

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **March 7, 2017**

WILLDAN GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-33076
(Commission File Number)

14-1951112
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

2401 East Katella Avenue, Suite 300, Anaheim, California 92806
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(800) 424-9144**

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425).
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14A-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Resignation of John M. Toups a Director

On March 7, 2017, Mr. John M. Toups notified the board of directors (the "Board") of Willdan Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Willdan"), of his intent to resign from the Board, effective March 16, 2017. Mr. Toups currently serves as chair of the Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee. Mr. Toups's intention to resign is not the result of any disagreement with Willdan or management regarding operations, policies or practices.

Appointment of Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, USN, Retired, and Curtis S. Probst as Directors

On March 7, 2017, the Board, in accordance with Section 4.02 of Willdan's Amended and Restated Bylaws, increased the size of the Board from eight members to nine members, effective March 16, 2017. The Board, in accordance with Section 4.10 of Willdan's Amended and Restated Bylaws, appointed Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, USN, Retired, and Curtis S. Probst to the Board, effective March 16, 2017, to fill the existing vacancies on the Board and to serve until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified or until their earlier respective resignation or removal. The Board has determined that Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., and Mr. Probst are independent directors under the listing standards of the Nasdaq Global Market. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., will be a member of the Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions Committee and Mr. Probst will be a member of the Audit Committee and the Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions Committee.

Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., 71, served as Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment from September 2013 until January 2017. In this role, Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., developed department-wide policies, procedures, advocacy and strategic plans

and oversaw all Department of the Navy functions and programs relating to installations, safety, energy and the environment. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., is also an international security senior fellow at the Rocky Mountain Institute. From 2002 to 2013, Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., served as the President of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), an organization dedicated to building a secure and prosperous America with clean, renewable energy; in this role, he led efforts to communicate the economic, security and environmental benefits of renewable energy. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., served in the U.S. Navy for 35 years and retired in 2002 after achieving the rank of Vice Admiral. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., is a past co-chairman of the CNA Military Advisory Board and a past member of the Steering Committee of the Energy Future Coalition, the United States Energy Security Council, and the Bipartisan Policy Center Energy Board. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., received a B.S. in Naval Engineering in 1967 from the United States Naval Academy; attended the national security program in 1988 at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government; and was a Chief of Naval Operations strategic studies fellow in 1991 at the U.S. Naval War College.

Mr. Probst, 49, has served as Managing Director and Head of Sustainable Finance for the Rocky Mountain Institute since June 2014, where he leads the sustainable finance practice and assists other practice areas, including buildings, communities, electricity, industry, and transportation, in financial aspects of their research and collaboration activities. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Probst served as a Managing Director at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in its investment banking division and its fixed income,

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currency and commodities division, and from 1998 to 2006, he served as a Vice President in its asset-backed securities finance group. Prior to joining Goldman, Sachs & Co., Mr. Probst's worked at Salomon Brothers from 1989 to 1997, as a Vice President in its structured and project finance group, which led origination and execution of financing and advisory assignments. Since 2014, Mr. Probst's has been a member of the Management Advisory Board and Adjunct Lecturer of Columbia University's Earth Institute. Mr. Probst received a B.Com. in Accounting in 1989 from the University of Calgary and an M.P.A. in Environmental Science and Policy in 2014 from Columbia University.

Each of Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., and Mr. Probst will receive compensation for his services as a director in accordance with Willdan's standard compensation program for non-management directors, which provides for an annual retainer of \$26,000 paid in cash. In addition to the compensation that Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., and Mr. Probst will receive for their service as members of the Board, Willdan intends to enter into its standard form of indemnification agreement with each of Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., and Mr. Probst. A form of the indemnification agreement was previously filed by Willdan as Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K, as originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 13, 2016.

There is no arrangement or understanding between either Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., or Mr. Probst and any other person pursuant to which Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., or Mr. Probst, respectively, was selected as a member of the Board. In addition, there are no transactions, in which either Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., or Mr. Probst has an interest, that are required to be disclosed under Item 404(a) of SEC Regulation S-K.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On March 9, 2017, Willdan issued a press release announcing the resignation of Mr. Toups from the Board and the appointment election of Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., and Mr. Probst to the Board. A copy of the press release is furnished (not filed) as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K pursuant to Regulation FD.

Item 8.01 Other Events

Appointment of Keith W. Renken as Lead Independent Director and Changes to Committee Membership

On March 7, 2017, the Board appointed Keith W. Renken as lead independent director of the Board, effective immediately.

Additionally, on March 7, 2017, the Board updated the membership of the committees of the Board as follows, effective March 16, 2017:

- Audit Committee: Douglas J. McEachern (Chairman), Curtis S. Probst, Keith W. Renken and Win Westfall
- Compensation Committee: Raymond W. Holdsworth (Chairman), Douglas J. McEachern and Mohammad Shahidehpour

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- Nominating and Governance Committee: Mohammad Shahidehpour (Chairman), Steven A. Cohen and Win Westfall
- Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions Committee: Steven A. Cohen (Chairman), Dennis V. McGinn, Curtis S. Probst, Raymond W. Holdsworth and Mohammad Shahidehpour

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release of Willdan Group, Inc., dated March 9, 2017

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WILLDAN GROUP, INC.

