

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2002
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. 3300 FIECHTNER DRIVE SW FARGO, ND 58103
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-0396816
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 701-281-1884
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541330

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/23/2024	MATT GUSTAFSON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/23/2024	MATT GUSTAFSON
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 297
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 94 6a(2) 77 6b 62 6c 129 6d 268 6e 1 6f 269 6g(1) 269 6g(2) 269 6h 4
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2F 2H 2I 2J 2K 2O 2E 2Q 3I

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2)** ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3)** ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4)** ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5)** ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2)** ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3)** ☒ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- (4)** ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5)** ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6)** ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-0396816	

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
84-0467907	68322	500431-01	20	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	147614
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
 (3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ **GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**

b Balance at the end of the previous year**7b**

159655

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

4656

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

0

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

1863

(4) Transferred from separate account.....

7c(4)

9622

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

9452

▶ **FORFEITURES**

(6) Total additions.....

7c(6)

25593

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)**7d**

185248

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year

7e(1)

6333

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

109

(3) Transferred to separate account.....

7e(3)

31192

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

0

(5) Total deductions.....

7e(5)

37634

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f**

147614

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-0396816

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).....

No

Yes

X
- b

If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

VALMARK ADVISERS INC

130 SPRINGSIDE DRIVE STE 300
AKRON, OH 44333

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISER	25170	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ANNUITY INS CO OF AMERICA

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64	RECORDKEEPER	18813	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28	INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	1279	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC.		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-0396816

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	19863	2245
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	543310	334768
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	9042	8013
(3) Other	1b(3)		0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	855798	709418
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	81902	119141
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	8103117	9158344
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	159655	147614
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	7521964	7279320
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	17294651	17758863
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	324027	20447
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		7218
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	324027	27665
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	16970624	17731198

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	870604	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	495174	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	137371	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1503149
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	303322	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	8602	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		311924
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	0	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	1353171	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	1521112	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		-167941
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	21781	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		1207703
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2876616

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2070262	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		2070262
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	44694	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	1086	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		45780
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2116042

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		760574
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: EIDE BAILEY

(2) EIN: 45-0250958

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	☒	☐	9665
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	2000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 APPLIED ENGINEERING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-0396816	

Part I	Distributions
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All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 33-1021131		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☒ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☒ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☒ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☒ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ____/____/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.



Independent Auditor's Report

Plan Administrator
Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust
Fargo, North Dakota

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 5 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule H, line 4i-schedule of assets held at end of year and schedule H, line 4a-schedule of delinquent participant contributions as of or for the year ended December 31, 2023, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Sully LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fargo, North Dakota
September 18, 2024

Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 9,158,344	\$ 8,103,117
Investments, at contract value	147,614	159,655
Investment in Applied Engineering, Inc. Common Stock	7,279,320	7,521,964
Cash, non-interest bearing	2,245	19,863
Cash, interest bearing	709,418	855,798
Notes receivable from participants	145,058	106,934
Contributions receivable		
Employer	334,768	543,310
Participant	<u>8,013</u>	<u>9,042</u>
Total assets	<u>17,784,780</u>	<u>17,319,683</u>
Liabilities		
Excess contribution payable	20,447	-
Due to Company	<u>7,218</u>	<u>324,027</u>
Total liabilities	<u>27,665</u>	<u>324,027</u>
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u><u>\$ 17,757,115</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 16,995,656</u></u>

Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions		
Investment income		
Interest and dividends	\$	303,322
Net appreciation in fair value of investments		1,061,543
		<u>1,364,865</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants		<u>8,602</u>
Contributions		
Employer		870,604
Participant		495,174
Rollovers		137,371
		<u>1,503,149</u>
Total additions		<u>2,876,616</u>
Deductions		
Benefits paid to participants		2,069,377
Administrative expenses		45,780
Total deductions		<u>2,115,157</u>
Net Increase		761,459
Net Assets Available for Benefits		
Beginning of year		<u>16,995,656</u>
End of year	\$	<u><u>17,757,115</u></u>

Note 1 - Description of Plan

The following description of Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan and is designed as a stock ownership plan with IRC Section 401(k) and 401(m) features for participating employees of Applied Engineering, Inc. (Company). The Plan operates as an employee stock ownership plan and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations there under of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the ERISA). The Plan is administered by a committee approved by the Company. An internal employee is the Plan's Trustee.

Eligibility

An employee is eligible to participate in the Plan and receive matching contributions when they have completed sixty continuous days of service and have reached the age of twenty-one. Matching contributions may be in the form of employer stock or cash. An employee is eligible to receive a discretionary contribution when they have completed one year of service and have reached the age of twenty-one.

