LIQUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES Form PRE 14A April 04, 2003

## **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

## PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES

# **EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Filed by the Registrant þ

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

þ Preliminary Proxy Statement

o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

o Definitive Proxy Statement

o Definitive Additional Materials

o Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-11(c) or § 240.14

### LIQUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

b No fee required.

- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1)	Amount Previously Paid:
(2)	Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
(3)	Filing Party:
(4)	Date Filed:

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NOTICE OF 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS VOTING RIGHTS AND SOLICITATION MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING **PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS** NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS PROPOSAL 2: REINCORPORATION FROM CALIFORNIA TO DELAWARE PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION** STOCK PRICE PERFORMANCE GRAPH INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS **OTHER MATTERS** APPENDIX A AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER OF LIQUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (A DELAWARE CORPORATION) AND LIOUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES (A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION) Recitals ARTICLE I Merger **ARTICLE II Charter Documents, Directors and Officers ARTICLE III Manner of Conversion of Stock** ARTICLE IV General APPENDIX B CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF LIOUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES. INC. <u>ARTICLE I</u> ARTICLE II ARTICLE III ARTICLE IV ARTICLE V ARTICLE VI ARTICLE VII ARTICLE VIII ARTICLE IX APPENDIX C BYLAWS OF LIQUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. **ARTICLE I Offices** ARTICLE II Stockholders **ARTICLE III Board of Directors ARTICLE IV Officers** 

## ARTICLE V Capital Stock ARTICLE VI Indemnification ARTICLE VII Miscellaneous ARTICLE VIII Amendments ARTICLE IX Certificate of Incorporation CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION BY THE SECRETARY OF LIQUIDMETAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. APPENDIX D CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# 100 North Tampa Street

# Suite 3150 Tampa, Florida 33602

# NOTICE OF 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS To Be Held May 20, 2003

To the Shareholders of Liquidmetal Technologies:

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of shareholders of Liquidmetal Technologies, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Tampa, Two Tampa City Center, Tampa, Florida, on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 11:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors to hold office until the 2005 annual meeting of shareholders and two directors to hold office until the 2006 annual meeting of shareholders, and in each case, until their successors are elected and qualified;

2. To approve changing Liquidmetal Technologies state of incorporation from California to Delaware;

3. To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as Liquidmetal s independent public accountants for 2003; and

4. To transact any other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 1, 2003, will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Information relating to the matters to be considered and voted on at the annual meeting is set forth in the proxy statement accompanying this notice. A copy of our annual report for 2002 also is enclosed.

Please read the proxy statement and vote your shares as soon as possible. To ensure your representation at the annual meeting, please complete, date, sign, and return the enclosed proxy, even if you plan to attend the annual meeting. A proxy and a self-addressed stamped envelope are enclosed. If you attend the annual meeting, you may withdraw your proxy and vote in person.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ BRIAN MCDOUGALL

Brian McDougall Secretary April 15, 2003

#### **100 North Tampa Street**

Suite 3150 Tampa, Florida 33602

# PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the board of directors of Liquidmetal Technologies for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held at the Hyatt Regency Tampa, Two Tampa City Center, Tampa, Florida, on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 11:00 a.m., local time, or any adjournment or postponement of the annual meeting.

If the accompanying proxy form is completed, signed, dated, returned to us, and not revoked, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted at the annual meeting as directed by the shareholder on the proxy. The giving of the proxy does not affect the right to vote in person if the shareholder attends the annual meeting. The shareholder may revoke the proxy at any time prior to the voting of the shares represented by the proxy.

This proxy statement and our annual report for the year ended December 31, 2002, are first being mailed on or about April 15, 2003, to shareholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

Pursuant to, and in accordance with, the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, where allowed, we are delivering only one copy of this proxy statement and our annual report to multiple shareholders sharing an address unless we have received contrary instructions from one or more of the shareholders. Upon written or oral request, we will promptly deliver a separate copy of this proxy statement and our annual report to any shareholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the document was delivered. If you are a shareholder residing at a shared address and would like to request an additional copy of this proxy statement or our annual report now or with respect to future mailings (or to request to receive only one copy of this proxy statement and our annual report and if you are currently receiving multiple copies), then please call or write Liquidmetal Technologies, Attention: Investor Relations at 100 N. Tampa St., Suite 3150, Tampa, Florida 33602; (813) 314-0280, Ext. 225.

# VOTING RIGHTS AND SOLICITATION

### Voting

The record date for the annual meeting is April 1, 2003. Only shareholders of record as of the close of business on the record date are entitled to receive notice of the annual meeting and to vote at the annual meeting. As of the record date, 41,576,523 shares of common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote.

Votes cast by proxy or in person at the annual meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the annual meeting, who will also determine whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business. Our bylaws provide that a quorum is present if the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the meeting are present in person or represented by proxy. Abstentions will be counted as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining

whether a quorum is present. Shares held by nominees for beneficial owners will also be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present if the nominee has the discretion to vote on at least one of the matters presented, even though the nominee may not exercise discretionary voting power with respect to other matters and even though voting instructions have not been received from the beneficial owner (a broker non-vote). Abstentions and broker non-votes are not counted in determining whether a proposal has been approved.

Under California law, if a quorum exists, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the shares entitled to vote in the election. Accordingly, for each class of directors being elected, the three nominees (in the case of CLASS I) or two nominees (in the case of CLASS II) receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes will be elected.

With respect to the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as our independent public accountants for 2003, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present or represented and voting at the annual meeting will constitute the ratification of this proposal. Accordingly, abstentions and broker non-votes can have the effect of preventing approval of the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche as our independent public accountants if the number of affirmative votes, though a majority of the votes cast, does not constitute a majority of the required quorum.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock outstanding will be required to approve the change of our state of incorporation from California to Delaware. Accordingly, abstentions and broker non-votes can have the effect of preventing approval of the reincorporation.

#### **Proxies**

Whether or not you are able to attend the annual meeting, you are urged to complete and return the enclosed proxy card, which is solicited by the board of directors and which will be voted as you direct on your proxy card when properly completed. In the event no directions are specified, such proxies will be voted for the approval of the proposals described in the accompanying notice and this proxy statement and in the discretion of the proxy holders as to other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting. You may revoke or change your proxy at any time before the annual meeting. To do this, send a written notice of revocation or another signed proxy card with a later date to the Secretary of Liquidmetal at Liquidmetal s principal executive offices before the beginning of the annual meeting. You may also revoke your proxy by attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

### **Solicitation of Proxies**

Proxies solicited by this proxy statement may be exercised only at the annual meeting and any adjournment of the annual meeting and will not be used for any other meeting. Proxies solicited by this proxy statement will be returned to the Secretary of Liquidmetal and will be tabulated by an inspector of elections designated by the board of directors who will not be employed by Liquidmetal.

