

Rueda Maria
Form 4
April 20, 2012

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 *
Rueda Maria

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC [HPY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/18/2012

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

C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC., 90 NASSAU STREET

(Street)

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

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

PRINCETON, NJ 08542

(City) (State) (Zip)

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)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
				Code	V	Amount	
Common Stock	04/18/2012		M	12,500	A	18,869	D
Common Stock	04/18/2012		F(2)	4,119	D	\$ 29.87	D

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

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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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)				
					Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Restricted Stock Units ⁽³⁾	\$ 0	04/18/2012		M	12,500	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>				Common Stock	12,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
Rueda Maria C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, INC. 90 NASSAU STREET PRINCETON, NJ 08542	Director 10% Owner Officer Chief Financial Officer

Signatures

/s/ Maria Rueda 04/20/2012

**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 vested restricted stock unit was the economic equivalent of one share of Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.'s (the "Issuer") common stock. The reporting person settled the vested restricted stock units for shares of the Issuer's common stock.
- (2) The reporting person authorized the Issuer to withhold shares of common stock to satisfy tax obligations arising from the vesting of the restricted stock units described in this Form 4.
- (3) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock.
- (4) On April 18, 2011, the restricted stock units were granted with vesting in four equal annual installments over a four year period. As of the date of this filing, 12,500 of the restricted stock units have vested and 37,500 restricted stock units remain unvested. Shares of the Issuer's common stock will be delivered to the reporting person as soon as administratively practicable following the vesting of the restricted stock unit.

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.