder Approval. The Merger required the approval of the shareholders of FEI and Acquisition Corp.

Pursuant to ORS 60.487(5) and FEI's Second Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, the holders of outstanding shares of FEI's common stock were entitled to vote on the Merger. Pursuant to ORS 60.487(5) and Acquisition Corp.'s Articles of Incorporation, the holders of outstanding shares of Acquisition Corp.'s common stock were entitled to vote on the Merger. With respect to the foregoing, the shareholders of FEI and Acquisition Corp. approved the Merger, respectively, as follows:

(a) _____ shares of FEI common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote on the Merger; _____ shares of common stock voted for the Merger and _____ shares voted against the Merger.

(b) _____ shares of Acquisition Corp. common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote on the Merger; _____ shares of common stock voted for the Merger and _____ shares voted against the Merger.

Effective Date. The Merger shall be effective upon filing of the Articles of Merger with the Secretary of State of the state of Oregon.

Dated: _____, 2002

FEI COMPANY

By: _____

Name:

Title:

VENICE ACQUISITION CORP.

By: _____

Name:

Title:

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**FOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS
OF
VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.
(THE "CORPORATION")**

EFFECTIVE , 2002

1. MEETINGS OF STOCKHOLDERS.

1.1 **ANNUAL MEETING.** The annual meeting of stockholders shall be held at a place and time determined by the board of directors (the "Board").

1.2 **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the stockholders may be called by resolution of the Board or by the president or chief executive officer and shall be called by the president, chief executive officer or secretary upon the written request (stating the purpose or purposes of the meeting) of a majority of the directors then in office or of the holders of 50% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote. Only business related to the purposes set forth in the notice of the meeting may be transacted at a special meeting.

1.3 **PLACE AND TIME OF MEETINGS.** Meetings of the stockholders may be held in or outside Delaware at the place and time specified by the Board, the chief executive officer of the Corporation or the directors or stockholders requesting the meeting (as applicable).

1.4 **NOTICE OF MEETINGS; WAIVER OF NOTICE.** Written notice of each meeting of stockholders shall be given to each stockholder entitled to vote at the meeting, except that (a) it shall not be necessary to give notice to any stockholder who submits a signed waiver of notice before or after the meeting, and (b) no notice of an adjourned meeting need be given except when required under Section 1.6 of these bylaws or by law. Each notice of a meeting shall be given, personally or by mail, not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the meeting and shall state the time and place of the meeting, and unless it is the annual meeting, shall state at whose direction or request the meeting is called and the purposes for which it is called. If mailed, notice shall be considered given when mailed to a stockholder at his address on the Corporation's records. The attendance of any stockholder at a meeting, without protesting at the beginning of the meeting that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, shall constitute a waiver of notice by him.

1.5 **NATURE OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF STOCKHOLDERS.** No business may be transacted at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, other than business that is either (a) specified in the notice of meeting (or any supplement thereto) given by or at the direction of the Board (or any duly authorized committee thereof), (b) otherwise properly brought before the meeting by or at the direction of the Board (or any duly authorized committee thereof) or (c) otherwise properly brought before the meeting by any stockholder of the Corporation (i) who is a stockholder of record on the date of the giving of the notice provided for in this Section 1.5 and on the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at such meeting and (ii) who complies with the notice procedures set forth in this Section 1.5.

In addition to any other applicable requirements, for business to be properly brought before an annual or special meeting by a stockholder, such stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in proper written form to the secretary of the Corporation.

To be timely, a stockholder's notice to the secretary must be delivered to or mailed and received at the principal executive offices of the Corporation (a) in the case of an annual meeting, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of stockholders; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within thirty (30) days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder in order to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the tenth (10th) day following the day on which such notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or such public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting was made,

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whichever first occurs; and (b) in the case of a special meeting, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to such special meeting.

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To be in proper written form, a stockholder's notice to the secretary must set forth as to each matter such stockholder proposes to bring before the meeting (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, (ii) the name and record address of such stockholder, (iii) the class or series and number of shares of capital stock of the Corporation which are owned beneficially or of record by such stockholder, (iv) a description of all arrangements or understandings between such stockholder and any other person or persons (including their names) in connection with the proposal of such business by such stockholder and any material interest of such stockholder in such business and (v) a representation that such stockholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to bring such business before the meeting.

At the same time or prior to the submission of any stockholder proposal of business to be conducted at an annual or special meeting that, if approved, could not be implemented by the Corporation without notifying or obtaining the consent or approval of any federal, state, municipal or other regulatory body, the proponent stockholder or stockholders shall submit to the secretary of the Corporation an analysis, satisfactory to the Board, demonstrating that the proposal will have no material detrimental effect on the business and operations of the Corporation after making the requisite notices or obtaining the requisite consents or approvals and after giving effect to the potential responses thereto.

No business shall be conducted at a meeting of stockholders except business brought before the meeting in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section 1.5; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that, once business has been properly brought before the meeting in accordance with such procedures, nothing in this Section 1.5 shall be deemed to preclude discussion by any stockholder of any such business. If the chairman of the meeting determines that business was not properly brought before the meeting in accordance with such procedures, the chairman shall declare to the meeting that the business was not properly brought before the meeting and such business shall not be transacted.

1.6 QUORUM. At any meeting of stockholders, the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of 50% of the shares entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. In the absence of a quorum, a majority in voting interest of those present or, if no stockholders are present, any officer entitled to preside at or to act as secretary of the meeting, may adjourn the meeting until a quorum is present. At any adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present any action may be taken which might have been taken at the meeting as originally called. No notice of an adjourned meeting need be given if the time and place are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken except that, if adjournment is for more than thirty days or if, after the adjournment, a new record date is fixed for the meeting, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given pursuant to Section 1.4.

1.7 VOTING; PROXIES. Each stockholder of record shall be entitled to one vote for every share registered in his name. Corporate action to be taken by stockholder vote, other than the election of directors, shall be authorized by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of stockholders, except as otherwise provided by law or by Section 1.9 of these bylaws. Directors shall be elected in the manner provided in Section 2.1 of these bylaws. Voting need not be by ballot unless ordered by the chairman of the meeting; however, all elections of directors shall be by written ballot, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation. Each stockholder entitled to vote at any meeting of stockholders or to express consent to or dissent from corporate action in writing without a meeting may authorize another person to act for him by proxy. Every proxy must be signed by the stockholder or his attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after three years from its date unless it provides otherwise.

1.8 LIST OF STOCKHOLDERS. Not less than 10 days prior to the date of any meeting of stockholders, the secretary of the Corporation shall prepare a complete list of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting, arranged in alphabetical order and showing the address of each stockholder and the number of shares registered in his name. For a period of not less than 10 days prior to the

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meeting, the list shall be available during ordinary business hours for inspection by any stockholder for any purpose germane to the meeting. During this period, the list shall be kept either (a) at a place within the city where the meeting is to be held, if that place shall have been specified in the notice of the meeting, or (b) if not so specified, at the place where the meeting is to be held. The list shall also be available for inspection by stockholders at the time and place of the meeting.

1.9 ACTION BY CONSENT WITHOUT A MEETING. No action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of stockholders may be taken by written consent without a meeting.

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2.1 NUMBER, QUALIFICATION, ELECTION AND TERM OF DIRECTORS. The business of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board. The Board shall consist of not less than three nor more than fifteen members, the exact number of which shall be determined from time to time by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the directors then serving, but no decrease in the number of directors that constitutes the Board may shorten the term of any incumbent director. Subject to the rights of the holders of any series of preferred stock to elect additional directors under specified circumstances, the directors shall be divided into three (3) classes designated as Class I, Class II and Class III,

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respectively, as nearly equal in size as possible. Unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation, directors shall be elected at each annual meeting of stockholders and shall hold office for a full term of three (3) years to succeed the directors of the class whose terms expire at such annual meeting. Each director shall also serve until the election and qualification of their respective successors, subject to the provisions of Section 2.10. As used in these bylaws, the term "entire Board" means the total number of directors which the Corporation would have if there were no vacancies on the Board.

2.2 NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS. Only persons who are nominated in accordance with the following procedures shall be eligible for election as directors of the Corporation, except as may be otherwise provided in the Certificate of Incorporation with respect to the right of holders of preferred stock of the Corporation, if any, to nominate and elect a specified number of directors in certain circumstances. Nominations of persons for election to the Board may be made at any annual meeting of stockholders, or at any special meeting of stockholders called for the purpose of electing directors, (a) by or at the direction of the Board (or any duly authorized committee thereof) or (b) by any stockholder of the Corporation (i) who is a stockholder of record on the date of the giving of the notice provided for in this Section 2.2 and on the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at such meeting and (ii) who complies with the notice procedures set forth in this Section 2.2.

In addition to any other applicable requirements, for a nomination to be made by a stockholder, such stockholder must have given timely notice thereof in proper written form to the secretary of the Corporation.

To be timely, a stockholder's notice to the secretary must be delivered to or mailed and received at the principal executive offices of the Corporation (a) in the case of an annual meeting, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of stockholders; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that in the event that the annual meeting is called for a date that is not within thirty (30) days before or after such anniversary date, notice by the stockholder in order to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the tenth (10th) day following the day on which such notice of the date of the annual meeting was mailed or such public disclosure of the date of the annual meeting was made, whichever first occurs; and (b) in the case of a special meeting of stockholders called for the purpose of electing directors, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to such special meeting.

To be in proper written form, a stockholder's notice to the secretary must set forth (a) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election as a director (i) the name, age, business address and residence address of the person, (ii) the principal occupation or employment of

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the person, (iii) the class or series and number of shares of capital stock of the Corporation which are owned beneficially or of record by the person and (iv) any other information relating to the person that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors pursuant to Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; and (b) as to the stockholder giving the notice (i) the name and record address of such stockholder, (ii) the class or series and number of shares of capital stock of the Corporation which are owned beneficially or of record by such stockholder, (iii) a description of all arrangements or understandings between such stockholder and each proposed nominee and any other person or persons (including their names) pursuant to which the nomination(s) are to be made by such stockholder, (iv) a representation that such stockholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the persons named in its notice and (v) any other information relating to such stockholder that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors pursuant to Section 14 of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Such notice must be accompanied by a written consent of each proposed nominee to being named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected.

No person shall be eligible for election as a director of the Corporation unless nominated in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section 2.2. If the chairman of the meeting determines that a nomination was not made in accordance with the foregoing procedures, the chairman shall declare to the meeting that the nomination was defective and such defective nomination shall be disregarded.

2.3 QUORUM AND MANNER OF ACTING. A majority of the entire Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting. Action of the Board shall be authorized by the vote of a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote if there is a quorum, unless otherwise provided by law or these bylaws. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the directors present may adjourn any meeting from time to time until a quorum is present.

2.4 PLACE OF MEETINGS. Meetings of the Board may be held in or outside Delaware.

2.5 ANNUAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS. Annual meetings of the Board, for the election of officers and consideration of other matters, shall be held either (a) without notice immediately after the annual meeting of stockholders and at the same place, or (b) at such time

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and place as the chairman of the board shall determine, on notice as provided in Section 2.7 of these Bylaws. Regular meetings of the Board may be held without notice at such times and places as the Board determines. If the day fixed for a regular is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the next business day.

2.6 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the chief executive officer of the Corporation or by a majority of the entire Board.

2.7 NOTICE OF MEETINGS; WAIVER OF NOTICE. Notice of the time and place of each special meeting of the Board, and of each annual meeting not held immediately after the annual meeting of stockholders and at the same place, shall be given to each director by mailing it to him at his residence or usual place of business at least three days before the meeting, or by delivering or telephoning or telecopying it to him at least two days before the meeting. Notice of a special meeting shall also state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. Notice need not be given to any director who submits a signed waiver of notice before or after the meeting or who attends the meeting without protesting at the beginning of the meeting the transaction of any business because the meeting was not lawfully called or convened. Notice of any adjourned meeting need not be given, other than by announcement at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

2.8 BOARD OR COMMITTEE ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board or by any committee of the Board may be taken without a meeting if all of the members of the Board or of the committee consent in writing to the adoption of a

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resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and the written consents by the members of the Board or the committee shall be filed with the minutes of the proceeding of the Board or of the committee.

2.9 PARTICIPATION IN BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEETINGS BY CONFERENCE TELEPHONE. Any or all members of the Board or of any committee of the Board may participate in a meeting of the Board or of the committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

2.10 RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS. Any director may resign at any time by delivering his resignation in writing to the chief executive officer of the Corporation or secretary of the Corporation, to take effect at the time specified in the resignation; the acceptance of a resignation, unless required by its terms, shall not be necessary to make it effective. Any or all of the directors may be removed, but only for cause, by vote of the stockholders at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

2.11 VACANCIES. Any vacancy in the Board, including one created by an increase in the number of directors, may be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum.

2.12 COMPENSATION. Directors who are not executive officers of the Corporation shall receive such compensation as the Board determines, together with reimbursement of their reasonable expenses in connection with the performance of their duties. Directors who are also executive officers of the Corporation shall receive no additional compensation for service as directors. A director may also be paid for serving the Corporation, its affiliates or subsidiaries in other capacities.

3. COMMITTEES.

3.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Board, may designate an Executive Committee of one or more directors which shall have such powers and duties as the Board shall determine, except as limited by section 141(c) of the Delaware General Corporation Law or any other applicable law. The members of the Executive Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. All action of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

3.2 OTHER COMMITTEES. The Board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Board, may designate other committees of one or more directors, which shall serve at the Board's pleasure and have such powers and duties as the Board determines, except as limited by section 141(c) of the Delaware General Corporation Law or any other applicable law.

3.3 COMMITTEES. The following committees are hereby created, with the powers and duties hereinafter set forth.

(A) COMPENSATION COMMITTEE. The Compensation Committee shall be comprised of three (3) or more directors (as set from time to time by resolution of a majority of the entire Board). The Compensation Committee shall fix the compensation of the chairman, the chief executive officer and such other executive officers as it shall determine and administer any stock option, stock

appreciation or other incentive compensation programs of the Corporation.

(B) **AUDIT COMMITTEE.** The Audit Committee shall be comprised of three (3) or more directors (as set from time to time by resolution of the majority of the entire Board) who are not employees of the Corporation. The Audit Committee shall have full corporate power and authority to act in respect of any matter which may develop or arise in connection with any audit or the maintenance of internal accounting controls or any other matter relating to the Corporation's financial affairs. The Audit Committee shall review, at least once each fiscal year, the services performed and to be performed by the Corporation's independent public accountants and the fees charged therefor, and, in connection therewith, consider the effect of any nonaudit services on the independence of such accountants. The Audit Committee shall also review with the Corporation's independent public accountants and its internal audit department the general scope of their respective audit coverages, the procedure and internal accounting controls adopted by the Corporation and any significant matters encountered by any of them.

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(C) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of three (3) or more directors (as set from time to time by resolution of a majority of the entire Board). The Nominating Committee shall provide to the Board its recommendations regarding individuals to be considered for election as directors of the Corporation at meetings of the stockholders of the Corporation and shall have such other powers and duties as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

3.4 **RULES APPLICABLE TO COMMITTEES.** The Board, by vote of a majority of the entire Board, may designate one or more directors as alternate members of any committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member at any meeting of the committee. In the absence or disqualification of any member of a committee, the member or members present at a meeting of the committee and not disqualified, whether or not a quorum, may unanimously appoint another director to act at the meeting in place of the absent or disqualified member. All action of a committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

4. OFFICERS.

4.1 **NUMBER.** The executive officers of the Corporation shall be the chairman of the board and chief executive officer, the president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person.

4.2 **ELECTION; TERM OF OFFICE.** The executive officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board, and each such officer shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Board, and until the election of his successor, subject to the provisions of Section 4.4.

4.3 **SUBORDINATE OFFICERS.** The Board and the chief executive officer may appoint subordinate officers (including assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers), agents or employees, each of whom shall hold office for such period and have such powers and duties as the Board or the chief executive officer determines. The chief executive officer may delegate to any executive officer the power to appoint and define the powers and duties of any subordinate officers, agents or employees.

4.4 **RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.** Any officer may resign at any time by delivering his resignation in writing to the chief executive officer or secretary of the Corporation, to take effect at the time specified in the resignation; the acceptance of a resignation, unless required by its terms, shall not be necessary to make it effective. Any officer appointed by the Board or appointed by an executive officer or by a committee may be removed by the Board either with or without cause, and in the case of an officer appointed by an executive officer or by a committee, by the officer or committee who appointed him or by the chief executive officer of the Corporation; provided, that, the chairman and president and chief executive officer may only be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board other than the officer proposed to be removed (if such officer is a member of the Board).

4.5 **VACANCIES.** A vacancy in any office may be filled for the unexpired term in the manner prescribed in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 of these bylaws for election or appointment to the office.

4.6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the stockholders and shall have the powers and duties commensurate with chairmen of publicly-traded entities. The chairman shall manage the board-level governance of the Corporation. The chairman shall work with the chief executive officer of the Corporation to plan and develop the strategy for the Corporation and to set goals and financial performance measures of the Corporation. The chairman shall co-chair the Corporation's Integration Steering Committee and the Corporation's Strategic Review Board and shall also perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board.

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4.7 THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. The president and chief executive officer of the Corporation shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall be responsible for the general and active management of the business of the Corporation and for seeing that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The chief executive officer's role shall be to run the Corporation and he shall be responsible for its operating results. He shall also be

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the chief external representative of the Corporation. The chief executive officer shall have general powers of supervision over the business of the Corporation. The officers of the Corporation shall report to the chief executive officer and the chief executive officer shall report to the Board. The chief executive officer shall work with the chairman to plan and develop the strategy for the Corporation and the setting of goals and financial performance measures. The chief executive officer shall co-chair the Corporation's Integration Steering Committee and the Corporation's Strategic Review Board and shall also perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board.

4.8 VICE PRESIDENT. Each vice president of the Corporation shall have such powers and duties as the chief executive officer of the Corporation assigns to him.

4.9 THE TREASURER. The treasurer of the Corporation shall be the chief financial officer of the Corporation and shall be in charge of the Corporation's books and accounts. The treasurer shall also perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers as may from time to time be assigned to him by the chief executive officer of the Corporation.

4.10 THE SECRETARY. The secretary of the Corporation shall be the secretary of, and keep the minutes of, all meetings of the Board and of the stockholders, shall be responsible for giving notice of all meetings of stockholders and of the Board, and shall keep the seal and, when authorized by the Board, apply it to any instrument requiring it. Subject to the control of the Board, he shall have such powers and duties as the Board or the chief executive officer of the Corporation assigns to him. In the absence of the secretary of the Corporation from any meeting, the minutes shall be kept by the person appointed for that purpose by the presiding officer.

4.11 SALARIES. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.3(A) hereof, the chief executive officer may fix the officers' salaries.

5. SHARES.

5.1 CERTIFICATES. The Corporation's shares shall be represented by certificates in the form approved by the Board. Each certificate shall be signed by the chief executive officer, the president or a vice president and by the secretary or an assistant secretary, or the treasurer or an assistant treasurer, and shall be sealed with the Corporation's seal or a facsimile of the seal. Any or all of the signatures on the certificate may be a facsimile.

5.2 TRANSFERS. Shares shall be transferable only on the Corporation's books, upon surrender of the certificate for the shares, properly endorsed. The Board may require satisfactory surety before issuing a new certificate to replace a certificate claimed to have been lost or destroyed.

5.3 DETERMINATION OF STOCKHOLDERS OF RECORD. The Board may fix, in advance, a date as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of or to vote at any meeting of the stockholders, or to express consent to or dissent from any proposal without a meeting, or to receive payment of any dividend or the allotment of any rights, or for the purpose of any other action. The record date may not be more than 60 or less than 10 days before the date of the meeting or more than 60 days before any other action.

6. MISCELLANEOUS.

6.1 SEAL. The Board shall adopt a corporate seal, which shall be in the form of a circle and shall bear the Corporation's name and the year and state in which it was incorporated.

6.2 FISCAL YEAR. The Board may determine the Corporation's fiscal year. Until changed by the Board, the Corporation's fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

6.3 VOTING OF SHARES IN OTHER CORPORATIONS. Shares in other corporations which are held by the Corporation may be represented and voted by the chief executive officer, the president or a vice president of this Corporation or by proxy or proxies appointed by one of them. The Board may, however, appoint some other person to vote the shares.

6.4 AMENDMENTS. The affirmative vote of a majority of the entire Board shall be required to adopt, amend, alter or repeal the Corporation's Bylaws (other than Sections 4.4, 4.6 and 4.7, which shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board). The Corporation's Bylaws also may be adopted, amended, altered or repealed by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the voting power of the shares entitled to vote at an election of directors, at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

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Appendix B-1

VOTING AGREEMENT

VOTING AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "Agreement"), among each of the individuals listed on Schedule A to this Agreement (each, an "FEI Stockholder" and collectively, the "FEI Stockholders"), and Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company" and, collectively with the FEI Stockholders, the "Parties"). Capitalized terms used in this Agreement but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Merger Agreement.

