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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

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.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] 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
- [X] 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
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2012

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)
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. ESOP

10975 GUILFORD ROAD
SUITE A
ANNAPOLIS JUNCTION, MD 20701

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 52-1629263

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 410-880-4788

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.	10/22/2026	EUN SIN
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/22/2026	EUN SIN
	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 [X] 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

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	625
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	**6a(1)**	348
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	326
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	78
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	194
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	598
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	8
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	606
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	586
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	604
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	17
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2I 2P 2Q 3I

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [ ] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] 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)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

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)** [X] **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 0
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(4)** [X] **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 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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 C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN		002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. ESOP	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN) 52-1629263	

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).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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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)

(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?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

(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?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

(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?
			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

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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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. ESOP

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
52-1629263

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		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	3317264	6387224
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)	38326	41365
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	10085698	12252850
(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)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	58600800	70851600
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	72042088	89533039
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g		
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j	256600	208705
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	256600	208705
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	71785488	89324334

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)	6441277	
(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)		6441277
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	451551	
(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)		451551
(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)	12250807	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		12250807

		(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		19143635
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1598631	
(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)		1598631
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		6158
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		1604789
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		17538846
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		0

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) [X] 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)** [X] 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: KBST&M **(2)** EIN: 52-1365413

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.)	**4a**		X	
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.)	**4b**		X	
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.)	**4c**		X	
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.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		1300000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
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?	**4g**		X	
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?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
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.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
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.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] 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)
HILLIS- CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. 401K PLAN	52-1629263	001

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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. ESOP

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
52-1629263

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): 42-0127290

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

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

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

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_____.

Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc.
Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Financial Statements and
Supplemental Information
December 31, 2025

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1 - 2
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	4
Notes to Financial Statements	5 - 12
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)	14

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator
Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Annapolis Junction, Maryland

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, 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 Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 the Plan 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 audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As disclosed in Note C to the financial statements, the Plan's investment in the Sponsor Company common stock as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, is an investment whose fair value was determined by an independent appraiser in the absence of readily ascertainable fair value. Because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, the value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for the investment existed, and the differences could be material. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

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 Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date 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

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 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 Plan'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 Plan'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.

Supplementary Schedules Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2025, 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 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 generally accepted auditing standards.

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

KBST&M

Hunt Valley, Maryland
October 21, 2026

HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025			2024		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
ASSETS						
Investment in money market fund	$ 12,252,850	$ -	$ 12,252,850	$ 10,085,698	$ -	$ 10,085,698
Investment in Sponsor Company common stock, at fair value	55,517,761	15,333,839	70,851,600	42,826,167	15,774,633	58,600,800
Employer contributions receivable	6,387,224	-	6,387,224	3,317,264	-	3,317,264
Interest receivable	41,365	-	41,365	38,326	-	38,326
Total assets	74,199,200	15,333,839	89,533,039	56,267,455	15,774,633	72,042,088
LIABILITIES						
Loan payable	-	208,705	208,705	-	256,600	256,600
Total liabilities	-	208,705	208,705	-	256,600	256,600
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	$ 74,199,200	$ 15,125,134	$ 89,324,334	$ 56,267,455	$ 15,518,033	$ 71,785,488

See accompanying notes.

HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
ADDITIONS			
Investment income:			
Net unrealized appreciation in estimated fair value of investments	$ 8,953,039	$ 3,297,768	$ 12,250,807
Employer contribution	6,387,224	54,053	6,441,277
Interest income	451,551	-	451,551
Allocation of 18,996 of Sponsor Company, common stock at estimated fair value	3,738,562	-	3,738,562
Total additions	19,530,376	3,351,821	22,882,197
DEDUCTIONS			
Distributions to participants	1,322,143	-	1,322,143
Diversification	276,488	-	276,488
Interest expense	-	6,158	6,158
Allocation of 18,996 of Sponsor Company, common stock at estimated fair value	-	3,738,562	3,738,562
Total deductions	1,598,631	3,744,720	5,343,351
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	17,931,745	(392,899)	17,538,846
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	56,267,455	15,518,033	71,785,488
END OF YEAR	$ 74,199,200	$ 15,125,134	$ 89,324,334

See accompanying notes.

NOTE A Description of Plan and Significant Accounting Policies

The following description of the Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc. (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan documents for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General - The Plan's sponsor company, Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc. (the Company), established the Plan effective January 1, 2012. The Plan operates as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan and is designed to comply with §4975(e) (7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The Plan management, which is appointed by the Company's Board of Directors, is responsible for the oversight of the Plan. Principal Life Insurance Company serves as the Trustee of the Plan.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Plan purchased Company common stock using proceeds from borrowing provided by the Company (see Note D) and holds the stock in a trust established under the Plan. As the Plan makes debt payments, an appropriate percentage of stock is allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the IRC.

