

### FREQUENCY ELECTRONICS, INC.



Needham Conference

January 15, 2025

#### Corporate Headquarters

- Founded 1961
- Mitchel Field, New York
- ~ 220 Employees
- 100,000 sqft: Laboratory, Engineering and Production Space
- AS 9100C : 2009-01 Registered
- NASDAQ: Stock Symbol FEIM

#### Subsidiaries

- FEI-Zyfer GPS/SAASM/Secure Communications
- FEI-ELCOM Tech Electronic Warfare

#### FEI corporate LTM

- Revenue \$60.2 M
- Operating Profit \$ 7.0 M





#### **Business Overview**

- World leader in quartz and rubidium high-precision time and frequency ("T&F") technology, and related quantum sensors
- Proven track record with a 55-year legacy in space (satellite payloads)
  - Transforming laboratory demonstrations into practical products
  - Deep technical expertise, especially in quantum physics
- Products in mission-critical systems (DOD, Space, Communication)
  - Excellence
  - Execution
- Robust research and development program
  - Next generation advanced optical atomic clocks
  - Photonic microwave sources
  - Clock ensembling
  - Quantum sensors



#### **Quantum Sensors**

#### FEI is poised to accelerate growth, providing new quantum sensor based products



- Precise knowledge of time is an enabler
  - Atomic clocks on satellites made GPS navigation possible
  - Wireless, secure communication depends in many ways on precise synchronization
- Neural networks of synchronized sensors, utilizing artificial intelligence make possible a variety of previously impossible applications

•	Stock trades	thousandth of sec	(millisec)			
•	Air traffic control	ten thousandth of sec	(100 microsec)			
•	Wireless communication	0.1 millionth of sec	(100 nanosec)			
•	Navigation	billionth of sec = 1 foot	(1 nanosec)			
•	Sensor fusion	0.1 billionth of sec	(0.1 nanosec)			

• Global atomic clock market: \$300 M - \$450 M per year (Mitre Corportation estimate, 2022)

FEI's proven products, and expertise in precision time are critical elements for new quantum sensors





**FEI Total Addressable Market is more than \$10 B** 

# **Consolidated Financials, FY2022 – Present**

	(millions, unless otherwise indicated)							
	FY22		FY23		FY24		LTM	
Revenue	\$ 48.3	\$	40.8	\$	55.3	\$	60.2	
Cost of Sales	\$ 39.7	\$	32.9	\$	36.7	\$	36.5	
Gross Margin	\$ 8.6	\$	7.8	\$	18.6	\$	23.7	
Gross Margin %	17.8%		19.2%		33.6%		46.3%	
SG&A	\$ 11.7	\$	9.4	\$	10.2	\$	11.6	
R&D	\$ 5.0	\$	3.1	\$	3.4	\$	5.1	
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss)</b>	\$ (8.0)	\$	(4.7)	\$	5.0	\$	7.0	
Backlog	\$ 39.5	\$	55.8	\$	77.7	\$	81.4	

- FEI is debt free
- FY23Q3 FEI paid a \$1 special dividend of approx. \$9.4M
- FY25Q1 FEI paid a \$1 special dividend of approx. \$9.6M

# Fully Vertically Integrated Business Model



In-house engineering and manufacturing to control performance, quality and production



- Provided quartz oscillators for Voyager 1 and 2 satellites
- Launched in 1977, Voyager 1 and 2 intended for 7-year mission
- Voyager 1 Quartz Oscillator Clock operated for 34 years!
- Voyager 2 Quartz Oscillator Clock continues to function (47+ years)!!







FEI's oscillators have kept precise time and frequency for 47+ years Longest operating clocks in space

## **Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Systems** Systems incorporating advanced atomic clocks and oscillators - 2003

- FEI's Zyfer subsidiary provides advanced systems integrating state of the art GPS receivers with advanced frequency and time sources, and other sensors
- Smart systems which utilize data from multiple sensors
  - Detect interference
  - Incorporate learning to operate successfully in GPS denied environments





## **Iridium-Next Low Earth Orbit Satellite Constellation** 2013

#### L-Band Frequency Converter Assembly



- Sixteen high dynamic range half-duplex L-Band frequency converters
- Quantities:
  - 162 Flight Units
    - Qty. 2592 converter slices
    - 324 EPC assemblies



**Master Frequency Generation Unit** 

- Provides ultra stable reference frequency and local oscillator signals
  - Dual 10 MHz ultra-stable reference oscillators
  - 10 LO outputs at L-Band
- Quantities: 81 Flight Units



High production capacity for space-qualified hardware – 4000+ subassemblies delivered