WHEREAS, FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI"), Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company ("Acquisition"), and the Company have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement"), which provides that, among other things, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Acquisition shall be merged with and into FEI (the "Merger"), and each share of FEI Common Stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Company Stock"), of the Company;

WHEREAS, each FEI Stockholder owns the number of Existing FEI Shares (as defined herein) set forth opposite such FEI Stockholder's name on Schedule A hereto and the FEI Stockholders collectively own in the aggregate 648,198 Existing FEI Shares;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is the FEI Stockholders Voting Agreement contemplated by and referred to in the third "WHEREAS" clause to the Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a condition to the willingness of the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement, the Company has requested that the FEI Stockholders enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, to induce the Company to enter into, and in consideration of its entering into, the Merger Agreement, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties to this Agreement, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

Definitions and Construction

1.01 As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this Section.

(a) "*Beneficially Own*" or "*Beneficial Ownership*" with respect to any securities means having "beneficial ownership" of such securities (as determined pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), including pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing. Without duplicative counting of the same securities by the same holder, securities Beneficially Owned by a person or entity shall include securities Beneficially Owned by all other persons or entities with whom such person or entity would constitute a "group" within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the same issuer.

(b) "*Effective Time*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(c) "*Exchange Act*" means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(d) "*Existing FEI Shares*" means all shares of FEI Common Stock Beneficially Owned by such FEI Stockholder on the date of this Agreement, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(e) "*FEI Acquisition Proposal*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(f) "*FEI Acquisition Transaction*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(g) "*NASDAQ*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(h) "*Proxy*" means a proxy in the form of Exhibit A attached to this Agreement.

(i) "*Stockholder FEI Shares*" means the Existing FEI Shares and any shares of FEI Common Stock and/or other equity securities of, or equity interests in, FEI acquired by such FEI Stockholder in any capacity after the date of this Agreement and prior to the termination of this Agreement, whether upon the exercise of options, warrants or rights, the conversion or exchange of convertible or exchangeable securities, or by means of purchase, dividend, distribution, split-up, recapitalization, combination, exchange of shares or the like, gift, bequest, inheritance or as a successor in interest in any capacity or otherwise Beneficially Owned by such FEI Stockholder, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(j) "*Transfer*" means any direct or indirect sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, or entry into any contract, option or other arrangement with respect to the sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, any Stockholder FEI Shares by such FEI Stockholder (in each of the foregoing, whether voluntary or involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise).

(k) "*Transferee*" any person or entity to whom a Transfer is made.

(l) "*Superior FEI Proposal*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

ARTICLE II

Representations and Warranties

2.01 *FEI Stockholder Representations and Warranties.* Each FEI Stockholder represents and warrants to the Company as follows:

(a) Such FEI Stockholder has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and the Proxy and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. This Agreement and the Proxy have been duly executed and delivered by such FEI Stockholder and each constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against such FEI Stockholder in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Proxy, nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Proxy or by any document to be delivered in accordance herewith or therewith will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) any agreement or instrument to which such FEI Stockholder is a party or by which it is bound, or (ii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the

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execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Proxy, (ii) the performance by such FEI Stockholder of its obligations under this Agreement and the Proxy, or (iii) the consummation by such FEI Stockholder of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Proxy.

(d) Such FEI Stockholder is the record and Beneficial Owner of the number of Existing FEI Shares set forth opposite such FEI Stockholder's name on Schedule A hereto. On the date of this Agreement, such Existing FEI Shares constitute all of the shares of FEI Common Stock owned of record or Beneficially Owned by such FEI Stockholder.

(e) Such FEI Stockholder owns the number of Existing FEI Shares set forth opposite such FEI Stockholder's name on Schedule A hereto, free and clear of any liens, claims, security interests, proxies, voting trusts or agreements, restrictions, qualifications, limitations, understandings or arrangements which would in any way restrict or impair such FEI Stockholder's right to vote such Existing FEI Shares in its sole discretion, or could require such FEI Stockholder to sell or transfer any of such Existing FEI Shares (whether upon default on a loan or otherwise) before the Effective Time.

(f) Such FEI Stockholder has sufficient voting power and sufficient power to issue instructions and sufficient power to agree to the matters set forth in this Agreement with respect to all of such FEI Stockholder's Existing FEI Shares.

(g) The obligations of such FEI Stockholder under this Agreement shall survive the death, disability or incapacity of such FEI Stockholder.

2.02 *Company Representations and Warranties.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to the FEI Stockholders as follows:

(a) The Company is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization. The Company has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) the Company's certificate of incorporation or similar organizational or governing documents, (ii) any agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound, or (iii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement, (ii) the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, or (iii) the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

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ARTICLE III

Agreements in Respect of the Stockholder FEI Shares

3.01 *Vote for Merger.*

(a) Such FEI Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder FEI Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of FEI called to vote upon the Merger, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval with respect to the Merger is sought, and shall cause such Stockholder FEI Shares to be voted or consented in favor of approving the Merger; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(a) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such FEI Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder FEI Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

(b) In order to effectuate the voting arrangements contemplated by Sections 3.01(a) and 3.02, contemporaneously with the execution and delivery by the FEI Stockholders and the Company of this Agreement, and as a condition to such execution and delivery by the Company, such FEI Stockholder is delivering to the Company the Proxy, duly executed by or on behalf of such FEI

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Stockholder; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(b) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such FEI Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder FEI Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

3.02 *Vote Against Certain Matters.* Prior to the Effective Time, such FEI Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder FEI Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of FEI called, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval is sought, and shall cause its Stockholder FEI Shares to be voted or consented against any proposal or transaction involving FEI or any of its subsidiaries that would prevent or nullify the Merger or the Merger Agreement (any such proposal or transaction, a "*Particular Matter*"); *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.02 or such Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such FEI Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder FEI Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

3.03 *Transfers; Other Voting Arrangements.*

(a) Such FEI Stockholder may not Transfer any Stockholder FEI Shares except to a Transferee that has made a Superior FEI Proposal in the FEI Acquisition Transaction contemplated by such Superior FEI Proposal.

(b) Such FEI Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, enter into any voting arrangement, whether by proxy, voting arrangement, voting agreement, voting trust or otherwise with respect to any of its Stockholder FEI Shares, other than this Agreement and the Proxy; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.03 or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such FEI Stockholder to vote or consent (or grant a proxy causing to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder FEI Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

(c) Such FEI Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, take any action that would or could reasonably be expected to invalidate or in any way limit the enforceability by the Proxyholders (as defined in the Proxy) of the Proxy.

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(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement shall limit or restrict such FEI Stockholder from acting in his or her capacity as a director or officer of FEI (it being understood that this Agreement shall apply to such FEI Stockholder solely in such FEI Stockholder's capacity as a stockholder of FEI). No conduct or action taken by such FEI Stockholder, if such FEI Stockholder is also a director or officer of FEI (in his or her capacity as such), shall be deemed to constitute a breach of any provision of this Agreement.

3.04 *Confidentiality.* Prior to the first public announcement by the Company and FEI of the Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby, such FEI Stockholder shall not disclose to any person or entity any information concerning the Merger Agreement, the Merger or the other transactions contemplated thereby, or the discussions concerning the same, *provided*, that nothing set forth in this Section 3.04 is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the ability of such FEI Stockholder to comply with its reporting obligations under applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations, in which event such FEI Stockholder shall give prior notice of such disclosure to the Company as promptly as practicable so as to enable the Company to seek a protective order from a court of competent jurisdiction with respect thereto or similar relief in connection therewith.

3.05 *Disclosure.* Such FEI Stockholder acknowledges that the Company and/or FEI may be obligated to disclose in governmental and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) filings such FEI Stockholder's identity, facts concerning such FEI Stockholder's ownership of Stockholder FEI Shares and the nature of the commitments, arrangements and understandings set forth in this Agreement, the Proxy, and any other agreements executed and delivered in connection with the Merger, together with such other information as may be required by applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations.

3.06 *No Solicitation.* Subject to Section 3.03(d), such FEI Stockholder shall not solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any FEI Acquisition Proposal, or engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity (other than with FEI and the Company or any of their Affiliates or Representatives) with respect to any FEI Acquisition Proposal, other than any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction. Such FEI Stockholder shall promptly advise FEI and the Company of any FEI Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such FEI Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of this Agreement. Such FEI Stockholder shall keep FEI and the Company reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such FEI Acquisition Proposal. Such FEI Stockholder shall immediately cease and cause to

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be terminated any existing discussions with any person or entity that relate to any FEI Acquisition Proposal or FEI Acquisition Transaction, other than discussions or negotiations with FEI and the Company or their Affiliates or Representatives.

ARTICLE IV

Miscellaneous

4.01 *Termination of Agreement.* The provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy shall automatically terminate upon, and be of no further force or effect after, the earliest to occur of (i) the termination of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (ii) the Effective Time, and (iii) the execution and delivery by any party to the Merger Agreement of any amendment thereto which would cause each share of FEI Stock to be converted into the right to receive fewer than 1.355 shares of Company Stock (as adjusted for any stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock dividends or similar events).

4.02 *Entire Agreement.* This Agreement and the Proxy contain the entire agreement among the parties relating to the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement, and all prior and

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contemporaneous negotiations, understandings and agreements among the parties (whether written or oral) with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement are superseded by this Agreement, and there are no representations, warranties, understandings or agreements concerning the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement or those other documents other than those expressly set forth in this Agreement.

4.03 *Captions.* The captions of the articles and paragraphs of this Agreement are for reference only, and do not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

4.04 *Binding Agreement; Assignment.*

(a) Such FEI Stockholder agrees that this Agreement and the obligations hereunder shall attach to its Stockholder FEI Shares and shall be binding upon any person to which record or Beneficial Ownership of such Stockholder FEI Shares shall pass, whether by operation of law or otherwise, including, without limitation, such FEI Stockholder's successors, partners or Transferees (for value or otherwise) and any other successors in interest. Notwithstanding any transfer of FEI Common Stock, the transferor shall remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement of the transferor.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, except in accordance with Section 3.03(a) hereto, no party hereto may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto; *provided* that the Company may assign, in its sole discretion, its rights and obligations hereunder to any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, but no such assignment shall relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder if such assignee does not perform such obligations.

4.05 *Notices and Other Communications.* Any notice or other communication under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed given when delivered in person or sent by facsimile (with proof of receipt at the number to which it is required to be sent), or on the third business day after the day on which mailed by first class mail from within the United States of America, to the following addresses (or such other address as may be specified after the date of this Agreement by the party to which the notice or communication is sent):

If to the Company to:
Veeco Instruments Inc.
Corporate Headquarters
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, NY 11797
Attention: Greg Robbins
Telephone: (516) 677-0200
Telecopier: (516) 677-9125
with a copy to:
Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue

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New York, New York 10022
Attention: Rory A. Greiss, Esq.
Telephone: (212) 836-8261
Telecopier: (212) 836-7152
If to such FEI Stockholder:
Address set forth on the signature page hereto

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4.06 *Governing Law.* THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PROXY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OREGON APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND PERFORMED IN SUCH STATE AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS DOCTRINES.

4.07 *Amendments.* Prior to the Effective Time, this Agreement may be amended only by a document in writing signed by each of the parties hereto.

4.08 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, some of which may contain the signatures of some, but not all, the parties hereto. Each of those counterparts will be deemed an original, but all of them together will constitute one and the same Agreement.

4.09 *Severability.* If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, and if the rights or obligations of any party hereto under this Agreement will not be materially and adversely affected thereby, (i) such provision will be fully severable, (ii) this Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, (iii) the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance herefrom and (iv) in lieu of such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible.

4.10 *Enforcement.* The parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the parties hereto shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and the Proxy and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy in any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or in a Delaware state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. In addition, each of the Parties hereto (i) consents to the personal jurisdiction of any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or any Delaware state court in any action or proceeding relating to or arising out of this Agreement (including, with respect to the Stockholder, the Proxy) or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (ii) agrees that such Party will not attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction by motion or other request for leave from any such court, (iii) agrees that such Party will not seek to change the venue of any such action or proceeding or otherwise to move any such action or proceeding to another court, whether because of inconvenience of the forum or otherwise (*provided* that nothing in this Section will prevent a party from removing an action or proceeding from a Delaware state court to a Federal court located in the State of Delaware), (iv) agrees that such Party will not bring any action relating to this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby in any court other than a Federal court sitting in the State of Delaware or a Delaware state court and (v) waives any right to trial by jury with respect to any claim or proceeding related to or arising out of this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby.

4.11 *Further Assurances.* From time to time, at the Company's request and without further consideration, such FEI Stockholder shall execute and deliver such additional documents and take all such further lawful action as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the full and prompt performance of such FEI Stockholder's obligations pursuant to this Agreement and the validity and enforceability of the Proxy.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party hereto has caused this Agreement to be duly authorized and signed as of the date in the first paragraph of this Agreement.

THE "COMPANY"

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun

Title: *Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President*

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ VAHÉ A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahé A. Sarkissian

Title:

By: /s/ DON VANLUVANEE

Name: Don VanLuvanee

Title:

By: /s/ WILF CORRIGAN

Name: Wilf Corrigan

Title:

By: /s/ GERHARD H. PARKER

Name: Gerhard H. Parker

Title:

By: /s/ MICHEL EPSZTEIN

Name: Michel Epsztein

Title:

By: /s/ WILLIAM W. LATTIN

Name: William W. Lattin

Title:

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By: /s/ WILLIAM CURRAN

Name: William Curran

Title:

By: /s/ BRADLEY J. THIES

Name: Bradley J. Thies

Title:

By: /s/ JOHN A. DOHERTY

Name: John A. Doherty

Title:

By: /s/ STEVEN BERGER

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Name: Steven Berger
Title:

By: /s/ STEVE LOUGHLIN

Name: Steve Loughlin
Title:

By: /s/ ROB H.J. FASTENAU

Name: Rob H.J. Fastenau
Title:

By: /s/ JIM HIGGS

Name: Jim Higgs
Title:

By: /s/ JOHN LINDQUIST

Name: John Lindquist
Title:

By: /s/ JAN C. LOBBEZOO

Name: Jan C. Lobbezoo
Title:

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. ATTARDO

Name: Michael J. Attardo
Title:

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SCHEDULE A

| FEI Stockholder | No. of Existing FEI Shares Held |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Vahe Sarkissian | 377,624 |
| Brad Thies | 3,000 |
| Steven Berger | 13,042 |
| John Doherty | 98,479 |
| Michel Epsztein | 37 |
| Rob Fastenau | 0 |
| Jim Higgs | 60,152 |
| | 200 |

| FEI Stockholder | No. of Existing FEI Shares Held |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Lindquist | 1,328 |
| Steve Loughlin | 568 |
| Don VanLuvanee | 17,667 |
| Michael Attardo | 10,667 |
| Jan Lobbezoo | 0 |
| William Curran | 0 |
| William Lattin | 13,833 |
| Gerhard Parker | 11,251 |
| Wilf Corrigan | 0 |

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ VAHÉ A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahé A. Sarkissian
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ DON VANLUVANEE

Name: Don VanLuvanee
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ WILF CORRIGAN

Name: Wilf Corrigan

Title:

Dated: July 9, 2002

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and

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otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ GERHARD H. PARKER

Name: Gerhard H. Parker

Title:

Dated: July 10, 2002

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

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THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE

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MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ WILLIAM W. LATTIN

Name: William W. Lattin
Title:

Dated: July 10, 2002

B-1-15

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ WILLIAM CURRAN

Name: William Curran
Title:

Dated: July 10, 2002

B-1-16

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ BRADLEY J. THIES

Name: Bradley J. Thies

Title:

Dated: July 10, 2002

B-1-17

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ MICHEL EPSZTEIN

Name: Michel Epsztein

Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-18

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JOHN A. DOHERTY

Name: John A. Doherty

Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-19

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ STEVEN BERGER

Name: Steven Berger

Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-20

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ STEVE LOUGHLIN

Name: Steve Loughlin
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-21

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ ROB H.J. FASTENAU

Name: Rob H.J. Fastenau
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-22

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JIM HIGGS

Name: Jim Higgs

Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-23

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

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FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JOHN LINDQUIST

Name: John Lindquist

Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

B-1-24

EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JAN C. LOBBEZOO

Name: Jan C. Lobbezoo

Title:

Dated: July 12, 2002

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder FEI Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of FEI (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder FEI Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

FEI STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ MICHAEL J. ATTARDO

Name: Michael J. Attardo
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

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Appendix B-2

VOTING AGREEMENT

VOTING AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "*Agreement*"), between Philips Business Electronics International B.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands (the "*Stockholder*"), and Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "*Company*") and, collectively with the Stockholder, the "*Parties*").

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Agreement, the Stockholder is the Beneficial Owner (as herein defined) of 8,264,821 shares of Common Stock, no par value (the "*Florence Stock*"), of FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*Florence*"); and

WHEREAS, the Company, Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation ("*Acquisition*"), and Florence have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Merger Agreement*"), which provides that, among other things, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Acquisition shall be merged with and into Florence (the "*Merger*"), and each share of Florence Stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "*Company Stock*"), of the Company; and

WHEREAS, the Stockholder and the Company have entered into an Investor Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Investor Agreement*") and the Amendment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Amendment Agreement*"); and

WHEREAS, the Stockholder and the Company each desire to make certain covenants and agreements concerning the manner in which the Stockholder Florence Shares (as herein defined) will be voted in connection with the Merger and the Merger Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the Company's execution and delivery to the Stockholder of the Investor Agreement and the Amendment Agreement and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the Stockholder and the Company agree

as follows:

ARTICLE I

Definitions and Construction

1.01 *As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this Section.*

(a) *"Beneficially Own"* or *"Beneficial Ownership"* with respect to any securities means having "beneficial ownership" of such securities (as determined pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), including pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing. Without duplicative counting of the same securities by the same holder, securities Beneficially Owned by a person or entity shall include securities Beneficially Owned by all other persons or entities with whom such person or entity would constitute a "group" within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the same issuer.

(b) *"Effective Time"* has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(c) *"Exchange Act"* means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(d) *"Existing Florence Shares"* means all shares of Florence Common Stock Beneficially Owned by the Stockholder on the date of this Agreement, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

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(e) *"FEI Acquisition Proposal"* has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(f) *"FEI Acquisition Transaction"* has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(g) *"NASDAQ"* has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(h) *"Proxy"* means a proxy in the form of Exhibit A attached to this Agreement.

(i) *"Stockholder Florence Shares"* means the Existing Florence Shares and any shares of Florence Stock and/or other equity securities of, or equity interests in, Florence acquired by the Stockholder in any capacity after the date of this Agreement and prior to the termination of this Agreement, whether upon the exercise of options, warrants or rights, the conversion or exchange of convertible or exchangeable securities, or by means of purchase, dividend, distribution, split-up, recapitalization, combination, exchange of shares or the like, gift, bequest, inheritance or as a successor in interest in any capacity or otherwise Beneficially Owned by the Stockholder, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(j) *"Superior FEI Proposal"* has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(k) *"Transfer"* means any direct or indirect sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, or entry into any contract, option or other arrangement with respect to the sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, any Stockholder Florence Shares by the Stockholder (in each of the foregoing, whether voluntary or involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise).

(l) *"Transferee"* any person or entity to whom a Transfer is made.

ARTICLE II

Representations and Warranties

2.01 *Reciprocal Representations and Warranties.* Each Party hereby represents and warrants to the other as follows:

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(a) Such Party is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization. Such Party has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and (in the case of the Stockholder) the Proxy. This Agreement and (in the case of the Stockholder) the Proxy have been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by such Party and constitutes such Party's legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement or, in the case of the Stockholder, the Proxy, nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or the Proxy will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) such Party's certificate of incorporation or similar organizational, governing or constating documents, (ii) any agreement or instrument to which such Party is a party or by which it is bound, or (iii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement or, in the case of the Stockholder, the Proxy, (ii) the performance by such Party of its obligations under this Agreement and the Proxy, or (iii) the consummation by such Party of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Proxy.

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2.02 *Stockholder Representations and Warranties.* The Stockholder hereby represents and warrants to the Company as follows:

(a) The Stockholder is the record and Beneficial Owner of 8,264,821 Existing Florence Shares. On the date of this Agreement, such Existing Shares constitute all of the shares of Florence Stock owned of record or Beneficially Owned by the Stockholder.

(b) The Stockholder owns the Existing Florence Shares free and clear of any liens, claims, security interests, proxies, voting trusts or agreements, restrictions, qualifications, limitations, understandings or arrangements which would in any way restrict or impair the Stockholder's right to vote Stockholder Florence Shares in its sole discretion, or could require the Stockholder to sell or transfer any Stockholder Florence Shares (whether upon default on a loan or otherwise) before the Effective Time.

(c) The Stockholder has sufficient voting power and sufficient power to issue instructions and sufficient power to agree to the matters set forth in this Agreement with respect to the Stockholder Florence Shares.