We will bear the entire cost of solicitation of proxies by mail on behalf of the board of directors. Proxies also may be solicited by personal interview or by telephone by directors, officers, and other employees of Liquidmetal without additional compensation. We also have made arrangements with brokerage firms, banks, nominees, and other fiduciaries to forward proxy solicitation materials for shares of common stock held of record to the beneficial owners of such shares. We will reimburse such record holders for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

### **Annual Report**

Our annual report for the year ended December 31, 2002 has been mailed with this proxy statement and the notice of annual meeting to all stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting. Our annual report is not incorporated into this proxy statement and is not considered proxy soliciting material.

## MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

### **PROPOSAL 1:**

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The board of directors recommends the following nominees for election as directors and urges each shareholder to vote FOR the nominees. Executed proxies in the accompanying form will be voted at the annual meeting in favor of the election as directors of the nominees named below, unless authority to do so is withheld.

At the annual meeting, five directors are to be elected. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and the board of directors has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unavailable or will decline to serve. In the event, however, that any nominee is unable or declines to serve as a director at the time of the annual meeting, the persons designated as proxies will vote for any nominee who is designated by our current board of directors to fill the vacancy.

Our board of directors is divided into three classes (designated CLASS I, CLASS II, and CLASS III), as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class serving three-year terms expiring at the third annual meeting of shareholders after their elections or until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. CLASS I currently consists of four directors whose term was scheduled to expire in 2002. Because successors to the current CLASS I directors have not yet been elected, CLASS I directors will be elected at the annual meeting. CLASS II currently consists of four directors, and their term will also expire at the annual meeting. CLASS III currently consists of three directors, and their term will expire at the 2004 annual meeting of shareholders.

In March 2003, our board of directors undertook an examination and analysis of evolving corporate governance standards and practices relating to public company boards. In the course of this examination, the board considered a variety of existing and proposed regulations, laws, standards, and recommended practices relating to board size, director independence, and time commitment levels associated with effective service on a public company board. As a result of this analysis, the board determined that it would be advisable and in the best interest of our shareholders to decrease the size of our board and modify its composition. In furtherance of this goal, four current directors have voluntarily elected to vacate their board seat or decline to stand for re-election at the annual meeting. These four directors, each of whom will cease to be a director as of the annual meeting, are: Ricardo A. Salas (CLASS I), Jack Chitayat (CLASS II), Shekhar Chitnis (CLASS II), and Betsy S. Atkins (CLASS III). Thus, following the annual meeting, our board will consist of seven members, and we will have four vacancies on the board. The board currently intends to fill up to two of these vacancies during the next six months with individuals who will satisfy all existing and proposed independence standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The other two vacancies will not be filled, and the number of total seats on the board will be reduced to nine as of the date of the annual meeting. Any new directors will, regardless of their class, stand for re-election at the first annual shareholder meeting following their appointment.

Consequently, at the annual meeting, three CLASS I directors will be elected to serve until their terms expire at the 2005 annual meeting of shareholders, and two CLASS II directors will be elected to serve until their terms expire at the 2006 annual meeting of shareholders, or in each case until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. Proxies cannot be voted for more than three CLASS I directors and two CLASS II directors. Set forth below is biographical information for each person nominated and each person whose term of office as a director will continue after the annual meeting.

# NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS

# CLASS I TERM TO EXPIRE AT THE 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
John Kang William Johnson, Ph.D. 54 William Johnson, Ph.D., has served as the Vice Chairman of our board of directors since June 2000 and has been employed as our executive Vice Chairman, Technology, since	40	John Kang has been our Chief Executive Officer and President since June 2001 and has been one of our directors since 1994. From December 1994 to December 2000, he served as Chairman of our board of directors in a non-employee capacity, and from December 2000 to June 2001, he served as Chairman of our board of directors in an employee capacity. From July 1996 to September 2000, Mr. Kang served variously as Chief Executive Officer, President, and a director of Medical Manager Corporation, a public company traded on the Nasdaq National Market until its sale in September 2000 to WebMD Corporation. From 1988 to 1995, he was Chairman of the board of directors of Clayton Group, Inc., a private company engaged in the distribution of waterworks equipment. Mr. Kang received a B.A. degree in Economics from Harvard College in 1985. Mr. Kang is the brother of James Kang, the Chairman of our board of directors.
October 2001. Since 1997, Professor Johnson has been the Mettler Professor of Engineering and Applied Physics at		
Caltech. He held a Visiting Professor appointment at the Metal		
Physics Institute in Gottingen, Germany (1983) and received a		
Von Humbolt Distinguished Scientist Fellowship in Gottingen (1988). He is the 1995 recipient of the TMS/AIME Hume		
Rothery Award for his experimental work. He received a B.A.		
degree in Physics from Hamilton College and a Ph.D. degree in		
Applied Physics from Caltech. He spent two years at IBM s Research Center (1975-1977). At Caltech, Professor Johnson		
directed the research that led to the discovery of our bulk		
Liquidmetal alloy.		
Tjoa Thian Song		
38 Tjoa Thian Song has served as a director since 1996.		
Since 1995, Mr. Tjoa has been the Executive Director of		
Greatland Company Pte. Ltd., a Singapore-based distributor and manufacturer of tobacco products. Since 1972, Greatland		
Company has been the international distributor for P.T.Gudang		
Garam, an Indonesian cigarette manufacturer listed on the		
Jakarta Stock Exchange. Mr. Tjoa received his B.S. degree in		
Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in		
1986 and also received an M.B.A. degree from the National		

University of Singapore.

# CLASS II TERM TO EXPIRE AT THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Henri Tchen	56	Henri Tchen has served as a director since April 2002. Since October 1998, he has served as Vice President and co-founder of Synapse Capital, LLC, which is engaged in venture capital investing and private wealth management. From August 1994 to September 1998, he served as the Chief Financial Officer of Kingston Technology Corporation, where he negotiated the ultimate sale of a majority of the company for approximately \$1.5 billion. Mr. Tchen received his M.B.A. degree in Finance, Marketing, and Accounting from Columbia University Graduate School of Business in 1973, and a B.S. degree in Applied Economics from the University of Brussels in 1971.
Jeffrey Oster		
61 Jeffrey Oster has served as a director since April 2002. In 1998, he retired as a Lieutenant General from the United States		
Marine Corps, having served almost 35 years of active duty.		
General Oster has provided independent consulting services in		
defense- related matters since his retirement in 1998. From July 1993 until his retirement in 1998, he served as the Deputy Chief		
of Staff for Programs and Resources where he was responsible		
for all aspects of financial management for the United States		
Marine Corps, including development, implementation, and execution of the strategic financial plan and the annual		

5

\$17.5 billion budget. General Oster had a lead role in defining, supporting, and defending the United States Marine Corps resource requirements in the Department of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, the White House, and before Congress. General Oster received his B.S. degree in Geology in 1963 and an M.B.A. degree in 1975, both from the University

of Wisconsin.

# DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS OF OFFICE CONTINUE

# CLASS III TERM EXPIRES AT THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
James Kang	42	James Kang has served as a director since December 1994 and as the Chairman of our board of directors since June 2001. From December 1994 to June 2001, he served variously as our Chief Executive Officer and President. Mr. Kang received a B.A. degree in Marketing from the University of Illinois in 1983, and an M.B.A. degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 1985. Mr. Kang is the brother of John Kang, our Chief Executive Officer and President.
David Browne		<i>C,</i>
43 David Browne has served as a director since April 2002. Since 2002, Mr. Browne has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Family Christian Stores. Mr. Browne served as President and Chief Executive Officer of LensCrafters, Inc. from 1990 to 1999. From 1998 to 1999, he also served on the board of directors and as Co-Chief Executive Officer of Luxottica Group, an Italy-based optical frame manufacturer and the parent company of LensCrafters, Inc., where he led the acquisition of Bausch & Lomb s Ray-Ban Division. Mr. Browne is also a director of Athletes In Action, an international Christian sports ministry, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and a former member of the board of directors of the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C., where he was actively involved in the President s Summit on Volunteerism. Mr. Browne received his		

6

B.S. degree in Economics from University of Pennsylvania in

1981.

#### **PROPOSAL 2:**

# **REINCORPORATION FROM CALIFORNIA TO DELAWARE**

The board of directors recommends changing Liquidmetal s state of incorporation from California to Delaware and to adopt a new charter and bylaws in connection with the reincorporation. The board of directors urges each shareholder to vote FOR the reincorporation and the adoption of a new charter and bylaws. Executed proxies in the accompanying form will be voted at the annual meeting in favor of the reincorporation and the adoption of a new charter and bylaws, unless authority to do so is withheld.

In considering this proposal, shareholders should consider carefully the discussion in this proxy statement regarding the reincorporation and our new charter and bylaws and review our new charter and bylaws that will be adopted in connection with the reincorporation, both of which are attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively, to this proxy statement.

#### **Reasons for Reincorporating in Delaware**

Our board of directors believes that it is in the best interests of Liquidmetal and its shareholders to change Liquidmetal s state of incorporation from California to Delaware and to adopt a new charter and bylaws in connection with the reincorporation. Changing Liquidmetal s state of incorporation to Delaware will permit us to draw upon well-established principles of corporate governance in making legal and business decisions. The prominence and predictability of Delaware corporate law provides a reliable foundation upon which the board and management governance decisions can be based.

For many years, Delaware has followed a policy of encouraging corporations to incorporate in that state, and in furtherance of that policy, has adopted comprehensive, modern, and flexible corporate laws responsive to the legal and business needs of corporations organized under its laws. Both the Delaware legislature and courts have demonstrated the ability and willingness to act quickly and effectively to meet changing business needs. The Delaware courts have developed considerable expertise in dealing with corporate issues, and a substantial body of case law has developed construing Delaware law and establishing public policies with respect to corporate legal affairs. As a result, many corporations have chosen Delaware initially as their state of incorporation or have subsequently changed corporate domicile to Delaware in a manner similar to the reincorporation we are proposing. Our board of directors believes that our shareholders would benefit from the responsiveness of Delaware corporate law to their needs and to those of Liquidmetal.

In addition, the proposed reincorporation would permit us to limit the liability of directors and to provide indemnification to our officers, directors, and employees to a degree greater than is presently possible under California law. We seek to retain the most capable individuals available to serve as officers and directors. The board of directors believes that changing our domicile to Delaware may be a significant factor in attracting such individuals and in encouraging existing directors and officers to continue to serve in these capacities and in freeing them to make corporate decisions on their own merits rather than out of a desire to avoid personal liability. It should be noted, however, that there may be an inherent conflict of interest in the board of directors in obtaining the protection of such limited liability provisions.

The proposed reincorporation is not an attempt to remove shareholder protections in place under California law and our current charter and bylaws. To the contrary, our board of directors believes that Delaware law will provide in many respects greater protections to our shareholders than California law. Moreover, the provisions of our new charter and bylaws that will be adopted in connection with the reincorporation are similar to those currently in place. Nonetheless, there are certain differences in these documents and under California law and Delaware law. See the sections entitled Differences in the Charters and Bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware and Significant Differences Between the Corporation Law of California and Delaware for a discussion of the effects of

Significant Differences Between the Corporation Law of California and Delaware for a discussion of the effects of these differences.

#### **Mechanics Of Reincorporation**

Changing our state of incorporation from California to Delaware would be accomplished by merging Liquidmetal Technologies, which is the existing California corporation, into Liquidmetal Technologies, Inc. (Liquidmetal Delaware), a newly-formed Delaware corporation that is wholly owned by Liquidmetal Technologies, pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger substantially in the form attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement. Pursuant to the merger agreement, each outstanding share of Liquidmetal Technologies common stock, no par value, would be automatically converted into one share of common stock of Liquidmetal Delaware, par value \$.001 per share, upon the effective date of the reincorporation merger.

Following the reincorporation merger, each stock certificate representing issued and outstanding shares of Liquidmetal Technologies common stock would continue to represent the same number of shares of common stock of Liquidmetal Delaware. IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY FOR SHAREHOLDERS TO EXCHANGE THEIR EXISTING STOCK CERTIFICATES FOR STOCK CERTIFICATES OF LIQUIDMETAL DELAWARE. Shareholders may, however, exchange their certificates if they so choose. Shares of Liquidmetal Technologies common stock converted into shares of Liquidmetal Delaware s common stock would continue to trade on the Nasdaq National Market under the same symbol (LQMT) as the shares of our common stock are currently traded.

If approved by our shareholders, it is anticipated that the reincorporation merger will become effective as soon as practicable following the annual meeting. The reincorporation, however, may be abandoned either before or after shareholder approval if circumstances arise that, in the opinion of our board of directors, make it inadvisable to proceed.

#### **Consequences of the Reincorporation**

The reincorporation would result in a change in our legal domicile and certain other changes of a legal nature that are described in this proxy statement. The proposed reincorporation would not result in any change in our business, management, fiscal year, assets or liabilities, or location of the principal facilities. The following discussion provides an overview of how the reincorporation would affect certain matters.

### **Board of Directors**

Following the reincorporation merger, our board of directors would continue to consist of the directors holding office prior to the reincorporation merger.

### Shareholder Rights

Although the charter and bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware are similar, there are certain differences in these documents. There also are differences under California law and Delaware law with respect to shareholder rights. See the sections entitled Differences in the Charters and Bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware and Significant Differences Between the Corporation Law of California and Delaware for a discussion of the effects of these differences.

### **Employee Benefits**

All of our stock option plans would be assumed and continued by Liquidmetal Delaware, and each option or right issued pursuant to our option plans would be converted automatically into an option or right to purchase the same number of shares of Liquidmetal Delaware common stock, at the same price per share, upon the same terms, and

subject to the same conditions currently in effect.

## Number of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding

The number of outstanding shares of common stock of Liquidmetal Delaware immediately following the reincorporation would equal the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the completion of the reincorporation merger.