Entry Date

Employees may enter the Plan on the first day of the Plan year or the first day of the calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of which the employee meets the eligibility requirements.

Contributions

Each year a participant may contribute up to 100% of their pretax annual compensation as defined in the Plan document. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limitations. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. The Plan allows participants to designate contributions as Roth contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans.

The Company may contribute a discretionary contribution. The Company determines the Plan contribution amount annually. The employer contribution is based on proportion of the participant's compensation to the total eligible compensation of all eligible participants for the Plan year. A participant must have completed at least 1,000 hours during the Plan year and be employed on the last day of the Plan year, unless terminated as a result of death, total and permanent disability, or retirement. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company made a discretionary contribution of \$807,243.

The Company may contribute a discretionary matching contribution. The Company determines the Plan contribution amount annually. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company's discretionary matching contribution was equal to 50% of the first 2% of eligible compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching contributions, as well as allocations of the Company's discretionary contributions and Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant's earnings, account balances or specific participant transactions, as defined by the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Investment Options

Participants may allocate their contributions as well as employer matching contributions to any or all of the investment funds offered by the Plan. Participants may change their investment options daily in relation to the investments that are not held as Company stock.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's contribution portion of participant's accounts plus actual earnings thereon is based on the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage of Individual Account</u>
Less than 2	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5	80%
6 or more	100%

Forfeitures

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled \$18,270 and \$36,816, respectively. Forfeitures are to be allocated to the participants the same as initial Company contributions. During the year ended December 31, 2023, forfeited non-vested accounts were used. Forfeitures related to Company common stock are re-allocated in the same year they are forfeited based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to the total eligible compensation for the Plan year. During 2023, \$28,387 forfeitures relating to Company common stock were re-allocated.

Notes Receivable from Participants

A participant may borrow from their fund accounts, a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their account balance. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates commensurate with local prevailing rates at the time funds are borrowed, as determined by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions over a period of time not to exceed five years, unless the note proceeds were used to acquire a principal residence, in which case the note may exceed five years. A participant may have no more than 1 outstanding notes at any one time.

Payment of Benefits

Participants may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of their vested interest or annual installments as defined in the Plan Document upon retirement, termination, death or disability. A terminated employee with a balance of less than \$5,000 may be automatically paid out by the Plan upon termination. Any terminated participants with a balance up to \$5,000 can still be automatically paid out if their balance is rolled into a qualified Individual Retirement Account. Distributions may be made at the participant's election prior to termination for hardship as defined in the Plan Document.

In addition, the Plan contains special distribution provisions that apply only to Company common stock balances. Under these special provisions, if you separate from service because of retirement, death, or disability, the distribution to you of your vested benefits attributable to employer securities generally will commence within one year of the end of the plan year in which the separation from service occurs. If you separate from service for any other reason, such distribution generally will commence by the end of the sixth plan year following your separation, provided you are not reemployed during that time. Where these special provisions apply, distributions will be made over 5 years (or a somewhat longer period where the account balances exceed \$1,330,000, as adjusted for cost of living), unless you elect a longer period. Additional restrictions on distributions apply where the employer stock in your account was purchased by the plan using a loan.

Death Benefit

The designated beneficiary is entitled to a death benefit distribution equal to the participant's vested account balance.

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a five-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25 percent of the shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. At the end of the fifth year, the percentage changes to 50 percent. Participants who elect to diversify receive a cash distribution. The option to diversify is only applicable to employees with at least \$500 in employer stock.

Voting Rights

The trustee votes the stock as directed by the Plan administrator unless instruction is otherwise provided by a participant.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

Put Option

Under Federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market or is subject to trading limitations includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to a participant for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the fair market value of the stock. A participant may receive a distribution from the Trust at any time during two option periods. The first put option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing on the date of the distribution to the participant. The second put option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing in the next Plan year after the new determination of fair market value of the Company's common stock or the 60 days after the first 60-day period. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Cash and Concentration of Credit Risk

Cash consists of highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less. The Plan maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which exceed federally insured limits. Accounts are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each account ownership category. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan had approximately \$0, and \$605,800, respectively, in excess of FDIC-insured limits.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value, except for the fully benefit-responsive investment contract, which is reported at contract value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Contract value is the relevant measure for the portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Plan Administrator determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians, and other third parties.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as those held during the year. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date.

The classification of investment earnings reported above and in the statement of changes in net assets may differ from the classification of earnings on Form 5500 due to different reporting requirements on Form 5500.