ARTICLE III

Agreements in Respect of the Stockholder Florence Shares

3.01 *Vote for Merger.*

(a) The Stockholder shall cause the Stockholder Florence Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Florence called to vote upon the Merger and the Merger Agreement, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval with respect to the Merger and the Merger Agreement is sought, and shall cause the Stockholder Florence Shares to be voted or consented in favor of the Merger; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(a) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any Stockholder Florence Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

(b) In order to effectuate the voting arrangements contemplated by Sections 3.01(a) and 3.02, contemporaneously with the execution and delivery by the Parties of this Agreement, and as a condition to such execution and delivery by the Company, the Stockholder is delivering to the Company the Proxy, duly executed by or on behalf of the Stockholder; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(b) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any Stockholder Florence Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

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3.02 *Vote Against Certain Matters.* Prior to the Effective Time, the Stockholder shall cause the Stockholder Florence Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Florence called, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval is sought, and shall cause the Stockholder Florence Shares to be voted or consented against any proposal or transaction involving Florence or any of its subsidiaries that would prevent or nullify the Merger or the Merger Agreement (any such proposal or transaction, a "*Particular Matter*"); *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.02 or such Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any Stockholder Florence Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

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3.03 *Transfers; Other Voting Arrangements.*

(a) The Stockholder may not Transfer any Stockholder Florence Shares except (i) to a Transferee that both (A) agrees, prior to the consummation of such Transfer, to become bound by this Agreement and the Proxy and subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions hereof and thereof in the same manner as the Stockholder, by executing and delivering to the Company a writing to such effect in form and substance satisfactory to the Company, and (B) enters into, prior to the consummation of such Transfer, a "standstill" agreement with respect to each of Florence and the Company, each of which "standstill" agreements (I) shall be identical in substance to Section 4.01(a) of the Investor Agreement and otherwise in form and substance satisfactory to Florence or the Company, as the case may be, and (II) shall be effective only for the period between the consummation of such Transfer and the Effective Time, or (ii) to a Transferee that has made a Superior FEI Proposal in the FEI Acquisition Transaction contemplated by such Superior FEI Proposal.

(b) The Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, enter into any voting arrangement, whether by proxy, voting arrangement, voting agreement, voting trust or otherwise with respect to any Stockholder Florence Shares, other than this Agreement and the Proxy; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.03 or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Stockholder to vote or consent (or grant a proxy causing to be voted or consented) any Stockholder Florence Shares in favor of any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

(c) The Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, take any action that would or could reasonably be expected to invalidate or in any way limit the enforceability by the Proxyholders (as defined in the Proxy) of the Proxy.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement shall limit or restrict any employee of the Stockholder from acting in his or her capacity as a director or officer of Florence (it being understood that this Agreement shall apply to the Stockholder solely in the Stockholder's capacity as a stockholder of Florence). No conduct or action taken by any employee of the Stockholder who is also a director or officer of Florence, in his capacity as such, shall be deemed to constitute a breach of any provision of this Agreement.

3.04 *Confidentiality.* Prior to the first public announcement by the Company and Florence of the Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby, the Stockholder shall not, and shall cause its Affiliates (as defined in the Merger Agreement) and its and their respective employees, counsel, advisors and representatives ("*Representatives*") not to, disclose to any person or entity any information concerning the Merger Agreement, the Merger or the other transactions contemplated thereby, or the discussions concerning the same, *provided*, that such information may be disclosed to employees, counsel, advisors and representatives of the Stockholder and its Affiliates who have been advised of the foregoing obligations, and *provided, further*, that nothing set forth in this Section 3.04 is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the ability of the Stockholder or its Affiliates to comply with their respective reporting obligations under applicable laws and stock exchange regulations, in which event the Stockholder shall give prior notice of such disclosure to the Company as promptly as practicable so as to enable the Company to seek a protective order from a court of competent jurisdiction with respect thereto or similar relief in connection therewith.

3.05 *Disclosure.* Each Party acknowledges that the other Party is or may be obligated to disclose in governmental and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) filings the Stockholder's identity, facts concerning the Stockholder's ownership of Florence Stock and the nature of the commitments, arrangements and understandings set forth in this Agreement, the Proxy, the Investor Agreement, the Amendment Agreement and any other agreements executed and delivered in connection with the Merger, together with such other information as may be required by applicable laws and stock

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exchange regulations. No Party shall issue any press release naming the other Party or any of the other Party's Affiliates unless such press release has been approved by such other Party, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned.

3.06 *No Solicitation.* Subject to Section 3.03(d), the Stockholder shall not, and shall cause Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. ("Philips") and each other direct and indirect subsidiary of Philips not to, take any action to solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any FEI Acquisition Proposal, or engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity (other than with Florence and the Company or any of their Affiliates or Representatives) with respect to any FEI Acquisition Proposal, (other than any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction) or disclose any nonpublic information relating to Florence or any subsidiary of Florence. The Stockholder shall advise Florence and the Company of any FEI Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such FEI Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of this Agreement, reasonably promptly following its receipt thereof. The Stockholder shall keep Florence and the Company reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such FEI Acquisition Proposal. The Stockholder shall, and shall cause Philips and each other direct and indirect subsidiary of Philips to, immediately cease and cause to be terminated any discussions now pending with any person or entity that relate to any FEI Acquisition Proposal or FEI Acquisition Transaction, other than discussions or negotiations with Florence and the Company or their Affiliates or Representatives.

ARTICLE IV

Miscellaneous

4.01 *Termination of Agreement.* The provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy shall automatically terminate upon, and be of no further force or effect after, the earliest to occur of (i) the termination of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (ii) the Effective Time, and (iii) the execution and delivery by any party to the Merger Agreement of any amendment thereto which would cause each share of Florence Stock to be converted into the right to receive fewer than 1.355 shares of Company Stock (as adjusted for any stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock dividends or similar events).

4.02 *Entire Agreement.* This Agreement and the Proxy contain the entire agreement among the parties relating to the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement, and all prior and contemporaneous negotiations, understandings and agreements among the parties (whether written or oral) with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement are superseded by this Agreement, and there are no representations, warranties, understandings or agreements concerning the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement or those other documents other than those expressly set forth in this Agreement.

4.03 *Captions.* The captions of the articles and paragraphs of this Agreement are for reference only, and do not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

4.04 *Binding Agreement; Assignment.*

(a) The Stockholder agrees that this Agreement and the obligations hereunder shall attach to the Stockholder Florence Shares and shall be binding upon any person to which record or Beneficial Ownership of such Stockholder Florence Shares shall pass, whether by operation of law or otherwise, including, without limitation, the Stockholder's successors, partners or Transferees (for value or otherwise) and any other successors in interest. Notwithstanding any transfer of Florence Stock, the transferor shall remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement of the transferor.

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(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, except in accordance with Section 3.03(a), no Party may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other Party; provided that the Company may assign, in its sole discretion, its rights and obligations hereunder to any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, but no such assignment shall relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder if such assignee does not perform such obligations.

4.05 *Notices and Other Communications.* Any notice or other communication under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed given when delivered in person or sent by facsimile (with proof of receipt at the number to which it is required to be sent), or on the third business day after the day on which mailed by first class mail from within the United States of America, to the following addresses (or such other address as may be specified after the date of this Agreement by the party to which the notice or communication is sent):

If to the Company:

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Veeco Instruments Inc.
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, New York 11797
Attention: Gregory A. Robbins
Telephone: (516) 677-0200
Telecopier: (516) 677-9125

with a copy to:

Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Attention: Rory A. Greiss
Telephone: (212) 836-8261
Telecopier: (212) 836-7152

and a copy to:

FEI Company
7425 N.W. Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-5830
Attention: Bradley J. Thies
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopier: (503) 640-7509

and a copy to:

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
Attention: Larry W. Sonsini
Telephone: (650) 493-9300
Telecopier: (650) 493-6811

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If to the Stockholder:

c/o Philips Semiconductors
Legal Department
Building B460-1
Prof. Holstlaan 4
5656AA Eindhoven
The Netherlands
Attention: Guido Dierick
Telephone: +31 (40) 272-2041
Telecopier: +31 (40) 272-4005

with a copy to:

Sullivan & Cromwell
1870 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, California 94303
Attention: Matthew G. Hurd
Telephone: (650) 461-5600
Telecopier: (650) 461-5700

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4.06 *Governing Law.* THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PROXY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OREGON APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND PERFORMED IN SUCH STATE AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS DOCTRINES.

4.07 *Amendments.* Prior to the Effective Time, this Agreement may be amended only by a document in writing signed by each of the Parties.

4.08 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, some of which may contain the signatures of some, but not all, the parties hereto. Each of those counterparts will be deemed an original, but all of them together will constitute one and the same Agreement.

4.09 *Severability.* If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, and if the rights or obligations of any party hereto under this Agreement will not be materially and adversely affected thereby, (i) such provision will be fully severable, (ii) this Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, (iii) the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance herefrom and (iv) in lieu of such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible.

4.10 *Enforcement.* The parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the parties hereto shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and the Proxy and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy in any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or in a Delaware state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. In addition, each of the Parties hereto (i) consents to the personal jurisdiction of any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or any Delaware state court in any action or proceeding relating to or arising out of this Agreement (including, with respect to the Stockholder, the Proxy) or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (ii) agrees that such Party will not attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction by motion or other request for leave from any such court, (iii) agrees that such Party will not seek to change the

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venue of any such action or proceeding or otherwise to move any such action or proceeding to another court, whether because of inconvenience of the forum or otherwise (*provided* that nothing in this Section will prevent a party from removing an action or proceeding from a Delaware state court to a Federal court located in the State of Delaware), (iv) agrees that such Party will not bring any action relating to this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby in any court other than a Federal court sitting in the State of Delaware or a Delaware state court and (v) waives any right to trial by jury with respect to any claim or proceeding related to or arising out of this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby.

4.11 *Further Assurances.* From time to time, at the Company's request and without further consideration, the Stockholder shall execute and deliver such additional documents and take all such further lawful action as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the full and prompt performance of the Stockholder's obligations pursuant to this Agreement and the validity and enforceability of the Proxy.

(Signature page follows)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

PHILIPS BUSINESS ELECTRONICS INTERNATIONAL B.V.

By: /s/ J.C. LOBBEZOO

Name: J.C. Lobbezoo

Title: *Member Management Board*

By: /s/ A.P.M. VAN DER POEL

Name: A.P.M. van der Poel

Title: *Member Management Board*

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun

Title: *Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President*

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation ("*Veeco*"), and each of Veeco's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of ORS § 60.231 (2001), with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Florence Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Florence (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the Merger; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Florence Shares with respect to any Superior FEI Proposal or related FEI Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder Florence Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FLORENCE STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE FEWER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF COMPANY STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS).

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THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

Philips Business Electronics International B.V.

By: /s/ J.C. LOBBEZOO

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Name: J.C. Lobbezoo
Title: *Member Management Board*

By: /s/ A.P.M. VAN DER POEL

Name: A.P.M. van der Poel
Title: *Member Management Board*

Dated: July 11, 2002

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Appendix C-1

VOTING AGREEMENT

VOTING AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "Agreement"), among each of the individuals listed on Schedule A to this Agreement (each, a "Veeco Stockholder" and collectively, the "Veeco Stockholders"), and FEI Company, an Oregon corporation (the "Company" and, collectively with the Veeco Stockholders, the "Parties"). Capitalized terms used in this Agreement but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Merger Agreement.

WHEREAS, Veeco Instruments Inc. ("Veeco"), Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco ("Acquisition"), and the Company have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement"), which provides that, among other things, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Acquisition shall be merged with and into the Company (the "Merger"), and each share of FEI Common Stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of Veeco common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Veeco Stock");

WHEREAS, each Veeco Stockholder owns the number of Existing Veeco Shares (as defined herein) set forth opposite such Veeco Stockholder's name on Schedule A hereto and the Veeco Stockholders collectively own in the aggregate 119,290 Existing Veeco Shares;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is a Veeco Stockholders Voting Agreement contemplated by and referred to in the third "WHEREAS" clause to the Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a condition to the willingness of the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement, the Company has requested that the Veeco Stockholders enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, to induce the Company to enter into, and in consideration of its entering into, the Merger Agreement, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties to this Agreement, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

Definitions and Construction

1.01 As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this Section.

(a) "*Beneficially Own*" or "*Beneficial Ownership*" with respect to any securities means having "beneficial ownership" of such securities (as determined pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), including pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing. Without duplicative counting of the same securities by the same holder, securities Beneficially Owned by a person or entity shall include securities Beneficially Owned by all other persons or entities with whom such person or entity would constitute a "group" within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the same issuer.

(b) "*Effective Time*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

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(c) "*Exchange Act*" means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(d) "*Existing Veeco Shares*" means all shares of Veeco Stock Beneficially Owned by such Veeco Stockholder on the date of this Agreement, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(e) "*NASDAQ*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

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(f) "*Proxy*" means a proxy in the form of Exhibit A attached to this Agreement.

(g) "*Stockholder Veeco Shares*" means the Existing Veeco Shares and any shares of Veeco Stock and/or other equity securities of, or equity interests in, Veeco acquired by such Veeco Stockholder in any capacity after the date of this Agreement and prior to the termination of this Agreement, whether upon the exercise of options, warrants or rights, the conversion or exchange of convertible or exchangeable securities, or by means of purchase, dividend, distribution, split-up, recapitalization, combination, exchange of shares or the like, gift, bequest, inheritance or as a successor in interest in any capacity or otherwise Beneficially Owned by such Veeco Stockholder, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(h) "*Transfer*" means any direct or indirect sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, or entry into any contract, option or other arrangement with respect to the sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, any Stockholder Veeco Shares by such Veeco Stockholder (in each of the foregoing, whether voluntary or involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise).

(i) "*Transferee*" any person or entity to whom a Transfer is made.

(j) "*Superior Veeco Proposal*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(k) "*Veeco Acquisition Proposal*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

(l) "*Veeco Acquisition Transaction*" has the meaning set forth in the Merger Agreement.

ARTICLE II

Representations and Warranties

2.01 *Veeco Stockholder Representations and Warranties.* Each Veeco Stockholder represents and warrants to the Company as follows:

(a) Such Veeco Stockholder has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and the Proxy and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. This Agreement and the Proxy have been duly executed and delivered by such Veeco Stockholder and each constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against such Veeco Stockholder in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Proxy, nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Proxy or by any document to be delivered in accordance herewith or therewith will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) any agreement or instrument to which such Veeco Stockholder is a party or by which it is bound, or (ii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Proxy, (ii) the performance by such Veeco Stockholder of its obligations under this Agreement and the Proxy, or (iii) the consummation by such Veeco Stockholder of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Proxy.

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(d) Such Veeco Stockholder is the record and Beneficial Owner of the number of Existing Veeco Shares set forth opposite such Veeco Stockholder's name on *Schedule A* hereto. On the date of this Agreement, such Existing Veeco Shares constitute all of the shares of Veeco Stock owned of record or Beneficially Owned by such Veeco Stockholder.

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(e) Such Veeco Stockholder owns the number of Existing Veeco Shares set forth opposite such Veeco Stockholder's name on *Schedule A* hereto, free and clear of any liens, claims, security interests, proxies, voting trusts or agreements, restrictions, qualifications, limitations, understandings or arrangements which would in any way restrict or impair such Veeco Stockholder's right to vote such Existing Veeco Shares in its sole discretion, or could require such Veeco Stockholder to sell or transfer any of such Existing Veeco Shares (whether upon default on a loan or otherwise) before the Effective Time.

(f) Such Veeco Stockholder has sufficient voting power and sufficient power to issue instructions and sufficient power to agree to the matters set forth in this Agreement with respect to all of such Veeco Stockholder's Existing Veeco Shares.

(g) The obligations of such Veeco Stockholder under this Agreement shall survive the death, disability or incapacity of such Veeco Stockholder.

2.02 *Company Representations and Warranties.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to the Veeco Stockholders as follows:

(a) The Company is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization. The Company has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) the Company's articles of incorporation or similar organizational or governing documents, (ii) any agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound, or (iii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement, (ii) the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, or (iii) the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

ARTICLE III

Agreements in Respect of the Stockholder Veeco Shares

3.01 *Vote for Merger.*

(a) Such Veeco Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Veeco called to vote upon the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger or approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval with respect to the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger or the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment is sought, and shall cause such Stockholder Veeco Shares to be voted or consented in favor of approving the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(a) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its

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Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

(b) In order to effectuate the voting arrangements contemplated by Sections 3.01(a) and 3.02, contemporaneously with the execution and delivery by the Veeco Stockholders and the Company of this Agreement, and as a condition to such execution and delivery by the Company, such Veeco Stockholder is delivering to the Company the Proxy, duly executed by or on behalf of such Veeco Stockholder; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(b) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

3.02 *Vote Against Certain Matters.* Prior to the Effective Time, such Veeco Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Veeco called, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval is sought, and shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be voted or consented against any proposal or transaction involving Veeco or any of its subsidiaries that would prevent or nullify the Merger or the Merger Agreement (any such proposal or transaction, a "*Particular Matter*"); *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.02 or such Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

3.03 *Transfers; Other Voting Arrangements.*

(a) Such Veeco Stockholder may not Transfer any Stockholder Veeco Shares except to a Transferee that has made a Superior Veeco Proposal in the Veeco Acquisition Transaction contemplated by such Superior Veeco Proposal.

(b) Such Veeco Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, enter into any voting arrangement, whether by proxy, voting arrangement, voting agreement, voting trust or otherwise with respect to any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares, other than this Agreement and the Proxy; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.03 or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of such Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or grant a proxy causing to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

(c) Such Veeco Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, take any action that would or could reasonably be expected to invalidate or in any way limit the enforceability by the Proxyholders (as defined in the Proxy) of the Proxy.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement shall limit or restrict such Veeco Stockholder from acting in his or her capacity as a director or officer of Veeco (it being understood that this Agreement shall apply to such Veeco Stockholder solely in such Veeco Stockholder's capacity as a stockholder of Veeco). No conduct or action taken by such Veeco Stockholder, if such Veeco Stockholder is also a director or officer of Veeco (in his or her capacity as such), shall be deemed to constitute a breach of any provision of this Agreement.

3.04 *Confidentiality.* Prior to the first public announcement by the Company and Veeco of the Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby, such Veeco Stockholder shall not disclose to any person or entity any information concerning the Merger Agreement, the Merger or the other transactions contemplated thereby, or the discussions concerning the same, *provided*, that nothing set forth in this Section 3.04 is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the ability of such Veeco Stockholder to comply with its reporting obligations under

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applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations, in which event such Veeco Stockholder shall give prior notice of such disclosure to the Company as promptly as practicable so as to enable the Company to seek a protective order from a court of competent jurisdiction with respect thereto or similar relief in connection therewith.

3.05 *Disclosure.* Such Veeco Stockholder acknowledges that the Company may be obligated to disclose in governmental and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) filings such Veeco Stockholder's identity, facts concerning such Veeco Stockholder's ownership of Stockholder Veeco Shares and the nature of the commitments, arrangements and understandings set forth in this Agreement, the Proxy, and any other agreements executed and delivered in connection with the Merger, together with such other information as may be required by applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations.

3.06 *No Solicitation.* Subject to Section 3.03(d), such Veeco Stockholder shall not solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, or engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity

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(other than with Veeco and the Company or any of their Affiliates or Representatives) with respect to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, other than any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction. Such Veeco Stockholder shall promptly advise Veeco and the Company of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such Veeco Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of this Agreement. Such Veeco Stockholder shall keep Veeco and the Company reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such Veeco Acquisition Proposal. Such Veeco Stockholder shall immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing discussions with any person or entity that relate to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal or Veeco Acquisition Transaction, other than discussions or negotiations with Veeco and the Company or their Affiliates or Representatives.

ARTICLE IV

Miscellaneous

4.01 *Termination of Agreement.* The provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy shall automatically terminate upon, and be of no further force or effect after, the earliest to occur of (i) the termination of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (ii) the Effective Time, and (iii) the execution and delivery by any party to the Merger Agreement of any amendment thereto which would cause each share of FEI Common Stock to be converted into the right to receive greater than 1.355 shares of Veeco Stock (as adjusted for any stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock dividends or similar events).

4.02 *Entire Agreement.* This Agreement and the Proxy contain the entire agreement among the parties relating to the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement, and all prior and contemporaneous negotiations, understandings and agreements among the parties (whether written or oral) with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement are superseded by this Agreement, and there are no representations, warranties, understandings or agreements concerning the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement or those other documents other than those expressly set forth in this Agreement.

4.03 *Captions.* The captions of the articles and paragraphs of this Agreement are for reference only, and do not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

4.04 *Binding Agreement; Assignment.*

(a) Such Veeco Stockholder agrees that this Agreement and the obligations hereunder shall attach to its Stockholder Veeco Shares and shall be binding upon any person to which record or Beneficial Ownership of such Stockholder Veeco Shares shall pass, whether by operation of law or

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otherwise, including, without limitation, such Veeco Stockholder's successors, partners or Transferees (for value or otherwise) and any other successors in interest. Notwithstanding any transfer of Veeco Stock, the transferor shall remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement of the transferor.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, except in accordance with Section 3.03(a) hereto, no party hereto may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto; *provided* that the Company may assign, in its sole discretion, its rights and obligations hereunder to any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, but no such assignment shall relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder if such assignee does not perform such obligations.

4.05 *Notices and Other Communications.* Any notice or other communication under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed given when delivered in person or sent by facsimile (with proof of receipt at the number to which it is required to be sent), or on the third business day after the day on which mailed by first class mail from within the United States of America, to the following addresses (or such other address as may be specified after the date of this Agreement by the party to which the notice or communication is sent):

If to the Company to:

FEI Company
Corporate Headquarters
7451 NW Evergreen Parkway

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Hillsboro, OR 97124
Attention: Bradley J. Thies
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopier: (503) 640-7570

with a copy to:

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C.
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050
Attention: Larry W. Sonsini, Esq.
Telephone: (650) 493-9300
Telecopier: (650) 493-6811

If to such Veeco Stockholder:

Address set forth on Schedule A hereto

4.06 *Governing Law.* THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PROXY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND PERFORMED IN SUCH STATE AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS DOCTRINES.

