

<div>Form 5500</div> <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div> <div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</div> <div>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).</div> <div>▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div>
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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: <div><div>☐ a multiemployer plan</div><div>☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)</div><div>☒ a single-employer plan</div><div>☐ a DFE (specify) _____</div><div>☐ the first return/report</div><div>☐ the final return/report</div><div>☐ an amended return/report</div><div>☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)</div></div>
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: <div><div>☒ Form 5558</div><div>☐ automatic extension</div><div>☐ the DFVC program</div><div>☐ special extension (enter description)</div></div>
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 THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
1c	Effective date of plan 10/01/2012
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) THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC. 20600 CHAGRIN BLVD SUITE 1200 SHAKER HTS, OH 44122
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 32-0430595
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 216-283-6021
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.	10/15/2024	THERESA RILEY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	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 <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
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	5 175
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	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> 6a(1) 142 6a(2) 160 6b 2 6c 35 6d 197 6e 0 6f 197 6g(1) 175 6g(2) 197 6h 6
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:

2P 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 0
- (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 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 THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, 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 THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 32-0430595	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
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	246365	623773
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	541641	266318
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(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)		
(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)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	21875496	30998042
(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	22663502	31888133
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	6632718	6205475
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	6632718	6205475
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	16030784	25682658

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)	1078642	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1078642
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(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)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(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)		
(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)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	9122547	
(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)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		10201189

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	398547	
(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)		398547
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		150768
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(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)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		549315

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		9651874
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: **PARSONS CPA, PLLC**

(2) EIN: **27-4214364**

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.)		☒	
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?	☒		1000000
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 _____.

<div>SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div><div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div><div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div></div>		<div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>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).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>		<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div>	
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023					
A Name of plan THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, 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 THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.				D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 32-0430595	
Part I Distributions					
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): 32-0430595					
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.)					
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					
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					
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.					
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					
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.				Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707	

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) 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) 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)	14a 14b 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 b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 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 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	16a 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 _____.	



THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

**Financial Statements and
Independent Auditors' Report**

**As of December 31, 2023 and 2022,
and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

**THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Participants and Administrator of The Equity
Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and Trust:

Opinion on the 2023 Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and Trust (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), which comprise the statements of net asset 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.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion on the 2023 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2023 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.

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 The Equity Engineering Stock Group, Inc. Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern within 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.

Auditors' Responsibility for the Audit of the 2023 Financial Statements

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 auditors' 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, 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 The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and 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 The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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.

2023 Supplemental Schedule(s) Required by ERISA

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the

financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor'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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit 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 generally accepted auditing standards.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Auditors' Report on the 2022 Financial Statements

The 2022 financial statements of The Equity Engineering Stock Group, Inc. Ownership Plan and Trust were audited by predecessor auditors whose report dated October 5, 2023, expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Parsons CPA, PLLC".

Parsons CPA, PLLC
Charlotte, North Carolina

October 15, 2024

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023			2022		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS						
Cash	\$ 623,773	\$ -	\$ 623,773	\$ 246,365	\$ -	\$ 246,365
Investments at Fair Value:						
Common Stock	18,437,111	12,560,931	30,998,042	12,117,849	9,757,647	21,875,496
Receivables:						
Employer Contributions	266,318	-	266,318	541,641	-	541,641
Total Assets	19,327,202	12,560,931	31,888,133	12,905,855	9,757,647	22,663,502
LIABILITIES						
Acquisition Indebtedness	-	6,205,475	6,205,475	-	6,632,718	6,632,718
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 19,327,202</u>	<u>\$ 6,355,456</u>	<u>\$ 25,682,658</u>	<u>\$ 12,905,855</u>	<u>\$ 3,124,929</u>	<u>\$ 16,030,784</u>