Date: March 9, 2017

By: /s/ Stacy B. McLaughlin
Stacy B. McLaughlin
Chief Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Document</u>
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99.1	Press Release of Willdan Group, Inc., dated March 9, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Willdan Announces New Board Appointments

ANAHEIM, Calif.—March 9, 2017 (BUSINESS WIRE) — Willdan Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: WLDN), a provider of professional technical and consulting services, today announced the retirement of John M. Toups from the Company’s Board of Directors and the appointments of Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, USN, Retired, and Curtis S. Probst to the Company’s Board of Directors, all effective March 16, 2017. As a result of these changes, Willdan’s Board of Directors will expand to nine members total, eight of whom will be independent.

“We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to John Toups for a decade of insight and contribution on Willdan’s Board,” said Tom Brisbin, Willdan’s Chairman and CEO. “We are excited to welcome two esteemed new directors in Dennis McGinn and Curtis Probst. Each is a nationally recognized expert in the electric energy marketplace. We look forward to their input and guidance as we continue to pursue the significant growth opportunities we see in the electric energy services market.”

Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, Ret., Biography:

Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, Ret., served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment from September 2013 until January 2017. In this role, Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., led the transformation of naval installations toward greater resiliency through energy efficiency, microgrids, and other technologies.

Previously, Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., served in the United States Navy for 35 years attaining the rank of Vice Admiral. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., served as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs, overseeing the development of future Navy capabilities, and previously commanded the United States Third Fleet. While in the Navy, he served as a naval aviator, test pilot, aircraft carrier commanding officer, and national security strategist.

Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., is a former President of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) where he led efforts to communicate the economic, security and environmental benefits of renewable energy. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., is also a past member of the Steering Committee of the Energy Future Coalition, the United States Energy Security Council, the Bipartisan Center Energy Board, the past Co-Chairman of the CNA Military Advisory Board, and has been an International Senior Fellow at the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., holds a BS in Naval Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. Vice Admiral McGinn, Ret., was also a participant in the National Security Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Curtis S. Probst Biography:

Curtis S. Probst has served as Managing Director and Head of Sustainable Finance for the Rocky Mountain Institute since June 2014. As one of the Institute’s senior leaders, Mr. Probst develops strategies to increase availability and lower the cost of capital for key energy initiatives. Mr. Probst also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer with the Earth Institute, Columbia University.

Previously, Mr. Probst was a Managing Director and Vice President at Goldman Sachs where he managed teams that executed project financing, advisory, asset acquisition, and capital-raising assignments for corporate and governmental clients. Prior to that, Mr. Probst worked with Salomon Brothers as Vice President of the Structured and Project Finance Group, which led origination and execution of financing and advisory assignments.

Mr. Probst holds an MPA from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs as well as a Bachelors of Commerce from the University of Calgary. He is also a Certified Financial Analyst.

Lead Director and Board Committees

In addition, Willdan has appointed Keith Renken as Lead Director and has changed the makeup of its Board Committees, effective March 16, 2017, as follows:

- Audit Committee: Douglas J. McEachern (Chairman), Curtis S. Probst, Keith W. Renken, and Win Westfall
- Nominating and Governance Committee: Mohammad Shahidehpour (Chairman), Steven A. Cohen and Win Westfall
- Compensation Committee: Raymond W. Holdsworth (Chairman), Douglas J. McEachern and Mohammad Shahidehpour
- Strategy, Mergers and Acquisitions Committee: Steven A. Cohen (Chairman), Raymond W. Holdsworth, Dennis V. McGinn, Curtis S. Probst and Mohammad Shahidehpour

About Willdan

Willdan provides professional consulting and technical services to utilities, public agencies and private industry throughout the United States. Willdan’s service offerings span a broad set of complementary disciplines that include energy efficiency and sustainability, engineering and planning, financial and economic consulting, and national preparedness. Willdan provides integrated technical solutions to extend the reach and resources of its clients, and provides all services through its subsidiaries specialized in each segment. For additional information, visit Willdan’s website at www.willdan.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this press release that are not purely historical, including statements regarding Willdan's intentions, hopes, beliefs, expectations, representations, projections, estimates, plans or predictions of the future are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to, the risk that a director may not be able to complete his full term of service. Willdan's business could be affected by a number of other factors, including the risk factors listed from time to time in Willdan's SEC

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reports including, but not limited to, the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed for the year ended January 1, 2016. Willdan cautions investors not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained in this press release. Willdan disclaims any obligation to, and does not undertake to, update or revise any forward-looking statements in this press release.

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