#### Anti-Takeover Measures

Our board of directors believes that a hostile takeover attempt may have a negative effect on the company and our shareholders. Takeover attempts that have not been negotiated or approved by the board of a corporation can seriously disrupt the business and management of a corporation and present the risk of terms that are less favorable to all the shareholders than would be available in a negotiated, board-approved transaction. By contrast, board-approved transactions can be carefully planned and undertaken at an opportune time in order to obtain maximum value for the corporation and all of its shareholders, with due consideration to matters such as capturing the value from longer term strategies, the recognition or postponement of gain or loss for tax purposes, and the management and business of the acquiring corporation.

Our charter and bylaws that currently are in place already include certain provisions available to us under California law to deter hostile takeover attempts and to help provide adequate opportunity for the Board to consider and respond to a takeover offer. These provisions include elimination of cumulative voting and staggering our Board into three classes and electing directors for three-year terms. These provisions are also included in Liquidmetal Delaware s charter and bylaws.

Liquidmetal Delaware would also retain the rights currently available to Liquidmetal to issue shares of authorized but unissued capital stock. Following the effectiveness of the proposed reincorporation, shares of authorized and unissued common stock and preferred stock of Liquidmetal Delaware could be issued, or preferred stock could be created and issued with terms, provisions, and rights, to make a takeover of Liquidmetal Delaware more difficult, and therefore less likely. For example, additional shares could be used to dilute the stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of Liquidmetal Delaware. Nonetheless, Liquidmetal Delaware will have 100 million shares of common stock and 10 million shares of preferred stock that we currently have the authority to issue.

Moreover, under Delaware law and Liquidmetal Delaware s bylaws, stockholders holding an aggregate of 25% of the votes entitled to be cast have the ability to call a special stockholders meeting. Under California law, our shareholders holding an aggregate of 10% of the votes entitled to be cast to call a special meeting. This increase makes it more difficult for the stockholders of Liquidmetal Delaware to call a special meeting, which could make a takeover of Liquidmetal Delaware more difficult, and therefore less likely. We believe that this change is appropriate as it prevents an inappropriately small number of stockholders from prematurely forcing stockholder consideration of a proposal over the opposition of the board of directors by calling a special stockholders meeting (provided that the holders meet the notice requirements for consideration of a proposal). In addition, stockholders of Liquidmetal Delaware also do not have the ability to make proposals with respect to a special meeting called by the board of directors, the Chairman of the board, or the Chief Executive Officer. Shareholders of Liquidmetal currently have the right to make proposals at such special meetings.

Unlike the bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies, Liquidmetal Delaware s bylaws contain an advance notice requirement for shareholder proposals at annual shareholder meetings and do not allow proposals to be made at special shareholder meetings other than pursuant to the meeting notice. By requiring advance notice of proposed business, Liquidmetal Delaware s bylaws provide the board of directors with an opportunity to inform shareholders of any business proposed to be conducted at a meeting and the board s position on any such proposal, enabling the stockholders to better determine whether they desire to attend the meeting or grant a proxy to the board as to the disposition of such business. This bylaw provision may have the effect of precluding any other business at a particular meeting if the proper procedures are not followed. In addition, the procedures may discourage or deter a third party from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect its own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of

Liquidmetal Delaware, even if the conduct of such business or such attempt might be deemed to be beneficial to the company and its shareholders.

In addition to specific anti-takeover measures, a number of differences between California and Delaware law could make an unapproved takeover attempt more difficult. For example, under Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, certain business combinations with interested stockholders of

Delaware corporations are subject to a three-year moratorium unless specified conditions are met. See the section below entitled Significant Differences Between the Corporation Laws of California and Delaware Stockholder Approval of Certain Business Combinations. Although a Delaware corporation may, through its charter or bylaws, elect not to be governed by Section 203, Liquidmetal Delaware s charter and bylaws do not contain such an election. Consequently, Section 203 will apply to business combinations involving Liquidmetal Delaware.

To the extent that the reincorporation may provide greater deterrence to takeover offers and greater defenses against takeovers, the reincorporation may have the effect of discouraging or defeating future takeover attempts that a substantial number or majority of the Liquidmetal Delaware s stockholders might wish to accept and that might provide a substantial premium over market prices. However, the board of directors believes that the potential suddenness and disadvantages of unapproved takeover attempts (such as disruption of our business and the possibility of terms which may be less favorable to all of the stockholders than would be available in a board-approved transaction) are sufficiently great that, on balance, prudent steps to reduce the likelihood of such takeover attempts and to help ensure that the board of directors has adequate opportunity to fully consider and respond to any takeover attempt and actively negotiate its terms are in our best interest and the best interest of our stockholders. The board of directors also believes that any additional defenses and deterrence provided by the reincorporation are incremental in light of our existing takeover defenses.

### U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The reincorporation is intended to be tax free to us and our shareholders under the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, it is expected that no gain or loss would be recognized by the holders of shares of our common stock solely as a result of the reincorporation, and no gain or loss would be recognized by Liquidmetal Technologies or Liquidmetal Delaware. Each former holder of shares of the Liquidmetal Technologies common stock would have the same tax basis in the Liquidmetal Delaware common stock received by such holder pursuant to the reincorporation as such holder has in the shares of Liquidmetal Technologies common stock held by such holder at the effective time. Each shareholder s holding period with respect to Liquidmetal Delaware common stock, so long as the latter were held by such holder as a capital asset at the effective time. We have not obtained, and do not intend to obtain, a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the tax consequences of the reincorporation.

We believe no gain or loss should be recognized by the holders of outstanding options to purchase shares of our common stock so long as such options (a) were originally issued in connection with the performance of services by the optionee and (b) lacked a readily ascertainable value (for example, the options were not actively traded on an established market) when originally granted and the options to purchase Liquidmetal Delaware s common stock into which our outstanding options will be converted in the reincorporation also lack a readily ascertainable value when issued. Nonetheless, optionees should consult their own tax advisors regarding the federal income tax consequences to them of the reincorporation as well as any consequences under the laws of any other jurisdiction.

### Accounting Consequences

There will be no material accounting consequences for us resulting from the reincorporation.

### Differences in the Charters and Bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware

The provisions of Liquidmetal Delaware s charter and bylaws are similar to those of Liquidmetal Technologies charter and bylaws in many respects. Liquidmetal Technologies charter and bylaws are on file with the Securities and

Exchange Commission and are available from us upon request. The proposed forms of Liquidmetal Delaware s charter and bylaws are attached as Appendix A and Appendix B to this proxy statement, respectively. The following discussion is only a summary of certain provisions of the charters and bylaws of Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware and does not purport to be a complete description of such similarities and differences. The discussion is qualified in its entirety by reference to the respective corporation laws of California and Delaware and the full text of the charters and bylaws of each the two companies.

#### Authorized Stock

Liquidmetal Technologies charter currently authorizes the issuance of up to 200 million shares of common stock and 10 million shares of preferred stock. The charter of Liquidmetal Delaware provides that it will have 100 million authorized shares of common stock and 10 million shares of preferred stock. Like Liquidmetal Technologies charter, Liquidmetal Delaware s charter provides that the board of directors is entitled to determine the powers, preferences, and rights, and the qualifications, limitations, or restrictions, of the authorized and unissued preferred stock.