4.07 *Amendments.* Prior to the Effective Time, this Agreement may be amended only by a document in writing signed by each of the parties hereto.

4.08 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, some of which may contain the signatures of some, but not all, the parties hereto. Each of those counterparts will be deemed an original, but all of them together will constitute one and the same Agreement.

4.09 *Severability.* If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, and if the rights or obligations of any party hereto under this Agreement will not be

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materially and adversely affected thereby, (i) such provision will be fully severable, (ii) this Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, (iii) the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance herefrom and (iv) in lieu of such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible.

4.10 *Enforcement.* The parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the parties hereto shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and the Proxy and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy in any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or in a Delaware state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. In addition, each of the Parties hereto (i) consents to the personal jurisdiction of any Federal court located in the State of Delaware or any Delaware state court in any action or proceeding relating to or arising out of this Agreement (including, with respect to the Stockholder, the Proxy) or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (ii) agrees that such Party will not attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction by motion or other request for leave from any such court, (iii) agrees that such Party will not seek to change the venue of any such action or proceeding or otherwise to move any such action or proceeding to another court, whether because of inconvenience of the forum or otherwise (*provided* that nothing in this Section will prevent a party from removing an action or proceeding from a Delaware state court to a Federal court located in the State of Delaware), (iv) agrees that such Party will not bring any action relating to this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby in any court other than a Federal court sitting in the State of Delaware or a Delaware state court and (v) waives any right to trial by jury with respect to any claim or proceeding related to or arising out of this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby.

4.11 *Further Assurances.* From time to time, at the Company's request and without further consideration, such Veeco Stockholder shall execute and deliver such additional documents and take all such further lawful action as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the full and

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prompt performance of such Veeco Stockholder's obligations pursuant to this Agreement and the validity and enforceability of the Proxy.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party hereto has caused this Agreement to be duly authorized and signed as of the date in the first paragraph of this Agreement.

**THE "COMPANY"
FEI COMPANY**

By: /s/ VAHE A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahe A. Sarkissian
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun
Title:

By: /s/ RICHARD A. D'AMORE

Name: Richard A. D'Amore
Title:

By: /s/ JOEL A. ELFTMANN

Name: Joel A. Elftmann
Title:

By: /s/ HEINZ K. FRIDRICH

Name: Heinz K. Fridrich
Title:

By: /s/ DOUGLAS A. KINGSLEY

Name: Douglas A. Kingsley
Title:

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By: /s/ PAUL R. LOW

Name: Paul R. Low
Title:

By: /s/ ROGER D. MCDANIEL

Name: Roger D. McDaniel
Title:

By: /s/ IRWIN H. PFISTER

Name: Irwin H. Pfister
Title:

By: /s/ WALTER J. SCHERR

Name: Walter J. Scherr
Title:

By: /s/ JOHN F. REIN, JR.

Name: John F. Rein, Jr.
Title:

By: /s/ EMMANUEL N. LAKIOS

Name: Emmanuel N. Lakios
Title:

By: /s/ DON R. KANIA, PH.D.

Name: Don R. Kania, Ph.D.
Title:

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By: /s/ ROBERT J. VALENTINE

Name: Robert J. Valentine
Title:

By: /s/ JOHN P. KIERNAN

Name: John P. Kiernan
Title:

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SCHEDULE A

| Veeco Stockholder | No. of Existing Veeco Shares Held |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Directors:</i> | |
| Edward H. Braun | 65,019 |
| Richard A. D'Amore | 43,701 |
| Joel A. Elftmann | 5,333 |
| Heinz K. Fridrich | |
| Douglas A. Kingsley | |
| Paul R. Low | |
| Roger D. McDaniel | |
| Irwin H. Pfister | |
| Walter J. Scherr | 780 |
| <i>Executive Officers:</i> | |
| John F. Rein, Jr. | 2,650 |
| Emmanuel N. Lakios | 412 |
| Don R. Kania, Ph.D. | 438 |
| Robert J. Valentine | 663 |
| John P. Kiernan | 294 |
| Total | 119,290 |

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EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Voting Agreement"), of which this Proxy (this "Proxy") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "Granting Stockholder") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "Proxyholder") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the

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DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ RICHARD A. D'AMORE

Name: Richard A. D'Amore
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

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EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI COMMON STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF VEECO STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JOEL A. ELFTMANN

Name: Joel A. Elftmann
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

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MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI COMMON STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF VEECO STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ PAUL R. LOW

Name: Paul R. Low
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-17

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder.

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI COMMON STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF VEECO STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ ROGER D. MCDANIEL

Name: Roger D. McDaniel
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-18

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ IRWIN H. PFISTER

Name: Irwin H. Pfister
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-19

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ WALTER J. SCHERR

Name: Walter J. Scherr
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-20

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JOHN F. REIN, JR.

Name: John F. Rein, Jr.
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-21

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ EMMANUEL N. LAKIOS

Name: Emmanuel N. Lakios
Title:

Dated:

July 11, 2002

C-1-22

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By:

/s/ DON R. KANIA, PH.D.

Name: Don R. Kania, Ph.D.
Title:

Dated:

July 11, 2002

C-1-23

EXHIBIT A
PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the

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Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "Granting Stockholder") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "Proxyholder") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By:

/s/ ROBERT J. VALENTINE

Name: Robert J. Valentine
Title:

Dated:

July 11, 2002

C-1-24

EXHIBIT A **PROXY**

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Voting Agreement"), of which this Proxy (this "Proxy") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "Granting Stockholder") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("FEI"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "Proxyholder") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ JOHN P. KIERNAN

Name: John P. Kiernan
Title:

Dated: July 11, 2002

C-1-25

Appendix C-2

VOTING AGREEMENT

VOTING AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "Agreement"), between Chorus, L.P., a Minnesota limited partnership (the "Veeco Stockholder") and FEI Company, an Oregon corporation (the "Company" and, collectively with the Veeco Stockholder, the "Parties"). Capitalized terms used in this Agreement but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Merger Agreement.

WHEREAS, Veeco Instruments Inc. ("Veeco"), Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco ("Acquisition"), and the Company have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement"), which provides that, among other things, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Acquisition shall be merged with and into the Company (the "Merger"), and each share of FEI Common Stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Veeco Stock"), of Veeco;

WHEREAS, on the date hereof, the Veeco Stockholder Beneficially Owns 3,605,969 shares of Veeco Stock;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is a Veeco Stockholders Voting Agreement contemplated by and referred to in the third "WHEREAS" clause to the Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, as a condition to the willingness of the Company to enter into the Merger Agreement, the Company has requested that the Veeco Stockholder enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, to induce the Company to enter into, and in consideration of its entering into, the Merger Agreement, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties to this Agreement, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

Definitions and Construction

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1.01 As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this Section.

(a) "*Beneficially Own*" or "*Beneficial Ownership*" with respect to any securities means having "beneficial ownership" of such securities (as determined pursuant to Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), including pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing. Without duplicative counting of the same securities by the same holder, securities Beneficially Owned by a person or entity shall include securities Beneficially Owned by all other persons or entities with whom such person or entity would constitute a "group" within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the same issuer.

(b) "*Escrow Shares*" means the 206,625 shares of Veeco Stock owned of record and Beneficially Owned by the Veeco Stockholder, which are subject to that certain Escrow Agreement, dated as of September 17, 2001, among Veeco, Paul E. Colombo, certain former stockholders of Applied Epi, Inc. and The Bank of Cherry Creek, N.A.

(c) "*Exchange Act*" means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(d) "*Existing Veeco Shares*" means all shares of Veeco Stock Beneficially Owned by the Veeco Stockholder on the Record Date, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(e) "*Proxy*" means a proxy in the form of Exhibit A attached to this Agreement.

C-2-1

(f) "*Record Date*" means the record date established by the Veeco Board of Directors with respect to the Veeco Stockholders' Meeting.

(g) "*Stockholder Veeco Shares*" means the Existing Veeco Shares and any shares of Veeco Stock and/or other equity securities of, or equity interests in, Veeco acquired by the Veeco Stockholder in any capacity after the date of this Agreement and Beneficially Owned by the Veeco Stockholder on the Record Date, whether upon the exercise of options, warrants or rights, the conversion or exchange of convertible or exchangeable securities, or by means of purchase, dividend, distribution, split-up, recapitalization, combination, exchange of shares or the like, gift, bequest, inheritance or as a successor in interest in any capacity or otherwise Beneficially Owned by the Veeco Stockholder, in each case, if and to the extent entitled to be voted.

(h) "*Transfer*" means any direct or indirect sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, or entry into any contract, option or other arrangement with respect to the sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of, any Stockholder Veeco Shares by the Veeco Stockholder (in each of the foregoing, whether voluntary or involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise).

(i) "*Transferee*" any person or entity to whom a Transfer is made.

ARTICLE II

Representations and Warranties

2.01 *Veeco Stockholder Representations and Warranties.* The Veeco Stockholder represents and warrants to the Company as follows:

(a) The Veeco Stockholder has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and the Proxy and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. This Agreement and the Proxy have been duly executed and delivered by the Veeco Stockholder and each constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against the Veeco Stockholder in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement or the Proxy, nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Proxy or by any document to be delivered in accordance herewith or therewith will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) any agreement or instrument to which the Veeco Stockholder is a party or by which it is bound, or (ii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

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(c) As of the date hereof, the Veeco Stockholder is the record owner and Beneficial Owner of 3,605,969 shares of Veeco Stock, and such shares constitute all of the shares of Veeco Stock owned of record by the Veeco Stockholder.

(d) Other than that certain Escrow Agreement, dated as of September 17, 2001, among Veeco, Paul E. Colombo, certain former stockholders of Applied Epi, Inc. and The Bank of Cherry Creek, N.A., the Veeco Stockholder owns the 3,605,969 shares of Veeco Stock free and clear of any liens, claims, security interests, proxies, voting trusts or agreements, restrictions, qualifications, limitations, understandings or arrangements that would in any way restrict or impair the Veeco Stockholder's right to vote such shares of Veeco Stock in its sole discretion, or could require the Veeco Stockholder to sell or transfer any of such shares of Veeco Stock (whether upon default on a loan or otherwise) before the Effective Time.

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(e) The Veeco Stockholder has sufficient voting power and sufficient power to issue instructions and sufficient power to agree to the matters set forth in this Agreement with respect to all of the shares of Veeco Stock owned by the Veeco Stockholder.

2.02 *Company Representations and Warranties.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to the Veeco Stockholder as follows:

(a) The Company is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization. The Company has all power and authority necessary to enable it to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated hereby. This Agreement has been duly and validly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation, enforceable against it in accordance with its terms.

(b) Neither the execution and delivery of this Agreement nor the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will violate, result in a breach of, or constitute a default (or an event which, with notice or lapse of time or both would constitute a default) under (i) the Company's articles of incorporation or similar organizational or governing documents, (ii) any agreement or instrument to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound, or (iii) any law, or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental authority or other regulatory organization having jurisdiction over it.

(c) Except as set forth in the Merger Agreement and the schedules thereto, no governmental filings, authorizations, approvals or consents, or other governmental action, is required for (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement, (ii) the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement, or (iii) the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

ARTICLE III

Agreements in Respect of the Stockholder Veeco Shares

3.01 *Vote for Merger.*

(a) The Veeco Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Veeco called to vote upon the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger or approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval with respect to the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger or the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment is sought, and shall cause such Stockholder Veeco Shares to be voted or consented in favor of approving the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(a) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

(b) In order to effectuate the voting arrangements contemplated by Sections 3.01(a) and 3.02, contemporaneously with the execution and delivery by the Veeco Stockholder and the Company of this Agreement, and as a condition to such execution and delivery by the Company, the Veeco Stockholder is delivering to the Company the Proxy, duly executed by or on behalf of the Veeco Stockholder; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.01(b) or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor

of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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3.02 *Vote Against Certain Matters.* Prior to the Effective Time, the Veeco Stockholder shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum at any meeting of stockholders of Veeco called, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, or in any other circumstances upon which a vote, consent or other approval is sought, and shall cause its Stockholder Veeco Shares to be voted or consented against any proposal or transaction involving Veeco or any of its subsidiaries that would prevent or nullify the Merger or the Merger Agreement (any such proposal or transaction, a "*Particular Matter*"); *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.02 or such Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or cause to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

3.03 *Transfers; Other Voting Arrangements.*

(a) The Veeco Stockholder may not Transfer any Escrow Shares except to a Transferee that has made a Superior Veeco Proposal in the Veeco Acquisition Transaction contemplated by such Superior Veeco Proposal.

(b) The Veeco Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, enter into any voting arrangement, whether by proxy, voting arrangement, voting agreement, voting trust or otherwise with respect to any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares, other than this Agreement and the Proxy unless such arrangement, proxy agreement, trust or other instrument provides for the voting of Stockholder Veeco Shares in accordance with the terms of this Agreement; *provided* that nothing set forth in this Section 3.03 or in the Proxy is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the right of the Veeco Stockholder to vote or consent (or grant a proxy causing to be voted or consented) any of its Stockholder Veeco Shares in favor of any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

(c) The Veeco Stockholder shall not, directly or indirectly, take any action that would or could reasonably be expected to invalidate or in any way limit the enforceability by the Proxyholders (as defined in the Proxy) of the Proxy.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement shall limit or restrict the Veeco Stockholder from directly or indirectly selling, transferring, pledging, assigning or otherwise disposing of or entering into any contract, option, or other arrangement with respect to the sale, transfer, pledge, assignment or other disposition of any Veeco Stock held by the Veeco Stockholder, except the Escrow Shares, all without the attachment of, or any obligation to be bound by, any provisions of this Agreement.

3.04 *Confidentiality.* Prior to the first public announcement by the Company and Veeco of the Merger Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated thereby, the Veeco Stockholder shall not disclose to any person or entity any information concerning the Merger Agreement, the Merger or the other transactions contemplated thereby, or the discussions concerning the same, *provided*, that nothing set forth in this Section 3.04 is intended or shall be construed to restrict or impair the ability of the Veeco Stockholder to comply with its reporting obligations under applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations, in which event the Veeco Stockholder shall give prior notice of such disclosure to the Company as promptly as practicable so as to enable the Company to seek a protective order from a court of competent jurisdiction with respect thereto or similar relief in connection therewith.

3.05 *Disclosure.* The Veeco Stockholder acknowledges that Veeco and/or the Company may be obligated to disclose in governmental and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) filings the Veeco Stockholder's identity, facts concerning the Veeco Stockholder's ownership of Stockholder Veeco Shares and the nature of the commitments, arrangements and understandings set forth in this Agreement, the Proxy, and any other agreements executed and delivered in connection with the Merger, together with

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such other information as may be required by applicable laws and stock exchange (including NASDAQ) regulations.

3.06 *No Solicitation.* Subject to Section 3.03(d), the Veeco Stockholder shall not solicit, initiate, encourage, induce or facilitate the making, submission or announcement of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, or engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or entity (other than with Veeco and the Company or any of their Affiliates or Representatives) with respect to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal, other

than any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction. The Veeco Stockholder shall promptly advise Veeco and the Company of any Veeco Acquisition Proposal (including the identity of the person or entity making or submitting such Veeco Acquisition Proposal and the terms thereof) that is made or submitted by any person or entity after the date of this Agreement. The Veeco Stockholder shall keep Veeco and the Company reasonably informed with respect to the status of any such Veeco Acquisition Proposal. The Veeco Stockholder shall immediately cease and cause to be terminated any existing discussions with any person or entity that relate to any Veeco Acquisition Proposal or Veeco Acquisition Transaction, other than discussions or negotiations with Veeco and the Company or their Affiliates or Representatives.

ARTICLE IV

Miscellaneous

4.01 *Termination of Agreement.* The provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy shall automatically terminate upon, and be of no further force or effect after, the earliest to occur of (i) the termination of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (ii) the Effective Time, and (iii) the execution and delivery by any party to the Merger Agreement of any amendment thereto which would cause each share of FEI Common Stock to be converted into the right to receive greater than 1.355 shares of Veeco Stock (as adjusted for any stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock dividends or similar events).

4.02 *Entire Agreement.* This Agreement and the Proxy contain the entire agreement among the parties relating to the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement, and all prior and contemporaneous negotiations, understandings and agreements among the parties (whether written or oral) with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement are superseded by this Agreement, and there are no representations, warranties, understandings or agreements concerning the transactions which are the subject of this Agreement or those other documents other than those expressly set forth in this Agreement.

4.03 *Captions.* The captions of the articles and paragraphs of this Agreement are for reference only, and do not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

4.04 *Binding Agreement; Assignment.*

(a) The Veeco Stockholder agrees that this Agreement and the obligations hereunder shall attach to the Escrow Shares and shall be binding upon any person to which record or Beneficial Ownership of such Escrow Shares shall pass, whether by operation of law or otherwise, including, without limitation, the Veeco Stockholder's successors, partners or Transferees (for value or otherwise) and any other successors in interest. Notwithstanding any transfer of any of the Escrow Shares, the transferor shall remain liable for the performance of all obligations under this Agreement of the transferor.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, except in accordance with Section 3.03(a) hereto, no party hereto may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto; *provided* that the Company may assign, in its sole discretion, its rights and obligations hereunder to any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, but no such assignment shall relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder if such assignee does not perform such obligations.

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4.05 *Notices and Other Communications.* Any notice or other communication under this Agreement must be in writing and will be deemed given when delivered in person or sent by facsimile (with proof of receipt at the number to which it is required to be sent), or on the third business day after the day on which mailed by first class mail from within the United States of America, to the following addresses (or such other address as may be specified after the date of this Agreement by the party to which the notice or communication is sent):

If to the Company to:

FEI Company
Corporate Headquarters
7451 NW Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124
Attention: Bradley J. Thies
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopier: (503) 640-7570

with a copy to:

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C.
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050
Attention: Larry W. Sonsini, Esq.
Telephone: (650) 493-9300
Telecopier: (650) 493-6811

If to the Veeco Stockholder:

Paul E. Colombo
4900 Constellation Drive
St. Paul, MN 55127
Telephone: (651) 482-0800
Telecopier: (651) 482-0600

with a copy to:

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P.
2800 LaSalle Plaza
800 LaSalle Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2015
Attention: John R. Houston, Esq.
Telephone: (612) 349-8285
Telecopier: (612) 339-4181

4.06 *Governing Law.* THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PROXY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE APPLICABLE TO AGREEMENTS MADE AND PERFORMED IN SUCH STATE AND WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS DOCTRINES.

4.07 *Amendments.* Prior to the Effective Time, this Agreement may be amended only by a document in writing signed by each of the parties hereto.

4.08 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, some of which may contain the signatures of some, but not all, the parties hereto. Each of those counterparts will be deemed an original, but all of them together will constitute one and the same Agreement.

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4.09 *Severability.* If any provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, and if the rights or obligations of any party hereto under this Agreement will not be materially and adversely affected thereby, (i) such provision will be fully severable, (ii) this Agreement will be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had never comprised a part hereof, (iii) the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected by the illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision or by its severance herefrom and (iv) in lieu of such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision, there will be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a legal, valid and enforceable provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision as may be possible.

4.10 *Enforcement.* The parties hereto agree that irreparable damage would occur in the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy were not performed in accordance with their specific terms or were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the parties hereto shall be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and the Proxy and to enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Proxy in any Federal court located in the State of Minnesota or in a Minnesota state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. In addition, each of the Parties hereto (i) consents to the personal jurisdiction of any Federal court located in the State of Minnesota or any Minnesota state court in any action or proceeding relating to or arising out of this Agreement (including, with respect to the Stockholder, the Proxy) or any of the transactions contemplated hereby, (ii) agrees that such Party will not attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction by motion or other request for leave from any such court, (iii) agrees that such Party will not seek to change the venue of any such action or proceeding or otherwise to move any such action or proceeding to another court, whether because of inconvenience of the forum or otherwise (*provided* that nothing in this Section will prevent a

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party from removing an action or proceeding from a Minnesota state court to a Federal court located in the State of Minnesota), (iv) agrees that such Party will not bring any action relating to this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby in any court other than a Federal court sitting in the State of Minnesota or a Minnesota state court and (v) waives any right to trial by jury with respect to any claim or proceeding related to or arising out of this Agreement or the Proxy or any of the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby.

4.11 *Further Assurances.* From time to time, at the Company's request and without further consideration, the Veeco Stockholder shall execute and deliver such additional documents and take all such further lawful action as may be necessary or appropriate to effect the full and prompt performance of the Veeco Stockholder's obligations pursuant to this Agreement and the validity and enforceability of the Proxy.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party hereto has caused this Agreement to be duly authorized and signed as of the date in the first paragraph of this Agreement.