The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of Company common stock. The lender has no rights against the shares once they are allocated under the Plan. Accordingly, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Plan and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated stock (allocated) and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

Eligibility - Employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate in the Plan after attaining age 21 and one year of service providing they work at least 1,000 hours during such plan year. Participants who do not have at least 1,000 hours of service during such plan year or are not employed on the last working day of a plan year are generally not eligible for an allocation of Company contributions for such plan year. Employees may begin participating in the Plan on January 1 or July 1 after meeting the service requirements.

Voting rights - Each participant is entitled to direct the Trustee in exercising voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account, with respect to certain major corporate matters, and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. Allocated shares for which no direction has been received are voted by the Trustee in its discretion. Each participant is entitled to one vote for each share of Company common stock owned. The Trustee has voting rights for all unallocated shares on behalf of the collective best interest of the Plan participants and beneficiaries. Other corporate matters, such as the annual appointment of the Board of Directors, are voted on by the Trustee.

Employer contributions - Each year, the Company contributes shares of Company common stock or cash, as approved by its Board of Directors. The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which, when aggregated with the Plan's dividends and interest earnings, equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its term loans. Participant contributions are not permitted.

NOTE A **Description of Plan and Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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 forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts. Participants who earned compensation from the Company during the plan year and either: (a) retired, became disabled, or died during the plan year, or (b) were employed on the last day of such plan year, will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, as defined by the Plan, relative to total eligible compensation.

Plan earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's beginning of year account balance to all participants' beginning of year account balances.

Vesting - Participants vest 20% after one year of service and an additional 20% for each year thereafter, becoming 100% vested after five years of credited service. Participants are credited with a year of service for each Plan year in which they have completed 1,000 hours of service. Participants are also 100% vested if they: (1) die or become permanently disabled; (2) complete 5 years of vested service; or (3) attain the normal retirement age under the Plan (age 65) while employed by the Company.

Payment of benefits - Distributions on account of death, disability, or retirement are made in the plan year following the event. Distributions for other separation from service commence in the sixth plan year following the separation from service. The distribution of the participant's account will be made in substantially equal periodic payments over period of five years. However, if a participant's vested balance is $1,000 or less, the participant will be paid out in a lump sum by the end of the following plan year. The amount to be distributed is based upon the account valuation date immediately preceding the distribution. Distributions are made in cash, or if the participant elects, in the form of Company common stock plus cash for any fractional share of common stock.

Under the provisions of the Plan and at prices determined from an independent appraisal, the Company is obligated to repurchase or redeem participant shares which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan.

Put option - Under federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants 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 fair market value of the stock. 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 A **Description of Plan and Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

Diversification - Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so 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 ten years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account within 90 days after the last day of each plan year. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of shares allocated to his or her account, plus any shares previously diversified, and reduced by the amount of distributions paid to the participant during his or her qualifying six-year period. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. Participants who elect to diversify shall either (a) be offered the opportunity to invest the diversified portion in at least three investment options other than investment in Company securities under the Plan or another qualified plan sponsored by the Company, or (b) receive the directed portion as a distribution under the Plan, upon the participant's written consent. Any investment or distribution elected shall be made within 90 days after the last day of the 90-day election period to elect diversification as described above.

Segregation of accounts – The Plan administrator may, in its discretion, elect to segregate for investment purposes all or any designated portion of accounts of participants who have terminated employment with the Company, in which case, the Trustee shall allocate non-Company stock assets having a fair market value equal to the fair market value of the Company stock held in any such segregated account. Any Company stock previously held in such participant’s Company stock account shall, to the extent necessary, be reallocated in equivalent value to the Company stock accounts of any participants whose Company contribution accounts have been debited. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, the Plan elected to segregate accounts under those provisions.

Forfeitures - Forfeitures of terminated non-vested account balances, including both stock and cash accounts, are allocated to remaining participants as additional Company contributions. For 2025, $151,693 was forfeited.

Basis of accounting - The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Allocations – The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of the 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.

NOTE A **Description of Plan and Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

Investment valuation and income recognition – The Plan's investments are stated at fair 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. The Company's Board of Directors determines the Plan's valuation policies. See Note C for discussion of fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual 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 during the year.

Contributions are recorded when approved by the Board of Directors.

Payment of benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses - Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements.

NOTE B **Investments**

The Plan's investments in Company common stock at December 31, 2025 and 2024 are as follows:

	2025		2024	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Number of shares	282,088	77,912	263,092	96,908
Cost	$ 666,040	$ 183,960	$ 621,189	$ 228,811
Fair Value	$ 55,517,761	$ 15,333,839	$ 42,826,167	$ 15,774,633

Additionally, the Plan invests in certain money market funds totaling $12,252,850 and $10,085,698 as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

NOTE C **Fair Value Measurement of Investments**

GAAP establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurement). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1: Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
Level 2: Observable market based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data.
Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.

