

HUGHES JAMES ALTON  
 Form 4  
 May 09, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
 HUGHES JAMES ALTON

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O FIRST SOLAR, 350 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 600

(Street)

TEMPE, AZ 85281-1244

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 FIRST SOLAR, INC. [FSLR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/07/2012

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 Executive 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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount of Number of Shares
Performance Units	\$ 0 <sup>(1)</sup>	05/07/2012	A	500,000	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	Common Stock	500,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HUGHES JAMES ALTON C/O FIRST SOLAR 350 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 600 TEMPE, AZ 85281-1244			Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

/s/ Peter C. Bartolino, 05/09/2012  
 Attorney-in-fact

\*\*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) Each performance unit represents the right to receive, upon vesting, one share of the Issuer's common stock in accordance with the Issuer's 2010 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan.  
 The performance units were granted on May 7, 2012 and shall vest in two separate tranches, each contingent upon the achievement of a threshold performance goal and pre-established performance criteria within a defined performance period as described in Part II, Item 5 Other Information, of the Issuer's Current Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 4, 2012. Performance Units will not vest unless the participant is continuously employed by the Issuer through the applicable vesting date, unless
- (2) the participant is eligible, in certain pre-established circumstances, for a pro-rata settlement. In the event of a change of control of the Issuer that occurs during the performance period, regardless of whether the threshold performance goal has been achieved, 25% of the then unvested portion of the performance unit will vest. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Issuer also has discretion to accelerate the vesting of the Performance Unit in a change of control situation and to amend the award to increase the vested percentage payable upon the occurrence of a change of control.

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.