**THE "COMPANY"
FEI COMPANY**

By: /s/ VAHÉ A. SARKISSIAN

Vahé A. Sarkissian
President and Chief Executive Officer

**VEECO STOCKHOLDER
CHORUS, L.P.,
by its General Partner
CHORUS MANAGEMENT, INC.**

By: /s/ PAUL E. COLOMBO

Name: Paul E. Colombo
Title: *President*

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EXHIBIT A

PROXY

Reference is hereby made to that certain Voting Agreement, dated as of July , 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*"), of which this Proxy (this "*Proxy*") forms a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Proxy have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Voting Agreement. This Proxy is being delivered by the undersigned Stockholder (the "*Granting Stockholder*") pursuant to Section 3.01(b) of the Voting Agreement.

The undersigned Granting Stockholder hereby appoints FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), and each of FEI's officers and other designees (each such person or entity, a "*Proxyholder*") as the Granting Stockholder's attorney-in-fact and proxy pursuant to the provisions of Section 212 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, with full power of substitution, in the Granting Stockholder's name, place and stead, to vote and otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to all of the Stockholder Veeco Shares which the Granting Stockholder is entitled to vote at any meeting of the stockholders of Veeco (whether annual or special and whether or not an adjourned or postponed meeting) or consent in lieu of any such meeting or otherwise **FOR AND IN FAVOR OF** the issuance of Veeco Stock in the Merger and approval of the Veeco Certificate of Incorporation Amendment; *provided, however*, that nothing set forth in this Proxy is intended or shall be construed to grant to any Proxyholder the right to vote or otherwise act (by written consent or otherwise) with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares with respect to any Superior Veeco Proposal or related Veeco Acquisition Transaction.

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The Granting Stockholder hereby revokes all other proxies and powers of attorney with respect to any Stockholder Veeco Shares that the Granting Stockholder may have heretofore granted, and no subsequent proxy or power of attorney shall be given or written consent executed (and if given or executed, shall not be effective) by the Granting Stockholder purporting to grant the specific voting powers specified herein. Any obligation of the Granting Stockholder under this Proxy shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the Granting Stockholder other than the transferees under Section 3.03(d).

THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST AND IS IRREVOCABLE UNTIL THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF (I) THE TERMINATION OF THE MERGER AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS, (II) THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF THE MERGER, AND (III) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY ANY PARTY TO THE MERGER AGREEMENT OF ANY AMENDMENT THERETO WHICH WOULD CAUSE EACH SHARE OF FEI COMMON STOCK TO BE CONVERTED INTO THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE GREATER THAN 1.355 SHARES OF VEECO STOCK (AS ADJUSTED FOR ANY STOCK SPLITS, REVERSE STOCK SPLITS, STOCK DIVIDENDS OR SIMILAR EVENTS). THIS PROXY WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED, AND THE INTEREST WITH WHICH THIS PROXY IS COUPLED WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTINGUISHED, UPON THE EARLIEST TO OCCUR OF THE EVENTS SPECIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE.

VEECO STOCKHOLDER

By: /s/ PAUL E. COLOMBO

Name: Paul E. Colombo
Title: President

Dated: July 11, 2002

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Appendix D

CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON CORPORATION

650 California Street Telephone 415 249 8866
San Francisco, CA 94108

Technology Group

July 11, 2002

Board of Directors
FEI Company
7451 N.W. Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Members of the Board:

You have asked us to advise you with respect to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of shares of common stock, no par value per share ("FEI Common Stock"), of FEI Company ("FEI"), other than Philips Business Electronics International B.V. ("Philips") and its affiliates, of the Exchange Ratio (as defined below) set forth in the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement", by and among Veeco Instruments Inc. ("Veeco"), Veeco Acquisition Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco ("Merger Sub"), and FEI. The Merger Agreement provides for, among other things, the merger of Merger Sub with and into FEI (the "Merger") pursuant to which FEI will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco and each outstanding share of FEI Common Stock will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 (the "Exchange Ratio") shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Veeco Common Stock"), of Veeco.

In arriving at our opinion, we have reviewed the Merger Agreement and certain other related agreements, as well as certain publicly available business and financial information relating to FEI and Veeco. We have also reviewed certain other information relating to FEI and Veeco, including financial forecasts, provided by or discussed with FEI and Veeco, and have met with the managements of FEI and Veeco to discuss the business and prospects of FEI and Veeco, respectively. We have also considered certain financial and stock market data of FEI and Veeco, and we have compared that data with similar data for other publicly held companies in businesses we deemed similar to those of FEI and Veeco, and we have considered, to the extent publicly available, the financial terms of certain other business combinations and other transactions which have recently been effected or announced. We also considered such other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and

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financial, economic and market criteria which we deemed relevant.

In connection with our review, we have not assumed any responsibility for independent verification of any of the foregoing information and have relied on such information being complete and accurate in all material respects. With respect to the publicly available financial forecasts that we have reviewed, the managements of FEI and Veeco have advised us, and we have assumed, that such forecasts represent reasonable estimates and judgments as to the future financial performance of FEI and Veeco, respectively. With respect to the non-publicly available financial forecasts that we have reviewed, the managements of FEI and Veeco have advised us, and we have assumed, that such forecasts represent the best currently available estimates and judgments of the managements of FEI and Veeco as to the future financial performance of FEI and Veeco, respectively. In addition, we have relied upon, without independent verification, the assessments of the managements of FEI and Veeco as to (i) their ability to retain key employees, (ii) the strategic benefits and potential cost savings (including the amount,

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timing and achievability thereof) anticipated to result from the Merger, (iii) the existing technology, products and services of FEI and Veeco and the validity of, and risks associated with, the future technology, products and services of FEI and Veeco, and (iv) their ability to integrate the businesses of FEI and Veeco. The management of FEI has informed us, and we have assumed, that the Merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. We also have assumed, with your consent, that in the course of obtaining necessary regulatory and third party approvals and consents for the Merger, no modification, delay, limitation, restriction or condition will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on FEI or Veeco or the contemplated benefits of the Merger and that the Merger will be consummated in accordance with the terms of the Merger Agreement, without waiver, modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement therein. In addition, we have not been requested to make, and have not made, an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of FEI or Veeco, nor have we been furnished with any such evaluations or appraisals. Our opinion is necessarily based upon information made available to us as of the date hereof, and upon financial, economic, market and other conditions as they exist and can be evaluated on the date hereof. We are not expressing any opinion as to what the value of Veeco Common Stock actually will be when issued to the holders of FEI Common Stock pursuant to the Merger or the prices at which shares of Veeco Common Stock will trade at any time. Our opinion does not address the relative merits of the Merger as compared to other business strategies that might be available to FEI, nor does it address the underlying business decision of FEI to proceed with the Merger. We were not requested to, and did not, solicit third party indications of interest in acquiring all or any part of FEI.

We have acted as financial advisor to FEI in connection with the Merger and will receive a fee for our services, a significant portion of which is contingent upon the consummation of the Merger. We will also receive a fee for rendering this opinion. In the past, we and our affiliates have provided investment banking and financial services to FEI unrelated to the Merger for which we have received compensation, and we may, in the future, provide investment banking and financial services to Veeco for which we would expect to receive compensation. In the ordinary course of our business, we and our affiliates may actively trade the debt and equity securities of FEI and Veeco for our and such affiliates' own accounts and for the accounts of customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities.

It is understood that this letter is for the information of the Board of Directors of FEI in connection with its consideration of the Merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote or act on any matter relating to the Merger.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, it is our opinion that, as of the date hereof, the Exchange Ratio is fair, from a financial point of view, to the holders of FEI Common Stock, other than Philips and its affiliates.

Very truly yours,
CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON CORPORATION
/s/ CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON CORPORATION

It is understood that this letter is for the information of the Board of Directors of FEI in connection with its consideration of the Merger and does not constitute a recommendation to

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Appendix E

[LETTERHEAD OF SALOMON SMITH BARNEY INC.]

July 11, 2002

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The Board of Directors
Veeco Instruments Inc.
100 Sunnyside Blvd.
Woodbury, NY 11797

Members of the Board:

You have requested our opinion as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, to Veeco Instruments Inc. ("Veeco") of the Exchange Ratio (as defined below) as set forth in the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement"), by and among Veeco, Venice Acquisition Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Veeco ("Merger Sub"), and FEI Company ("FEI"). As more fully described in the Merger Agreement, (i) Merger Sub will be merged with and into FEI (the "Merger") and (ii) each outstanding share of common stock, no par value per share, of FEI ("FEI Common Stock") will be converted into the right to receive 1.355 (the "Exchange Ratio") shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of Veeco ("Veeco Common Stock").

In arriving at our opinion, we reviewed the Merger Agreement and held discussions with certain senior officers, directors and other representatives and advisors of Veeco and certain senior officers and other representatives and advisors of FEI concerning the businesses, operations and prospects of Veeco and FEI. We examined certain publicly available business and financial information relating to Veeco and FEI as well as certain financial forecasts and other information and data relating to Veeco and FEI, which were provided to or otherwise discussed with us by the respective managements of Veeco and FEI, including certain information relating to the potential strategic implications and operational benefits anticipated by the managements of Veeco and FEI to result from the Merger. We reviewed the financial terms of the Merger as set forth in the Merger Agreement in relation to, among other things: current and historical market prices and trading volumes of Veeco Common Stock and FEI Common Stock; historical and projected earnings and other operating data of Veeco and FEI; and the capitalization and financial condition of Veeco and FEI. We considered, to the extent publicly available, the financial terms of other transactions effected which we considered relevant in evaluating the Merger and analyzed certain financial, stock market and other publicly available information relating to the businesses of other companies whose operations we considered relevant in evaluating those of Veeco and FEI. We also evaluated the potential pro forma financial impact of the Merger on Veeco. In addition to the foregoing, we conducted such other analyses and examinations and considered such other financial, economic and market criteria as we deemed appropriate in arriving at our opinion.

In rendering our opinion, we have assumed and relied, without independent verification, upon the accuracy and completeness of all financial and other information and data publicly available or furnished to or otherwise reviewed by or discussed with us. With respect to the financial forecasts and other information and data relating to Veeco and FEI provided to or otherwise discussed with us, we have been advised by the respective managements of Veeco and FEI that such forecasts and other information and data were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the managements of Veeco and FEI as to the future financial performance of Veeco and FEI and the potential strategic implications and operational benefits (including the amount, timing and achievability thereof) anticipated to result from the Merger. We have assumed, with your consent, that the Merger will be consummated in accordance with its terms, without waiver,

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The Board of Directors
Veeco Instruments Inc.
July 11, 2002
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modification or amendment of any material term, condition or agreement and that, in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory or third party approvals and consents for the Merger, no delay, limitation, restriction or condition will be imposed that would have an adverse effect on Veeco or FEI or the contemplated benefits of the Merger. We also have assumed, with your consent, that the Merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Our opinion, as set forth herein, relates to the relative values of Veeco and FEI. We are not expressing any opinion as to what the value of Veeco Common Stock actually will be when issued in the Merger or the prices at which Veeco Common Stock will trade or otherwise be transferable at any time. We have not made or been provided with an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of Veeco or FEI, nor have we made any physical inspection of the properties or assets of Veeco or FEI. Our opinion does not address the relative merits of the Merger as compared to any alternative business strategies that might exist for Veeco or the effect of any other transaction in which Veeco might engage. Our opinion is necessarily based upon information available to us, and financial, stock market and other conditions and circumstances existing and disclosed to us, as of the date hereof.

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. has acted as financial advisor to Veeco in connection with the proposed Merger and will receive a fee for such services, a significant portion of which is contingent upon the consummation of the Merger. We also will receive a fee upon the delivery of this opinion. We and our affiliates in the past have provided services to Veeco unrelated to the proposed Merger, for which services we and our affiliates have received compensation. In the ordinary course of our business, we and our affiliates may actively trade or hold the securities of Veeco and FEI for our own account or for the account of our customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such

securities. In addition, we and our affiliates (including Citigroup Inc. and its affiliates) may maintain relationships with Veeco, FEI and their respective affiliates.

Our advisory services and the opinion expressed herein are provided for the information of the Board of Directors of Veeco in its evaluation of the proposed Merger, and our opinion is not intended to be and does not constitute a recommendation to any stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote or act on the proposed Merger or as to any other matters relating to the Merger.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, our experience as investment bankers, our work as described above and other factors we deemed relevant, we are of the opinion that, as of the date hereof, the Exchange Ratio is fair, from a financial point of view, to Veeco.

Very truly yours,

/s/ SALOMON SMITH BARNEY INC.

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY INC.

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Appendix F-1

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT
OF THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.**

It is hereby certified that:

1. The name of the corporation (the "Corporation") is Veeco Instruments Inc.

2. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation was filed with the Secretary of State on the 8th day of August, 1989. The Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State on December 1, 1994. Certificates of Amendment were filed with the Secretary of State on each of November 20, 1989, January 17, 1990, January 19, 1990, March 25, 1992, May 3, 1994, June 2, 1997, July 25, 1997 and May 5, 2000.

3. Article 4 of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation, as amended to date, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"4. The corporation shall have authority to issue a total of _____ shares, to be divided into _____ shares of common stock with par value of \$0.01 per share and 500,000 shares of preferred stock with par value of \$0.01 per share."

4. The amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective hereby and herein certified has been duly adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 242 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Corporation has caused this Certificate of Amendment to be executed by its duly authorized officer, who acknowledges and affirms under the penalties of perjury that this certificate is the act and deed of the Corporation and that the facts stated herein are true this _____ day of _____, 2002.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: _____

Name:

Title:

F-1-1

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT
OF THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.**

It is hereby certified that:

1. The name of the corporation (the "Corporation") is Veeco Instruments Inc.

2. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation was filed with the Secretary of State on the 8th day of August, 1989. The Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State on December 1, 1994. Certificates of Amendment were filed with the Secretary of State on each of November 20, 1989, January 17, 1990, January 19, 1990, March 25, 1992, May 3, 1994, June 2, 1997, July 25, 1997, May 5, 2000 and _____, 2002.

3. Article 1 of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation, as amended to date, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"1. The name of the corporation is Veeco FEI Inc. (the "Corporation")."

3. The amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective hereby and herein certified has been duly adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 242 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Corporation has caused this Certificate of Amendment to be executed by its duly authorized officer, who acknowledges and affirms under the penalties of perjury that this certificate is the act and deed of the Corporation and that the facts stated herein are true this _____ day of _____, 2002.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: _____

Name:

Title:

F-2-1

INVESTOR AGREEMENT

INVESTOR AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "Agreement"), between Philips Business Electronics International B.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands (the "Stockholder"), Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company") and FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("Florence"), solely with respect to Section 2.03(c).

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Agreement, the Stockholder is the Beneficial Owner of 8,264,821 shares (the "Stockholder Florence Shares") of Common Stock, no par value (the "Florence Stock"), of Florence; and

WHEREAS, the Company, Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation ("Acquisition"), and Florence have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "Merger Agreement"), which provides that, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Acquisition shall be merged with and into Florence (the "Merger"), and each share of Florence Stock will be converted into the right to receive shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of the Company (the "Company Common Stock"); and

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WHEREAS, the Stockholder and the Company have entered into the Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Voting Agreement*") and the Amendment Agreement, dated the date hereof (the "*Amendment Agreement*"); and

WHEREAS, the Stockholder and the Company each desire to make certain covenants and agreements concerning, among other things, the registration from time to time of Stockholder Company Shares (as herein defined) under the Securities Act (as herein defined).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the Stockholder's execution and delivery to the Company of the Voting Agreement and the Amendment Agreement and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the Stockholder and the Company agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

Definitions and Construction

1.01 As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the respective meanings ascribed to them in this Section.

(a) "*Affiliate*," with respect to any particular Person (as defined below), means any other Person which directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries controls or is controlled by or is under direct or indirect common control with such Person; *provided, however*, that for purposes of Article IV of this Agreement, the Stockholder and its Affiliates, on the one hand, and the Company and its Affiliates, on the other, shall not be deemed to be "Affiliates" of one another.

(b) "*Base Securities*" means the Initial Shares, collectively with the Option Shares and any other shares of Company Common Stock of which the Stockholder or any of its Affiliates at any time becomes the beneficial owner.

(c) "*beneficial owner*" has the meaning set forth in Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Act and the Commission's interpretive guidance issued in connection therewith; and each of "*beneficially own*," "*beneficially owned*" and "*beneficial ownership*" has a meaning correlative to the foregoing.

(d) "*Board Approval*" means the affirmative vote of a majority of the Disinterested Directors of the Company or a unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors of the Company duly obtained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Company's certificate of incorporation, bylaws and applicable law.

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(e) "*Change in Control of the Company*" means any of the following: (i) a merger, consolidation or other business combination or transaction to which the Company is a party if the stockholders of the Company immediately prior to the effective date of such merger, consolidation or other business combination or transaction, as a result of such share ownership, have beneficial ownership of voting securities representing less than 50% of the Total Current Voting Power of the surviving entity following such merger, consolidation or other business combination or transaction; (ii) an acquisition by any person, entity or 13D Group (other than the Stockholder, or its Affiliates, or any 13D Group of which the Stockholder or its Affiliates is a member) of direct or indirect beneficial ownership of Voting Stock of the Company representing 50% or more of the Total Current Voting Power of the Company; (iii) a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company; (iv) a liquidation or dissolution of the Company; (v) the institution of any proceeding by or against the Company under the provisions of any insolvency or bankruptcy law, which is not dismissed within 90 days, the appointment of a receiver of a material portion of the assets or property of the Company or the issuance of an order for an execution on a material portion of the property of the Company pursuant to a judgment that is not dismissed within 90 days; or (vi) during any period of two consecutive years, individuals who at the beginning of such period constituted the Board of Directors of the Company (together with any new directors whose election by such Board of Directors or whose nomination for election by the stockholders of the Company was approved by a vote of a majority of the directors of the Company then still in office who were either directors at the beginning of such period or whose election or nomination for election was previously so approved (other than a director designated by a person who has entered into an agreement with the Company to effect a transaction described in the preceding clauses)) cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the Board of Directors of the Company then in office.

(f) "*Commission*" means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or any other United States federal agency at the time administering the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, as applicable, whichever is the relevant statute.

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(g) *"control,"* when used with respect to any particular Person, means the power to direct the management and policies of such Person, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise; and the terms *"controlling"* and *"controlled"* have meanings correlative to the foregoing.

(h) *"Disinterested Director"* means a member of the Board of Directors of the Company who is not (i) an employee, former employee or consultant of the Stockholder or any of its Affiliates; (ii) a member of the Board of Directors of the Stockholder or any of its Affiliates; or (iii) the holder of more than five percent of the voting stock of the Stockholder or any of its Affiliates.

(i) *"Effective Time"* has the meaning specified in the Merger Agreement.

(j) *"Exchange Act"* means the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as it may be amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations from time to time promulgated thereunder.

(k) *"Florence Stock Options"* means, collectively, (i) all options to purchase Florence Stock that were outstanding on February 21, 1997 and exercised subsequent to September 30, 2000 (collectively, the *"1997 Options"*), (ii) all options to purchase Florence Stock that were granted on September 18, 1998 in replacement of stock options outstanding on February 21, 1997, and still outstanding on September 30, 2000 (collectively, the *"1998 Options"*), and (iii) all options to purchase Florence Stock that have been or shall be granted in replacement of, in exchange for or in substitution for the 1997 Options or the 1998 Options.

(l) *"Initial Shares"* means the total number of shares of Company Common Stock issued to the Stockholder upon conversion of the Stockholder Florence Shares.

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(m) *"KPENV Entities"* means, collectively, Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, and each entity controlled by Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.

(n) *"Minimum Number"* means a number of Stockholder Company Shares equal to the quotient of (i) the Initial Shares divided by (ii) three.

(o) *"Nasdaq"* means the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc.

(p) *"Option Shares"* means securities issuable pursuant to Section 2.03.

(q) *"Person"* means any corporation, association, partnership, organization, group (as such term is used in Rule 13d-5 under the Exchange Act), business, individual, government or political subdivision thereof, governmental agency or other entity.

(r) *"Registered Shares"* means the Stockholder Company Shares registered by the Company in any Registration for resale by the Stockholder; *provided* that any Registered Share shall cease to be deemed a Registered Share after it has been initially transferred by the Stockholder, in a public offering or otherwise.

(s) *"Rights"* means any and all Rights, stockholder protection rights, stock purchase rights or "poison pill rights" issued in accordance with the Rights Plan.

(t) *"Rights Plan"* means, collectively, the Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between the Company and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as Rights Agent, and any stockholder protection rights plan or "poison pill" adopted by or entered into by the Company and/or its successors by way of merger.

(u) *"Securities Act"* means the United States Securities Act of 1933 as it may be amended from time to time, and the rules and regulations promulgated from time to time thereunder.

(v) *"Standstill Limit"* means a number of shares of Voting Stock equal to the sum of (i) the number of Initial Shares, *plus* (ii) the number of Option Shares, *plus* (iii) 1% of the total number of shares of Company Common Stock from time to time outstanding, calculated on a primary basis.

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(w) *"Standstill Period"* means the period beginning upon the execution and delivery of the Merger Agreement by the parties thereto and ending on the occurrence of a Standstill Termination Event.

(x) *"Standstill Termination Event"* means the earliest to occur of the following: (i) the termination (prior to the Effective Time) of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (ii) a Change in Control of the Company (other than the Merger and other than any Change in Control of the Company involving any KPENV Entity or a 13D Group of which any KPENV Entity is a member), (iii) the date on which the KPENV Entities cease to beneficially own at least 7.5% of the Total Current Voting Power, and (iv) the date of the 2005 Stockholders Meeting.

