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**U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

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**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 15, 2012**

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**ADVANCED EMISSIONS SOLUTIONS, INC.**

(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**333-172809**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**27-5472457**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**9135 South Ridgeline Boulevard, Suite 200,  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**80129**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (303) 734-1727**

**Not Applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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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 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

On March 15, 2012, ADA-ES, Inc., a Colorado corporation (“ADA”), Advanced Emissions Solutions, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of ADA (“AES”), and ADA Merger Corp., a Colorado corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of AES (“MergerCo”), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Reorganization Agreement”), that provides for the merger (the “Merger”) of ADA with MergerCo, with ADA surviving the Merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of AES, and the conversion of each share of common stock, no par value per share of ADA (“ADA Common Stock”), issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger (other than shares held in treasury, which will be cancelled), into one duly-issued, fully-paid and non-assessable share of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share of AES (“AES Common Stock”) (collectively with the other transactions contemplated by the Reorganization Agreement, the “Reorganization”). In addition, each outstanding option to purchase or other right to acquire shares of ADA Common Stock would automatically convert into an option to purchase or right to acquire, upon the same terms and conditions, an identical number of shares of AES Common Stock.

Upon completion of the Reorganization, AES, a Delaware corporation, would, in effect, replace ADA, a Colorado corporation, as the publicly held corporation, and the holders of ADA Common Stock would hold the same number of shares and same ownership percentage of AES after the Reorganization as they held of ADA immediately prior to the Reorganization. ADA expects that the AES Common Stock will be traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol “ADES,” the symbol currently used by ADA. The directors of AES immediately following the Reorganization will be the same individuals who were directors of ADA immediately prior to the Reorganization. The President and Chief Executive Officer, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Technology Officer, and Vice President and Corporate Counsel of ADA immediately prior to the Reorganization will hold those same offices as the executive officers of AES immediately following the Reorganization.

The boards of directors of ADA, AES and MergerCo have unanimously approved and adopted the Reorganization Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby. The Reorganization Agreement is subject to specified conditions, including approval by ADA’s shareholders at ADA’s 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”), which is currently scheduled for June 6, 2012. If approved by ADA’s shareholders at the Annual Meeting and the other conditions set forth in the Reorganization Agreement are satisfied, it is currently expected that the Reorganization would be completed on or about July 1, 2012.

The Reorganization Agreement may be terminated and the transactions contemplated thereby may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time of the merger by action of the board of directors of ADA if it should determine that for any reason the completion of the transactions provided for therein would be inadvisable or not in the best interest of ADA or its shareholders.

The Reorganization is intended to be tax-free for ADA and its shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Upon completion of the Reorganization, AES Common Stock would be deemed to be registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, pursuant to Rule 12g-3(a) promulgated thereunder. For purposes of Rule 12g-3(a), AES would be the successor issuer to ADA.

The foregoing description of the Reorganization Agreement is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Reorganization Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Additional Information and Where to Find It**

ADA and AES have filed a registration statement that includes a preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents in connection with the proposed Reorganization. ADA SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ CAREFULLY THESE DOCUMENTS AND THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS, WHEN FILED AND MAILED, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN AND WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED REORGANIZATION. Investors may obtain a free copy of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings containing information about ADA, AES and the proposed Reorganization, from the SEC at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings containing information about ADA, AES and the proposed Reorganization can be obtained without charge by directing a request to ADA-ES, Inc., 9135 South Ridgeline Boulevard, Suite 200, Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129, Attn: Secretary (Telephone: (888) 822-8617), or accessing them on ADA's corporate web site at [www.adaes.com](http://www.adaes.com).

ADA, its directors, executive officers, certain other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of ADA in favor of the proposed Reorganization. In addition, Georgeson Inc. will distribute proxy materials to beneficial owners, may solicit proxies by personal interview, mail, telephone, and electronic communications, and will request brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries to forward soliciting material to the beneficial owners of ADA's common stock held on the record date by such persons. ADA will pay Georgeson Inc. \$7,500 for its proxy solicitation services plus related fees for any additional services and will reimburse Georgeson Inc. for payments made to brokers and other nominees for their expenses in forwarding solicitation materials. Solicitations also may be made by personal interview, telephone, and electronic communications by directors, officers and other employees of ADA without additional compensation.

