

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM S-8**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**NETLIST, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**95-4812784**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**175 Technology Drive, Suite 150  
Irvine, CA 92618**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

**Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan of Netlist, Inc.  
Employment Inducement Stock Option Awards**  
(Full title of the plans)

**Chun K. Hong**  
**President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board**  
**175 Technology Drive, Suite 150 Irvine, CA 92618**  
(Name and address of agent for service)

**(949) 435-0025**  
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer       Accelerated filer       Non-accelerated filer       Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock	2,400,000(2)	\$ 1.33(3)	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 322
Common Stock	100,000(4)	\$ 0.52(5)	\$ 52,000	\$ 6
Common Stock	400,000(4)	\$ 0.80(5)	\$ 320,000	\$ 33
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 3,564,000</b>	<b>\$ 358.89</b>

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement covers any additional securities that may from time to time be offered or issued pursuant to the adjustment provisions of the above-referenced plans to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Represents shares of the common stock, par value \$0.001 per share ("Common Stock"), of Netlist, Inc. (the "Company") available for issuance but not yet issued as of the date of this registration statement under the Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan of Netlist, Inc. (the "2006 Plan").
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h) under the Securities Act, based on the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on May 23, 2016.
- (4) Represents shares of Common Stock to be issued pursuant to employment inducement stock option awards (each, an "Inducement Award") granted to Vahid Ordoubadian and Brian Peterson.
- (5) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act. The price of \$0.52 per share represents the exercise price per share for the Inducement Award

granted to Mr. Ordoubadian and the price of \$0.80 per share represents the exercise price per share for the Inducement Award granted to Mr. Peterson.

---

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This registration statement on Form S-8 registers (i) 2,400,000 shares of Common Stock available for issuance under the 2006 Plan and (ii) an aggregate of 500,000 shares of Common Stock that may be issued upon exercise of Inducement Awards granted outside the 2006 Plan.

With respect to the shares of Common Stock available for issuance under the 2006 Plan, this registration statement is filed pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8 to register an aggregate of an additional 2,400,000 shares of Common Stock that have become available for issuance under the 2006 Plan, 1,200,000 of which became available on January 1, 2015 and 1,200,000 of which became issuable on January 1, 2016, pursuant the terms of the 2006 Plan, which provides that the number of shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the Plan automatically increases on the first day of each calendar year by the number of shares equal to the lesser of (i) 5.0% of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock as of January 1 of such year and (ii) 1,200,000 shares of Common Stock. This registration statement registers additional securities of the same class as other securities for which registration statements filed on this form relating to the same employee benefit plan are effective (Registration Nos. 333-139435, 333-146141, 333-151644, 333-161832, 333-165916, 333-168330, 333-173646, 333-179776 and 333-193862 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on December 18, 2006, September 18, 2007, June 13, 2008, September 10, 2009, April 6, 2010, July 27, 2010, April 21, 2011, February 28, 2012 and February 10, 2014, respectively), the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein to the extent not otherwise amended or superseded by the contents hereof.

With respect to the Common Stock subject to the Inducement Awards, this registration statement is filed to register (i) 100,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of an Inducement Award granted to Vahid Ordoubadian pursuant to a Stock Option Agreement dated as of November 9, 2015 between the Company and Mr. Ordoubadian and (ii) 400,000 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of an Inducement Award granted to Brian Peterson pursuant to a Stock Option Agreement dated as of December 15, 2015 between the Company and Mr. Peterson.

## PART I

### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in this Part I of Form S-8 (plan information and registrant information) will be sent or given to the employees as specified by Rule 428(b)(1). In accordance with the note to Part I of Form S-8, such documents will not be filed with the Commission either as part of this registration statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this registration statement, taken together, constitute the prospectus as required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

## PART II

### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

#### Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Commission are incorporated herein by reference as of their respective dates of filing, except for the portions thereof that are “furnished” rather than “filed” with the Commission:

- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 2, 2016 filed with the Commission on March 4, 2016;
- The Company’s Current Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on May 17, 2016;
- the Company’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 13, 2016, February 1, 2016 and February 10, 2016;
- the description of the Common Stock contained in the Company’s registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission on November 27, 2006, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Exchange Act”), after the date of this registration statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently filed document which also is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement.

#### Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

#### Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

#### Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a corporation may indemnify any persons who were, are or are threatened to be made, parties 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 such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys’ fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the corporation’s best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who 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 or enterprise, against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him or her under Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Pursuant to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, a director of shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. In addition, the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws provide for indemnification of directors, officers, employees and agents as the indemnitor of first resort and to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and authorize the Company to purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and any director, officer, employee or agent of the Company or another business entity against any expense, liability, or loss, regardless of whether the Company would have the power to indemnify such person under its bylaws or Delaware law.

The Company has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its current directors and executive officers (the form of which is filed as Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's registration statement on Form S-1 filed with the Commission on August 18, 2006, as amended). These agreements will require the Company to indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law against liabilities that may arise by reason of their service to the Company, and to advance expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified. The Company also intends to enter into indemnification agreements with its future directors and executive officers.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

Reference is made to the Exhibit Index, which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
  - (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
  - (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
  - (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, 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.
  - (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this 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.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act 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 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Irvine, State of California, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

### NETLIST, INC.

By: /s/ Chun K. Hong  
Chun K. Hong  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Netlist, Inc., hereby severally constitute and appoint Chun K. Hong and Gail Sasaki, each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power and authority to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) and supplements to this registration statement, and any additional registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act for the same offering contemplated by this registration statement, and to file the same, with exhibits and any and all other documents and instruments filed with respect thereto, with the Commission (or any other governmental or regulatory authority), granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority in the name and on behalf of each of the undersigned to do and to perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary or advisable to be done in order to effectuate the same as fully as to all intents and purposes as he might or could do if personally present, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and/or any of them or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ CHUN K. HONG</u> Chun K. Hong	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board (Principal Executive Officer)	May 26, 2016
<u>/s/ GAIL SASAKI</u> Gail Sasaki	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	May 26, 2016
<u>/s/ CHARLES F. CARGILE</u> Charles F. Cargile	Director	May 26, 2016
<u>/s/ JUN S. CHO</u> Jun S. Cho	Director	May 26, 2016
<u>/s/ VINCENT SHEERAN</u> Vincent Sheeran	Director	May 26, 2016
<u>/s/ BLAKE WELCHER</u> Blake Welcher	Director	May 26, 2016

## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Netlist, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form S-1 (No. 333-136735) filed with the Commission on October 23, 2006).
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Netlist, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on December 20, 2012).
4.3	Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan of Netlist, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed with the Commission on August 12, 2010).
4.4*	Stock Option Agreement, dated as of November 9, 2015, by and between the Company and Vahid Ordoubadian.
4.5*	Stock Option Agreement, dated as of December 15, 2015, by and between the Company and Brian Peterson.
5.1*	Opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP.
23.1*	Consent of KMJ Corbin & Company LLP.
23.2*	Consent of Morrison & Foerster LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on signature page hereto).

---

\* Filed herewith.



**STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT**  
(Employment Inducement Grant)

This NON-STATUTORY STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT, dated as of November 9, 2015 (this “Agreement”), is between NETLIST, INC., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), and Vahid Ordoubadian (the “Optionee”).

**RECITALS**

- A. Optionee has not previously been an officer, director or employee of the Company, and this Option (as defined below) is granted to Optionee to attract and retain Optionee to serve the Company in the capacity of Vice President of Engineering and Research and Development.
- B. This Agreement, and the grant of an Option to the Optionee pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof, have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company (the “Board”).
- C. This Option is designated as a non-qualified stock option, and does **not** qualify as an incentive stock option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).

**AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the foregoing recitals and of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. Grant of Option. The Company hereby grants to the Optionee, as an inducement to accept employment with the Company, an option (the “Option”) to purchase from the Company all or any number of an aggregate of 100,000 shares (the “Option Shares”), of the Company’s common stock, \$.001 par value per share, at a price of \$0.52 per share, on the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement. This grant is **not** made pursuant to the Company’s 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), attached as Exhibit A. However, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, this grant is subject to the rules, terms and conditions of the Plan as if it were a grant made pursuant to and under the Plan, and all such rules, terms and conditions are hereby incorporated herein by reference as if set forth herein in their entirety. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings given to them in the Plan. The Option is granted as of November 9, 2015 (the “Grant Date”).
  2. Character of Option. The Option is **not** intended to be treated as an “incentive stock option” within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).
-

3. Duration of Option. Unless subject to earlier expiration or termination pursuant to the terms of the Plan, the Option shall expire on the ten year anniversary of the Grant Date.

4. Exercisability of Option. The Option may be exercised, at any time and from time to time until its expiration or termination, for any or all of those Option Shares in respect of which the Option shall have become exercisable, in accordance with the provisions set forth below in this Section 4, on or at any time prior to the date of any such exercise. Subject to the provisions of the Plan (including, without limitation, the provisions of Section 7.1(e) of the Plan), one-fourth of the Option shall become exercisable on November 9, 2016, with the remainder to vest thereafter in twelve equal quarterly installments such that on November 9, 2019, the Option shall be vested as to all of the Shares and fully exercisable, provided, however, that in the event that Optionee's services with the Company is terminated by the Company as a result of Optionee's death or disability, an additional 25% of the total number of Shares (or such fewer number as then remain unvested) shall Accelerate and vest on the date of such termination. In addition, if the Company has a change of control and if after Optionee has been continuously employed for one year and within six months of a change of control and the optionee is:

- 1) terminated without cause
- 2) assigned to a position that is not a substantive functional equivalent without cause, or
- 3) Optionee's base salary and /or target bonus (of 100% of base salary amount) is significantly decreased without cause, or
- 4) Optionee's work location (currently San Jose and Irvine) are moved to locations that increase the regular commute distance by an unreasonable time and distance without cause,

then vesting of options will be accelerated by an additional 50% of the total number of stock options (or such fewer number as then remain unvested). These installments shall be cumulative, such that Optionee may exercise the Option as to any or all of the Shares covered by any installment at any time or times after such installment vests and prior to termination of the Option. The foregoing notwithstanding, except to the extent the Option vests upon the termination of Optionee's services with the Company as provided above, the Option shall cease vesting upon the termination of Optionee's services with the Company for any reason. Notwithstanding anything expressed or implied to the contrary in the foregoing provisions of this Section 4, the exercisability of the Option may, as provided in Section 7.1(d) of the Plan, at any time be Accelerated in the discretion of the Committee.

5. Transfer of Option. Other than as expressly permitted by the provisions of Section 6.4 of the Plan, the Option may not be transferred except by will or the laws of descent and distribution and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, may be exercised only by the Optionee.

---

6. Incorporation of Plan Terms. The Option is granted subject to all of the applicable terms and provisions of the Plan, which terms and provisions are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Section 1 of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the limitations on the Company's obligation to deliver Option Shares upon exercise set forth in Section 9.2 (Violation of Law), Section 9.3 (Corporate Restrictions on Rights in Stock), Section 9.4 (Investment Representations) and Section 9.7 (Tax Withholding).

7. Miscellaneous. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the internal, substantive laws of the State of Delaware and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of any successor or assign of the Company and any executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or other legal representative of the Optionee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement as a sealed instrument as of the date first above written.

NETLIST, INC.

By: /s/ Gail Sasaki

Name: Gail Sasaki

Title: Secretary

OPTIONEE

/s/ Vahid Ordoubadian

Vahid Ordoubadian

Optionee's Address:

175 Technology, Suite 150

Irvine, CA

---

## NETLIST, INC., 2006 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

## As Proposed to be Amended by the Stockholders on June 2, 2010

**1. Purpose**

This Plan is intended to encourage ownership of Stock by employees, consultants, advisors and directors of the Company and its Affiliates and to provide additional incentive for them to promote the success of the Company's business through the grant of Awards of, or pertaining to, shares of the Company's Stock. This Plan is intended to be an incentive stock option plan within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, but not all Awards are required to be Incentive Options. This Plan shall not become effective until the Effective Date.

**2. Definitions**

As used in this Plan, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

2.1 *Accelerate*, *Accelerated*, and *Acceleration*, means: (a) when used with respect to an Option or Stock Appreciation Right, that as of the time of reference the Option or Stock Appreciation Right will become exercisable with respect to some or all of the shares of Stock for which it was not then otherwise exercisable by its terms; (b) when used with respect to Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, that the Risk of Forfeiture otherwise applicable to the Stock or Units shall expire with respect to some or all of the shares of Restricted Stock or Units then still otherwise subject to the Risk of Forfeiture; and (c) when used with respect to Performance Units, that the applicable Performance Goals shall be deemed to have been met as to some or all of the Units.

2.2 *Acquisition* means (i) a merger or consolidation of the Company with or into another person, (ii) the sale, transfer, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets to one or more other persons in a single transaction or series of related transactions, or (iii) the acquisition of beneficial ownership (determined pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and in effect from time to time) by any person of more than 50% of the Company's outstanding common stock pursuant to a tender or exchange offer made directly to the Company's stockholders, other than an underwriter temporarily holding common stock pursuant to an offering of such common stock. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction shall not constitute an "Acquisition" if its sole purpose is to change the state of the Company's incorporation or to create a holding company that will be owned in substantially the same proportions by the persons who held the Company's securities immediately prior to such transaction.

2.3 *Affiliate* means any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, business trust, or other entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Company.

2.4 *Award* means any grant or sale pursuant to the Plan of Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Performance Units, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units or Stock Grants.

2.5 *Award Agreement* means an agreement between the Company and the recipient of an Award, setting forth the terms and conditions of the Award.

2.6 *Board* means the Company's Board of Directors.

2.7 *Code* means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, or any successor statute thereto, and any regulations issued from time to time thereunder.

---

2.8 *Committee* means the Compensation Committee of the Board, which in general is responsible for the administration of the Plan, as provided in Section 5 of the Plan. For any period during which no such committee is in existence “Committee” shall mean the Board and all authority and responsibility assigned to the Committee under the Plan shall be exercised, if at all, by the Board.

2.9 *Company* means Netlist, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware.

2.10 *Covered Employee* means an employee who is a “covered employee” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code.

2.11 *Effective Date* means the date on which the Company’s registration statement on Form S-1, initially filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 18, 2006 in connection with the initial public offering of its common stock in a firm commitment underwriting, as amended, is declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2.12 *Grant Date* means the date as of which an Option is granted, as determined under Section 7.1(a).

2.13 *Incentive Option* means an Option which by its terms is to be treated as an “incentive stock option” within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code.

2.14 *Market Value* means the value of a share of Stock on a particular date determined by such methods or procedures as may be established by the Committee. Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, the Market Value of Stock as of any date is the closing price for the Stock as quoted on the NGM (or on any other national securities exchange on which the Stock is then listed) for that date or, if no closing price is reported for that date, the closing price on the next preceding date for which a closing price was reported. For purposes of Awards effective as of the effective date of the Company’s initial public offering, Market Value of Stock shall be the price at which the Company’s Stock is offered to the public in its initial public offering.

2.15 *NGM* means the NASDAQ Global Market.

2.16 *Nonstatutory Option* means any Option that is not an Incentive Option.

2.17 *Option* means an option to purchase shares of Stock.

2.18 *Optionee* means a Participant to whom an Option shall have been granted under the Plan.

2.19 *Participant* means any holder of an outstanding Award under the Plan.

