

SCHEDULE 14A

**PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
(Amendment No.)**

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

WESTERN DIGITAL CORPORATION

(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):

- Fee not required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) 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:

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:



Western Digital.

Stockholder Update

November 2019

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Global Data Infrastructure Leader

Western Digital is a leading data infrastructure company with an expansive portfolio of technologies, storage devices, systems and solutions for business and consumers alike

Headquarters: San Jose, CA

Employees: ~62,000

Patents: ~14,000

Revenue: \$16.6 Billion

Non-GAAP Gross Profit: \$5.0 Billion¹

Addressable Market: ~\$110 Billion by FY2024²

Key Indices: S&P500, NASDAQ100

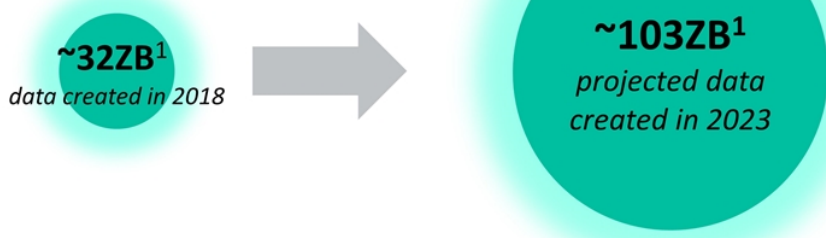
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SanDisk®



¹FY2019. See Appendix for reconciliations of GAAP to non-GAAP measures.
²WDC estimates. Includes Client Devices, Client Solutions, Data Center Devices.

Western Digital is Well Positioned to Capitalize on the Growth and Value of Data



Projected Exabyte CAGR
CY18 – CY23

Data Center SSD	+44%
Capacity Enterprise HDD	+34%
Other	+11%

Core

Edge

Endpoints

BIG DATA

FAST DATA

Machine Learning	Genomics Research	Batch Analytics	Predictive Modeling	Supply Chain Optimization	Autonomous Vehicles	Manufacturing Robotics	Wearable Diagnostics	Video Capture / Analytics	Home Automation	AI	Real-time Analytics	IoT

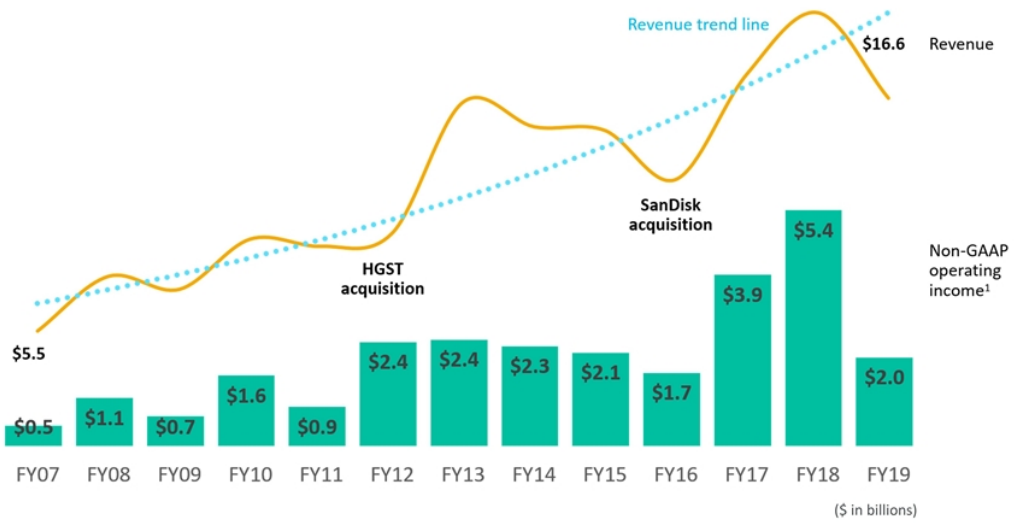
Source: IDC Global DataSphere Forecast, 2019-2023: Consumer Dependence on the Enterprise Widening, January 2019, DOC #US44615319.
¹ Zettabytes

Managing Through Industry Cyclicity

Western Digital's diversified portfolio enables us to manage through market fluctuations and continue delivering long-term value

The data storage industry experiences downturns that can impact near-term financial results

Our strategy and operating model are designed to enable the company to successfully navigate through down phases and be well-positioned for leadership when we enter the up phases



¹ See Appendix for reconciliations of GAAP to non-GAAP measures.