(y) *"Stock Options"* means, collectively, (i) the Florence Stock Options, (ii) all options to purchase securities that have been or shall be granted in replacement of, in exchange for, or in substitution for the Florence Stock Options, and (iii) all options to purchase securities that have been or shall be granted in replacement of, in exchange for, or in substitution for the options described in Section 2.03 hereof.

(z) *"Stockholder Company Shares"* means the Base Securities, collectively with (i) the Rights associated therewith, and (ii) any securities received as a distribution or dividend thereon.

(aa) *"Total Current Voting Power"* means, with respect to the Company, at the time of determination of Total Current Voting Power, the total number of votes that may be cast in the election of members of the board of directors of the Company if all securities entitled to vote in the election of such directors are present and voted.

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(bb) *"Unregistered Offering"* has the meaning specified in Section 3.08.

(cc) *"Voting Stock"* means shares of the Company Common Stock and any other securities of the Company having the power to vote in the election of members of the Board of Directors of the Company.

(dd) *"Written Approval"* means receipt of a certificate signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Company setting forth a resolution adopted by a majority of the Disinterested Directors which provides consent to the matter for which Written Approval is required.

(ee) *"13D Group"* means any group of persons formed for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of Voting Stock which would be required under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, to file a statement on Schedule 13D pursuant to Rule 13d-1(a) of the rules and regulations promulgated under the Exchange Act or a Schedule 13G pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c) of the rules and regulations promulgated under the Exchange Act.

(ff) *"2005 Stockholders Meeting"* means the regular scheduled annual meeting of the stockholders of the Company to be held in 2005.

1.02 *Headings.* The descriptive headings of the several sections and paragraphs of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only, do not constitute a part of this Agreement and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

1.03 *Adjustments.* All references in this Agreement to percentages or numbers of shares, including but not limited to such references in the definition of "Standstill Limit," shall be subject to adjustment for Company reorganizations, stock splits, stock dividends, reverse stock splits and similar events during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II

Investment in the Company

2.01 *Representations and Warranty.* The Company hereby represents and warrants to the Stockholder that it has amended its current Rights Plan to provide that the Rights shall not be exercisable as a consequence of the beneficial ownership by the KPENV Entities of (a) the Initial Shares, (b) the Option Shares, or (c) a number of shares of Company Common Stock in addition to the Initial Shares and the Option Shares equal to or less than 1% of the total number of shares of Company Common Stock from time to time outstanding, calculated on a primary basis.

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2.02 *Covenants.* The Company hereby agrees that the Rights shall not be exercisable as a consequence of the beneficial ownership by the KPENV Entities of (a) the Initial Shares, (b) the Option Shares, or (c) a number of shares of Company Common Stock in addition to the Initial Shares and the Option Shares equal to or less than 1% of the total number of shares of Company Common Stock from time to time outstanding, calculated on a primary basis.

2.03 *Stock Options.*

(a) The Company shall, at the sole option of the Stockholder, transfer to the Stockholder, no later than 30 calendar days following the close of the calendar quarter of the Company in which the Effective Time occurs and against payment by the Stockholder to the Company of the aggregate par value thereof, (i) a number of shares of Company Common Stock equal to the product of (A) 122.22%, *multiplied by* (B) the product of (I) the number of shares of Florence Stock issued and Stock Options "cashed out" prior to the Effective Time during such quarter upon exercise of the Stock Options, *multiplied by* (II) the Exchange Ratio, as defined in the Merger Agreement, and (ii) a number of shares of Company Common Stock equal to the product of (A) 122.22%, *multiplied by* (B) the number of shares of Company Common Stock issued and Stock Options "cashed out" at or after the Effective Time during such quarter upon exercise of the Stock Options.

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(b) The Company shall, at the sole option of the Stockholder, transfer to the Stockholder, no later than 30 calendar days following the close of each calendar quarter following the calendar quarter of the Company in which the Effective Time occurs and against payment by the Stockholder to the Company of the aggregate par value (if any) thereof, a number of securities equal to the product of (i) 122.22%, *multiplied by* (ii) the number of securities issued and Stock Options "cashed out" during such quarter upon exercise of the Stock Options.

(c) The Combination Agreement, dated November 15, 1996, between Florence and the Stockholder is hereby amended, effective as of the Effective Time, to delete Sections 2.1 and 5.18 therefrom. The Agreement, effective as of December 31, 2000, among Florence, the Stockholder and Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. is hereby amended, effective as of the Effective Time, to delete Section 4 therefrom.

(d) This Section 2.03 shall not entitle the Stockholder to purchase a number of shares of Company Common Stock greater than the product of (A) the difference of (I) 331,866 *minus* (II) the number of shares of Florence Stock issued after the date hereof and prior to the Effective Time pursuant to Sections 2.1 and 5.18 of the Combination Agreement referred to in Section 2.03(c) and/or Section 4 of the Agreement referred to in the last sentence of Section 2.03(c), *multiplied by* (B) the Exchange Ratio (as defined in the Merger Agreement). For all purposes of this Section 2.03, "cashed out" means cancelled in exchange for a cash payment.

2.04 *Board Representation.* For the period of time beginning on the first calendar day following the Effective Time (the "*Director Date*") and terminating on the earlier of (i) the first date on which the KPENV Entities cease to beneficially own at least 7.5% of the Total Current Voting Power, and (ii) the date of the 2005 Stockholders Meeting (such period, the "*Director Period*"), the Stockholder shall be entitled to request that the Company include, as a nominee or designee of the Company's board of directors recommended by said board of directors, one person designated by the Stockholder and reasonably satisfactory to the Company's board of directors (any such person, a "*Stockholder Nominee*"). At, or as promptly as practicable after (but in no event prior to), the Director Date, the Company shall cause one Stockholder Nominee to be elected or appointed as a director of the Company to serve in Class II for a term expiring at the 2005 Stockholders Meeting. During the Director Period, (i) promptly following the death, incapacity, resignation or removal from the Company's board of directors of any Stockholder Nominee, the Company shall cause another Stockholder Nominee to be elected or appointed as a director to fill the vacancy thereby created, and (ii) the Company shall take all such actions as may be reasonably necessary to ensure that one director of the Company is a Stockholder Nominee. Following the Director Period, (i) the Company may request that the Stockholder Nominee then on the Company's board of directors resign as a director of the Company, and (ii) promptly following the Stockholder's receipt of such a request, the Stockholder shall cause such Stockholder Nominee to resign immediately and relinquish all rights and privileges as a member of the Company's board of directors.

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ARTICLE III

Agreements in Respect of the Stockholder Company Shares

3.01 *Demand Registrations.*

(a) At any time following the Effective Time, to and including the date on which the Stockholder shall have received a written opinion of legal counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Stockholder and the Company and addressed to the Company and the Stockholder stating that the Stockholder Company Shares may be publicly offered for sale in the United States by the Stockholder without restriction as to manner of sale and amount of securities sold and without registration under the Securities Act (such period, the "*Demand Period*"), the Stockholder shall have the right on two occasions to require the Company to file a registration statement under the Securities Act in respect of all or a portion of the Stockholder Company Shares held by it. As promptly as practicable, but in no event later than 60 days after the Company receives a written request from the Stockholder demanding that the Company so register the number of Stockholder Company Shares specified in such request, which number shall not be less than the Minimum Number, the Company shall file with the Commission and thereafter use its reasonable best efforts to cause to be declared effective promptly a registration statement (a "*Demand Registration*") providing for the registration of such number of Stockholder Company Shares as the Stockholder shall have demanded be registered.

(b) Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, the Company shall not be required to file or otherwise effect any Demand Registration during the period between the 16th day of each of March, June, September and December and 48 hours following public release by the Company (by means of a press release, 10-Q filing or other public announcement) of its earnings for the quarter in which such 16th day occurs. In addition, anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, the Company shall be entitled to postpone and delay the filing or effectiveness of a Demand Registration and, following the effectiveness of any Demand Registration, may suspend the performance of its obligations under Section 3.04 with respect to such Demand Registration (the "*Section 3.04 Obligations*"), in any such case for a reasonable period of time (each, a "*Blackout Period*"), if (i) at any time that the Company shall determine that any such filing or the offering of any Registered Shares would, in the good faith judgment of the Board of Directors of the Company, require disclosure of (to the extent such a transaction has not been previously publicly disclosed), impede, delay or otherwise interfere with any pending or contemplated securities offering, sale, financing, acquisition, corporate reorganization or other similar transaction involving the Company, (ii) at any time that the Company shall determine that any such filing or the offering of any Registered Shares would, in the good faith judgment of the Board of Directors of the Company, after receipt of advice from the Company's investment bank or outside financial advisor, adversely affect any pending or contemplated offering or sale of any class of securities by the Company, or (iii) at any time that the Company shall determine that any such filing or the offering of any Registered Shares would, in the good faith judgment of the Board of Directors of the Company, after receipt of advice from the Company's outside legal counsel, require disclosure of material nonpublic information (other than information relating to an event described in clause (ii) or (iii) of this sentence) which, if disclosed at such time, would be materially harmful to the interests of the Company and its stockholders; *provided* that in the case of a Blackout Period pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) above, the Blackout Period shall earlier terminate upon the completion or abandonment of the relevant securities offering or sale, financing, acquisition, corporate reorganization or other similar transaction; and *provided, further*, that in the case of a Blackout Period pursuant to clause (iii) above, the Blackout Period shall earlier terminate upon public disclosure by the Company or public admission by the Company of such material nonpublic information or such time as such material nonpublic information shall be publicly disclosed without breach of the last sentence of this subsection (b); and *provided, further*,

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that in the case of any Blackout Period, the Company shall furnish to the Stockholder a certificate of the Secretary of the Company stating that an event permitting a Blackout Period has occurred and attaching a certified copy of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Company to such effect. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Company shall not postpone or delay the filing or effectiveness of any Demand Registration and shall not suspend the performance of the Section 3.04 Obligations pursuant to the second sentence of this Section 3.01(b) for an aggregate of more than 30 days in the case of the first Demand Registration to which the Stockholder is entitled or for an aggregate of more than 90 days in the case of the second Demand Registration to which the Stockholder is entitled. Upon notice by the Company to the Stockholder of any such determination, the Stockholder covenants that it shall keep the fact of any such notice strictly confidential, and promptly halt any offer, sale, trading or transfer by it or any of its Affiliates of any Registered Shares for the duration of the Blackout Period set forth in such notice (or until such Blackout Period shall be earlier terminated in writing by the Company) and promptly halt any use, publication, dissemination or distribution of the Demand Registration, each prospectus included therein, and any amendment or supplement thereto by it and any of its Affiliates for the duration of the Blackout Period set forth in such notice (or until such Blackout Period shall be earlier terminated in writing by the Company). After the expiration of any Blackout Period and without further request from the Stockholder, the Company shall effect the filing of the relevant Demand Registration (if not already filed) and shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause any such Demand Registration to be declared effective (if not already effective) as promptly as practicable unless the Stockholder shall have, prior to the effective date of such Demand Registration, withdrawn in writing its initial request.

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(c) Any request by the Stockholder for a Demand Registration which is subsequently withdrawn prior to the related registration statement becoming effective shall not constitute a Demand Registration for purposes of determining the number of Demand Registrations to which the Stockholder is entitled if the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Company through the date of such request in connection with such registration statement are reimbursed.

3.02 *Piggy-Back Registrations.*

(a) If, at any time following the Effective Time, the Company proposes to register any shares of the Company Common Stock under the Securities Act on a registration statement on Form S-1, Form S-2 or Form S-3 (or any equivalent general registration form then in effect) for purposes of a primary offering, secondary offering or combined offering of the Company Common Stock, the Company shall, at least 14 days prior to the date when any such registration statement is filed with the Commission, give prompt written notice to the Stockholder of its intention to do so. Such notice shall specify, at a minimum, the number of shares of the Company Common Stock so proposed to be registered, the proposed date of filing of such registration statement, any proposed means of distribution of such shares, any proposed managing underwriter or underwriters of such shares and a good faith estimate by the Company of the proposed maximum offering price thereof, as such price is proposed to appear on the facing page of such registration statement. Upon the written direction of the Stockholder, given within seven days following the receipt by the Stockholder of any such written notice (which direction shall specify the number of Stockholder Company Shares intended to be disposed of by the Stockholder), the Company shall include in such registration statement (a "*Piggy-Back Registration*" and, collectively with a Demand Registration, a "*Registration*"), subject to the provisions of this Section 3.02, such number of Stockholder Company Shares as shall be set forth in such notice.

(b) In the event that the Company proposes to register shares of the Company Common Stock in connection with an underwritten offering and any managing underwriter thereof reasonably and in good faith shall have advised the Company, any holder of shares of the Company Common Stock intending to offer such shares in a secondary offering or combined

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offering (each, an "*Other Holder*") and the Stockholder in writing that, in its opinion, including in the registration statement some or all of the Stockholder Company Shares sought to be registered by the Stockholder is reasonably likely to adversely affect the price per share that the Company or any Other Holder will derive from such registration or that the number of shares sought to be registered (including any shares sought to be registered at the request of the Company and any Other Holder and those sought to be registered by the Stockholder) is a greater number of shares than can reasonably be sold, the Company shall include in such registration statement such number of shares as the Company, any Other Holder and the Stockholder are so advised can be sold in such offering without such an effect (the "*Maximum Number*"), as follows and in the following order of priority: (i) *first*, such number of shares as the Company intended to be registered and sold by the Company, and (ii) *second*, in the case of a secondary offering or a combined offering and if and to the extent that the number of shares to be registered under clause (i) is less than the Maximum Number, such number of shares as the Stockholder and any Other Holder shall have intended to register which, when added to the number of shares to be registered under clause (i), is less than or equal to the Maximum Number; *provided* that if such number exceeds the Maximum Number, the shares of the Stockholder and such Other Holders will be excluded on a *pro rata* basis. No securities (issued or unissued) other than those registered and included in the underwritten offering shall be offered for sale or other disposition by the holders of Stockholder Company Shares in a transaction which would require registration under the Securities Act until the expiration of 180 days after the effective date of the registration statement in which the Registered Shares were included.

(c) No Piggy-Back Registration effected under this Section 3.02 shall be deemed to have been effected pursuant to Section 3.01 hereof or shall release the Company of its obligations to effect any Demand Registration upon request as provided under Section 3.01 hereof.

3.03 *Additional Agreement.* Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, following the expiration of the Demand Period, the Company shall no longer be obligated to file or maintain a registration statement with respect to the Stockholder Company Shares pursuant to this Agreement.

3.04 *Registration Procedures.*

(a) In connection with each Registration, and in accordance with the intended method or methods of distribution of the Registered Shares as described in such Registration, the Company shall, as soon as reasonably practicable (and, in any event, subject to the terms of this Agreement, including, without limitation, Section 3.01(a), at or before the time required by applicable laws and regulations):

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(i) prepare and file with the Commission as provided herein a registration statement with respect to such Registered Shares on a registration form appropriate for such registration and use its reasonable best efforts to cause such registration statement to become effective promptly; *provided* that before filing a registration statement or prospectus or any amendments or supplements thereto, the Company will furnish to the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters (if the Demand Registration pertains to an underwritten offering) draft copies of all such documents proposed to be filed at least three days prior to such filing, which documents will be subject to the reasonable review of the Stockholder, the managing underwriter or underwriters (if the Demand Registration pertains to an underwritten offering), and their respective agents and representatives. In the event that the Company proposes to include in any Registration information concerning or relating to the Stockholder to which the Stockholder shall reasonably object, the Company and the Stockholder shall cause their respective senior executives to discuss the Stockholder's objection and to negotiate in good faith an appropriate resolution of such objection. The Company shall not be deemed to be in

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breach of the second sentence of Section 3.01(a) as the result of the parties' failure to conclude such discussions during the 60 day period referred to therein.

(ii) upon request by the Stockholder, furnish without charge to the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, thereof, a reasonable number of copies of the Registration and each amendment and supplement thereto (in each case including all exhibits thereto), each prospectus included in such Registration (including each preliminary prospectus) and any amendments or supplements thereto and any documents incorporated therein by reference;

(iii) use its reasonable best efforts to keep such Registration effective for at least 90 days (the "*Effective Period*"); prepare and file with the Commission such amendments, post-effective amendments and supplements to the Registration and the prospectus as may be necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the Registration for the Effective Period and to cause the prospectus (and any amendments or supplements thereto) to be filed pursuant to Rules 424 and 430A under the Securities Act and/or any successor rules that may be adopted by the Commission, as such rules may be amended from time to time; and comply with the provisions of the Securities Act with respect to the disposition of all Registered Shares covered by such Registration during the applicable period in accordance with the intended method or methods of distribution thereof, as specified in writing by the Stockholder;

(iv) make available for inspection by the Stockholder or by any underwriter, attorney, accountant or other agent retained by the Stockholder (collectively, the "*Inspectors*"), upon reasonable request during normal business hours, financial and other records and pertinent corporate documents of the Company, provide the Inspectors with opportunities to discuss the business of the Company with its officers, and provide opportunities to discuss the business of the Company with the independent public accountants who have certified its most recent annual financial statements, in each case to the extent but only to the extent reasonably necessary to enable the Stockholder or any underwriter retained by the Stockholder to conduct a "reasonable investigation" for purposes of Section 11(a) of the Securities Act. The Stockholder agrees, and the Stockholder shall cause each Inspector to agree, that records that the Company determines, in good faith, to be confidential and that it notifies the Inspectors are confidential shall not be disclosed by the Stockholder or any Inspector, or used by the Stockholder or an Inspector for a purpose other than as described in the preceding sentence unless (1) the disclosure of such records is necessary to avoid or correct a misstatement of a material fact or omission to state a material fact in the Registration, (2) the disclosure of such records is required by any court or governmental body with jurisdiction over the Stockholder or such Inspector, or (3) all of the information contained in such records has been made generally available to the public without any fault on the part of the Inspector. The Stockholder agrees that it will, upon learning that disclosure of such records is sought in a court of competent jurisdiction or by any governmental body, promptly give prior notice to the Company and allow the Company, at its expense, to undertake appropriate action (and the Stockholder shall cooperate with and assist the Company as requested in taking such action) to prevent disclosure of those records deemed confidential;

(v) promptly notify the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, thereof, after becoming aware thereof, (1) when the Registration or any related prospectus or any amendment or supplement has been filed, and, with respect to the Registration or any post-effective amendment, when the same has become effective, (2) of any request by the Commission for amendments or supplements to the Registration or the related prospectus or for additional information, (3) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration or the initiation of any proceedings for that purpose, (4) of the receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension

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of the qualification of the Registered Shares for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation of any proceeding for such purpose, or (5) after becoming aware thereof, within the Effective Period, of the happening of any event which makes any statement in the Registration or any post-effective amendment thereto, prospectus or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any document incorporated therein by reference untrue in any material respect or which requires the making of any changes in the Registration or post-effective amendment thereto or prospectus or amendment or supplement thereto so that they will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein (in the case of any prospectus, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made) not misleading;

(vi) during the Effective Period, use its reasonable best efforts to obtain the withdrawal of any order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration or any post-effective amendment thereto;

(vii) use its reasonable best efforts to register or qualify the Registered Shares for offer and sale under such securities or "blue sky" laws of such states or other U.S. jurisdictions as the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, thereof shall reasonably request in writing; *provided* that the Company shall not be required for any such purpose to (1) qualify as a foreign corporation in any jurisdiction where it would not otherwise be required to qualify but for the requirements of this Section 3.04(a)(vii), or (2) consent to general service of process in any such jurisdiction;

(viii) use its reasonable best efforts to cause the Registered Shares to be registered with or approved by such other governmental agencies or authorities within the United States as may be necessary by virtue of the markets on which the Registered Shares are listed or quoted to enable the Stockholder to consummate the disposition of such Registered Shares;

(ix) cooperate with the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, to facilitate the timely preparation and delivery of certificates representing such Registered Shares to be sold, which certificates shall not bear any restrictive legends except as required by law; and enable such Registered Shares to be in such denominations and registered in such names as the managing underwriter or underwriters may request in writing at least two business days prior to any sale of the Registered Shares to the underwriters;

(x) enter into such agreements (including, if the offering is an underwritten offering, an underwriting agreement) containing such provisions as are customary in transactions of such kind and are not materially inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement, and take such other actions as are reasonably necessary in connection therewith in order to expedite or facilitate the disposition of such Registered Shares; and (1) obtain an opinion or opinions of legal counsel to the Company (which counsel may be internal counsel for the Company unless the managing underwriter or underwriters shall otherwise reasonably request) in customary form and covering matters of the type customarily covered by such opinions, addressed to such managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, and to the Stockholder and dated the date of the closing of the sale of the Registered Shares relating thereto; and (2) obtain a "comfort" letter or letters from the independent certified public accountants who have certified the Company's most recent audited financial statements that are incorporated by reference in the Registration which is addressed to the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, and is dated the date of the prospectus used in connection with the offering of such Registered Shares and/or the date of the closing of the sale of such Registered Shares relating thereto, such letter or letters to be in customary form and covering such matters of the type customarily covered by "comfort" letters of such type;

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(xi) comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Commission and make available to its security holders an earnings statement, as soon as reasonably practicable but in no event later than 18 months after the effective date of the registration statement, which earnings statement shall cover a period of at least 12 months, beginning with the first full calendar month after the effective date of such registration statement and shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the Securities Act and may be prepared in accordance with Rule 158 under the Securities Act; and

(xii) take all other steps reasonably necessary to effect the registration, offering and sale of the Registered Shares covered by a registration statement contemplated hereby and enter into any other customary agreements and take such other actions (including making appropriate "Section 16" executives of the Company available for participation in "roadshows") as are reasonably required in order to expedite or facilitate the disposition of such Registered Shares.