Additional information regarding the interests of potential participants, if any, in the proxy solicitation is included in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and will be included in the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents that ADA and AES have filed and intend to file with the SEC in connection with the Annual Meeting.

On March 16, 2012, ADA issued a press release relating to the Reorganization. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No</u>	<u>Description</u>
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 15, 2012, among ADA-ES, Inc., Advanced Emissions Solutions, Inc. and ADA Merger Corp.
99.1	Press Release, dated March 16, 2012, issued by ADA-ES, Inc.

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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.

ADVANCED EMISSIONS SOLUTIONS, INC.

Date: March 16, 2012

By: /s/ Mark McKinnies

Name: Mark McKinnies

Title: Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Chief Financial and Accounting Officer)

## AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

This AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER (this “Agreement”), dated as of March 15, 2012, is among ADA-ES, Inc., a Colorado corporation (the “Company”), Advanced Emissions Solutions, Inc., a Delaware corporation and a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of the Company (“HoldingCo”), and ADA Merger Corp., a Colorado corporation and a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of HoldingCo (“MergerCo”).

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, as of the date hereof, the authorized capital stock of the Company consists of (i) 50,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value per share (“Company Common Stock”), of which approximately 10,001,800 shares are issued and outstanding, approximately 579,000 shares are reserved for issuance under the Company’s Plans (as defined below) and upon exercise of outstanding Company Awards (as hereinafter defined) and 122 shares are held in treasury, and (ii) 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value per share (“Company Preferred Stock”), of which none are outstanding;

WHEREAS, as of the date hereof, the authorized capital stock of HoldingCo consists of (i) 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (“HoldingCo Common Stock”), of which one share is issued and outstanding and no shares are held in treasury, and (ii) 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share (“HoldingCo Preferred Stock”), of which none are outstanding;

WHEREAS, as of the date hereof, all of the issued and outstanding common stock of MergerCo (“MergerCo Common Stock”) is held by HoldingCo;

WHEREAS, HoldingCo and MergerCo were organized for the purpose of participating in the transactions herein contemplated;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of each of the Company, HoldingCo and MergerCo have unanimously determined that it is advisable and in the best interests of their respective securityholders to reorganize to create a new holding company structure by merging the Company with MergerCo with the Company being the surviving entity (sometimes hereinafter referred to as the “Surviving Company”), and converting each outstanding share of Company Common Stock into one share of HoldingCo Common Stock, all in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company has unanimously determined that it is advisable and in the best interests of its shareholders to reorganize the Company’s operations, such that the public company owned by its shareholders is incorporated in the State of Delaware and, accordingly, HoldingCo has been incorporated in the State of Delaware;

WHEREAS, the Boards of Directors of each of HoldingCo, the Company and MergerCo and the sole shareholder of MergerCo have adopted or approved this Agreement and the merger of the Company with MergerCo upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement (the “Merger”);

WHEREAS, the Boards of Directors of each of the Company and MergerCo have declared advisable this Agreement and the Merger upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, and the Boards of Directors of each of the Company and MergerCo have unanimously determined to recommend to their respective shareholders the approval of this Agreement and the Merger, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and in accordance with the provisions of the Colorado Business Corporation Act (the “CBCA”); and

WHEREAS, the parties intend, by executing this Agreement, to adopt a plan of reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and to cause the Merger to qualify as a reorganization under the provisions of Section 368(a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(E) of the Code, as well as a transaction to which Section 351(a) of the Code applies.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Company, HoldingCo and MergerCo hereby agree as follows:

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## ARTICLE 1

### THE MERGER

1.1 The Merger. In accordance with Section 7-111-101 of the CBCA, and subject to and upon the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Company shall, at the Effective Time (as defined below), be merged with MergerCo, the separate corporate existence of MergerCo shall cease and the Company shall continue as the Surviving Company. At the Effective Time, the effect of the Merger shall be as provided in Sections 7-90-204 and 7-111-106(1) of the CBCA.