Positioned for Growth

Despite a challenging year, in fiscal 2019 we remained focused on activities that drive long-term value creation for our stockholders:

Strength of Product Portfolio	Technology Advances	Operational Focus
<p data-bbox="124 342 517 394">Delivering the strongest product portfolio in our company's history</p> <ul data-bbox="108 432 533 689" style="list-style-type: none">• Strong adoption of 14-terabyte high capacity drives across customer base• Successfully launched internally developed solid-state drive platforms, delivering significantly higher performance vs. prior offerings• First to launch 3D flash-based automotive grade products with unique capacities and capabilities	<p data-bbox="611 331 1003 409">Developing and investing in new technologies and partnerships to build on technology leadership</p> <ul data-bbox="595 432 1019 689" style="list-style-type: none">• In flash, first to launch 96-layer 3D technology combining industry-leading storage capacity, performance & reliability at competitive cost• In hard drives, significant progress toward bringing energy assisted recording technology to market• In May 2019 announced formal agreement with flash joint venture partner Kioxia Corporation to jointly invest in a new fab facility	<p data-bbox="1177 342 1415 394">Remaining focused on operational efficiency</p> <ul data-bbox="1082 432 1506 701" style="list-style-type: none">• In January 2019 announced a program to reduce annualized cost of revenue and operating expenses by \$800M• In Q1 2019 recognized need to proactively slow down capital deployment and wafer starts to align with our view of demand for flash• Accelerated streamlining of our hard drive manufacturing footprint to focus on higher growth, higher margin segments, such as capacity enterprise

Key to our strategy is *investing for the long term*, *maintaining our technological advantage across our suite of products* and *continually improving our operations*

The Company's efforts have produced the strongest product portfolio in our history and a leaner operating structure, positioning our business to deliver significant operating leverage as business conditions improve further

Board-Driven Stockholder Engagement

We maintain a robust, year-round stockholder engagement program led by the Board of Directors

1

Board-Driven Engagement

- The Governance Committee oversees our stockholder engagement process
- Directors regularly participate in stockholder outreach to facilitate direct connectivity with our investors

2

Year-Round Engagement and Reporting

- Ongoing dialogue provides stockholders with transparency into our executive compensation design and governance practices
- Stockholder feedback is relayed to our management team and the Board

3

Transparency and Informed Compensation Decisions and Governance Enhancements

- The Board routinely reviews our executive compensation design and governance practices with an eye towards continual improvement
- Stockholder input informs the evolution of our practices

Board Composition Facilitates Effective Oversight

Focused on thoughtful Board refreshment



Matthew Massengill
Chairman of the Board
Director since 2000
Former President & CEO of Western Digital



Kimberly Alexy
Director since 2018
Principal, Alexy Capital Management



Martin Cole
Director since 2014
Former Group Chief Executive, Technology of Accenture plc



Kathleen Cote
Director since 2001
Former CEO of Worldport Communications, Inc.



Len Lauer
Lead Independent Director
Director since 2010
Chairman & CEO of Memjet



Tunç Doluca
Director since 2018
President & CEO of Maxim Integrated



Stephen Milligan
Director since 2013
CEO of Western Digital



Stephanie Streeter
Director since 2018
Former CEO of Libbey Inc.

New Director: Kimberly Alexy

- More than 20 years of experience in capital markets, corporate finance and investing, and is an active board member at publicly-traded technology companies
- Deep expertise in in finance, securities and corporate governance
- Specialized knowledge in cybersecurity issues

New Director: Stephanie Streeter

- Extensive senior executive leadership experience overseeing companies with manufacturing and operations across the globe
- Valuable experience in development and implementation of corporate strategy, as well as balance sheet, manufacturing network and cost base management

Kimberly Alexy and Stephanie Streeter bring decades of experience in strategic leadership in vertically integrated manufacturing, supply chain and distribution

Skills and Experience Aligned with Strategy

Our Board is highly engaged and well qualified, with diverse skillsets to effectively oversee our evolving and growing business