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

ADDITIONS:	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Investment Income (Loss):			
Net Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments	\$ 5,425,937	\$ 3,696,610	\$ 9,122,547
Contributions:			
Employer	499,621	579,021	1,078,642
Share Release (at Fair Market Value)	<u>579,021</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>579,021</u>
Total Contributions	<u>1,078,642</u>	<u>579,021</u>	<u>1,657,663</u>
Total Additions	6,504,579	4,275,631	10,780,210
DEDUCTIONS:			
Benefits Paid to Participants	(398,547)	-	(398,547)
Share Release (at Fair Market Value)	-	(579,021)	(579,021)
Debt Payments	428,253	(428,253)	-
Interest Expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(150,768)</u>	<u>(150,768)</u>
Total Deductions	<u>29,706</u>	<u>(1,158,042)</u>	<u>(1,128,336)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	6,534,285	3,117,589	9,651,874
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>12,905,855</u>	<u>3,124,929</u>	<u>16,030,784</u>
END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 19,440,140</u>	<u>\$ 6,242,518</u>	<u>\$ 25,682,658</u>

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

General. The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. (the “Company”) established the employee stock ownership plan effective as of October 1, 2012, for all employees of the Company other than leased employees, non-resident aliens, a disqualified person, or employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement. As of October 1, 2012, the Plan operates as an employee stock ownership plan (“ESOP”) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“IRC”) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). The Plan is administered by an Employee Benefits Administration Committee which consists of not less than one person appointed by the Sponsor Company. The Plan was restated in 2018.

The Plan purchased the Company common stock by issuing notes payable to the former owners of the Company in a trust established under the Plan. See Note E.

Eligibility. Employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate in the Plan after twelve months of service provided they worked at least 1,000 hours during the Plan year, received compensation during the Plan year, and were employed on the last day of the Plan year and were 21 years of age or older.

Contributions. The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled loan payments.

Payment of Benefits. Distributions on account of death, disability, or retirement are made in a lump sum or installments beginning in the Plan year following the event that occurred. Distributions for other separations from service are required to be made after the sixth Plan year following the separation from service and are made in lump sum or annual installments. The amount to be distributed is based upon the account valuation date immediately preceding the distribution. Distributions are made in cash.

Under the provisions of the Plan, the Company is obligated to repurchase Participant shares which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan.

Administrative Expenses. As provided in the Plan agreement, administrative expenses may be paid either by the Plan or by the Company. The Company has historically paid the operating expenses for the Plan.

Voting Rights. Each Participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised with respect to any vote required for the approval or disapproval of any corporate merger or consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, liquidation, dissolution, sale of substantially all of the assets of the trade or business, or other similar transactions prescribed by regulation. The Trustee is not permitted to vote

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

any allocated share for which instructions have not been given by a Participant. The Trustee is required, however, to vote any unallocated shares on behalf of the collective best interest of Plan Participants and beneficiaries.

Participant Accounts. The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each Participant. Each Participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account and the forfeitures of terminated Participants' nonvested accounts. Only those Participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a Participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation. Plan earnings are allocated to each Participant's account based on the ratio of the Participant's beginning of the year account balance to all Participants' beginning of the year account balances.

Vesting. If a Participant's employment with the Company ends for any reason other than retirement, permanent disability, or death, he or she will vest in the balances in his or her account based on total years of service with the Company. Participants vest 20% after two years of credited service and vest an additional 20% per year thereafter. A Participant is 100% vested after six years of service. Upon Plan termination, Participants immediately become 100% vested.

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 Participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current value of the stock.

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 common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants, who are at least age 55 with at least ten years of participation in the Plan, may elect to diversify a portion of their account. There is a \$500 minimum diversification amount.