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(b) In the event that the Company would be required, pursuant to Section 3.04(a)(v)(5), to notify the Stockholder and the managing underwriter or underwriters, if any, thereof, the Company shall, subject to the provisions of Section 3.01(b) hereof, as promptly as practicable, prepare and furnish to the Stockholder and such managing underwriter or underwriters a reasonable number of copies of a prospectus supplemented or amended so that, as thereafter delivered to purchasers of Registered Shares, such prospectus shall not contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The Stockholder agrees that, upon receipt of any notice from the Company pursuant to Section 3.04(a)(v)(5), the Stockholder shall, and shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause, any sales or placement agent or agents for the Registered Shares and the underwriters, if any, thereof, to forthwith discontinue disposition of Registered Shares until such Person shall have received copies of such amended or supplemented prospectus and, if so directed by the Company, to destroy or to deliver to the Company all copies, other than permanent file copies, then in its possession of the prospectus (prior to such amendment or supplement) covering such Registered Shares as soon as practicable after the Stockholder's receipt of such notice.

(c) It shall be a condition to the obligations of the Company to take any action pursuant to Sections 3.01 and 3.02 that the Stockholder shall furnish, at least five days prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement, to the Company in writing such information regarding the Stockholder, the Registered Shares and the Stockholder's intended method of distribution of the Registered Shares as the Company may from time to time reasonably request in writing. The Stockholder shall notify the Company as promptly as practicable of any inaccuracy or change in information previously furnished by the Stockholder to the Company or of the occurrence of any event, in either case as a result of which any prospectus relating to the Registered Shares contains or would contain an untrue statement of a material fact regarding the Stockholder or its intended method of distribution of such Registered Shares or omits to state any material fact regarding the Stockholder or its intended method of distribution of such Registered Shares required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and promptly furnish to the Company any additional information required to correct and update any previously furnished information or required so that such prospectus shall not contain, with respect to the Stockholder or the distribution of the Registered Shares, an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

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3.05 *Registration Expenses.* Except as set forth in the last sentence of this Section 3.05, the Company agrees to bear and to pay, or cause to be paid, promptly upon request being made therefor all expenses incident to the Company's performance of or compliance with this Agreement, including, without limitation: (a) all Commission and any National Association of Securities Dealers registration and filing fees and expenses, (b) all fees and expenses in connection with the qualification of the Registered Shares for offering and sale under state securities or "blue sky" laws referred to in Section 3.04(a)(vi) hereof, including reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for any underwriter in connection with such qualifications, (c) all expenses relating to the preparation, printing, distribution and reproduction of the Registration, each prospectus included therein or prepared for distribution pursuant hereto, each amendment or supplement to the foregoing, the certificates representing the Registered Shares and all other documents relating hereto, (d) internal expenses (including, without limitation, all salaries and expenses of the Company's officers and employees performing legal or accounting duties), (e) fees, disbursements and expenses of the Company's counsel and its other advisors and experts and independent certified public accountants of the Company (including the expenses of any opinions or "comfort" letters required by or incident to such performance and compliance), and (f) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the quotation of the Registered Shares on Nasdaq and any stock exchange on which the Company Common Stock shall at such time be listed or quoted (collectively, the "*Registration Expenses*"). To the extent that any Registration Expenses are incurred, assumed or paid by the Stockholder and the underwriters, if any, thereof, the Company shall reimburse such Person for the full amount of the Registration Expenses so incurred, assumed or paid promptly after receipt of a request therefor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Stockholder shall pay or cause to be paid, as appropriate, (i) all agency fees and commissions and underwriting discounts and commissions directly attributable to the sale of the Registered Shares by or on behalf of the Stockholder, and (ii) the fees, disbursements and expenses of its counsel in connection with the offering and sale of the Registered Shares.

3.06 *Indemnification; Contribution.*

(a) *Indemnification by the Company.* The Company shall, and it hereby agrees to, indemnify and hold harmless the Stockholder, and each Person who participates as a placement or sales agent or as an underwriter in any offering or sale of the Registered Shares, against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities to which the Stockholder or such agent or underwriter may become subject, insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions or proceedings in respect thereof) arise out of or are based upon an untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in any Registration, or any preliminary or final prospectus contained therein, or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any document incorporated by reference therein, or arise out of or are based upon any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to

make the statements therein not misleading, and the Company shall, and it hereby agrees to, reimburse the Stockholder or any such agent or underwriter for any legal or other out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with investigating or defending any such action, proceeding or claim; *provided* that the Company shall not be liable to any such Person in any such case to the extent that any such loss, claim, damage, liability or expense arises out of or is based upon an untrue statement or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission made in such Registration, or preliminary or final prospectus, or amendment or supplement thereto, in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by the Stockholder or any agent, underwriter or representative of the Stockholder expressly for use therein, or by the Stockholder's failure to furnish the Company, upon request, with the information with respect to the Stockholder, or any agent, underwriter or representative of the Stockholder, or the Stockholder's intended method of distribution, that is the subject of the untrue statement or omission. The foregoing indemnity is subject to the condition that, insofar as it relates to any such untrue statement, alleged untrue statement, omission or alleged omission made in a preliminary prospectus on file with the

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Commission at the time the registration statement becomes effective or the amended prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b), as amended from time to time (the "*Final Prospectus*"), such indemnity shall not inure to the benefit of (i) the Stockholder if a copy of the Final Prospectus was not furnished by the Stockholder to the person asserting the loss, liability, claim or damage at or prior to the time such action as required by the Securities Act and such Final Prospectus would have cured the defect giving rise to the loss, liability, claim or damage, or (ii) any underwriter or agent if a copy of the Final Prospectus was not furnished to the person asserting the loss, liability, claim or damage at or prior to the time such action as required by the Securities Act and the Final Prospectus would have cured the defect giving rise to the loss, liability, claim or damage.

(b) *Indemnification by the Stockholder.* The Stockholder shall, and it hereby agrees to, indemnify and hold harmless the Company against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities to which the Company may become subject, insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (including any amounts paid in settlement as provided herein), or actions or proceedings in respect thereof, arise out of or are based upon an untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in such Registration, or any preliminary or final prospectus contained therein, or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any document incorporated by reference therein, or arise out of or are based upon any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, in each case only to the extent that such untrue statement or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission was made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by the Stockholder expressly for use therein.

(c) *Indemnification by the Underwriter(s).* The Company may require, as a condition to entering into any underwriting agreement, that such underwriting agreement provide in substance that the underwriters named in such underwriting agreement shall, severally and not jointly, indemnify and hold harmless the Company against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities to which the Company may become subject, insofar as such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (including any amounts paid in settlement as provided herein), or actions or proceedings in respect thereof, arise out of or are based upon an untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in such Registration, or any preliminary or final prospectus contained therein, or any amendment or supplement thereto, or any document incorporated by reference therein, or arise out of or are based upon any omission or alleged omission to state therein a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, in each case only to the extent that such untrue statement or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission was made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by such underwriter or underwriters expressly for use therein.

(d) *Notice of Claims, Etc.* Promptly after receipt by an indemnified party under subsection (a) or (b) above of written notice of the commencement of any action or proceeding for which indemnification under subsection (a) or (b) may be requested, such indemnified party shall, without regard to whether a claim in respect thereof is to be made against an indemnifying party pursuant to the indemnification provisions of, or as contemplated by, this Section 3.06, notify such indemnifying party in writing of the commencement of such action or proceeding; but the omission so to notify the indemnifying party shall not relieve it from any liability which it may have to any indemnified party in respect of such action or proceeding on account of the indemnification provisions of or contemplated by Section 3.06(a) or 3.06(b) hereof unless the indemnifying party was materially prejudiced by such failure of the indemnified party to give such notice, and in no event shall such omission relieve the indemnifying party from any other liability it may have to such indemnified party. In case any such action or proceeding shall be brought against any

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indemnified party and it shall notify an indemnifying party of the commencement thereof, such indemnifying party shall be entitled to participate therein and, to the extent that it shall determine, jointly with any other indemnifying party similarly notified, to assume the defense thereof, with counsel reasonably satisfactory to such indemnified party, and, after notice from the indemnifying party to such indemnified party of its election so to assume the defense thereof, such indemnifying party shall not be liable to such indemnified party for any legal or any other expenses subsequently incurred by such indemnified party, in connection with the defense thereof other than reasonable costs of investigation (unless such indemnified party reasonably objects to such assumption on the grounds that there may be defenses available to it which are different from or in addition to the defenses available to such indemnifying party, in which event the indemnified party shall have the right to control its defense and shall be reimbursed by the indemnifying party for the expenses incurred in connection with retaining separate counsel). If the indemnifying party is not entitled to, or elects not to, assume the defense of a claim, it will not be obligated to pay the fees and expenses of more than one counsel for each indemnified party with respect to such claim. The indemnifying party will not be subject to any liability for any settlement made without its consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No indemnifying party will consent to entry of any judgment or enter into any settlement agreement which does not include as an unconditional term thereof the giving by the claimant or plaintiff to such indemnified party of a release from all liability in respect of such claim or litigation.

(e) *Contribution.* The Stockholder and the Company agree that if, for any reason, the indemnification provisions contemplated by Section 3.06(a) or 3.06(b) hereof are unavailable to or are insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions or proceedings in respect thereof) referred to therein, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of such losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions or proceedings in respect thereof) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative fault of, and benefits derived by, the indemnifying party and the indemnified party, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative fault of such indemnifying party and indemnified party shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by such indemnifying party or by such indemnified party, and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission. The parties hereto agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 3.06(e) were determined (i) by *pro rata* allocation; or (ii) by any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to in this Section 3.06(e). The amount paid or payable by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions or proceedings in respect thereof) referred to above shall be deemed to include (subject to the limitations set forth in Section 3.06(d) hereof) any legal or other fees or expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any such action, proceeding or claim. No Person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the Securities Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any Person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation with respect to an issue for which contribution has been requested.

(f) *Beneficiaries of Indemnification.* The obligations of the Company under this Section 3.06 shall be in addition to any liability that it may otherwise have and shall extend, upon the same terms and conditions, to each officer, director, partner and any other Affiliate of the Stockholder and each agent and underwriter of the Registered Shares and each Person, if any, who controls the Stockholder or any such agent or underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, each of whom is an intended third party beneficiary of the covenants set forth in this Section 3.06; and the obligations of the Stockholder and any agents or underwriters contemplated by this Section 3.06

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shall be in addition to any liability that the Stockholder or its respective agent or underwriter may otherwise have and shall extend, upon the same terms and conditions, to each officer and director and Affiliate of the Company (including any Person who, with his consent, is named in any registration statement as about to become a director of the Company) and to each Person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of the Securities Act, each of whom is an intended third party beneficiary of the covenants set forth in this Section 3.06. The indemnity, contribution and expense reimbursement obligations set forth in this Section 3.06 shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of any investigation made by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

(g) *Underwriting Agreement Controls.* In the event of any conflict between the indemnification and contribution terms as herein set forth and as set forth in any underwriting agreement entered into pursuant hereto, the underwriting agreement shall control.

3.07 *Underwriters.*

(a) If any of the Registered Shares are to be sold pursuant to an underwritten offering, the investment banker or bankers and the managing underwriter or underwriters thereof shall be selected by the Company except in the case of a Demand Registration, in which

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case the managing underwriter or underwriters shall be selected by the Stockholder from a group of not fewer than three investment banks of recognized international standing designated by the Company.

(b) At the request of the managing underwriter or underwriters in connection with any underwritten offering in which Registered Shares are to be offered, the Stockholder shall enter into a customary "lock-up" agreement pursuant to which it will agree to not effect any sale or distribution of Registered Shares for a period of no more than 180 days beginning on the effective date of any such registration (except as part of such registration).

3.08 *Unregistered Offerings.* The Stockholder and the Company hereby agree that, in the event that the Company or one or more of its stockholders (including the Stockholder) proposes to make an underwritten offering of Company Common Stock (a) that is exempt from, or not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act by virtue of Regulation S thereunder, and (b) with respect to which such stockholder(s) requests the cooperation and participation of the Company or the management of the Company in performing due diligence and marketing such offering to potential investors (such an offering, an "*Unregistered Offering*"), the relevant notice provisions of Section 3.01 or 3.02 will apply and the required notice will state that the offering is proposed to be made pursuant to Regulation S. In that event, the parties agree to proceed with such an offering on an unregistered basis in good faith as and to the extent provided herein with respect to a registered offering and that the provisions of this Agreement will apply *mutatis mutandis* to such Unregistered Offering, including, without limitation, provisions relating to Blackout Periods, Piggy-Back Registrations, allocations of securities included in an offering, the Company's obligations with respect to an offering (including indemnification provisions and procedures), selection of underwriters, expenses associated with an offering and indemnification and contribution. An Unregistered Offering in which the only securities being sold are the Stockholder Company Shares shall be deemed to constitute one Demand Registration.

3.09 *Agreement of the Stockholder.* The Stockholder agrees not to, and it shall cause its Affiliates not to, make any sale, transfer or other disposition of shares of the Company Common Stock except in compliance with the registration requirements of the Securities Act and the rules and regulations thereunder or in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

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3.10 *Legends.*

(a) Stop transfer restrictions will be given to the Company's transfer agent(s) with respect to the Stockholder Company Shares and there will be placed on the certificates or instruments representing the Stockholder Company Shares, and on any certificate or instrument delivered in substitution therefor, legends stating in substance:

THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "SECURITIES ACT"), AND MAY NOT BE SOLD, PLEDGED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT PURSUANT TO SUCH REGISTRATION OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EXEMPTION FROM THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECURITIES ACT.

THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN STANDSTILL AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN AN INVESTOR AGREEMENT, DATED JULY 11, 2002 BETWEEN THE HOLDER OF THE SHARES AND THE COMPANY. A COPY OF SUCH AGREEMENT MAY BE OBTAINED UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY.

(b) The Company hereby agrees that it will cause stop transfer restrictions to be released with respect to any Stockholder Company Shares that are transferred (i) pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act, (ii) pursuant to Rule 144 or 145 under the Securities Act, (iii) in accordance with the requirements of Rule 903 or 904 of Regulation S under the Securities Act, or (iv) pursuant to another exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act and, in any such case, otherwise in accordance with this Agreement; *provided* that in the case of any transfer pursuant to clause (ii) or (iii) above, the request for transfer is accompanied by a written statement signed by the Stockholder and, if the Company so requests, a written opinion of counsel in customary form, confirming compliance with the requirements of the relevant exemption from registration; and *provided, further*, that in the case of any transfer pursuant to clauses (ii), (iii) or (iv) above, other than any transfer by the Stockholder to one or more of its Affiliates, or among such Affiliates, or by any such Affiliates to the Stockholder, the Company shall have received a written opinion of legal counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Company. The Company further agrees that it will cause the legends described in subsection (a) of this Section 3.10 to be removed in the event of any transfer as provided in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) above (other than a transfer to an Affiliate of the Stockholder).

3.11 *Public Information.* The Company covenants to make available "adequate current public information" concerning the Company within the meaning of Rule 144(c) under the Securities Act.

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ARTICLE IV

Standstill and Other Obligations

4.01 *The Stockholder's Standstill Obligations.* During the Standstill Period, the Stockholder shall not, and shall not permit any KPENV Entity to, without first obtaining Written Approval:

(a) Beneficially own or acquire beneficial ownership of Voting Stock or authorize or make a tender offer, exchange offer or other offer to acquire Voting Stock, if the number of shares of Voting Stock beneficially owned by the KPENV Entities exceeds (or would exceed following such an acquisition) the Standstill Limit;

(b) "*Solicit*" or engage in any "*solicitation*" of "*proxies*" with respect to any Voting Stock (italicized terms in this Section 4.01(b) having the respective meanings ascribed to them in Rule 14a-1 under the Exchange Act);

(c) Deposit any Voting Stock in a voting trust or subject any Voting Stock to any arrangement or agreement with any third party with respect to the voting of such Voting Stock;

(d) Join a 13D Group (other than a group comprised solely of KPENV Entities);

(e) Publicly announce any intention to seek amendment or rescission of the provisions of this Section 4.01 or make any proposal to amend or rescind, support any proposal to amend or rescind, or publicly comment on any proposal to amend or rescind, the Rights Plan, in the case of each of the foregoing, that has not received Board Approval; or

(f) Publicly announce any intention or desire to (i) acquire the Company or all or a material portion of assets of the Company (including, without limitation, upon expiration of the Standstill Period), (ii) engage in a transaction that would result in a Change of Control of the Company (including, without limitation, upon expiration of the Standstill Period), (iii) increase beyond the Standstill Limit the KPENV Entities' beneficial ownership of the Company's equity securities (including, without limitation, upon expiration of the Standstill Period), or (iv) take any other action that would otherwise be prohibited under this Section 4.01.

4.02 *Stockholder Reporting Obligations.* The Stockholder shall promptly (and in no case later than five business days of such event) notify the Company of any acquisition by any KPENV Entity of Voting Stock other than such an acquisition from the Company. Such notice shall specify the amount of Voting Stock beneficially owned by the KPENV Entities as of the date of the notice. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section 4.02 to the contrary, the provisions of this Section 4.02 may be satisfied by the delivery by the Stockholder to the Company of any Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G filed by the Stockholder with the Commission in connection with such acquisition.

4.03 *Quorum Obligation.* During the Standstill Period, if and to the extent the Company makes a telephonic request therefor (which request shall be directed to Mr. Guido Dierick at +31 (40) 272-2041 or to Mr. Dierick's successor as General Counsel to the KPENV Entities' global semiconductors business) the Stockholder, as the holder of shares of Voting Stock, shall be present (and shall cause any of its Affiliates holding Voting Stock to be so present), in person or by proxy, at any meeting of stockholders of the Company as to which such a request is made so that all such shares of Voting Stock may be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum at such meetings.

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ARTICLE V

Miscellaneous

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5.01 *Term of Agreement; Termination.* The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date hereof and such term and this Agreement shall automatically terminate upon the earliest to occur of: (a) the termination (prior to the Effective Time) of the Merger Agreement in accordance with its terms, (b) the expiration of the Demand Period, and (c) when all of the Stockholder Company Shares have been sold by the Stockholder either pursuant to a registration statement or pursuant to a transaction or transactions exempt from the registration provisions of the Securities Act.

5.02 *Specific Performance and Other Equitable Rights.* Each of the parties hereto recognizes and acknowledges that a breach by a party or by any assignee thereof of any covenants or other commitments contained in this Agreement will cause the other party to sustain injury for which it would not have an adequate remedy at law for money damages. Therefore, each of the parties hereto agrees that in the event of any such breach, the aggrieved party shall be entitled to the remedy of specific performance of such covenants or commitments and preliminary and permanent injunctive and other equitable relief in addition to any other remedy to which it may be entitled, at law or in equity, and the parties hereto further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with the obtaining of any such injunctive or other equitable relief.

5.03 *Notices.* All notices, requests, demands and other communications hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given and made if in writing and if served by personal delivery upon the party for whom it is intended or delivered by overnight courier, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or if sent by telecopier, upon receipt of oral confirmation that such transmission has been received, to the Person at the address set forth below, or such other address as may be designated in writing hereafter, in the same manner, by such Person:

- (a) if to the Company, addressed as follows:

Gregory A. Robbins
c/o Veeco Instruments Inc.
100 Sunnyside Boulevard
Woodbury, New York 11797
Telephone: (516) 677-0200
Telecopier: (516) 677-9125

with a copy to:

Rory A. Greiss
c/o Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: (212) 836-8261
Telecopier: (212) 836-7152

- (b) if to Florence, addressed as follows:

Bradley J. Thies
c/o FEI Company
7425 N.W. Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-5830
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopier: (503) 640-7509

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with a copy to:

Larry W. Sonsini
c/o Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
Telephone: (650) 493-9300
Telecopier: (650) 493-6811

- (c) if to the Stockholder, addressed as follows:

Guido Dierick
c/o Philips Semiconductors
Legal Department
Building B460-1
Prof. Holstlaan 4
5656AA Eindhoven
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 (40) 272-2041
Telecopier: +31 (40) 272-4005

with a copy to:

Matthew G. Hurd
c/o Sullivan & Cromwell
1870 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, California 94303
Telephone: (650) 461-5600
Telecopier: (650) 461-5700,

or to such other address as the relevant party may from time to time advise by notice in writing given pursuant to this Section 5.03. The date of receipt of any such notice, request, consent, agreement or approval shall be deemed to be the date of delivery thereof.