Gender



Age



Tenure



Director Skills and Expertise

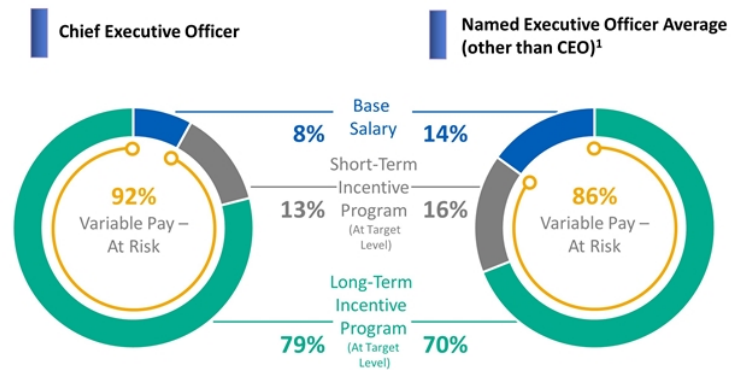
	Alexy	Cole	Cote	Doluca	Lauer	Massengill	Milligan	Streeter
Industry Experience (8/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risk Management (8/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Technology & Cybersecurity (6/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Executive-Level Leadership (7/8)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human Resources Management (7/8)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Development & Strategy (8/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Finance & Accounting (8/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manufacturing & Operations (6/8)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Global Business (7/8)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sales & Marketing (7/8)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Governance (8/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Government, Legal & Regulatory (7/8)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fiscal 2019 Executive Compensation Overview

Our 2019 compensation program includes meaningful changes to our STI and PSU designs implemented in response to investor feedback

Pay Element	Compensation Vehicle	Measurement Period	Performance Link
Base Salary	Cash	Fixed compensation	
Short-Term Incentive Program	Cash	One year New	Non-GAAP Net Income New
Long-Term Incentive Program	PSUs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO (60%) Other named executive officers (50%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All PSUs subject to 3-year service-based vesting New 87.5% based on 3-year performance period New 12.5% based on 2-year performance period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relative TSR (50%) New Revenue (25%) Non-GAAP EPS (25%) Pre-established relative Market Performance Adjustment ("MPA") for financial metrics PSU payout based on relative TSR capped at 100% if absolute TSR is negative New
		RSUs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO (40%) Other named executive officers (50%) 	Pro-rata vesting over four years

Allocation of Target Total Direct Compensation



¹ Excludes Mr. Eulau, who was appointed Chief Financial Officer in May 2019 and was not subject to the same compensation arrangements as individuals who served as named executive officers for the full fiscal year

Compensation Aligned with Performance Results

Fiscal 2019 Performance Results and Payouts

- Challenging market conditions adversely impacted our performance in fiscal 2019
- This was reflected in our compensation payouts, in particular the fiscal 2019 STI results

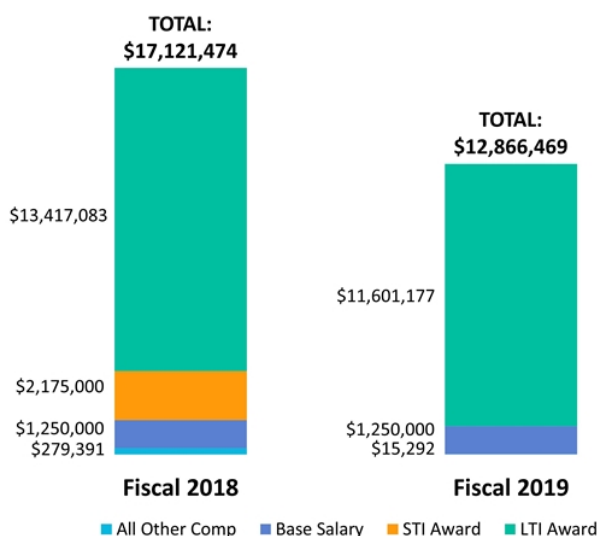
Fiscal 2019 STI Payout: 0%

- **Non-GAAP Net Income:** Achievement at 45% of pre-established target

Fiscal 2018-2019 PSU Award Payout: 79%

- **Revenue:** achievement at 90% of pre-established target
- **Non-GAAP EPS:** achievement at 89% of pre-established target
- **Relative MPA:** Pre-established Market Performance Adjustment modifier made performance goals more difficult to achieve by increasing each target during the performance period

CEO Compensation Year-Over-Year¹



¹ The fiscal 2018 LTI award value excludes a \$2.6 million adjustment for a prior year (fiscal 2016-2017) PSU award that paid out in fiscal 2018 and was required to be reported in the Summary Compensation Table as compensation for fiscal 2018 in accordance with SEC and accounting rules. Our CEO's total compensation as reported in the Summary Compensation Table for fiscal 2018 was \$19,738,381; excluding the \$2.6 million accounting adjustment results in total compensation of \$17,121,474.

