

Morse Timothy  
 Form 4  
 February 02, 2009

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Morse Timothy

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 101 INNOVATION DRIVE  
 (Street)

SAN JOSE, CA 95134

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 ALTERA CORP [ALTR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/29/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Sr Vice President & CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/29/2009                           |  | A                              | 30,000 (1)  | A 2 38,825  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/30/2009                           |  | M                              | 12,500  | A \$ 0 51,325 (3)   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/30/2009                           |  | F                              | 4,817 (4)   | D \$ 15.38 46,508 (5)   | D  |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Unit (RSU)                | \$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>                                    | 01/30/2009                           |  | M                              | 12,500  | 01/30/2008 01/29/2017 <sup>(6)</sup>                     | Common Stock  | 12,500                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                              | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| Morse Timothy<br>101 INNOVATION DRIVE<br>SAN JOSE, CA 95134 |               |           | Sr Vice President & CFO |       |

## Signatures

Timothy Richard Morse  
02/02/2009  
\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- The Compensation Committee of Altera Corporation's Board of Directors previously approved a grant effective on April 28, 2008 of performance based Restricted Stock Units such that 100% of the vesting would be contingent on the Company achieving net income from continuing operations as a percentage of revenue of 20% or greater in 2008. If the Company achieves the performance metric, the RSUs will vest 25% annually commencing April 30, 2009. Effective Jan 29, 2009 the Compensation Committee certified that the Company achieved the performance metric for fiscal year 2008.
- (1) continuing operations as a percentage of revenue of 20% or greater in 2008. If the Company achieves the performance metric, the RSUs will vest 25% annually commencing April 30, 2009. Effective Jan 29, 2009 the Compensation Committee certified that the Company achieved the performance metric for fiscal year 2008.
  - (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock at no cost.
  - (3) Includes 725 shares acquired under Altera Corporation 1987 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
  - (4) Shares withheld to cover required tax withholding on RSU shares released January 30, 2009.
  - (5) Includes common stock and performance-based restricted stock units subject to vesting over a period of time.
  - (6) The RSU Award shares shall vest and become subject to release over a four (4) year period measured from the date of Award, provided that the Insider continues to serve as an employee on such dates.

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