1.2 Effective Time. The Merger shall become effective upon the filing of a Certificate of Merger with the Secretary of the State of the State of Colorado or a later date specified therein (the “Effective Time”). It is currently anticipated by the parties that the Effective Time will be on or about July 1, 2012.

#### 1.3 Organizational Documents of the Surviving Company.

1.3.1 From and after the Effective Time, the amended and restated articles of incorporation of the Company, as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, shall continue in full force and effect as the articles of incorporation of the Surviving Company until thereafter amended as provided therein or by applicable law.

1.3.2 From and after the Effective Time, the second amended and restated bylaws of the Company, as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time, shall continue in full force and effect as the bylaws of the Surviving Company (the “Surviving Company Bylaws”) until thereafter amended as provided therein or by applicable law.

1.4 Directors. The directors of the MergerCo immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the initial directors of the Surviving Company and will hold office from the Effective Time until their successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified in the manner provided in the Surviving Company Bylaws or as otherwise provided by law.

1.5 Officers. The officers of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be the initial officers of the Surviving Company and will hold office from the Effective Time until their successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified in the manner provided in the Surviving Company Bylaws or as otherwise provided by law.

1.6 Directors and Officers of HoldingCo. Prior to the Effective Time, the Company in its capacity as the sole stockholder of HoldingCo, agrees to take or cause to be taken all such actions as are necessary to cause those persons serving as (i) the directors of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time to be elected or appointed as the directors of HoldingCo and (ii) the (a) President and Chief Executive Officer, (b) Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary, (c) Chief Operating Officer, (d) Chief Technology Officer, and (e) Vice President and Corporate Counsel of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time to be elected or appointed as the executive officers of HoldingCo, each such person to have the same office(s) with HoldingCo (and the same committee memberships in the case of directors) as he or she held with the Company, with the directors serving until the earlier of the next meeting of the HoldingCo stockholders at which an election of directors of such class is held and until their successors are elected or appointed (or their earlier death, disability or retirement).

1.7 Additional Actions. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the parties hereto shall take all such reasonable and lawful action as may be necessary or appropriate in order to effectuate the Merger and to comply with the requirements of the CBCA. If, at any time after the Effective Time, the Surviving Company shall consider or be advised that any deeds, bills of sale, assignments, assurances or any other actions or things are necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm, of record or otherwise, in the Surviving Company its right, title or interest in, to or under any of the rights, properties or assets of either of MergerCo or the Company acquired or to be acquired by the Surviving Company as a result of, or in connection with, the Merger or otherwise to carry out this Agreement, the officers of the Surviving Company shall be authorized to execute and deliver, in the name and on behalf of each of MergerCo and the Company, all such deeds, bills of sale, assignments and assurances and to take and do, in the name and on behalf of each of MergerCo and the Company or otherwise, all such other actions and things as may be necessary or desirable to vest, perfect or confirm any and all right, title and interest in, to and under such rights, properties or assets in the Surviving Company or otherwise to carry out this Agreement.

1.8 Conversion of Securities. At the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of HoldingCo, MergerCo, the Company or the holder of any of the following securities:

1.8.1 Each share of Company Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than any shares held in treasury, which shall be automatically cancelled and retired without the payment of any consideration therefor) shall be converted into one duly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of HoldingCo Common Stock (the “Merger Consideration”).

1.8.2 The MergerCo common stock held by HoldingCo will automatically be converted into, and thereafter represent, 100% of the common stock of the Surviving Company.

1.8.3 Each share of HoldingCo Common Stock owned by the Company immediately prior to the Merger shall automatically be cancelled and retired and shall cease to exist.

1.8.4 From and after the Effective Time, holders of certificates formerly evidencing Company Common Stock shall cease to have any rights as shareholders of the Company, except as provided by law; provided, however, that such holders shall have the rights set forth in Section 1.9 herein.

1.8.5 In accordance with Section 7-113-102 of the CBCA, no appraisal rights shall be available to holders of Company Common Stock in connection with the Merger.