2.20 *Performance Criteria* means the criteria that the Committee selects for purposes of establishing the Performance Goal or Performance Goals for a Participant for a Performance Period. The Performance Criteria used to establish Performance Goals are limited to: (i) cash flow (before or after dividends), (ii) earnings per share (including, without limitation, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization), (iii) stock price, (iv) return on equity, (v) stockholder return or total stockholder return, (vi) return on capital (including, without limitation, return on total capital or return on invested capital), (vii) return on investment, (viii) return on assets or net assets, (ix) market capitalization, (x) economic value added, (xi) debt leverage (debt to capital), (xii) revenue, (xiii) sales or net sales, (xiv) backlog, (xv) income, pre-tax income or net income, (xvi) operating income or pre-tax profit, (xvii) operating profit, net operating profit or economic profit, (xviii) gross margin, operating margin or profit margin, (xix) return on operating revenue or return on operating assets, (xx) cash from operations, (xxi) operating ratio, (xxii) operating revenue, (xxiii) market share improvement, (xxiv) general and administrative expenses or (xxv) customer service.

---

2.21 *Performance Goals* means, for a Performance Period, the written goal or goals established by the Committee for the Performance Period based upon the Performance Criteria. The Performance Goals may be expressed in terms of overall Company performance or the performance of a division, business unit, subsidiary, or an individual, either individually, alternatively or in any combination, applied to either the Company as a whole or to a business unit or Affiliate, either individually, alternatively or in any combination, and measured either quarterly, annually or cumulatively over a period of years, on an absolute basis or relative to a pre-established target, to previous years' results or to a designated comparison group, in each case as specified by the Committee. The Committee will, in the manner and within the time prescribed by Section 162(m) of the Code in the case of Qualified Performance-Based Awards, objectively define the manner of calculating the Performance Goal or Goals it selects to use for such Performance Period for such Participant. To the extent consistent with Section 162(m) of the Code, the Committee may appropriately adjust any evaluation of performance against a Performance Goal to exclude any of the following events that occurs during a performance period: (i) asset write-downs, (ii) litigation, claims, judgments or settlements, (iii) the effect of changes in tax law, accounting principles or other such laws or provisions affecting reported results, (iv) accruals for reorganization and restructuring programs and (v) any extraordinary, unusual, non-recurring or non-comparable items (A) as described in Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 30, (B) as described in management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations appearing in the Company's Annual Report to stockholders for the applicable year, or (C) publicly announced by the Company in a press release or conference call relating to the Company's results of operations or financial condition for a completed quarterly or annual fiscal period.

2.22 *Performance Period* means the one or more periods of time, which may be of varying and overlapping durations, selected by the Committee, over which the attainment of one or more Performance Goals will be measured for purposes of determining a Participant's right to, and the payment of, a Performance Unit.

2.23 *Performance Unit* means a right granted to a Participant under Section 7.5, to receive cash, Stock or other Awards, the payment of which is contingent on achieving Performance Goals established by the Committee.

2.24 *Plan* means this 2006 Equity Incentive Plan of the Company, as amended from time to time, and including any attachments or addenda hereto.

2.25 *Qualified Performance-Based Awards* means Awards intended to qualify as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code.

2.26 *Restricted Stock* means a grant or sale of shares of Stock to a Participant subject to a Risk of Forfeiture.

2.27 *Restriction Period* means the period of time, established by the Committee in connection with an Award of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, during which the shares of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units are subject to a Risk of Forfeiture described in the applicable Award Agreement.

2.28 *Risk of Forfeiture* means a limitation on the right of the Participant to retain Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, including a right in the Company to reacquire shares of Restricted Stock at less than their then Market Value, arising because of the occurrence or non-occurrence of specified events or conditions.

2.29 *Restricted Stock Units* means rights to receive shares of Stock at the close of a Restriction Period, subject to a Risk of Forfeiture.

2.30 *Stock* means common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, of the Company, and such other securities as may be substituted for Stock pursuant to Section 8.

---

2.31 *Stock Appreciation Right* means a right to receive any excess in the Market Value of shares of Stock (except as otherwise provided in Section 7.2(c)) over a specified exercise price.

2.32 *Stock Grant* means the grant of shares of Stock not subject to restrictions or other forfeiture conditions.

2.33 *Ten Percent Owner* means a person who owns, or is deemed within the meaning of Section 422(b)(6) of the Code to own, stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company (or any parent or subsidiary corporations of the Company, as defined in Sections 424(e) and (f), respectively, of the Code). Whether a person is a Ten Percent Owner shall be determined with respect to an Option based on the facts existing immediately prior to the Grant Date of the Option.

### **3. Term of the Plan**

Unless the Plan shall have been earlier terminated by the Board, Awards may be granted under this Plan at any time in the period commencing on the date of approval of the Plan by the Board and ending immediately prior to the tenth anniversary of the earlier of the adoption of the Plan by the Board or approval of the Plan by the Company's stockholders. Awards granted pursuant to the Plan within that period shall not expire solely by reason of the termination of the Plan. Awards of Incentive Options granted prior to stockholder approval of the Plan are expressly conditioned upon such approval, but in the event of the failure of the stockholders to approve the Plan shall thereafter and for all purposes be deemed to constitute Nonstatutory Options.

### **4. Stock Subject to the Plan**

At no time shall the number of shares of Stock issued pursuant to or subject to outstanding Awards granted under the Plan (including, without limitation, pursuant to Incentive Options), nor the number of shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to Incentive Options, exceed the sum of (a) 500,000 shares of Stock plus (b) an annual increase to be added on the first day of each calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 2007 equal to the lesser of (i) 500,000 shares of Stock, and (ii) such lesser number as the Board may approve for the fiscal year, provided, however, that beginning on January 1, 2010, the annual increase to the number of shares of Stock that may be issued pursuant to the Plan shall be equal to the lesser of (x) 5.0% of the number of shares of Stock that are issued and outstanding as of the first day of the calendar year, and (y) 1,200,000 shares of Stock; *subject, however*, to the provisions of Section 8 of the Plan. For purposes of applying the foregoing limitation, (a) if any Option or Stock Appreciation Right expires, terminates, or is cancelled for any reason without having been exercised in full, or if any other Award is forfeited by the recipient or repurchased at less than its Market Value, the shares not purchased by the Optionee or which are forfeited by the recipient or repurchased shall again be available for Awards to be granted under the Plan and (b) if any Option is exercised by delivering previously-owned shares in payment of the exercise price therefor, only the net number of shares, that is, the number of shares issued minus the number received by the Company in payment of the exercise price, shall be considered to have been issued pursuant to an Award granted under the Plan. In addition, settlement of any Award shall not count against the foregoing limitations except to the extent settled in the form of Stock. Shares of Stock issued pursuant to the Plan may be either authorized but unissued shares or shares held by the Company in its treasury.

### **5. Administration**

The Plan shall be administered by the Committee; *provided, however*, that at any time and on any one or more occasions the Board may itself exercise any of the powers and responsibilities assigned the Committee under the Plan and when so acting shall have the benefit of all of the provisions of the Plan pertaining to the Committee's exercise of its authorities hereunder; and *provided further, however*, that the Committee may delegate to an executive officer or officers the authority to grant Awards hereunder to employees who are not officers, and to consultants and advisors, in accordance with such guidelines as the Committee shall set forth at any time or from time to time. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall have complete authority, in its discretion, to make or to select the manner of making all

---

determinations with respect to each Award to be granted by the Company under the Plan including the employee, consultant, advisor or director to receive the Award and the form of Award. In making such determinations, the Committee may take into account the nature of the services rendered by the respective employees, consultants, advisors and directors, their present and potential contributions to the success of the Company and its Affiliates, and such other factors as the Committee in its discretion shall deem relevant. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, the Committee shall also have complete authority to interpret the Plan, to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to it, to determine the terms and provisions of the respective Award Agreements (which need not be identical), and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan, including, but not limited to, the cancellation, amendment, repricing, reclassification or exchange of outstanding Options and other Awards, subject to the provisions of Section 14. The Committee's determinations made in good faith on matters referred to in the Plan shall be final, binding and conclusive on all persons having or claiming any interest under the Plan or an Award made pursuant hereto.