### Monetary Liability of Directors

The charters of both Liquidmetal Technologies and Liquidmetal Delaware both provide for the elimination of personal monetary liability of directors to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law. The provision eliminating monetary liability of directors set forth in Liquidmetal Delaware s charter is, however, potentially more expansive than the corresponding provision in Liquidmetal Technologies charter. For a more detailed explanation of the foregoing, see Significant Differences Between the Corporation Laws of California and Delaware Indemnification and Limitation of Liability.

### Power To Call Special Shareholder s Meetings

Under California law, a special meeting of shareholders may be called by the board of directors, the chairman of the board, the president, the holders of shares entitled to cast not less than 10% of the votes at such meeting, and such additional persons as are authorized by the charter or bylaws. Under Delaware law, a special meeting of shareholders may only be called by the board of directors or any other person authorized to do so in the certificate of incorporation or the bylaws. The bylaws of Liquidmetal Delaware authorize the board of directors, the chairman of the board, the president, and the holders of shares entitled to cast not less than 25% of the votes at such meeting to call a special meeting. Therefore, calling a special meeting after the proposed reincorporation will be more difficult. This could make a takeover of Liquidmetal Delaware more difficult, and therefore less likely.

### Introduction of Business at Shareholder Meetings

The bylaws of Liquidmetal Delaware include an advance notice procedure with regard to certain matters to be brought before an annual meeting or special meeting of shareholders. Liquidmetal Technologies bylaws do not contain an advance notice procedure.

Liquidmetal Delaware s bylaws provide that the business transacted at any special meeting of stockholders shall be limited to the purposes stated in the notice of such special meeting. At an annual meeting of Liquidmetal Delaware s stockholders, and subject to any other applicable requirements, only such business may be conducted as has been brought before the meeting pursuant to the notice of the meeting, by or at the direction of the Board of Directors, or by a shareholder who has given timely written notice to the Secretary of the Company of such shareholder s intention to bring such business before the meeting.

In all cases, to be timely, notice must be received by the Secretary of the company not fewer than 120 days prior to the meeting. A stockholder s notice must contain (a) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, (b) the name and address, as they appear on the corporation s books, of the stockholder proposing such business, and the name and address of the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made, (c) the class and number of shares of the corporation which are owned

beneficially and of record by such stockholder of record and by the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf of the proposal is made, and (d) any material interest of such stockholder of record and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made in such business. If the Chairman or other officer presiding at the meeting determines that other business was not

properly brought before such meeting in accordance with Liquidmetal Delaware s bylaws, such business will not be conducted at such meeting.

#### Filling Vacancies On The Board of Directors

Under California law, any vacancy on the board of directors, other than one created by removal of a director, may be filled by the board. If the number of directors is less than a quorum, a vacancy may be filled by the unanimous written consent of the directors then in office, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors at a meeting held pursuant to notice or waivers of notice, or by a sole remaining director. A vacancy created by removal of a director may be filled by the board of directors only if so authorized by a corporation s articles of incorporation or by a bylaw approved by the corporation s shareholders. Liquidmetal Technologies bylaws permit directors to fill vacancies other than vacancies created by removal of a director. Under Delaware law, vacancies and newly created directorships may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office (even though less than a quorum) or by a sole remaining director, unless otherwise provided in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws (or unless the certificate of incorporation directs that a particular class of stock is to elect such director(s), in which case a majority of the directors elected by such class, or a sole remaining director so elected, will fill such vacancy or newly created directorship). The bylaws of Liquidmetal Delaware provide that any vacancy created, even by the removal of a director, may be filled by a majority of the board of directors.

#### Significant Differences Between the Corporation Laws of California and Delaware

In addition to the matters discussed above, Delaware corporate law differs in many respects from California corporate law. Certain differences that could materially affect the rights of shareholders are discussed below. The following is not an exhaustive description of all differences between the corporate laws of California and Delaware. The discussion is qualified in its entirety by reference to the respective corporation laws of California and Delaware.

#### Shareholder Approval of Certain Business Combinations

#### Delaware

Under Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, a Delaware corporation is prohibited from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for three years following the date that such person or entity becomes an interested stockholder. With certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person or entity that owns, individually or with or through any of its affiliates or associates, fifteen percent (15%) or more of the corporation s outstanding voting stock (including any rights to acquire stock pursuant to an option, warrant, agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon the exercise of conversion or exchange rights, and stock with respect to which the person has voting rights only). The three-year moratorium imposed by Section 203 on business combinations of Section 203 does not apply if (i) prior to the date on which such stockholder became an interested stockholder the board of directors of the subject corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the person or entity becoming an interested stockholder; (ii) upon consummation of the transaction that made the person an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the corporation s voting stock outstanding at the time the transaction commenced (excluding from the eighty-five percent (85%) calculation shares owned by directors who are also officers of the subject corporation and shares held by employee stock plans that do not give employee participants the right to decide confidentially whether the shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer); or (iii) at or subsequent to the date such person or entity became an interested stockholder, the board approved the business combination and it is authorized at an annual or special stockholder meeting by sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 2/3%) of the outstanding voting stock not owned by the interested stockholder. A Delaware corporation may elect not to be governed by Section 203. Liquidmetal

Delaware s charter and bylaws do contain such an election. Section 203 might have the effect of limiting the ability of a potential acquiror to make a two-tiered bid for Liquidmetal Delaware in which all stockholders would not be treated equally.

## California

California law requires that holders of common stock receive common stock in a merger of the corporation with the holder of more than fifty percent (50%) but less than ninety percent (90%) of the target s common stock or its affiliate unless all of the target company s shareholders consent to the transaction. This provision of California law may have the effect of making a cash-out merger by a majority shareholder more difficult to accomplish. Although Delaware law does not parallel California law in this respect, under some circumstances, Section 203 provides similar protection to shareholders against coercive two-tiered bids for a corporation in which the stockholders are not treated equally.

### **Removal of Directors**

### Delaware

Under Delaware law, any director or the entire board of directors of a corporation that does not have a classified board of directors or cumulative voting may be removed with or without cause with the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote at an election of directors. Unless the certificate of incorporation otherwise provides, in the case of a Delaware corporation whose board is classified, however, shareholders may effect such removal only for cause. In addition, as in California, if a Delaware corporation has cumulative voting, and if less than the entire board is to be removed, a director may not be removed without cause by a majority of the outstanding shares if the votes cast against such removal would be sufficient to elect the director under cumulative voting rules.

### California

Under California law, any director or the entire board of directors may be removed, with or without cause, with the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote. However, in the case of a corporation with cumulative voting or whose board is classified, no individual director may be removed (unless the entire board is removed) if the number of votes cast against such removal would be sufficient to elect the director under cumulative voting rules.