- Provided for deep Space NASA mission
- Local oscillator used for Stored Ion Frequency Standard
- Two oscillators delivered to NASA January 2014
- DSAC completed its on-orbit demonstration mission successfully in 2021





#### State of the art short term frequency stability

# **Digital Rubidium Atomic Frequency Standard (DRAFS)**2015

- Developed space qualified DRAFS
- Compliance with GPS III space segment RAFS requirements
  - Successful completion of GPS-III CDR in 2015
  - Successful completion of GPS-IIIF CDR in 2019
  - Flight qualification complete
  - Demonstration scheduled on GPS III space vehicle
- Leverages space experience and on-going in-house Rb cell and precision quartz manufacturing capabilities
- Digital control loop
  - Eliminates most component sensitivities
  - Space qualified FPGA portable firmware design, immune to part obsolescence
- Currently being used on non-US satellite navigation systems



State of the art for precision timing in space

# Voltage Controlled Crystal Oscillator (VCXO)

- VCXO development and flight unit production under contract with L3Harris for GPSIIIF
- The VCXO is used within the GPSIIIF MDU on the Navigation payload:
  - The VCXO provides the basic frequency reference for the navigation satellite
  - It provides an accurate and stable frequency which is used in the generation of clock, timing and RF signals
  - The output frequency is varied in response to a digital frequency control signal from the TKS
- CDR successfully completed in July 2020
- Flight qualification complete



#### **Deliveries in process for GPS IIIF satellites**

## **POP Rubidium Vapor Atomic Clock** Current Development: production 2026

- Pulsed Optically Pumped (POP) Rubidium vapor atomic clock
- Rb lamp replaced with *single* laser light source and filter cell removed
- Remaining physics elements
  are proven legacy technology
- 10X improvement in stability predicted:
  - − σ<sub>y</sub>(т) = 3E-14/√т
  - drift < 1E-14/day</li>
- Small size, weight and power target size: 3U VPX, 2 slots



POP Clock: Better long-term stability, vapor cell clock simplicity

# Mercury Ion Atomic Clock Current Development: production 2027

- FEI is working with JPL to bring their Mercury Ion clock technology from the laboratory to production
  - Advanced clock technology
  - Enhanced long term stability from electromagnetically trapped ions
  - Compact, environmentally robust packaging
  - FEI's role is to make the clock manufacturable



#### Hg+ Ion Clock: Better long-term stability than vapor cell clock

# Leveraging FEI's Technical Capabilities The future

- FEI's existing technical capabilities, and proven ability to develop esoteric laboratory science demonstrations into reliable products is our key value proposition
- NV diamond magnetometers
- Rydberg Sensors
- Clock ensembling
- Advanced optical atomic clocks
- Photonic Oscillators
- Quantum computing







FEI is collaborating with NIST, MIT – LL, JPL, and others to transform their laboratory demonstrations into products

# FEI Targeted Sensor Technologies Remote Static Field Quantum Sensors: 2028 and beyond

Subsurface

tunnels

Stray, Ben, et al. Nature (2022)

# Magnetometer

Gravimeter



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100 200 300 400

**Collaboration with MIT Lincoln Laboratory** 

## **FEI Targeted Sensor Technologies** Electromagnetic Field Quantum Sensors: 2028 and beyond

- Very compact receiving antennas
  - Size of conventional antennas is determined by the signal wavelength very large for low frequencies
  - Rydberg atom based antenna size is independent of the signal wavelength
  - Ideal for modern phased array antennas
- Rydberg sensors utilize the same building blocks as FEI's Rubidium (Rb) atomic clocks
  - Rb atoms
  - Vapor cells
  - Laser optical sources
  - Photo detectors

Rydberg Atom RF receiver



https://phys.org/news/2020-03-scientistsquantum-sensor-entire-radio.html



Anderson et. al. IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation 69(2021)

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Collaboration with NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology), Time and Frequency division, Boulder, CO



- FEI is a 64-year-old company, with a proven track record
  - strong and improving margins and cash generation
  - no debt
  - a capital allocation policy balancing R&D and returns in cash to shareholders
- FEI currently provides precision time and frequency products for demanding applications
  - Aerospace
  - Defense
  - Commercial space
- FEI has demonstrated an ability to productize sophisticated scientific demonstrations
- The demand for these products (FEI's existing products, as well as those that so far exist only in advanced laboratories) is growing



- www.freqelec.com
- Contacts:
  - thomas.mcclelland@freqelec.com
  - <u>Steven.bernstein@freqelec.com</u>

516-794-4500 x2104 516-794-4500 x2131