## **6. Authorization of Grants**

6.1 *Eligibility.* The Committee may grant from time to time and at any time prior to the termination of the Plan one or more Awards, either alone or in combination with any other Awards, to any employee of, or consultant or advisor to, one or more of the Company and its Affiliates or to any non-employee member of the Board or of any board of directors (or similar governing authority) of any Affiliate. However, only employees of the Company, and of any parent or subsidiary corporations of the Company, as defined in Sections 424(e) and (f), respectively, of the Code, shall be eligible for the grant of an Incentive Option. Further, in no event shall the number of shares of Stock covered by Options or other Awards granted to any one person in any one calendar year exceed 25% of the aggregate number of shares of Stock subject to the Plan.

6.2 *General Terms of Awards.* Each grant of an Award shall be subject to all applicable terms and conditions of the Plan (including but not limited to any specific terms and conditions applicable to that type of Award set out in the following Section), and such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the terms of the Plan, as the Committee may prescribe. No prospective Participant shall have any rights with respect to an Award, unless and until such Participant shall have complied with the applicable terms and conditions of such Award (including, if applicable, delivering a fully-executed copy of any agreement evidencing an Award to the Company).

6.3 *Effect of Termination of Employment, Etc.* Unless the Committee shall provide otherwise with respect to any Award, if the Participant's employment or other association with the Company and its Affiliates ends for any reason, including because of the Participant's employer ceasing to be an Affiliate, (a) any outstanding Option or Stock Appreciation Right of the Participant shall cease to be exercisable in any respect not later than 90 days following that event and, for the period it remains exercisable following that event, shall be exercisable only to the extent exercisable at the date of that event, and (b) any other outstanding Award of the Participant shall be forfeited or otherwise subject to return to, or repurchase by, the Company on the terms specified in the applicable Award Agreement. Military or sick leave or other bona fide leave shall not be deemed a termination of employment or other association, *provided* that it does not exceed the longer of 90 days or the period during which the absent Participant's reemployment rights, if any, are guaranteed by statute or by contract.

6.4 *Transferability of Awards.* Except as otherwise provided in this Section 6.4, Awards shall not be transferable, and no Award or interest therein may be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned, or otherwise alienated or hypothecated, other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. The foregoing sentence shall not limit the transferability of Stock Grants or of Restricted Stock that is no longer subject to a Risk of Forfeiture. All of a Participant's rights in any Award may be exercised during the life of the Participant only by the Participant or the Participant's legal representative. However, the Committee may, at or after the grant of an Award of a Nonstatutory Option, or shares of Restricted Stock, provide that such Award may be transferred by the recipient to a family member; *provided, however*, that any such transfer is without payment of any consideration whatsoever and that no transfer shall be valid unless first approved by the Committee, acting in its sole discretion. For this purpose, "family member" means any child,

---



stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, former spouse, sibling, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, including adoptive relationships, any person sharing the employee's household (other than a tenant or employee), a trust in which the foregoing persons have more than 50% of the beneficial interests, a foundation in which the foregoing persons (or the Participant) control the management of assets, and any other entity in which these persons (or the Participant) own more than 50% of the voting interests.

## 7. Specific Terms of Awards

### 7.1 Options.

(a) *Date of Grant.* The granting of an Option shall take place at the time specified in the Award Agreement. Only if expressly so provided in the applicable Award Agreement shall the Grant Date be the date on which the Award Agreement shall have been duly executed and delivered by the Company and the Optionee.

(b) *Exercise Price.* The price at which shares of Stock may be acquired under each Incentive Option shall be not less than 100% of the Market Value of Stock on the Grant Date, or not less than 110% of the Market Value of Stock on the Grant Date if the Optionee is a Ten Percent Owner. The price at which shares may be acquired under each Nonstatutory Option shall not be so limited solely by reason of this Section.

(c) *Option Period.* No Incentive Option may be exercised on or after the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date, or on or after the fifth anniversary of the Grant Date if the Optionee is a Ten Percent Owner. The Option period under each Nonstatutory Option shall not be so limited solely by reason of this Section.

(d) *Exercisability.* An Option may be immediately exercisable or become exercisable in such installments, cumulative or non-cumulative, as the Committee may determine. In the case of an Option not otherwise immediately exercisable in full, the Committee may Accelerate such Option in whole or in part at any time; *provided, however*, that in the case of an Incentive Option, any such Acceleration of the Option would not cause the Option to fail to comply with the provisions of Section 422 of the Code or the Optionee consents to the Acceleration.

(e) *Method of Exercise.* An Option may be exercised by the Optionee giving written notice, in the manner provided in Section 16, specifying the number of shares with respect to which the Option is then being exercised. The notice shall be accompanied by payment in the form of cash or check payable to the order of the Company in an amount equal to the exercise price of the shares to be purchased or, subject in each instance to the Committee's approval, acting in its sole discretion, and to such conditions, if any, as the Committee may deem necessary to avoid adverse accounting effects to the Company) by delivery to the Company of

- (i) shares of Stock having a Market Value equal to the exercise price of the shares to be purchased, or
- (ii) unless prohibited by applicable law, the Optionee's executed promissory note in the principal amount equal to the exercise price of the shares to be purchased and otherwise in such form as the Committee shall have approved.

If the Stock is traded on an established market, payment of any exercise price may also be made through and under the terms and conditions of any formal cashless exercise program authorized by the Company entailing the sale of the Stock subject to an Option in a brokered transaction (other than to the Company). Receipt by the Company of such notice and payment in any authorized, or combination of authorized, means shall constitute the exercise of the Option. Within thirty (30) days thereafter but subject to the remaining provisions of the Plan, the Company shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the Optionee or his agent a certificate or certificates for the number of shares then being purchased. Such shares shall be fully paid and nonassessable.

---

(f) *Limit on Incentive Option Characterization.* An Incentive Option shall be considered to be an Incentive Option only to the extent that the number of shares of Stock for which the Option first becomes exercisable in a calendar year do not have an aggregate Market Value (as of the date of the grant of the Option) in excess of the “current limit”. The current limit for any Optionee for any calendar year shall be \$100,000 *minus* the aggregate Market Value at the date of grant of the number of shares of Stock available for purchase for the first time in the same year under each other Incentive Option previously granted to the Optionee under the Plan, and under each other incentive stock option previously granted to the Optionee under any other incentive stock option plan of the Company and its Affiliates, after December 31, 1986. Any shares of Stock which would cause the foregoing limit to be violated shall be deemed to have been granted under a separate Nonstatutory Option, otherwise identical in its terms to those of the Incentive Option.

(g) *Notification of Disposition.* Each person exercising any Incentive Option granted under the Plan shall be deemed to have covenanted with the Company to report to the Company any disposition of such shares prior to the expiration of the holding periods specified by Section 422(a)(1) of the Code (currently the later of two years from the Grant Date and one year from the date of exercise of the Incentive Option) and, if and to the extent that the realization of income in such a disposition imposes upon the Company federal, state, local or other withholding tax requirements, or any such withholding is required to secure for the Company an otherwise available tax deduction, to remit to the Company an amount in cash sufficient to satisfy those requirements.

## 7.2 *Stock Appreciation Rights.*

(a) *Tandem or Stand-Alone.* Stock Appreciation Rights may be granted in tandem with an Option (at or, in the case of a Nonstatutory Option, after the award of the Option), or alone and unrelated to an Option. Stock Appreciation Rights in tandem with an Option shall terminate to the extent that the related Option is exercised, and the related Option shall terminate to the extent that the tandem Stock Appreciation Rights are exercised.

(b) *Exercise Price.* Stock Appreciation Rights shall have such exercise price as the Committee may determine, except that in the case of Stock Appreciation Rights in tandem with Options, the exercise price of the Stock Appreciation Rights shall equal the exercise price of the related Option.

(c) *Other Terms.* Except as the Committee may deem inappropriate or inapplicable in the circumstances, Stock Appreciation Rights shall be subject to terms and conditions substantially similar to those applicable to a Nonstatutory Option. In addition, a Stock Appreciation Right related to an Option which can only be exercised during limited periods following a Change in Control may entitle the Participant to receive an amount based upon the highest price paid or offered for Stock in any transaction relating to the Change in Control or paid during the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the occurrence of the Change in Control in any transaction reported in the stock market in which the Stock is normally traded.