Contributions

Participant contributions, employer contributions and the related Company matching contributions are recorded in the year in which the employee contributions are withheld from compensation or contributed.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivables are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Payments of Benefits

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution. Amounts allocated to accounts of persons who have elected to withdraw from the Plan, but have not yet been paid, were \$7,218 and \$318,122 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the Plan document. Expenses that are paid directly by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Certain expenses incurred in connection with the general administration of the Plan that are paid by the Plan are recorded as deductions in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. In addition, certain investment related expenses are included in net appreciation of fair value of investments presented in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

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Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 3 - Nonparticipant-Directed Investments

Information about the net assets and the significant components of the changes in net assets relating to the nonparticipant-directed investments as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, is as follows:

	2023	2022
Net Assets Available for Benefits		
Cash	\$ 711,663	\$ 875,661
Company common stock	7,279,320	7,521,964
Employer receivable	333,467	542,000
Due to Company	(7,218)	(324,027)
	<u>\$ 8,317,232</u>	<u>\$ 8,615,598</u>
Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits		
Contributions	\$ 807,243	
Interest income	20,514	
Net depreciation	(242,644)	
Benefits paid to participants	(883,479)	
	<u>\$ (298,366)</u>	

The plan had no unallocated shares as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. The plan held 242,644 shares as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. The cost associated with the company common stock held was \$1,345,920 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Note 4 - Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

- Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

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If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Mutual Funds - Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common Stock - The fair value of the Company common stock held in the Plan is valued at estimated fair value based upon an independent appraisal. The appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, discount rates, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables and estimated fair value of Company assets and liabilities, including certain discounts.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 9,158,344	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,158,344
Common stock	-	-	7,279,320	7,279,320
Total assets at fair value	<u>\$ 9,158,344</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,279,320</u>	<u>\$ 16,437,664</u>

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Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 8,103,117	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,103,117
Common Stock	-	-	7,521,964	7,521,964
Total assets at fair value	<u>\$ 8,103,117</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,521,964</u>	<u>\$ 15,625,081</u>

Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The table below sets forth certain changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Common Stock
Transfer in	\$ -
Transfers out	-
Purchases	-
Issuance/Distribution of shares	-

Note 5 - Information Certified by the Plan Trustee and Custodian

Other than the investment in Applied Engineering, Inc. Common Stock, cash, and the related net depreciation, interest income and distributions, all investment information for the Plan disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplementary information, including investments and notes receivable from participants held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income on notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained or derived from information provided to the Plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Empower Trust Company, LLC and Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America, the trustee and custodian of the Plan. Investment in common stock of \$7,279,320 and \$7,521,964, cash of \$711,663 and \$875,661, employer receivables of \$333,467 and \$542,000, and due to Company of \$7,218 and \$324,027, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and net depreciation of \$242,644, interest income of \$20,514, employer contributions of \$807,243, and distributions of \$883,479 for the year ended December 31, 2023, were not certified by the trustee and custodian.

Note 6 - Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated September 26, 2013, that the Plan and related trust were designed in accordance with the applicable regulations of the IRC. Subsequent to this issuance of the determination letter, the Plan was amended, however, the Company and Plan management believes that the Plan is currently designed and operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and the Plan and related trust continue to be tax-exempt. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 7 - Contract with Insurance Company

The Plan entered into a traditional fully benefit-responsive guaranteed investment contract (GIC) with Empower Trust Company, LLC and Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America maintains the contributions in a general account, which is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The GIC issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer, but it may not be less than 0%. Such interest rates are reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting. The GIC does not permit the insurance company to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date.

Because the GIC is fully benefit-responsive, contract value is the relevant measure for the GIC. Contract value represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. The contract value of the investment contract at December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$147,614 and \$159,655, respectively.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due is dependent on the issuer's ability to meet financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include the following: (1) amendments to the Plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the Plan sponsor or other Plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, or (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers and that would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

The contract permits the insurance company to terminate the agreement with 60 days advanced written notice.

Note 8 - Related Party and Party-In-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are guaranteed investment contracts managed by Empower Trust Company, LLC and Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America, the trustee and custodian as defined by the Plan and invests in Company common stock. These transactions are related party and party-in-interest transaction under ERISA.

As described in Note 2, the Plan paid certain expenses related to Plan operations and investment activity to various service providers. These transactions are exempt party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

Note 9 - Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities, including Company common stock. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, credit risks as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in estimates and assumptions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Note 10 - Plan Amendments

Effective January 1, 2023, the Plan was amended to involuntary cash-out a participant's vested accrued benefit if the balance does not exceed \$5,000.