Liquidmetal Technologies bylaws provide for a classified board of directors, but not for cumulative voting. Liquidmetal Delaware s charter also will provide for a classified board of directors, but not for cumulative voting. As a result, after the proposed reincorporation, an individual director can be removed by the stockholders only for cause with the approval of a majority of all of the outstanding shares entitled to vote.

### Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

California and Delaware have similar laws respecting indemnification by a corporation of its officers, directors, employees, and other agents. The laws of both states also permit corporations to adopt a provision in their charters eliminating the liability of a director to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of the director s fiduciary duty of care. There are nonetheless certain differences between the laws of the two states respecting indemnification and limitation of liability. In general, Delaware law is somewhat broader in allowing corporations to indemnify and limit the liability of corporate agents, which, among other things, support Delaware corporations in attracting and retaining the most capable directors.

The Delaware General Corporation Law was amended in 1986 in response to widespread concern about the ability of Delaware corporations to attract capable directors in light of the current difficulties in obtaining and maintaining directors and officers insurance. The legislative commentary to the law states that it is intended to allow Delaware companies to provide substitute protection, in various forms, to their directors and to limit director liability under certain circumstances. One provision of the revised Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to include a provision in its charter that limits or eliminates the personal liability of a director for monetary damages arising from breaches of his fiduciary duties to the corporation or its stockholders, subject to certain exceptions.

Liquidmetal Delaware s charter would eliminate the liability of directors to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permissible under Delaware law, as such law exists currently and as it may be amended in the future to the extent such amendment permits broader indemnification. Under Delaware law, such provision may not eliminate or limit director monetary liability for: (i) breaches of the director s duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders; (ii) acts or omissions not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct or knowing violations of law; (iii) the payment of unlawful dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or (iv) transactions in which the director received an improper personal benefit. Such limitation of liability provisions also may not limit a director s liability for violation of, or otherwise relieve a company or its directors from the necessity of complying with, federal or state securities laws or affect the availability of non-monetary remedies such as injunctive relief or rescission.

In effect, under the Delaware law indemnity provision, a director of Liquidmetal Delaware could not be held liable for monetary damages to Liquidmetal Delaware or its stockholders for gross negligence or lack of due care in carrying out his or her fiduciary duties as a director so long as such gross negligence or lack of due care does not involve bad faith or a breach of his or her duty of loyalty to Liquidmetal Delaware.

## California

The California Corporation Law was amended in 1987 to permit California corporations to include in their charter an indemnity provision generally similar to that permitted under Delaware law, except that: (i) the California provision applies only to actions brought by or in the right of the corporation, but not to actions brought directly by shareholders (such as a shareholder class action lawsuit), while the Delaware provision applies to both; and (ii) under the California provision, personal liability of a director for monetary damages cannot be limited or eliminated where liability arises from acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director s duty to the corporation or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing a director s duties, of a risk of serious injury to the corporation or its shareholders or acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director s duty to the corporation or its shareholders.

Liquidmetal Technologies charter eliminates the liability of directors to the corporation to the fullest extent permissible under California law. California law does not permit the elimination of monetary liability where such liability is based on: (i) intentional misconduct or knowing and culpable violation of law; (ii) acts or omissions that a director believes to be contrary to the best interests of the corporation or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director; (iii) receipt of an improper personal benefit; (iv) acts or omissions that show reckless disregard for the director s duty to the corporation or its shareholders, where the director in the ordinary course of performing a director s duties should be aware of a risk of serious injury to the corporation or its shareholders; (v) acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director s duty to the corporation and its shareholders; (vi) transactions between the corporation and a director who has a material financial interest in such transaction; and (vii) liability for improper distributions, loans, or guarantees.

Thus, under the California law indemnity provision, a director of Liquidmetal Technologies could be held liable for monetary damages under more circumstances than a director of Liquidmetal Delaware under the Delaware law indemnity provision. Significantly, the indemnity provision in Liquidmetal Technologies charter does not limit the liability of our directors for monetary damages as a result of shareholder class action lawsuits, where the indemnity provision in Liquidmetal Delaware s charter will, under certain circumstances, limit such liability.

### **Inspection of Shareholder List**

Both California and Delaware law allow any shareholder to inspect the shareholder list for a purpose reasonably related to such person s interest as a shareholder. California law provides, in addition, for an absolute right to inspect and copy the corporation s shareholder list by persons holding an aggregate of five percent (5%) or more of the corporation s voting shares, or shareholders holding an aggregate of one percent

(1%) or more of such shares who have initiated a proxy contest with respect to the election of directors. Delaware law also provides for inspection rights as to a list of stockholders entitled to vote at a meeting within a ten-day period preceding a stockholders meeting for any purpose germane to the meeting. Delaware law, however, contains no provisions comparable to the absolute right of inspection provided by California law to certain shareholders.

### Dividends and Repurchases of Shares

California law dispenses with the concept of par value of shares as well as statutory definitions of capital, surplus, and the like. The concepts of par value, capital, and surplus exist under Delaware law.

## Delaware

Delaware law permits a corporation to declare and pay dividends out of surplus or, if there is no surplus, out of net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared or for the preceding fiscal year as long as the amount of capital of the corporation following the declaration and payment of the dividend is not less than the aggregate amount of the capital represented by the issued and outstanding stock of all classes having a preference upon the distribution of assets. In addition, Delaware law generally provides that a corporation may redeem or repurchase its shares only if the capital of the corporation is not impaired and such redemption or repurchase would not impair the capital of the corporation.

# California

Under California law, a corporation may not make any distribution to its shareholders unless either: (i) the corporation s retained earnings immediately prior to the proposed distribution equal or exceed the amount of the proposed distribution; or (ii) immediately after giving effect to such distribution, the corporation s assets (exclusive of goodwill, capitalized research and development expenses, and deferred charges) would be at least equal to 1.25 times its liabilities (not including deferred taxes, deferred income and other deferred credits), and the corporation s current assets would be at least equal to its current liabilities (or 1.25 times its current liabilities if the average pre-tax and pre-interest expense earnings for the preceding two fiscal years were less than the average interest expense for such years). In addition, no distribution is permitted if the corporation is, or the distribution would cause the corporation to be, insolvent. Such tests are applied to California corporations on a consolidated basis.

We have never paid any cash dividends on our common stock and do not anticipate doing so in the foreseeable future.

# Shareholder Voting

In the context of a proposed acquisition, both California and Delaware law generally require that a majority of the shareholders of both acquiring and target corporations approve a statutory merger. In addition, both California and Delaware law require that a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of a corporation be approved by a majority of the outstanding voting shares of the corporation transferring such assets.

# Delaware

Delaware law does not require a stockholder vote of the surviving corporation in a merger (unless the corporation provides otherwise in its certificate of incorporation) if: (i) the merger agreement does not amend the existing certificate of incorporation; (ii) each share of stock of the surviving corporation outstanding immediately before the effective date of the merger is an identical outstanding share after the merger; and (iii) either no shares of common

stock of the surviving corporation and no shares, securities, or obligations convertible into such stock are to be issued or delivered under the plan of merger, or the authorized unissued shares or shares of common stock of the surviving corporation to be issued or delivered under the plan of merger plus those initially issuable upon conversion of any other shares, securities, or obligations to be issued or delivered under such plan do not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the shares of common stock of such constituent corporation outstanding immediately prior to the effective date of the merger.