## 7.3 *Restricted Stock.*

(a) *Purchase Price.* Shares of Restricted Stock shall be issued under the Plan for such consideration, in cash, other property or services, or any combination thereof, as is determined by the Committee.

(b) *Issuance of Certificates.* Each Participant receiving a Restricted Stock Award, subject to subsection (c) below, shall be issued a stock certificate in respect of such shares of Restricted Stock. Such certificate shall be registered in the name of such Participant, and, if applicable, shall bear an appropriate legend referring to the terms, conditions, and restrictions applicable to such Award substantially in the following form:

---

The transferability of this certificate and the shares represented by this certificate are subject to the terms and conditions of the Netlist, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan and an Award Agreement entered into by the registered owner and Netlist, Inc. Copies of such Plan and Agreement are on file in the offices of Netlist, Inc.

(c) *Escrow of Shares.* The Committee may require that the stock certificates evidencing shares of Restricted Stock be held in custody by a designated escrow agent (which may but need not be the Company) until the restrictions thereon shall have lapsed, and that the Participant deliver a stock power, endorsed in blank, relating to the Stock covered by such Award.

(d) *Restrictions and Restriction Period.* During the Restriction Period applicable to shares of Restricted Stock, such shares shall be subject to limitations on transferability and a Risk of Forfeiture arising on the basis of such conditions related to the performance of services, Company or Affiliate performance or otherwise as the Committee may determine and provide for in the applicable Award Agreement. Any such Risk of Forfeiture may be waived or terminated, or the Restriction Period shortened, at any time by the Committee on such basis as it deems appropriate.

(e) *Rights Pending Lapse of Risk of Forfeiture or Forfeiture of Award.* Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or the applicable Award Agreement, at all times prior to lapse of any Risk of Forfeiture applicable to, or forfeiture of, an Award of Restricted Stock, the Participant shall have all of the rights of a stockholder of the Company, including the right to vote, and the right to receive any dividends with respect to, the shares of Restricted Stock. The Committee, as determined at the time of Award, may permit or require the payment of cash dividends to be deferred and, if the Committee so determines, reinvested in additional Restricted Stock to the extent shares are available under Section 4.

(f) *Lapse of Restrictions.* If and when the Restriction Period expires without a prior forfeiture of the Restricted Stock, the certificates for such shares shall be delivered to the Participant promptly if not previously delivered.

#### 7.4 *Restricted Stock Units.*

(a) *Character.* Each Restricted Stock Unit shall entitle the recipient to a share of Stock at a close of such Restriction Period as the Committee may establish and be subject to a Risk of Forfeiture arising on the basis of such conditions relating to the performance of services, Company or Affiliate performance or otherwise as the Committee may determine and provide for in the applicable Award Agreement. Any such Risk of Forfeiture may be waived or terminated, or the Restriction Period shortened, at any time by the Committee on such basis as it deems appropriate.

(b) *Form and Timing of Payment.* Payment of earned Restricted Stock Units shall be made in a single lump sum following the close of the applicable Restriction Period. At the discretion of the Committee, Participants may be entitled to receive payments equivalent to any dividends declared with respect to Stock referenced in grants of Restricted Stock Units but only following the close of the applicable Restriction Period and then only if the underlying Stock shall have been earned. Unless the Committee shall provide otherwise, any such dividend equivalents shall be paid, if at all, without interest or other earnings.

#### 7.5 *Performance Units.*

(a) *Character.* Each Performance Unit shall entitle the recipient to the value of a specified number of shares of Stock, over the initial value for such number of shares, if any, established by the Committee at the time of grant, at the close of a specified Performance Period to the extent specified Performance Goals shall have been achieved.

---

(b) *Earning of Performance Units.* The Committee shall set Performance Goals in its discretion which, depending on the extent to which they are met within the applicable Performance Period, will determine the number and value of Performance Units that will be paid out to the Participant. After the applicable Performance Period has ended, the holder of Performance Units shall be entitled to receive payout on the number and value of Performance Units earned by the Participant over the Performance Period, to be determined as a function of the extent to which the corresponding Performance Goals have been achieved.

(c) *Form and Timing of Payment.* Payment of earned Performance Units shall be made in a single lump sum following the close of the applicable Performance Period. At the discretion of the Committee, Participants may be entitled to receive any dividends declared with respect to Stock which have been earned in connection with grants of Performance Units which have been earned, but not yet distributed to Participants. The Committee may permit or, if it so provides at grant, require a Participant to defer such Participant's receipt of the payment of cash or the delivery of Stock that would otherwise be due to such Participant by virtue of the satisfaction of any requirements or goals with respect to Performance Units. If any such deferral election is permitted or required, the Committee shall establish rules and procedures for such payment deferrals.

7.6 *Stock Grants.* Stock Grants shall be awarded solely in recognition of significant contributions to the success of the Company or its Affiliates, in lieu of compensation otherwise already due and in such other limited circumstances as the Committee deems appropriate. Stock Grants shall be made without forfeiture conditions of any kind.

#### 7.7 *Qualified Performance-Based Awards.*

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this Section 7.7 is to provide the Committee the ability to qualify Awards as "performance-based compensation" under Section 162(m) of the Code. If the Committee, in its discretion, decides to grant an Award as a Qualified Performance-Based Award, the provisions of this Section 7.7 will control over any contrary provision contained in the Plan. In the course of granting any Award, the Committee may specifically designate the Award as intended to qualify as a Qualified Performance-Based Award. However, no Award shall be considered to have failed to qualify as a Qualified Performance-Based Award solely because the Award is not expressly designated as a Qualified Performance-Based Award if the Award otherwise satisfies the provisions of this Section 7.7 and the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code and the regulations thereunder applicable to "performance-based compensation."

(b) *Authority.* All grants of Awards intended to qualify as Qualified Performance-Based Awards and determination of terms applicable thereto shall be made by the Committee or, if not all of the members thereof qualify as "outside directors" within the meaning of applicable IRS regulations under Section 162 of the Code, a subcommittee of the Committee consisting of such of the members of the Committee as do so qualify. Any action by such a subcommittee shall be considered the action of the Committee for purposes of the Plan.

(c) *Applicability.* This Section 7.7 will apply only to those Covered Employees, or to those persons who the Committee determines are reasonably likely to become Covered Employees in the period covered by an Award, selected by the Committee to receive Qualified Performance-Based Awards. The Committee may, in its discretion, grant Awards to Covered Employees that do not satisfy the requirements of this Section 7.7.

(d) *Discretion of Committee with Respect to Qualified Performance-Based Awards.* Options may be granted as Qualified Performance-Based Awards in accordance with Section 7.1, except that the exercise price of any Option intended to qualify as a Qualified Performance-Based Award shall in no event be less than the Market Value of the Stock on the date of grant. With regard to other Awards intended to qualify as Qualified Performance-Based Awards, such as Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, or Performance Units, the Committee will have full discretion to select the length of any applicable Restriction Period or Performance Period, the kind and/or level of the applicable Performance Goal, and whether the Performance Goal is to apply to the Company, a Subsidiary or any division or business unit or to the individual. Any Performance Goal or Goals applicable to Qualified Performance-Based Awards shall

---

be objective, shall be established not later than ninety (90) days after the beginning of any applicable Performance Period (or at such other date as may be required or permitted for “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code) and shall otherwise meet the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code, including the requirement that the outcome of the Performance Goal or Goals be substantially uncertain (as defined in the regulations under Section 162(m) of the Code) at the time established.

(e) *Payment of Qualified Performance-Based Awards.* A Participant will be eligible to receive payment under a Qualified Performance-Based Award which is subject to achievement of a Performance Goal or Goals only if the applicable Performance Goal or Goals period are achieved within the applicable Performance Period, as determined by the Committee. In determining the actual size of an individual Qualified Performance-Based Award, the Committee may reduce or eliminate the amount of the Qualified Performance-Based Award earned for the Performance Period, if in its sole and absolute discretion, such reduction or elimination is appropriate.

