

WHITAKER ERIC S  
Form 4  
March 13, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
WHITAKER ERIC S

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
3500 DEER CREEK ROAD  
(Street)

PALO ALTO, CA 94304

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
TESLA MOTORS INC [TSLA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
03/09/2012

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)  
General Counsel

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)
			Code	V	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	03/09/2012		M		4,670	A	\$ 24.98 4,670 D
Common Stock	03/09/2012		S <sup>(1)</sup>		4,670	D	\$ 35.027 0 D <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	03/09/2012		M		48,857	A	\$ 24.98 48,857 D
Common Stock	03/09/2012		S <sup>(1)</sup>		48,857	D	\$ 34.988 0 D <sup>(3)</sup>
	03/12/2012		M		3,139	A	\$ 24.98 3,139 D

Common  
Stock

Common Stock    03/12/2012    S(1)    3,139    D    \$ 34.98    0    D

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

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(9-02)

**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
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.98	03/09/2012		M	4,670	<u>(4)</u> 11/08/2020	Common Stock	4,670
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.98	03/09/2012		M	48,857	<u>(4)</u> 11/08/2020	Common Stock	48,857
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 24.98	03/12/2012		M	3,139	<u>(4)</u> 11/08/2020	Common Stock	3,139

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WHITAKER ERIC S 3500 DEER CREEK ROAD PALO ALTO, CA 94304			General Counsel	

## Signatures

/s/ Eric Whitaker                      03/12/2012

\_\_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).
- (1) The sales reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on December 7, 2011.  

The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$35.02 to \$35.05, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Tesla Motors, Inc., any security holder of Tesla Motors, Inc. or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.
- (2) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$34.98 to \$35.02, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Tesla Motors, Inc., any security holder of Tesla Motors, Inc. or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.
- (3) 1/4th of the shares subject to the option become vested and exercisable one year from hire date and 1/48th of the shares subject to the option shall become vested and exercisable each month thereafter.
- (4)

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.