1.9 No Surrender of Certificates; Direct Registration of HoldingCo Common Stock. At the Effective Time, each outstanding share of Company Common Stock (other than any shares of Company Common Stock to be cancelled in accordance with Section 1.8) shall automatically represent the same number of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock without any further act or deed by the shareholders of the Company and record of such ownership shall be kept in uncertificated, book entry form by HoldingCo’s transfer agent. Until thereafter surrendered for transfer or exchange in the ordinary course, each outstanding certificate that, immediately prior to the Effective Time, evidenced Company Common Stock shall, from and after the Effective Time, be deemed and treated for all corporate purposes to evidence the ownership of the same number of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock.

1.10 Stock Transfer Books. At the Effective Time, the stock transfer books of the Company shall be closed and thereafter shall be no further registration of transfers of shares of Company Common Stock theretofore outstanding on the records of the Company. From and after the Effective Time, the holders of certificates representing shares of Company Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time shall cease to have any rights with respect to such shares of Company Common Stock except as otherwise provided in this Agreement or by law. On or after the Effective Time, any certificates presented to the exchange agent or HoldingCo for any reason shall solely represent the right to receive the Merger Consideration issuable in respect of the shares of Company Common Stock formerly represented by such certificates without any interest thereon.

1.11 Plan of Reorganization. This Agreement is intended to constitute a “plan of reorganization” within the meaning of Treasury Regulations Section 1.368-2(g). Each party hereto shall use its commercially reasonable efforts to cause the Merger to qualify, and will not knowingly take any actions or cause any actions to be taken which could reasonably be expected to prevent the Merger from qualifying, as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(E) of the Code, as well as a transaction to which Section 351(a) of the Code applies.

1.12 Successor Issuer. It is the intent of the parties hereto that HoldingCo be deemed a “successor issuer” of the Company in accordance with Rule 12g-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Rule 414 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. At or after the Effective Time, HoldingCo shall file (i) an appropriate report on Form 8-K describing the Merger and (ii) appropriate pre-effective and/or post-effective amendments, as applicable, to any Registration Statements of the Company on Forms S-3 and S-8.

## ARTICLE 2

### ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE MERGER

2.1 Assumption of Company Awards. At the Effective Time, all unexercised and unexpired options to purchase Company Common Stock (“Company Options”) or shares of restricted stock (collectively with Company Options, “Company Awards”) then outstanding under any of the Company’s 2003 Stock Option Plan, 2003 Stock Compensation Plan #1, 2003 Stock Compensation Plan #2, 2004 Executive Stock Option Plan, 2004 Stock Compensation Plan #2, 2004 Directors Stock Compensation Plan #1, 2005 Directors’ Compensation Plan, Amended and Restated 2007 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended, Amended and Restated 2010 Non-Management Compensation and Incentive Plan or the other rights to acquire Company Common Stock under the ADA-ES, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Retirement Plan (collectively, the “Company Plans”), whether or not then exercisable, will be

assumed by HoldingCo. Each Company Award so assumed by HoldingCo under this Agreement will continue to have, and be subject to, the same terms and conditions as set forth in the applicable Company Plan and any agreements thereunder immediately prior to the Effective Time (including, without limitation, the vesting schedule (without acceleration thereof by virtue of the Merger and the transactions contemplated hereby) and per share exercise price), except that each Company Award will be exercisable (or will become exercisable in accordance with its terms) for, or shall be denominated with reference to, that number of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock equal to the number of shares of Company Common Stock that were subject to such Company Award immediately prior to the Effective Time. The conversion of any Company Options that are “incentive stock options” within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code, into options to purchase HoldingCo Common Stock shall be made in a manner consistent with Section 424(a) of the Code so as not to constitute a “modification” of such Company Options within the meaning of Section 424 of the Code.

**2.2 Assignment and Assumption of Agreements.** Effective as of the Effective Time, the Company hereby assigns to HoldingCo, and HoldingCo hereby assumes and agrees to perform, all obligations of the Company pursuant to the Company Plans, each stock option agreement and restricted stock agreement entered into pursuant to the Company Plans, and each outstanding Company Award granted thereunder.