## California

California law contains a similar exception to its voting requirements for reorganizations where shareholders or the corporation itself, or both, immediately prior to the reorganization will own immediately after the reorganization equity securities constituting more than five-sixths of the voting power of the surviving or acquiring corporation or its parent entity.

### Appraisal Rights

Under both California and Delaware law, a shareholder of a corporation participating in certain major corporate transactions may, under varying circumstances, be entitled to appraisal rights pursuant to which such shareholder may receive cash in the amount of the fair market value of his or her shares in lieu of the consideration he or she would otherwise receive in the transaction.

### Delaware

Under Delaware law, such fair market value is determined exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger or consolidation, and appraisal rights are not available: (i) with respect to the sale, lease, or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets of a corporation; (ii) with respect to a merger or consolidation by a corporation the shares of which are either listed on a national securities exchange or are held of record by more than 2,000 holders if such stockholders receive only shares of the surviving corporation or shares of any other corporation that are either listed on a national securities exchange or held of record by more than 2,000 holders, plus cash in lieu of fractional shares of such corporations; or (iii) to stockholders of a corporation surviving a merger if no vote of the stockholders of the surviving corporation is required to approve the merger under Delaware law.

### California

The limitations on the availability of appraisal rights under California law are different from those under Delaware law. California law generally affords appraisal rights in sale of asset reorganizations. Shareholders of a California corporation whose shares are listed on a national securities exchange generally do not have such appraisal rights unless the holders of at least five percent (5%) of the class of outstanding shares claim the right or the corporation or any law restricts the transfer of such shares. Appraisal rights are also unavailable if the shareholders of a corporation or the corporation itself, or both, immediately prior to the reorganization will own immediately after the reorganization equity securities constituting more than five-sixths of the voting power of the surviving or acquiring corporation or its parent entity.

### Dissolution

Under California law, shareholders holding fifty percent (50%) or more of the total voting power may authorize a corporation s dissolution, with or without the approval of the corporation s board of directors, and this right may not be modified by the articles of incorporation. Under Delaware law, unless the board of directors approves the proposal to dissolve, the dissolution must be unanimously approved by all the stockholders entitled to vote thereon. Under Delaware law, only if the dissolution is initially approved by the board of directors may the dissolution be approved by a simple majority of the outstanding shares of the corporation s stock entitled to vote. In the event of such a board-initiated dissolution, Delaware law allows a Delaware corporation to include in its certificate of incorporation a supermajority (greater than a simple majority) voting requirement in connection with dissolutions. Liquidmetal Delaware s charter contains no such supermajority voting requirement.

### **Interested Director Transactions**

Under both California and Delaware law, certain contracts or transactions in which one or more of a corporation s directors has an interest are not void or voidable because of such interest, provided that certain conditions, such as obtaining the required approval and fulfilling the requirements of good faith and full

disclosure, are met. With certain minor exceptions, the conditions are similar under California and Delaware law.

### Shareholder Derivative Suits

California law provides that a shareholder bringing a derivative action on behalf of a corporation need not have been a shareholder at the time of the transaction in question, provided that certain tests are met. Under Delaware law, a stockholder may bring a derivative action on behalf of the corporation only if the stockholder was a stockholder of the corporation at the time of the transaction in question or if such stockholder stockholder stock thereafter devolved upon such stockholder by operation of law. California law also provides that the corporation or the defendant in a derivative suit may make a motion to the court for an order requiring the plaintiff shareholder to furnish a security bond. Delaware does not have a similar bonding requirement.

## Application of the General Corporation Law of California to Delaware Corporations

On September 28, 2002, California adopted the California Corporate Disclosure Act. The Act goes into effect January 1, 2003, and applies to publicly traded corporations incorporated in California or qualified to do business in California. Thus, we will be subject to the California Corporate Disclosure Act regardless of whether we reincorporate in Delaware. The Act greatly increases the annual disclosure that we must make to the California Secretary of State. However, substantial portions of the Act cover the same general categories of information that we include in our SEC filings.

17

#### **PROPOSAL 3:**

## **RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

The board of directors recommends the ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our principal independent public accountants for the year 2003 and urges each shareholder to vote FOR the ratification. Executed proxies in the accompanying form will be voted at the annual meeting in favor of the ratification of the independent public accountants, unless authority to do so is withheld.

The Audit Committee recommends, and the Board of Director selects, our independent public accountants. The Audit Committee recommended to the board of directors that Deloitte & Touche LLP, who served during the 2002 fiscal year, be selected to be our independent public accountants in the year 2003, and the board of directors has approved that selection. Unless a shareholder directs otherwise, proxies will be voted for the approval of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent public accountants for 2003. If the shareholders do not approve the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP, the Board will consider the selection of other independent public accountants for 2003, but will not be required to do so.

At the annual meeting, the shareholders are being asked to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2003. The affirmative vote of the majority of shares of common stock present or represented and voting at the annual meeting, together with the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the required quorum, is required for approval of the ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent public accountants.

In the event the shareholders fail to ratify the appointment, the board of directors will reconsider its selection. Even if the selection is ratified, the board of directors, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent accounting firm for such fiscal year if the board of directors feels that such a change would be in our, and our shareholders, best interests.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at the annual meeting and will be available to respond to appropriate questions and may make a statement if they so desire.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Directors Compensation**

Our non-employee directors receive an annual fee of \$10,000 for their service to our board and are reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending board or committee meetings. Non-employee directors are also entitled to receive a \$10,000 annual cash stipend for each standing committee on which the director serves. Additionally, each non-employee director is entitled to receive a per-meeting fee of \$1,000 for each meeting of the board of directors attended in person. We also have a 2002 Non-employee Director Stock Option Plan pursuant to which our non-employee directors are entitled to receive stock options. When they are first elected or appointed to our board of directors, the non-employee directors are entitled to receive also of January of each year in which they continue to serve as a member of our board an annual stock option grant to purchase 10,000 shares of our common stock, in each case at an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of the grant. These stock options have a 10-year term, vest, and are exercisable pursuant to an equal 5-year vesting schedule, and remain exercisable for certain periods of time after a person is no longer a director. No director who is an employee will receive separate compensation for services rendered as a director. However, our employee directors are eligible to participate in our 2002 Equity Incentive Plan.