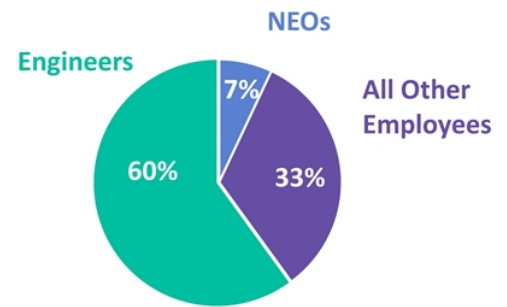
Overview of Our Equity Plan Proposal

Broad-based and thoughtful equity usage promotes a focus on long-term, sustainable growth throughout our employee base

We request your support to increase the number of shares available for issuance under the 2017 Performance Incentive Plan by 6 million shares

- Equity is a critical tool for attracting and retaining talented employees in our industry; our broad-based equity compensation plan is a core component of our competitive compensation program
 - 60% of equity is allocated to our engineers**, who are integral to maintaining our market leadership and innovation
 - In total, 93% of equity is allocated below our named executive officers** (engineering and non-engineering) which enables us to remain competitive to attract and retain key talent
 - Equity awards comprise a significant portion of our named executive officers' target total direct compensation, tightly aligning executive and stockholder interests
- The Board carefully monitors share usage to manage the dilutive impact of awards granted under our broad-based equity compensation plan

FY2019 Equity Allocation¹



Metric	Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019	Three-Year Average
Gross burn rate	3.06%	2.12%	2.50%	2.56%
Net burn rate	2.01%	1.62%	1.64%	1.76%
Full dilution at end of year	9.15%	10.63%	9.94%	9.91%

¹Based on value at grant, assuming PSU performance at target

Overview of Our Equity Plan Proposal

We maintain a series of best practice and stockholder-friendly safeguards under the terms of the 2017 Performance Incentive Plan

- ✓ Limitations on annual grants to individuals
- ✓ Limit on non-executive director awards
- ✓ No repricing of stock options, stock appreciation rights (SARs)
- ✓ Dividends and dividend equivalents not payable on awards until vesting
- ✓ No in-the-money stock option or SAR grants
- ✓ Clawback policy
- ✓ Minimum vesting requirements
- ✓ Shares reacquired in connection with stock option exercises, SAR settlements, or payment of withholding taxes on stock options or SARs will not be available again for new grants
- ✓ Plan administered by Compensation Committee, consisting of independent non-executive directors

Commitment to Fostering a Sustainable Future

Sound corporate responsibility is a focus of our Board, and our Governance Committee oversees our sustainability policies

Sustainable Products

We take responsibility for how our products impact the environment and communities

Responsible Supply Chain

With our forward-thinking responsible supply chain program, we facilitate the change in supply chains being driven by a need for greater transparency

Vibrant Communities

We believe that we should provide a positive social impact on the local communities in which we operate

Ethical Business

Working with integrity is a part of our culture—one that we work hard to maintain and enhance

Better Environment

We are fully committed to responsible use of the Earth's natural resources and we strive to minimize any impact on climate change as we work together to architect a better future

Stronger Workforce

Our people are our most important asset. Calendar 2018 was a milestone year for our workforce as we continued to focus on creating a culture of inclusion (*See Slide 14 for details*)

We recently published our 2018 Sustainability Report, which has been prepared in accordance with Core GRI Standards, as well as an ESG Data supplement for calendar year 2018, both available at www.westerndigital.com/company/corporate-sustainability

Creating a Culture of Inclusion

The success of Western Digital is predicated on the success of our workforce, and we are working to ensure that our employees are supported by an inclusive company culture

Creating a Unified Culture for All Employees

- We are committed to creating a culture of belonging for all of our employees across all levels of our organization
- Fiscal 2019 was a milestone year as we focused on creating a unified culture, amplifying the best of our three legacy companies, and architecting our path forward
 - Formalized our Company's vision and mission statement
 - Hired our first ever VP of Diversity & Inclusion
 - Transformed our HR function to focus on two primary areas: culture and people strategy, and diversity & inclusion
- In 2019, we received a perfect score in the HRC Foundation's Corporate Equality Index and were recognized by Women's Choice Award as Best Company for Millennials



