

Ahuja Deepak  
Form 4  
March 21, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Ahuja Deepak

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

PALO ALTO, CA 94304

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/18/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chief Financial Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code V Amount (A) or (D) Price                                    |   |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 03/18/2011                           |  | M                              | 1,000 A \$ 2.7  | 1,500 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 03/18/2011                           |  | S <sup>(2)</sup>               | 1,000 D \$ 23.055 <sup>(3)</sup>                                  | 500   | D  |  |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$ 2.7   | 03/18/2011                           |  | M                              | 1,000   | 07/31/2009 <sup>(4)</sup> 09/02/2015                     | Common Stock  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                              | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| Ahuja Deepak<br>3500 DEER CREEK ROAD<br>PALO ALTO, CA 94304 |               |           | Chief Financial Officer |       |

## Signatures

Deepak Ahuja  
03/18/2011  
\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Amount of securities beneficially owned includes 500 shares acquired under the Tesla Motors, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan on February 22, 2011.
- (2) The sales reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on December 14, 2010.  
The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$22.90 to \$23.19, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Tesla Motors, Inc., any security holder of Tesla Motors, Inc. or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.
- (3) 1/4th of the shares subject to the option first become vested and exercisable on the date listed and 1/48th of the shares subject to the option shall become vested and exercisable each month thereafter.

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