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, 2025 and 2024.

NOTE C **Fair Value Measurement of Investments (continued)**

Sponsor Company common stock **-** The fair value of the Sponsor Company common stock held by the Plan is valued based upon an independent appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables, and fair value of Company assets and liabilities. Plan management has concluded that a market participant would also recognize a discount for lack of marketability. The valuation process involves the Trustee's selection of an independent appraiser, as described in the trustee agreement. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the reviewed financial statements of the Company and projections of the Company's future performance. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report which plan management, along with the Plan's Trustee, reviews in detail, discusses and approves. The method described above may produce a fair value that is not indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation method is appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Money market fund – The Plan's investment in Goldman Sach's Financial Square Government Money Market Fund is valued using quoted market prices in an active market and classified within Level 1.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2025 and 2024:

	Assets at fair value As of December 31, 2025			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Sponsor Company common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 70,851,600	$ 70,851,600
Money market fund	12,252,850	-	-	12,252,850
	$ 12,252,850	$ -	$ 70,851,600	$ 83,104,450

	Assets at fair value As of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Sponsor Company common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 58,600,800	$ 58,600,800
Money market fund	10,085,698	-	-	10,085,698
	$ 10,085,698	$ -	$ 58,600,800	$ 68,686,498

NOTE C **Fair Value Measurement of Investments (continued)**

The following is a summary of the valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of the Plan's level 3 financial instrument and the significant unobservable inputs:

Principal Valuation Techniques	Unobservable Inputs
Discounted Cash Flow	Weighted average cost of capital
	Long term revenue growth rate
	Long term pretax operating margin
	Discount for lack of marketability
Market Guideline Merged & Acquired Method	EBITDA multiple
	Discount for lack of marketability
Market Guideline Public Company Method	EBITDA multiple
	Discount for lack of marketability

The following table reconciles the beginning and ending balances of the fair value measurements using unobservable inputs (Level 3) of the Company common stock for the year ended December 31, 2025:

	2025
Beginning balance	$ 58,600,800
Purchases/additions	-
Net appreciation in fair value	12,250,807
Ending balance	$ 70,851,607

Gains and losses included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

The Plan's policy is to recognize transfers into and out of Level 3 as of the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. For the year ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, there were no transfers into a new Level 3 investment.

NOTE D **Loan Payable**

In 2012, the Plan entered into an $850,000 term loan agreement with the Company. The proceeds of the loan were used to purchase the Company's common stock. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. The agreement provides for the loan to be repaid over twenty years with annual payments of $54,053. The loan bears an interest rate of 2.40% per annum. The outstanding balance on this note at December 31, 2025 and 2024, was 208,705 and 256,600, respectively. Future minimum principal payments are as follows for the years ending December 31:

2026	$	49,044
2027		50,221
2028		51,419
2029		52,661
2030		5,360
	$	208,705

NOTE E **Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan invests in the Company's common stock. The investment is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, credit, and the operating performance of the Company. Due to the level of risk associated with such investments, it is at least reasonable possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes would materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE F **Administration of Plan Assets**

The Plan's assets, which consist of Sponsor Company common stock, are held by the Trustee of the Plan. Company contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which invest cash received, interest, and dividend income and makes distributions to participants. The Trustee also administers the payment of the interest and principal on the loan, which is funded to the Trustee through contributions as determined the Company. Administrative expenses for the Trustee's fees are paid directly by the Company.

NOTE G **Related Party Transactions**

The Plan invests in Company common stock and a related loan with the Company. These are related party transactions. The Plan also has service providers which are parties-in-interest under ERISA. Various plan expenses are paid by the Company.

NOTE H **Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company reserves the right to discontinue its contributions at any time after the liquidation of the stock acquisition loans and to terminate the ESOP, subject to provisions of ERISA. Upon termination of the Plan, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts and all allocated assets of the Plan will be distributed to such participants and retirees, or their beneficiaries at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC. Upon termination of the Plan, the Company's Board of Directors shall direct the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the trust fund and to sell shares of unallocated Company common stock held in the loan suspense account to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to repay any outstanding loans.

NOTE I **Tax Status**

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated June 3, 2014, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. The Plan has relied on this opinion letter. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is currently designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. The Plan Administrator does not believe that the Plan has any uncertain tax positions.

NOTE J **Subsequent Events**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through October 21, 2026, the date the audited financial statements were available to be issued. The Plan administrator is not aware of any subsequent events, which would require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

HILLIS-CARNES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
EIN: 52-1629263
PLAN NUMBER: 002
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description	(d) Cost	(e) Current
	Gs Financial Sq Govemm	Money market fund	$ 12,252,850	$ 12,252,850
*	Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates, Inc.	Common stock; no par value; 360,000 shares	850,000	70,851,600
				$ 83,104,450

* - Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

See accompanying notes.