Note 11 - Delinquent Participant Contributions

It was noted in 2023 and 2022, that there were delays by the Company in submitting employee contributions to the trustee in the aggregate amount of \$7,066 and \$2,599, respectively. In 2023, the Company reimbursed the Plan for lost earnings from the 2022 late contributions. The Company is in the process of filing Form 5330 and correcting lost earnings for the 2023 late contributions.

Applied Engineering, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan & Trust

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 12 - Excess Contributions Payable

Contributions from participants are net of payments made to certain participants to return excess contributions required to satisfy the relevant nondiscrimination provisions of the Plan. The amount of excess contribution was \$20,447 and \$0 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The amount is reflected as excess contributions payable in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Note 13 - Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022 to Form 5500:

	2023	2022
Notes receivable from participants per the financial statements	\$ 145,058	\$ 106,934
Deemed loans	(25,917)	(25,032)
Notes receivable from participants per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 119,141</u>	<u>\$ 81,902</u>
	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 17,757,115	\$ 16,995,656
Deemed loans	(25,917)	(25,032)
Net assets per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 17,731,198</u>	<u>\$ 16,970,624</u>

The following is a reconciliation of benefits paid to participants per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, to Form 5500:

total benefits paid to participants per the financial statements	\$ 2,069,377
Add deemed loans - December 31, 2023	25,917
Deduct deemed loans - December 31, 2022	(25,032)
Total benefit payments to participants per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 2,070,262</u>

Note 14 - Subsequent Events

Effective January 1, 2024, the Plan was amended to involuntary cash-out a participant's vested accrued benefit if the balance does not exceed \$7,000.

The Plan Sponsor has evaluated subsequent events through September 18, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

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Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

Year Ended December 31, 2023

EIN: 45-0396816

Plan: 002

		Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions				
		Late Participant Loan Repayments are included (Yes/No)	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Participant Contributions						
Transferred Late to the Plan in 2023		Yes	\$ 7,066 **	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transferred Late to the Plan in 2022		Yes	\$ -	\$ 2,599 *	\$ -	\$ -

** Amount represents late contributions during the year ended December 31, 2023. These earnings have been corrected in 2024.

* Amount represents late contributions during the year ended December 31, 2022. These earnings have been corrected during 2023.

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Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year

December 31, 2023

EIN: 45-0396816

Plan: 002

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value
	Empower Retirement			
	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	Mutual funds	N/A	\$ 104,667
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020	Mutual funds	N/A	125,493
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	Mutual funds	N/A	331,016
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	Mutual funds	N/A	958,872
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	Mutual funds	N/A	511,183
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	Mutual funds	N/A	1,505,566
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	Mutual funds	N/A	1,594,174
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	Mutual funds	N/A	697,869
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	Mutual funds	N/A	383,112
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060	Mutual funds	N/A	590,495
	American Funds SmallCap World	Mutual funds	N/A	202,733
	American Funds Capital World	Mutual funds	N/A	106,692
	American Funds Europacific	Mutual funds	N/A	64,550
	American Funds New Perspective	Mutual funds	N/A	293,173
	American Funds New World	Mutual funds	N/A	91,070
	Vanguard REIT Index	Mutual funds	N/A	84,890
	Vanguard Small Cap Index	Mutual funds	N/A	50,539
	Vanguard Mid Cap Index	Mutual funds	N/A	156,570
	American Funds American Mutual	Mutual funds	N/A	123,921
	American Funds Fundamental Investors	Mutual funds	N/A	84,276
	American Funds Growth Fund	Mutual funds	N/A	325,970
	American Funds Investment Co	Mutual funds	N/A	2,440
	Vanguard 500 Index Admiral	Mutual funds	N/A	498,496
	American Funds Income Fund	Mutual funds	N/A	15,763
	Metropolitan West Total Return Bond I	Mutual funds	N/A	126,545
	Neuberger Berman Strategic Income	Mutual funds	N/A	128,269
	Total mutual funds			<u>9,158,344</u>
* Key	Guaranteed Portfolio Fund	Guaranteed Investment Contract	N/A	147,614
* Notes	receivable from participants	Maturing 2026 - 2028 at interest rates of 5.25% - 10.50%	\$ -	145,058
* Common	Stock			
	Investment in Applied Engineering, Inc. Common Stock	242,644 shares	\$ 1,345,920	<u>7,279,320</u>
	Total assets held at end of year			<u><u>\$ 16,730,336</u></u>

* - A party in interest as defined by ERISA.

N/A - Not applicable for participant-directed plan.