#### **Certain Transactions**

We are a party to an amended and restated licensed agreement with the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) under which we exclusively license from Caltech certain inventions and technology relating to amorphous alloys. Professor William Johnson, the Vice Chairman of our board of directors, is a professor at Caltech, and substantially all of the amorphous alloy technology licensed to us under the Caltech

license agreement was developed in Professor Johnson s Caltech laboratory. Under the Caltech license agreement, we have a fully paid, exclusive license to make, use, and sell products from inventions, proprietary information, know-how, and other rights relating to amorphous alloys owned by Caltech and existing as of September 1, 2001. The license agreement also gives us the exclusive right to make, use, and sell products derived from substantially all amorphous alloy technology developed in Professor Johnson s Caltech laboratory during the period September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2005. During 2001 and 2002, we paid Caltech aggregate fees of \$150,000 in connection with this agreement, although no additional fees are payable to Caltech under this agreement.

During 2002, a company managed and partially owned by Rick Salas, one of our directors, provided computer equipment and technical support services to our company. We incurred \$122,000 in expenses and equipment purchases under this arrangement during 2002. This arrangement was terminated during the first quarter of 2003.

We are a party to a consulting agreement with Chitnis Consulting, Inc., which is owned 100% by Shekhar Chitnis, a member of our board of directors and a former executive officer. Under this agreement, we have engaged Chitnis Consulting to provide consulting services on an as-needed basis through December 31, 2004. During 2002, we incurred \$50,000 in consulting fees from Chitnis Consulting.

We are a party to employment agreements with John Kang, James Kang, and Professor Johnson, each of whom are directors and executive officers of our company. For more information regarding these employment agreements, see EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS below.

## **Committees of the Board of Directors and Meeting Attendance**

During 2002, the board of directors held three meetings. These meetings were attended by all directors, except that Ms. Atkins and Professor Johnson each missed one meeting. The board of directors also took certain actions by unanimous written consent in lieu of a meeting, as permitted by California law. The board has established three standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, and a Corporate Governance Committee. Our board does not currently have a standing nominating committee. The following is a summary description of the respective responsibilities of the board s standing committees:

*Audit Committee*. The Audit Committee is comprised of Mr. Browne, Mr. Chitayat, and General Oster. All of the members of the Audit Committee are independent directors, as defined by the rules applicable to members of the Audit Committee. Mr. Chitayat will cease to be a member of our board of directors as of the annual meeting, and the resulting vacancy in the Audit Committee will be filled with a current or new director who satisfies all existing and proposed standards for Audit Committee independence.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the independence, qualifications, and activities of our independent certified accountants and our financial policies, control procedures, and accounting staff. The Audit Committee is also responsible for the review of transactions between us and any officer, director, or entity in which an officer or director of Liquidmetal has a material interest. During 2002 the Audit Committee held three meetings, each of which was attended by all of the members of the committee. The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the board of directors. A copy of this charter is attached as Appendix D to this proxy statement.

*Compensation Committee*. The Compensation Committee is comprised of Ms. Atkins, Mr. Salas, and Mr. Tchen. All of the members of the Compensation Committee are independent directors, as defined by the rules applicable to members of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing the compensation of our senior management, including salaries, bonuses, termination arrangements, and other executive officer benefits. The Compensation Committee also administers our equity incentive plans. During 2002, the Compensation Committee held one meeting, which was attended by all of the members of the committee. Mr. Salas

and Ms. Atkins will cease to be members of our board of directors as of the annual meeting, and the resulting vacancies in the Compensation Committee will be filled with current or new directors who satisfy all existing and proposed standards for Compensation Committee independence.

*Corporate Governance Committee.* A Corporate Governance Committee was formed on February 18, 2003, and is comprised of Ms. Atkins, Mr. Tchen, General Oster, and Mr. Chitayat. All members of the Corporate Governance Committee are independent directors, as defined by the rules applicable to members of the Corporate Governance Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee is generally responsible for adopting policies, procedures, and practices designed to help ensure that our corporate governance policies, procedures, and practices continue to assist the board and our management in effectively and efficiently promoting the best interests of our shareholders. The Corporate Governance Committee s principal functions include:

developing and maintaining our corporate governance policy guidelines;

developing and maintaining our codes of conduct and ethics;

overseeing the interpretation and enforcement of our Code of Conduct and our Code of Ethics for Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial and Accounting Officers; and

evaluating the performance of our board, its committees, and committee chairmen and our directors.

Ms. Atkins and Mr. Chitayat will cease to be members of our board of directors as of the annual meeting, and the resulting vacancies in the Corporate Governance Committee will be filled with current or new directors who satisfy all existing and proposed standards for Corporate Governance Committee independence.

### **Report of the Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee oversees our financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements in the Annual Report with management, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee reviewed with the independent auditors, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of our accounting principles, and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed with the independent auditors the auditors independence from management and Liquidmetal, including the matters in the written disclosures required by the Independence Standards Board and considered compatibility of nonaudit services with the auditors independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with our independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Committee meets with the independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of our internal controls, and the overall quality of our financial reporting. The Audit Committee held three meetings during 2002, each of which was attended by all members of the committee.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to our board of directors, and the board has approved, that the audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee and the board of directors have also recommended, subject to shareholder approval, the selection of our independent auditors.

David Browne, Audit Committee Chair

Jack Chitayat, *Audit Committee Member* Jeff Oster, *Audit Committee Member* 

March 24, 2003

#### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

During the year ended December 31, 2002, our executive officers and directors filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission ) on a timely basis all required reports relating to transactions involving shares of our common stock beneficially owned by them. We have relied solely on the written representation of its executive officers and directors and copies of the reports they have filed with the Commission in providing this information.

### PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of April 1, 2003 by:

each of our directors and the executive officers identified in the Summary Compensation Table below;

all directors and executive officers as a group, and

each person known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of the common stock.

Beneficial ownership is determined under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Unless otherwise indicated, each of the shareholders has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned, subject to applicable community property laws. Unless otherwise noted, the address for each principal shareholder is c/o Liquidmetal Technologies, 100 North Tampa St., Suite 3150, Tampa, Florida 33602. As of April 1, 2003, there were 242 holders of record of our common stock. For purposes of calculating amounts beneficially owned by a shareholder, the number of shares deemed outstanding includes 41,576,523 shares of common stock outstanding as of April 1, 2003. In addition, shares of common stock subject to options or warrants that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of April 1, 2003 are deemed to be outstanding and to be beneficially owned by the person holding the options or warrants for the purpose of computing the beneficial

21

ownership of that person but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the beneficial ownership of any other person.

	Beneficially	Beneficially Owned		
Name	Shares	Percent		
John Kang(1)	9,429,524	21.7%		
James Kang(2)				
6,450,858 14.8				
William Johnson(3)				
1,307,966 3.1				
Scott Wiggins(4)				
193,596 *				
Brian McDougall(5)				
96,777 *				
Ricardo A. Salas(6)				
2,750,848 6.6				
Shekhar Chitnis(7)				
626,498 1.5				
Jack Chitayat(8)				
1,361,057 3.2				
Tjoa Thian Song(9)				
4,331,104 10.4				
Henri Tchen(10)				
1,264,656 3.0				
Jeffrey Oster(11)				
10,000 *				
Betsy Atkins(11)				
10,000 *				
David Browne(11)				
50,323 *				