Recent Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives

- Implementing unconscious bias training across the enterprise
- Creating a women's leadership development program
- Initiating the development of a strategy to increase diversity in our candidate pipeline
- Publishing our Diversity and Inclusion Statement company-wide
- Conducting a pay equity analysis
- Expanding our Employee Resources Groups



2019 Annual Meeting

Western Digital values your support on the 2019 ballot items

Our Board recommends:



A vote **FOR Proposal 1** to elect each of the eight director nominees named in the proxy statement



A vote **FOR Proposal 2** to approve on an advisory basis the compensation of the Company's named executive officers



A vote **FOR Proposal 3** to approve the amendment and restatement of the 2017 Performance Incentive Plan



A vote **FOR Proposal 4** to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2020



Appendix

GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliation

In millions; unaudited

	Twelve Months Ended						
	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
GAAP OPERATING INCOME	\$ 415	\$ 1,006	\$ 519	\$ 1,525	\$ 781	\$ 1,771	\$ 1,266
Amortization of acquired intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-	63	193
Stock-based compensation expense	48	37	47	60	69	92	137
Employee termination, asset impairment and other charges	-	-	94	-	-	80	138
Acquisition-related charges	-	49	14	-	17	153	7
Charges and insurance recoveries related to flooding, net	-	-	-	-	-	214	-
Charges related to arbitration award	-	-	-	-	-	-	681
Other	-	-	-	27	25	7	11
NON-GAAP OPERATING INCOME	\$ 463	\$ 1,092	\$ 674	\$ 1,612	\$ 892	\$ 2,380	\$ 2,433
REVENUE	\$ 5,468	\$ 8,074	\$ 7,453	\$ 9,850	\$ 9,526	\$ 12,478	\$ 15,351
GAAP OPERATING MARGIN	7.6%	12.5%	7.0%	15.5%	8.2%	14.2%	8.2%
NON-GAAP OPERATING MARGIN	8.5%	13.5%	9.0%	16.4%	9.4%	19.1%	15.8%

	Twelve Months Ended					
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
GAAP OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,791	\$ 1,611	\$ 466	\$ 1,954	\$ 3,617	\$ 87
Amortization of acquired intangible assets	195	163	258	1,162	1,185	968
Stock-based compensation expense	156	158	180	382	376	306
Employee termination, asset impairment and other charges	85	176	345	232	215	166
Acquisition-related charges	13	3	281	35	13	-
Charges related to cost saving initiatives	-	-	143	154	12	22
Charges and insurance recoveries related to flooding, net	(65)	(37)	-	-	-	-
Charges related to arbitration award	52	15	32	-	-	-
Manufacturing underutilization charges	60	52	-	-	-	264
Power outage charges	-	-	-	-	-	145
Other	-	-	(34)	13	(3)	66
NON-GAAP OPERATING INCOME	\$ 2,287	\$ 2,141	\$ 1,671	\$ 3,932	\$ 5,415	\$ 2,024
REVENUE	\$15,130	\$ 14,572	\$12,994	\$19,093	\$20,647	\$16,569
GAAP OPERATING MARGIN	11.8%	11.1%	3.6%	10.2%	17.5%	0.5%
NON-GAAP OPERATING MARGIN	15.1%	14.7%	12.9%	20.6%	26.2%	12.2%

GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliation

In millions; unaudited

	Year Ended
	6/28/2019
GAAP GROSS PROFIT	\$ 3,752
Amortization of acquired intangible assets	804
Stock-based compensation expense	48
Charges related to cost saving initiatives	11
Manufacturing underutilization charges	264
Power outage charges	145
Other	22
NON-GAAP GROSS PROFIT	\$ 5,046