(f) *Maximum Award Payable.* The maximum Qualified Performance-Based Award payment to any one Participant under the Plan for a Performance Period is 25% of the number of shares of Stock set forth in Section 4 above, or if the Qualified Performance-Based Award is paid in cash, that number of shares multiplied by the Market Value of the Stock as of the date the Qualified Performance-Based Award is granted.

(g) *Limitation on Adjustments for Certain Events.* No adjustment of any Qualified Performance-Based Award pursuant to Section 8 shall be made except on such basis, if any, as will not cause such Award to provide other than “performance-based compensation” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code.

7.8 *Awards to Participants Outside the United States.* The Committee may modify the terms of any Award under the Plan granted to a Participant who is, at the time of grant or during the term of the Award, resident or primarily employed outside of the United States in any manner deemed by the Committee to be necessary or appropriate to conform that Award to laws, regulations, and customs of the country in which the Participant is then resident or primarily employed, or so that the value and other benefits of the Award to the Participant, as affected by foreign tax laws and other restrictions applicable as a result of the Participant’s residence or employment abroad, shall be comparable to the value of such an Award to a Participant who is resident or primarily employed in the United States. The Committee may establish supplements to, or amendments, restatements, or alternative versions of, the Plan for the purpose of granting and administering any such modified Award. No such modification, supplement, amendment, restatement or alternative version may increase the share limit of Section 4.

## **8. Adjustment Provisions**

8.1 *Adjustment for Corporate Actions.* All of the share numbers set forth in the Plan reflect the capital structure of the Company as of the Effective Date. Subject to Section 8.2, if subsequent to that date the outstanding shares of Stock (or any other securities covered by the Plan by reason of the prior application of this Section) are increased, decreased, or exchanged for a different number or kind of shares or other securities, or if additional shares or new or different shares or other securities are distributed with respect to shares of Stock, through a merger, consolidation, sale of all or substantially all the property of the Company, reorganization, recapitalization, reclassification, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other similar distribution with respect to such shares of Stock, an appropriate and proportionate adjustment will be made in

(i) the maximum numbers and kinds of shares provided in Section 4, (ii) the numbers and kinds of shares or other securities subject to the then outstanding Awards, (iii) the exercise price for each share or other unit of any other securities subject to then outstanding Options and Stock Appreciation Rights (without change in the aggregate purchase price as to which such Options or Rights remain exercisable), and (iv) the repurchase price of each share of Restricted Stock then subject to a Risk of Forfeiture in the form of a Company repurchase right.

---

## 8.2 *Treatment in Certain Acquisitions.*

(a) Subject to any provisions of then outstanding Awards granting greater rights to the holders thereof, in the event of an Acquisition, the Committee may, either in advance of the Acquisition or at the time thereof and upon such terms as it may deem appropriate, provide for the Acceleration of any then outstanding Awards in full if, and only if, such Awards are not assumed or replaced by comparable Awards referencing shares of the capital stock of the successor or acquiring entity or parent thereof, and after a reasonable period following such Acceleration, as determined by the Committee, such Accelerated Awards and all other then outstanding Awards not assumed or replaced by comparable Awards shall terminate. As to any one or more outstanding Awards which are not otherwise Accelerated in full by reason of such Acquisition, the Committee may also, either in advance of an Acquisition or at the time thereof and upon such terms as it may deem appropriate, provide for the Acceleration of such outstanding Awards in the event that the employment of the Participants should subsequently terminate following the Acquisition. Each outstanding Award that is assumed in connection with an Acquisition, or is otherwise to continue in effect subsequent to the Acquisition, will be appropriately adjusted, immediately after the Acquisition, as to the number and class of securities and other relevant terms in accordance with Section 8.1.

(b) For the purposes of this Section 8.2, an Award shall be considered assumed or replaced by a comparable Award if, following the Acquisition, the Award confers the right to purchase, for each share of Stock subject to the Award immediately prior to the Acquisition, the consideration (whether stock, cash or other securities or property) received in the Acquisition by holders of Stock on the effective date of the Acquisition (and if holders were offered a choice of consideration, the type of consideration chosen by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Stock); *provided, however*, that if such consideration received in the Acquisition was not solely common stock of the successor corporation or its parent or subsidiary, the Committee may, with the consent of the successor corporation, provide for the consideration to be received upon the exercise of the Award for each share of Stock subject to the Award to be solely common stock of the successor corporation or its parent or subsidiary equal in fair market value to the per share consideration received by holders of Stock in the Acquisition, or any combination of cash and common stock, (including the payment of cash equal to the net of Market Value over the exercise price of the shares of Stock subject to the Award) so approved by the Committee with the consent of the successor corporation; and provided further that such Award may continue to be subject to the same vesting requirements or Risks of Forfeiture after the Acquisition.

8.3 *Dissolution or Liquidation.* Upon the dissolution or liquidation of the Company, other than as part of an Acquisition or similar transaction, each outstanding Option and Stock Appreciation Right shall terminate, but the Optionee or Stock Appreciation Right holder shall have the right, immediately prior to the dissolution or liquidation, to exercise the Option or Stock Appreciation Right to the extent exercisable on the date of the dissolution or liquidation.

8.4 *Adjustment of Awards Upon the Occurrence of Certain Unusual or Nonrecurring Events.* In the event of any corporate action not specifically covered by the preceding Sections, including but not limited to an extraordinary cash distribution on Stock, a corporate separation or other reorganization or liquidation, the Committee may make such adjustment of outstanding Awards and their terms, if any, as it, in its sole discretion, may deem equitable and appropriate in the circumstances. The Committee may make adjustments in the terms and conditions of, and the criteria included in, Awards in recognition of unusual or nonrecurring events (including, without limitation, the events described in this Section) affecting the Company or the financial statements of the Company or of changes in applicable laws, regulations, or accounting principles, whenever the Committee determines that such adjustments are appropriate in order to prevent the dilution or enlargement of the benefits or potential benefits intended to be made available under the Plan.

---

8.5 *Related Matters.* Any adjustment in Awards made pursuant to this Section 8 shall be determined and made, if at all, by the Committee and shall include any correlative modification of terms, including of Option exercise prices, rates of vesting or exercisability, Risks of Forfeiture, applicable repurchase prices for Restricted Stock, and Performance Goals and other financial objectives which the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate so as to ensure the rights of the Participants in their respective Awards are not substantially diminished nor enlarged as a result of the adjustment and corporate action other than as expressly contemplated in this Section 8. No fraction of a share shall be purchasable or deliverable upon exercise, but in the event any adjustment hereunder of the number of shares covered by an Award shall cause such number to include a fraction of a share, such number of shares shall be adjusted to the nearest smaller whole number of shares. No adjustment of an Option exercise price per share pursuant to this Section 8 shall result in an exercise price which is less than the par value of the Stock.

## 9. Settlement of Awards

9.1 *In General.* Options and Restricted Stock shall be settled in accordance with their terms. All other Awards may be settled in cash, Stock, or other Awards, or a combination thereof, as determined by the Committee at or after grant and subject to any contrary Award Agreement. The Committee may not require settlement of any Award in Stock pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence to the extent issuance of such Stock would be prohibited or unreasonably delayed by reason of any other provision of the Plan.

9.2 *Violation of Law.* Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or the relevant Award Agreement, if, at any time, in the reasonable opinion of the Company, the issuance of shares of Stock covered by an Award may constitute a violation of law, then the Company may delay such issuance and the delivery of a certificate for such shares until (i) approval shall have been obtained from such governmental agencies, other than the Securities and Exchange Commission, as may be required under any applicable law, rule, or regulation and (ii) in the case where such issuance would constitute a violation of a law administered by, or a regulation of, the Securities and Exchange Commission, one of the following conditions shall have been satisfied:

- (a) the shares are at the time of the issue of such shares effectively registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; or
- (b) the Company shall have determined, on such basis as it deems appropriate (including an opinion of counsel in form and substance satisfactory to the Company) that the sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance or other disposition of such shares or such beneficial interest, as the case may be, does not require registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any applicable State securities laws.

The Company shall make all reasonable efforts to bring about the occurrence of said events.