Forfeitures. Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the Participant's compensation to total compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures of terminated non-vested account balances were allocated to remaining stock Participants as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

B. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting. The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

Allocations. The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock (“allocated”) and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (“unallocated”), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition. The shares of Company common stock are reported at fair value. Investments are valued at fair value. See Note D for discussion of fair value measurements. Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date. 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 (depreciation) includes the Plan’s gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Reclassifications. Certain amounts in the financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2023 presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Subsequent Events. The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 15, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

C. INVESTMENTS

The Plan’s investments, as of December 31st, are presented in the following table:

	2023		2022	
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>
Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Common Stock:				
Number of Shares	55,366	37,721	51,565	41,522
Cost	\$ 6,319,262	\$ 2,803,285	\$ 6,311,040	\$ 5,081,878
Estimated Fair Value	\$ 18,437,111	\$ 12,560,931	\$ 12,117,849	\$ 9,757,647

D. 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

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

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 Topic 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.

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 maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

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

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
EEG, Inc. Common Stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,998,042	\$ 30,998,042

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
EEG, Inc. Common Stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,875,496	\$ 21,875,496

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The Plan distributed 3,801 shares valued at \$893,326 of the Plan's level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023.

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 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Company common stock held by the Plan is valued at fair value based upon an appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years as illustrated in the following table.

Instrument	Fair Value	Principal Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs
The Equity Engineering Group, Inc. Common Stock	\$ 30,998,042	Income	EBITDA Net income Weighted average cost of capital Discount rate Discount for lack of marketability
		Market	Public comparables Revenue multiple EBITDA multiple Discount for lack of marketability

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

E. ACQUISITION INDEBTEDNESS

In 2012, the Plan entered into a \$11,150,000 term loan agreement with the owners of the Company to acquire all the outstanding common shares of the Company. In conjunction with the acquisition of the shares, the Plan issued nine individual notes of \$1,238,889 with an interest rate of 4%.

Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of interest and principal are made. This resulted in approximately 3,801 shares being released and allocated for the Plan year ended December 31, 2023.

During 2023 the Plan sold approximately 1,592 shares to the Company for approximately \$398,547. This amount is included in payments to Participants as the proceeds from the sale of the stock were utilized to purchase shares set to be redeemed by the Plan.

As of December 31, 2023, the Plan has a \$5,972,328 note payable at approximately 2.1%. Terms of the note state that the note pays interest only through December 31, 2024. Subsequent to December 31, 2024, the note will be paid in 216 monthly installments of approximately \$33,461.

The Plan also has a note payable at 4% for \$233,147 and \$660,390 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Terms of the note are for monthly payments of \$37,850 for 6 months.

The scheduled amortization of the loans for the next five years is as follows:

2024	\$	233,147
2025		276,704
2026		282,488
2027		288,391
2028		294,419
Thereafter		<u>4,830,326</u>
	\$	<u>6,205,475</u>

F. RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan investments consist of the Company's common stock. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions. As described in Note A, the Company pays certain Plan expenses. The Plan has a number of service providers. Such parties are parties-in-interest under ERISA.

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

G. PLAN TERMINATION

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon such termination of the Plan, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will fully vest and be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC. Upon termination of the Plan, the Employee Benefits Administration Committee shall direct the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the trust fund.

H. TAX STATUS

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service, stating that the Plan is qualified, under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. The Plan has been restated since receiving this determination letter; however, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and operated in compliance with applicable requirements to the IRC.

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 if the Plan has taken an uncertain 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. The Plan Administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

I. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan investments consist primarily of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows, and/or other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of 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.

Cash is held at one financial institution; balances may exceed federally insured limits from time to time.

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.**EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST**

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

As of December 31, 2023

EIN: 32-0430595

PN: 002

	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
(a)	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Cost Value	Current Value
*	The Equity Engineering Group, Inc.	93,087 shares of no-par value common stock	<u>\$ 9,122,547</u>	<u>\$ 30,998,042</u>

* Party-in-interest transaction, not a prohibited transaction.

THE EQUITY ENGINEERING GROUP, INC.**EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST**

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

As of December 31, 2023

EIN: 32-0430595

PN: 002

	(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 Value	Current Value
(a)				
*	The Equity Engineering Group, Inc.	93,087 shares of no-par value common stock	<u>\$ 9,122,547</u>	<u>\$ 30,998,042</u>

* Party-in-interest transaction, not a prohibited transaction.