Footnotes for GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliations

This presentation contains the following financial measures that are not in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"): non-GAAP gross profit, non-GAAP operating income and non-GAAP operating margin. These Non-GAAP measures are not in accordance with, or an alternative for, measures prepared in accordance with GAAP and may be different from Non-GAAP measures used by other companies. The company believes the presentation of these Non-GAAP measures, when shown in conjunction with the corresponding GAAP measures, provides useful information to investors for measuring the company's earnings performance and comparing it against prior periods. Specifically, the company believes these Non-GAAP measures provide useful information to both management and investors as they exclude certain expenses, gains and losses that the company believes are not indicative of its core operating results or because they are consistent with the financial models and estimates published by many analysts who follow the company and its peers. As discussed further below, these Non-GAAP measures exclude the amortization of acquired intangible assets, stock-based compensation expense, employee termination, asset impairment and other charges, acquisition-related charges, charges related to cost saving initiatives, charges and insurance recoveries related to flooding, net, charges related to arbitration award, manufacturing underutilization charges, power outage charges, and other adjustments. The company believes these measures along with the related reconciliations to the GAAP measures provide additional detail and comparability for assessing the company's results. These Non-GAAP measures are some of the primary indicators management uses for assessing the company's performance and planning and forecasting future periods. These measures should be considered in addition to results prepared in accordance with GAAP, but should not be considered a substitute for, or superior to, GAAP results.

As described above, the company excludes the following items from its Non-GAAP measures:

Amortization of acquired intangible assets. The company incurs expenses from the amortization of acquired intangible assets over their economic lives. Such charges are significantly impacted by the timing and magnitude of the company's acquisitions and any related impairment charges.

Stock-based compensation expense. Because of the variety of equity awards used by companies, the varying methodologies for determining stock-based compensation expense, the subjective assumptions involved in those determinations, and the volatility in valuations that can be driven by market conditions outside the company's control, the company believes excluding stock-based compensation expense enhances the ability of management and investors to understand and assess the underlying performance of its business over time and compare it against the company's peers, a majority of whom also exclude stock-based compensation from their non-GAAP results.

Employee termination, asset impairment and other charges. From time-to-time, in order to realign the company's operations with anticipated market demand or to achieve cost synergies from the integration of acquisitions, the company may terminate employees and/or restructure its operations. From time-to-time, the company may also incur charges from the impairment of intangible assets and other long-lived assets. These charges (including any reversals of charges recorded in prior periods) are inconsistent in amount and frequency, and the company believes are not indicative of the underlying performance of its business.

Acquisition-related charges. In connection with the company's business combinations, the company incurs expenses which it would not have otherwise incurred as part of its business operations. These expenses include third-party professional service and legal fees, third-party integration services, severance costs, non-cash adjustments to the fair value of acquired inventory, contract termination costs, and retention bonuses. The company may also experience other accounting impacts in connection with these transactions. These charges and impacts are related to acquisitions, are inconsistent in amount and frequency, and the company believes are not indicative of the underlying performance of its business.

Charges related to cost saving initiatives. In connection with the transformation of the company's business combinations, the company has incurred charges related to cost saving initiatives which do not qualify for special accounting treatment as exit or disposal activities. These charges, which the company believes are not indicative of the underlying performance of its business, primarily relate to costs associated with rationalizing the company's channel partners or vendors, transforming the company's information systems infrastructure, integrating the company's product roadmap, and accelerated depreciation on assets.

Charges and insurance recoveries related to flooding, net. From time-to-time, the company receives insurance recoveries related to losses or other events which occurred in a prior period. Such recoveries are inconsistent in amount and frequency.

Charges related to arbitration award. In relation to an arbitration award for claims brought against the company by Seagate Technology LLC, which was satisfied in October 2014, and the related dispute over the calculation of post-award interest, which was resolved in February 2016, the company recorded loss contingencies. The resulting expense is inconsistent in amount and frequency.

Footnotes for GAAP to Non-GAAP Reconciliations (cont'd)

Manufacturing underutilization charges. In response to flash business conditions, the company reduced its wafer starts at its flash-based memory manufacturing facilities operated through its strategic partnership with Kioxia Corporation ("Kioxia", formerly Toshiba Memory Corporation). The temporary abnormal reduction in output resulted in flash manufacturing underutilization charges which are expensed as incurred. These charges are inconsistent in amount and frequency, and the company believes these charges are not part of the ongoing operation of its business.

Power outage charges. In June 2019, an unexpected power outage incident occurred at the flash-based memory manufacturing facilities operated through the company's strategic partnership with Kioxia in Yokkaichi, Japan. The power outage incident resulted in the write-off of damaged inventory and unabsorbed manufacturing overhead costs which are expensed as incurred. These charges are inconsistent in amount and frequency, and the company believes these charges are not part of the ongoing production operation of its business.

Other adjustments. From time-to-time, the company sells or impairs investments or other assets which are not considered necessary to its business operations, or incurs other charges or gains that the company believes are not a part of the ongoing operation of its business. The resulting expense or benefit is inconsistent in amount and frequency.



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