9.3 *Corporate Restrictions on Rights in Stock.* Any Stock to be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan shall be subject to all restrictions upon the transfer thereof which may be now or hereafter imposed by the certificate of incorporation and by-laws (or similar charter documents) of the Company.

9.4 *Investment Representations.* The Company shall be under no obligation to issue any shares covered by any Award unless the shares to be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan have been effectively registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Participant shall have made such written representations to the Company (upon which the Company believes it may reasonably rely) as the Company may deem necessary or appropriate for purposes of confirming that the issuance of such shares will be exempt from the registration requirements of that Act and any applicable state securities laws and otherwise in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to that the Participant is acquiring the shares for his or her own account for the purpose of investment and not with a view to, or for sale in connection with, the distribution of any such shares.

---

9.5 *Registration.* If the Company shall deem it necessary or desirable to register under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended or other applicable statutes any shares of Stock issued or to be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan, or to qualify any such shares of Stock for exemption from the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or other applicable statutes, then the Company shall take such action at its own expense. The Company may require from each recipient of an Award, or each holder of shares of Stock acquired pursuant to the Plan, such information in writing for use in any registration statement, prospectus, preliminary prospectus or offering circular as is reasonably necessary for that purpose and may require reasonable indemnity to the Company and its officers and directors from that holder against all losses, claims, damage and liabilities arising from use of the information so furnished and caused by any untrue statement of any material fact therein or caused by the omission to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading in the light of the circumstances under which they were made. In addition, the Company may require of any such person that he or she agree that, without the prior written consent of the Company or the managing underwriter in any public offering of shares of Stock, he or she will not sell, make any short sale of, loan, grant any option for the purchase of, pledge or otherwise encumber, or otherwise dispose of, any shares of Stock during the 180 day period commencing on the effective date of the registration statement relating to the underwritten public offering of securities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Section 9.5, if in connection with any underwritten public offering of securities of the Company the managing underwriter of such offering requires that the Company's directors and officers enter into a lock-up agreement containing provisions that are more restrictive than the provisions set forth in the preceding sentence, then (a) each holder of shares of Stock acquired pursuant to the Plan (regardless of whether such person has complied or complies with the provisions of clause (b) below) shall be bound by, and shall be deemed to have agreed to, the same lock-up terms as those to which the Company's directors and officers are required to adhere; and (b) at the request of the Company or such managing underwriter, each such person shall execute and deliver a lock-up agreement in form and substance equivalent to that which is required to be executed by the Company's directors and officers.

9.6 *Placement of Legends; Stop Orders; etc.* Each share of Stock to be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan may bear a reference to the investment representation made in accordance with Section 9.4 in addition to any other applicable restriction under the Plan, the terms of the Award and if applicable under the Stockholders' Agreement and to the fact that no registration statement has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect to such shares of Stock. All certificates for shares of Stock or other securities delivered under the Plan shall be subject to such stock transfer orders and other restrictions as the Committee may deem advisable under the rules, regulations, and other requirements of any stock exchange upon which the Stock is then listed, and any applicable federal or state securities law, and the Committee may cause a legend or legends to be put on any such certificates to make appropriate reference to such restrictions.

9.7 *Tax Withholding.* Whenever shares of Stock are issued or to be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan, the Company shall have the right to require the recipient to remit to the Company an amount sufficient to satisfy federal, state, local or other withholding tax requirements if, when, and to the extent required by law (whether so required to secure for the Company an otherwise available tax deduction or otherwise) prior to the delivery of any certificate or certificates for such shares. The obligations of the Company under the Plan shall be conditional on satisfaction of all such withholding obligations and the Company shall, to the extent permitted by law, have the right to deduct any such taxes from any payment of any kind otherwise due to the recipient of an Award. However, in such cases Participants may elect, subject to the approval of the Committee, to satisfy an applicable withholding requirement, in whole or in part, by having the Company withhold shares to satisfy their tax obligations. Participants may only elect to have Shares withheld having a Market Value on the date the tax is to be determined equal to the minimum statutory total tax which could be imposed on the transaction. All elections shall be irrevocable, made in writing, signed by the Participant, and shall be subject to any restrictions or limitations that the Committee deems appropriate.

---



**10. Reservation of Stock**

The Company shall at all times during the term of the Plan and any outstanding Awards granted hereunder reserve or otherwise keep available such number of shares of Stock as will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Plan (if then in effect) and the Awards and shall pay all fees and expenses necessarily incurred by the Company in connection therewith.

**11. Limitation of Rights in Stock; No Special Service Rights**

A Participant shall not be deemed for any purpose to be a stockholder of the Company with respect to any of the shares of Stock subject to an Award, unless and until a certificate shall have been issued therefor and delivered to the Participant or his agent. Nothing contained in the Plan or in any Award Agreement shall confer upon any recipient of an Award any right with respect to the continuation of his or her employment or other association with the Company (or any Affiliate), or interfere in any way with the right of the Company (or any Affiliate), subject to the terms of any separate employment or consulting agreement or provision of law or corporate articles, by-laws or similar charter documents to the contrary, at any time to terminate such employment or consulting agreement or to increase or decrease, or otherwise adjust, the other terms and conditions of the recipient's employment or other association with the Company and its Affiliates.

**12. Unfunded Status of Plan**

The Plan is intended to constitute an "unfunded" plan for incentive compensation, and the Plan is not intended to constitute a plan subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended. With respect to any payments not yet made to a Participant by the Company, nothing contained herein shall give any such Participant any rights that are greater than those of a general creditor of the Company. In its sole discretion, the Committee may authorize the creation of trusts or other arrangements to meet the obligations created under the Plan to deliver Stock or payments with respect to Options, Stock Appreciation Rights and other Awards hereunder, *provided, however*, that the existence of such trusts or other arrangements is consistent with the unfunded status of the Plan.

**13. Nonexclusivity of the Plan**

Neither the adoption of the Plan by the Board nor the submission of the Plan to the stockholders of the Company shall be construed as creating any limitations on the power of the Board to adopt such other incentive arrangements as it may deem desirable, including without limitation, the granting of stock options and restricted stock other than under the Plan, and such arrangements may be either applicable generally or only in specific cases.

**14. Termination and Amendment of the Plan**

The Board may at any time terminate the Plan or make such modifications of the Plan as it shall deem advisable. Unless the Board otherwise expressly provides, no amendment of the Plan shall affect the terms of any Award outstanding on the date of such amendment.

The Committee may amend the terms of any Award theretofore granted, prospectively or retroactively, provided that the Award as amended is consistent with the terms of the Plan. Also within the limitations of the Plan, the Committee may modify, extend or assume outstanding Awards or may accept the cancellation of outstanding Awards or of outstanding stock options or other equity-based compensation awards granted by another issuer in return for the grant of new Awards for the same or a different number of shares and on the same or different terms and conditions (including but not limited to the exercise price of any Option). Furthermore, the Committee may at any time (a) offer to buy out for a payment in cash or cash equivalents an Award previously granted or (b) authorize the recipient of an Award to elect to cash out an Award previously granted, in either case at such time and based upon such terms and conditions as the Committee shall establish.

---

No amendment or modification of the Plan by the Board, or of an outstanding Award by the Committee, shall impair the rights of the recipient of any Award outstanding on the date of such amendment or modification or such Award, as the case may be, without the Participant's consent; *provided, however*, that no such consent shall be required if (i) the Board or Committee, as the case may be, determines in its sole discretion and prior to the date of any Acquisition that such amendment or alteration either is required or advisable in order for the Company, the Plan or the Award to satisfy any law or regulation, including without limitation the provisions of Section 409A of the Code or to meet the requirements of or avoid adverse financial accounting consequences under any accounting standard, or (ii) the Board or Committee, as the case may be, determines in its sole discretion that such amendment or alteration is not reasonably likely to significantly diminish the benefits provided under the Award, or that any such diminution has been adequately compensated.