5.04 *Parties in Interest.* This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties named herein and their respective successors, assigns, officers, directors, partners, agents, underwriters and controlling Persons. Except as provided in Section 3.06 and Section 5.08, nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any Person other than the parties hereto, or their successors or assigns, any rights or remedies under or by reason of this Agreement.

5.05 *Survival.* The several indemnities, agreements, representations, warranties and each other provision set forth in this Agreement or made pursuant hereto shall remain in full force and effect regardless of any investigation (or statement as to the results thereof) made by or on behalf of any party, any director or officer of such party, or any controlling Person of any of the foregoing, and shall survive the consummation of the Merger and the transfer of any Registered Shares by the Stockholder, and the indemnification and contribution provisions set forth in Section 3.06 hereof shall survive termination of this Agreement.

5.06 *Severability.* If any term, provision, covenant or restriction of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants and restrictions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

5.07 *Assignment.* No party to this Agreement may assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other parties hereto, which consent shall not

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be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned, and any such purported assignment shall be null and void.

5.08 *Other Agreements.* The Company will not enter into any agreement with respect to its securities which is in conflict with the rights granted in this Agreement.

5.09 *Governing Law; Jurisdiction; Venue.* This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York (regardless of the laws that might otherwise govern under applicable New York principles of conflicts of law). The parties hereto unconditionally and irrevocably agree and consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of, and service of process and venue in, the United States District Court and the courts of the State of New York located in the County of New York, State of New York, and waive any objection with respect thereto, for the purpose of any action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby and further agree not to commence any such action, suit or proceeding except in any such court. Each party irrevocably waives any objections or immunities to jurisdiction to which it may otherwise be entitled or become entitled (including sovereign immunity, immunity to pre-judgment attachment, post-judgment attachment and execution) in any legal suit, action or proceeding against it arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby which is instituted in any such court.

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5.10 *Entire Agreement; Amendments.* This Agreement and the other writings referred to herein or delivered pursuant hereto which form a part hereof contain the entire understanding of the parties with respect to its subject matter. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings among the parties with respect to its subject matter. This Agreement may be amended and the observance of any term of this Agreement may be waived (either generally or in a particular instance and either retroactively or prospectively) only by a written instrument duly executed by each of the parties, which shall be binding on all of the parties.

5.11 *Further Assurances.* Each party shall provide (at the expense of the requesting party) such further documents or instruments reasonably requested by any other party as may be necessary or desirable to effect the purpose and intention of this Agreement and carry out its provisions, whether before or after its termination.

5.12 *Delays or Omissions.* Except as expressly provided herein, no delay or omission to exercise any right, power or remedy accruing to a party under this Agreement shall impair any such right, power or remedy nor shall it be construed to be a waiver of any such breach or default, or an acquiescence therein, or of or in any similar breach or default thereafter occurring; nor shall any waiver of any single breach or default be deemed a waiver of any other breach or default theretofore or thereafter occurring.

5.13 *Expenses.* Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the Company and the Stockholder shall each bear their own expenses incurred with respect to this Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby.

5.14 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

(Signature page follows)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

PHILIPS BUSINESS ELECTRONICS INTERNATIONAL B.V.

By: /s/ J.C. LOBBEZOO

Name: J.C. Lobbezoo
Title: Member Management Board

By: /s/ A.P.M. VAN DER POEL

Name: A.P.M. van der Poel
Title: Member Management Board

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun
Title: Chairman, Chief Executive Officer
and President

FEI COMPANY

By: /s/ VAHÉ A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahé A. Sarkissian
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

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AMENDMENT AGREEMENT

AMENDMENT AGREEMENT, dated as of July 11, 2002 (this "*Agreement*") among FEI Company, an Oregon corporation ("*FEI*"), Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands ("*Philips*"), and Philips Business Electronics International B.V., a company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands and formerly known as Philips Industrial Electronics International B.V. ("*PBE*" and, collectively with FEI and Philips, the "*Parties*").

WHEREAS, FEI and PBE are party to a Combination Agreement, dated as of November 15, 1996 (the "*Combination Agreement*"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties are party to an Agreement, dated as of December 31, 2000 (the "*Disposition Agreement*"); and

WHEREAS, Veeco Instruments Inc., a Delaware corporation, Venice Acquisition Corp., an Oregon corporation, and FEI have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002 (the "*Merger Agreement*"), which provides that, on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth therein, Venice Acquisition Corp. shall be merged with and into FEI (the "*Merger*") at the Effective Time, as defined therein (the "*Effective Time*"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties each desire to amend the Combination Agreement and the Disposition Agreement so as to facilitate the consummation of the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I*Amendments and Other Matters*

1.01 *Amendment to the Disposition Agreement.* The Disposition Agreement is hereby amended, effective as of the Effective Time, to delete Sections 1(b)(v) and 5 therefrom. This Agreement shall not constitute an amendment to the Disposition Agreement unless the Effective Time occurs.

1.02 *Amendment to the Combination Agreement.* The Combination Agreement is hereby amended, effective as of the Effective Time, to delete Section 5.16(e) therefrom, *it being understood* that this amendment shall not modify or alter the validity or scope of any cross-licensing, pooling or other patent sharing or licensing arrangements entered into prior to the date of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not constitute an amendment to the Combination Agreement unless the Effective Time occurs.

1.03 *Development Agreement.* Philips shall take all action necessary to cause Philips Machinefabriken Nederland B.V. ("*ETG*") promptly and irrevocably to waive its rights pursuant to Section 10.3 of the Development Agreement, dated as of January 23, 1998, between ETG and FEI, in respect of the Merger.

ARTICLE II*Miscellaneous*

2.01 *Headings.* The headings, titles and subtitles contained in this Agreement are used for convenience only and shall not be considered in construing or interpreting this Agreement.

2.02 *Specific Performance and Other Equitable Rights.* Each of the Parties recognizes and acknowledges that a breach by a Party of any covenants or other commitments contained in this

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Agreement will cause the other Parties to sustain injury for which they would not have an adequate remedy at law for money damages. Therefore, each Party agrees that in the event of any such breach, the aggrieved Party or Parties shall be entitled to the remedy of specific performance of such covenants or commitments and preliminary and permanent injunctive and other equitable relief in addition to any other remedy to which it or they may be entitled, at law or in equity, and the Parties further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with the obtaining of any such injunctive or other equitable relief.

2.03 *Notices.* All notices, requests, demands and other communications hereunder shall be deemed to have been duly given and made if in writing and if served by personal delivery upon the Party for whom it is intended or delivered by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or if sent by telecopier, upon receipt of oral confirmation that such transmission has been received, to such Party at the address set forth below:

(a)

if to FEI, addressed as follows:

Bradley J. Thies
c/o FEI Company
7425 N.W. Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-5830
Telephone: (503) 640-7500
Telecopier: (503) 640-7509

with a copy to:

Larry W. Sonsini
c/o Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation
650 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
Telecopier: (650) 493-9300
Telecopier: (650) 493-6811

(b)

if to Philips or PBE, addressed as follows:

Guido Dierick
c/o Philips Semiconductors
Legal Department
Building B460-1
Prof. Holstlaan 4
5656AA Eindhoven
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 (40) 272-2041
Telecopier: +31 (40) 272-4005

with a copy to:

Matthew G. Hurd
c/o Sullivan & Cromwell
1870 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, California 94303
Telephone: (650) 461-5600
Telecopier: (650) 461-5700,

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or to such other address as the relevant Party may from time to time advise by notice in writing given pursuant to this Section 2.03. The date of receipt of any such notice, request, consent, agreement or approval shall be deemed to be the date of delivery thereof.

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2.04 *Parties in Interest.* This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties and their respective successors, assigns, officers, directors, partners, agents, underwriters and controlling persons or entities. Nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any person or entity other than the Parties, or their successors or assigns, any rights or remedies under or by reason of this Agreement.

2.05 *Severability.* If any term, provision, covenant or restriction of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants and restrictions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

2.06 *Assignment.* No Party may assign any of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of each of the other Parties, and any such purported assignment shall be null and void.

2.07 *Governing Law; Jurisdiction; Venue.* This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York (regardless of the laws that might otherwise govern under applicable New York principles of conflicts of law). The Parties unconditionally and irrevocably agree and consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of, and service of process and venue in, the United States District Court and the courts of the State of New York located in the County of New York, State of New York, and waive any objection with respect thereto, for the purpose of any action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby and further agree not to commence any such action, suit or proceeding except in any such court. Each Party irrevocably waives any objections or immunities to jurisdiction to which it may otherwise be entitled or become entitled (including sovereign immunity, immunity to pre-judgment attachment, post-judgment attachment and execution) in any legal suit, action or proceeding against it arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby which is instituted in any such court.

2.08 *Entire Agreement; Amendments.* This Agreement contains the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to its subject matter. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings among the Parties with respect to its subject matter. This Agreement may be amended and the observance of any term of this Agreement may be waived (either generally or in a particular instance and either retroactively or prospectively) only by a written instrument duly executed by each of the Parties, which shall be binding on all of the Parties.

2.09 *Further Assurances.* Each Party shall provide (at the expense of the requesting Party) such further documents or instruments reasonably requested by any other Party as may be necessary or desirable to effect the purpose and intention of this Agreement and carry out its provisions, whether before or after its termination.

2.10 *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

(Signature page follows)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.

By: /s/ ARIE WESTERLAKEN

Name: Arie Westerlaken
Title: General Secretary

PHILIPS BUSINESS ELECTRONICS INTERNATIONAL B.V.

By: /s/ J.C. LOBBEZOO

Name: J.C. Lobbezoo
Title: Member Management Board

By: /s/ A.P.M. VAN DER POEL

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Name: A.P.M. van der Poel
Title: Member Management Board

FEI COMPANY

By: /s/ VAHÉ A. SARKISSIAN

Name: Vahé A. Sarkissian
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer
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Appendix I

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.
FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

Effective on January 1, 2003, Section 3.02(a) of the Veeco Instruments Inc. First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan, effective October 26, 2000 (the "Plan"), be, and hereby is, amended to read, in its entirety, as follows:

3.02 Number of Shares Subject to Plan

- (a) The total number of shares of Stock available for Offerings under the Plan shall be 750,000 shares, subject to adjustment as set forth in paragraph (b) below. Such Stock may be authorized and unissued shares, treasury shares, or shares previously issued and reacquired by the Company. Any shares for which an Offering to purchase expires or is terminated or canceled may again be made subject to Offerings under the Plan.

* * * * *

This amendment was adopted by Veeco's board of directors on October 24, 2002 and will be submitted for approval by Veeco's stockholders at the next meeting of such stockholders.

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**PART II
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS**

Item 20. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. Section 145 further provides that a Delaware corporation similarly may indemnify any such person serving in any such capacity who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or such other court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is

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fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Article 9 of Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation entitles officers and directors of Veeco to indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by Section 145 of the DGCL, as the same may be supplemented from time to time.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL permits a corporation to include in its certificate of incorporation a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholder, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL (relating to unlawful payment of dividends and unlawful stock purchase and redemption) or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that its directors shall not be liable to Veeco or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director except to the extent that exculpation from liabilities is not permitted under the DGCL as in effect at the time such liability is determined. Such Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation further provides that Veeco shall indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling any registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act, and is therefore unenforceable.

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Reference is made to Veeco's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, filed as an exhibit to Veeco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 21. Exhibits.

| Number | Exhibit | Incorporated by Reference to the Following Documents |
|--------|---|--|
| 2.1 | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Veeco Instruments Inc., Veeco Acquisition Corp. and FEI Company. | * |
| 2.2 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among FEI Company and the Veeco stockholders party thereto, together with the related Powers of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxies. | * |
| 2.3 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Chorus, L.P. and FEI Company, together with the related Power of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxy. | * |
| 2.4 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Veeco Instruments Inc. and the FEI shareholders party thereto, together with the related Powers of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxies. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.2 |
| 2.5 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Philips Business Electronics International B.V. and Veeco Instruments Inc., together with the related Power of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxy. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.3 |
| 2.6 | Investor Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Philips Business Electronics International B.V., FEI Company and Veeco Instruments Inc. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.4 |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company dated December 1, 1994, as amended June 2, 1997 and July 25, 1997. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-K for the Quarter Ended June 30, 1997, Exhibit 3.1 |
| 3.2 | Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 29, 1998. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, Exhibit 3.2 |
| 3.3 | Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 5, 2000. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2000, Exhibit 3.1 |
| 3.4 | | |

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| Number | Exhibit | Incorporated by Reference to the Following Documents |
|--------|--|---|
| 3.5 | Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Veeco. Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, effective October 26, 2000. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2001, Exhibit 3.1 Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-49476), filed November 7, 2000, Exhibit 4.3 |
| 3.6 | Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, to be effective as of the closing of the merger. * | |
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| 4.1 | Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as Rights Agent, including the form of the Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights setting forth the terms of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as Exhibit A, the form of Rights Certificates as Exhibit B and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Stock as Exhibit C. | Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated March 15, 2001, Exhibit 1 |
| 4.2 | Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated as of September 6, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as rights agent. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed September 21, 2001, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 4.3 | Amendment No. 2 to the Rights Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 4.4 | Indenture between Veeco and State Street Bank and Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, dated December 21, 2001, relating to the 4 ¹ / ₈ % convertible subordinated notes due 2008. | Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-84252), filed March 13, 2002, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Kaye Scholer LLP with respect to the legality of the securities registered hereunder (including consent). | * |
| 8.1 | Opinion of Kaye Scholer LLP regarding the federal income tax consequences of the merger (including consent). | *** |
| 8.2 | Opinion of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, regarding the federal income tax consequences of the merger (including consent). | *** |
| 10.1 | Employment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and Vahé A. Sarkissian. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 10.1 |
| 10.2 | Employment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and Edward H. Braun. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 10.2 |
| 10.3 | Amendment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Philips Business Electronics International B.V., Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. and FEI Company. | * |
| 10.4 | Amendment No. 1 to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan | ** (included as Appendix I to the joint proxy statement/prospectus which constitutes a part of this Amendment No. 2 to this Registration Statement) |
| 23.1 | Consent of Kaye Scholer LLP included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1. | * |
| 23.2 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. | ** |
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| 23.3 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP. | ** |
| 23.4 | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. | ** |
| 23.5 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. | ** |
| 23.6 | Consent of Kaye Scholer LLP, included in opinion filed as Exhibit 8.1. | *** |
| 23.7 | Consent of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, included in opinion filed as Exhibit 8.2. | *** |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto) | * |
| 99.1 | Consent of Salomon Smith Barney Inc. | * |

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| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 99.2 | Consent of Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation. | * |
| 99.3 | From of Proxy for Veeco Instruments Inc. special meeting of stockholders. | * |
| 99.4 | Form of Proxy for FEI Company special meeting of shareholders. | * |
| 99.5 | Consent of Vahé A. Sarkissian, as a person designated to become a director of Registrant | *** |

*

Previously filed.

**

Filed herewith.

To be filed by subsequent amendment.

Item 22. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes as follows: that prior to any public reoffering of the securities registered hereunder through use of a prospectus that is a part of this registration statement, by any person or party who is deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Rule 145(c), the issuer undertakes that such reoffering prospectus will contain the information called for by the applicable registration form with respect to reofferings by persons who may be deemed underwriters, in addition to the information called for by the other items of the applicable form.

(c) The registrant undertakes that every prospectus: (i) that is filed pursuant to paragraph (b) immediately preceding, or (ii) that purports to meeting the requirements of Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 and is used in connection with an offering of securities subject to Rule 415, will be filed as a part of an amendment to the registration statement and will not be used until such amendment is effective, and that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(d) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing

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provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(e) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that:

(1) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

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(2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(f) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to respond to requests for information that is incorporated by reference into the prospectus pursuant to Items 4, 10(b), 11 or 13 of this form within one business day of receipt of such request, and to send the incorporated documents by first class mail or other equally prompt means. This includes information contained in documents filed subsequent to the effective date of the registration statement through the date of responding to the request.

(g) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to supply by means of a post-effective amendment all information concerning a transaction, and the company being acquired involved therein, that was not the subject of and included in the registration statement when it became effective.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1993, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Amendment No. 2 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Woodbury, State of New York, on November 7, 2002.

VEECO INSTRUMENTS INC.

By: /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN

Name: Edward H. Braun

Title: *Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Amendment No. 2 to the registrant's registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on November 7, 2002.

| Signature | Title |
|---|--|
| <u> /s/ EDWARD H. BRAUN </u> Edward H. Braun | Director, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President (principal executive officer) |
| * | |
| <u> Richard A. D'Amore </u> | Director |
| * | |
| <u> Joel A. Elftmann </u> | Director |
| * | |
| <u> Heinz K. Fridrich </u> | Director |
| * | |
| <u> Douglas A. Kingsley </u> | Director |
| * | Director |

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| Signature | Title |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| <hr/> <hr/> Dr. Paul R. Low * | |
| <hr/> Roger D. McDaniel | Director |

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| | |
|---|--|
| <hr/> * | Director |
| <hr/> Irwin H. Pfister * | Director |
| <hr/> Walter J. Scherr /s/ JOHN F. REIN, JR. | Director |
| <hr/> John F. Rein, Jr. | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary (principal financial officer) |
| <hr/> /s/ JOHN P. KIERNAN John P. Kiernan | Vice President Finance and Corporate Controller (principal accounting officer) |
| * By: | <hr/> /s/ GREGORY A. ROBBINS Gregory A. Robbins (Attorney-in-fact) |

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Number | Exhibit | Incorporated by Reference to the Following Documents |
|--------|---|--|
| 2.1 | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Veeco Instruments Inc., Veeco Acquisition Corp. and FEI Company. | * |
| 2.2 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among FEI Company and the Veeco stockholders party thereto, together with the related Powers of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxies. | * |
| 2.3 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Chorus, L.P. and FEI Company, together with the related Power of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxy. | * |
| 2.4 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Veeco Instruments Inc. and the FEI shareholders party thereto, together with the related Powers of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxies. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.2 |
| 2.5 | Voting Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Philips Business Electronics International B.V. and Veeco Instruments Inc., together with the related Power of Attorney and Irrevocable Proxy. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.3 |

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| Number | Exhibit | Incorporated by Reference to the Following Documents |
|--------|--|---|
| 2.6 | Investor Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Philips Business Electronics International B.V., FEI Company and Veeco Instruments Inc. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 2.4 |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company dated December 1, 1994, as amended June 2, 1997 and July 25, 1997. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-K for the Quarter Ended June 30, 1997, Exhibit 3.1 |
| 3.2 | Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 29, 1998. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, Exhibit 3.2 |
| 3.3 | Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Veeco dated May 5, 2000. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2000, Exhibit 3.1 |
| 3.4 | Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Veeco. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2001, Exhibit 3.1 |
| 3.5 | Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, effective October 26, 2000. | Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-49476), filed November 7, 2000, Exhibit 4.3 |
| 3.6 | Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, to be effective as of the closing of the merger. | * |
| 4.1 | Rights Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as Rights Agent, including the form of the Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights setting forth the terms of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as Exhibit A, the form of Rights Certificates as Exhibit B and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Stock as Exhibit C. | Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated March 15, 2001, Exhibit 1 |
| 4.2 | Amendment to Rights Agreement, dated as of September 6, 2001, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, as rights agent. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed September 21, 2001, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 4.3 | Amendment No. 2 to the Rights Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and American Stock Transfer and Trust Company. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 4.4 | Indenture between Veeco and State Street Bank and Trust Company, N.A., as trustee, dated December 21, 2001, relating to the 4 ¹ / ₈ % convertible subordinated notes due 2008. | Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-84252), filed March 13, 2002, Exhibit 4.1 |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Kaye Scholer LLP with respect to the legality of the securities registered hereunder (including consent). | * |
| 8.1 | Opinion of Kaye Scholer LLP regarding the federal income tax consequences of the merger (including consent). | *** |
| 8.2 | Opinion of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, regarding the federal income tax consequences of the merger (including consent). | *** |
| 10.1 | Employment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and Vahé A. Sarkissian. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 10.1 |
| 10.2 | Employment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, between Veeco Instruments Inc. and Edward H. Braun. | Current Report on Form 8-K, filed July 12, 2002, Exhibit 10.2 |
| 10.3 | Amendment Agreement, dated as of July 11, 2002, among Philips Business Electronics International B.V., Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. and FEI Company. | * |
| 10.4 | Amendment No. 1 to Veeco's First Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan | ** (included as Appendix I to the joint proxy statement/prospectus which constitutes a part of this Amendment No. 2 to this Registration Statement) |
| 23.1 | Consent of Kaye Scholer LLP included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1. | * |
| 23.2 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. | ** |
| 23.3 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP. | ** |
| 23.4 | Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. | ** |

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| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 23.5 | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP. | ** |
| 23.6 | Consent of Kaye Scholer LLP, included in opinion filed as Exhibit 8.1. | *** |
| 23.7 | Consent of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, included in opinion filed as Exhibit 8.2. | *** |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto) | * |
| 99.1 | Consent of Salomon Smith Barney Inc. | * |
| 99.2 | Consent of Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation. | * |
| 99.3 | From of Proxy for Veeco Instruments Inc. special meeting of stockholders. | * |
| 99.4 | Form of Proxy for FEI Company special meeting of shareholders. | * |
| 99.5 | Consent of Vahé A. Sarkissian, as a person designated to become a director of Registrant | *** |

*
Previously filed.

**
Filed herewith.

To be filed by subsequent amendment.

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