**15. Notices and Other Communications**

Any notice, demand, request or other communication hereunder to any party shall be deemed to be sufficient if contained in a written instrument delivered in person or duly sent by first class registered, certified or overnight mail, postage prepaid, or telecopied with a confirmation copy by regular, certified or overnight mail, addressed or telecopied, as the case may be, (i) if to the recipient of an Award, at his or her residence address last filed with the Company and (ii) if to the Company, at its principal place of business, addressed to the attention of its Treasurer, or to such other address or telecopier number, as the case may be, as the addressee may have designated by notice to the addressor. All such notices, requests, demands and other communications shall be deemed to have been received: (i) in the case of personal delivery, on the date of such delivery; (ii) in the case of mailing, when received by the addressee; and (iii) in the case of facsimile transmission, when confirmed by facsimile machine report.

**16. Governing Law**

The Plan and all Award Agreements and actions taken thereunder shall be governed, interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to the conflict of laws principles thereof.

---

**STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT**  
(Employment Inducement Grant)

This NON-STATUTORY STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT, dated as of December 15, 2015 (this “Agreement”), is between NETLIST, INC., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), and Brian Peterson (the “Optionee”).

**RECITALS**

- A. Optionee has not previously been an officer, director or employee of the Company, and this Option (as defined below) is granted to Optionee to attract and retain Optionee to serve the Company in the capacity of Vice President of Engineering and Research and Development.
- B. This Agreement, and the grant of an Option to the Optionee pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof, have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company (the “Board”).
- C. This Option is designated as a non-qualified stock option, and does **not** qualify as an incentive stock option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).

**AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the foregoing recitals and of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. Grant of Option. The Company hereby grants to the Optionee, as an inducement to accept employment with the Company, an option (the “Option”) to purchase from the Company all or any number of an aggregate of 400,000 shares (the “Option Shares”), of the Company’s common stock, \$.001 par value per share, at a price of \$0.80 per share, on the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement. This grant is **not** made pursuant to the Company’s 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), attached as Exhibit A. However, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, this grant is subject to the rules, terms and conditions of the Plan as if it were a grant made pursuant to and under the Plan, and all such rules, terms and conditions are hereby incorporated herein by reference as if set forth herein in their entirety. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings given to them in the Plan. The Option is granted as of December 15, 2015 (the “Grant Date”).
  2. Character of Option. The Option is **not** intended to be treated as an “incentive stock option” within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”).
-

3. Duration of Option. Unless subject to earlier expiration or termination pursuant to the terms of the Plan, the Option shall expire on the ten year anniversary of the Grant Date.

4. Exercisability of Option. The Option may be exercised, at any time and from time to time until its expiration or termination, for any or all of those Option Shares in respect of which the Option shall have become exercisable, in accordance with the provisions set forth below in this Section 4, on or at any time prior to the date of any such exercise. Subject to the provisions of the Plan (including, without limitation, the provisions of Section 7.1(e) of the Plan), one-fourth of the Option shall become exercisable on December 15, 2016, with the remainder to vest thereafter in twelve equal quarterly installments such that on December 15, 2019, the Option shall be vested as to all of the Shares and fully exercisable, provided, however, that in the event that Optionee's services with the Company is terminated by the Company as a result of Optionee's death or disability, an additional 25% of the total number of Shares (or such fewer number as then remain unvested) shall Accelerate and vest on the date of such termination. In addition, if the Company has a change of control and if after Optionee has been continuously employed for one year and within six months of a change of control and the optionee is:

- 1) terminated without cause
- 2) assigned to a position that is not a substantive functional equivalent without cause, or
- 3) Optionee's base salary and /or target bonus (of 100% of base salary amount) is significantly decreased without cause, or
- 4) Optionee's work location (currently San Jose and Irvine) are moved to locations that increase the regular commute distance by an unreasonable time and distance without cause,

then vesting of options will be accelerated by an additional 50% of the total number of stock options (or such fewer number as then remain unvested). These installments shall be cumulative, such that Optionee may exercise the Option as to any or all of the Shares covered by any installment at any time or times after such installment vests and prior to termination of the Option. The foregoing notwithstanding, except to the extent the Option vests upon the termination of Optionee's services with the Company as provided above, the Option shall cease vesting upon the termination of Optionee's services with the Company for any reason. Notwithstanding anything expressed or implied to the contrary in the foregoing provisions of this Section 4, the exercisability of the Option may, as provided in Section 7.1(d) of the Plan, at any time be Accelerated in the discretion of the Committee.

5. Transfer of Option. Other than as expressly permitted by the provisions of Section 6.4 of the Plan, the Option may not be transferred except by will or the laws of descent and distribution and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, may be exercised only by the Optionee.

---

6. Incorporation of Plan Terms. The Option is granted subject to all of the applicable terms and provisions of the Plan, which terms and provisions are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Section 1 of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, the limitations on the Company's obligation to deliver Option Shares upon exercise set forth in Section 9.2 (Violation of Law), Section 9.3 (Corporate Restrictions on Rights in Stock), Section 9.4 (Investment Representations) and Section 9.7 (Tax Withholding).

7. Miscellaneous. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the internal, substantive laws of the State of Delaware and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of any successor or assign of the Company and any executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, or other legal representative of the Optionee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Non-Statutory Stock Option Agreement as a sealed instrument as of the date first above written.

NETLIST, INC.

OPTIONEE

By: /s/ Gail Sasaki  
Name: Gail Sasaki  
Title: Secretary

/s/ Brian Peterson  
Brian Peterson

Optionee's Address:  
175 Technology, Suite 150  
Irvine, CA

---

MORRISON | FOERSTER

12531 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
92130-2040TELEPHONE: 858.720.5100  
FACSIMILE: 858.720.5125

WWW.MOFO.COM

MORRISON FOERSTER LLP

BEIJING, BERLIN, BRUSSELS, DENVER,  
HONG KONG, LONDON, LOS ANGELES,  
NEW YORK, NORTHERN VIRGINIA,  
PALO ALTO, SACRAMENTO, SAN DIEGO,  
SAN FRANCISCO, SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE,  
TOKYO, WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 26, 2016

Netlist, Inc.  
175 Technology Drive, Suite 150  
Irvine, CA 92618**Re: Netlist, Inc. Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan  
Employment Inducement Stock Option Awards**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At your request, we have examined the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") of Netlist, Inc. (the "Company") to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the "Securities Act"), of (i) an aggregate of 2,400,000 shares (the "2006 Plan Shares") of the Company's common stock, \$0.001 par value (the "Common Stock"), issuable under the Netlist, Inc. Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2006 Plan") and (ii) an aggregate of 500,000 shares of Common Stock (the "Inducement Award Shares") and, collectively with the 2006 Plan Shares, the "Shares") issuable under employment inducement stock option awards granted to Vahid Ordoubadian and Brian Peterson (each, an "Inducement Award").

We have examined the originals, or photostatic or certified copies, of such records of the Company and certificates of officers of the Company and of public officials and such other documents as we have deemed relevant and necessary as the basis for rendering the opinion set forth below. In our examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity and competency of all natural persons, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies. For the purpose of the opinion rendered below, we have assumed that in connection with the issuance of the Shares, the Company will receive the consideration for such Shares required by the terms of the 2006 Plan or the applicable Inducement Award, as the case may be, which shall in each case be an amount not less than the aggregate par value of the Shares covered by each such issuance.

Based upon the foregoing examination and in reliance thereon, and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations stated herein and in reliance on the statements of fact contained in the documents that we have examined, we are of the opinion that the Shares, when issued and sold in accordance with the terms set forth in the 2006 Plan or the applicable Inducement Award, as the case may be, will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable shares of Common Stock.

We consent to the use of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Morrison &amp; Foerster LLP

Morrison &amp; Foerster LLP

**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 4, 2016, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Netlist, Inc. and subsidiaries as of January 2, 2016 and December 27, 2014 and for each of the years then ended, which report is included in Netlist, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended January 2, 2016.

/s/ KMJ Corbin & Company LLP  
KMJ Corbin & Company LLP

Costa Mesa, California  
May 26, 2016

---