**2.3 Reservation of Shares.** On or prior to the Effective Time, HoldingCo will reserve sufficient shares of HoldingCo Common Stock to provide for the issuance of HoldingCo Common Stock upon exercise of the Company Awards outstanding under the Company Plans.

**2.4 Registration Statement; Proxy/Prospectus.**

2.4.1 As promptly as practicable after the execution of this Agreement, the Company shall prepare and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) a proxy statement in preliminary form relating to the Shareholders’ Meeting (as hereinafter defined) (together with any amendments thereof or supplements thereto, the “Proxy Statement”) and HoldingCo shall prepare and file with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 (together with all amendments thereto, the “Registration Statement” and the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement together with the Proxy Statement, the “Proxy/Prospectus”), in which the Proxy Statement shall be included, in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) of the shares of HoldingCo Common Stock to be issued to the shareholders of the Company as the Merger Consideration. Each of HoldingCo and the Company shall use its reasonable best efforts to cause the Registration Statement to become effective and the Proxy Statement to be cleared by the SEC as promptly as practicable, and, prior to the effective date of Registration Statement, HoldingCo shall take all actions reasonably required under any applicable federal securities laws or state blue sky laws in connection with the issuance of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock pursuant to the Merger. As promptly as reasonably practicable after the Registration Statement shall have become effective and the Proxy Statement shall have been cleared by the SEC, the Company shall mail or cause to be mailed or otherwise make available in accordance with the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), the Proxy/Prospectus to its shareholders; provided, however, that the parties shall consult and cooperate with each other in determining the appropriate time for mailing or otherwise making available to the Company’s shareholders the Proxy/Prospectus in light of the date set for the Shareholders’ Meeting.

**2.5 Meeting of Company Shareholders; Board Recommendation.**

2.5.1 **Meeting of Company Shareholders.** The Company shall take all action necessary in accordance with the CBCA and its amended and restated articles of incorporation and second amended and restated bylaws to call, hold and convene a meeting of its shareholders to consider the adoption of this Agreement (the “Shareholders’ Meeting”) to be held no less than 10 nor more than 60 days following the distribution of the definitive Proxy/Prospectus to its shareholders. The Company will use its reasonable best efforts to solicit from its shareholders proxies in favor of the approval of this Agreement and the Merger. The Company may adjourn or postpone the Shareholders’ Meeting to the extent necessary to ensure that any necessary supplement or amendment to the Proxy/Prospectus is provided to its shareholders in advance of any vote on this Agreement and the Merger or, if as of the time for which the Shareholders’ Meeting is originally scheduled (as set forth in the Proxy/Prospectus) there are insufficient shares of Company Common Stock voting in favor of the approval of this Agreement and the Merger or represented (either in person or by proxy) to constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the business of such Shareholders’ Meeting.



2.6 Section 16 Matters. Prior to the Effective Time, the Board of Directors of the Company or an appropriate committee of non-employee directors thereof (as such term is defined for purposes of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) shall adopt a resolution consistent with the interpretive guidance of the SEC so that the receipt by any officer or director of the Company who is a covered person for purposes of Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock in exchange for shares of Company Common Stock or Company Options pursuant to this Agreement and the Merger is intended to be an exempt transaction pursuant to Section 16b-3 of the Exchange Act. Prior to the Effective Time, the Board of Directors of HoldingCo or an appropriate committee of non-employee directors (as such term is defined for purposes of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) shall adopt a resolution consistent with the interpretive guidance of the SEC so that the receipt by any officer or director of the Company or HoldingCo who is a covered person for purposes of Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act of shares of HoldingCo Common Stock or options in exchange for shares of Company Common Stock or Company Options pursuant to this Agreement and the Merger is intended to be an exempt transaction for purposes of Section 16b-3 of the Exchange Act.

### ARTICLE 3

#### CONDITIONS OF MERGER

3.1 Conditions Precedent. The obligations of the parties to this Agreement to consummate the Merger and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall be subject to fulfillment or waiver by the parties hereto at or prior to the Effective Time of each of the following conditions:

3.1.1 The Registration Statement shall have been declared effective by the SEC under the Securities Act and no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall have been issued by the SEC and no proceeding for that purpose shall have been initiated or, to the knowledge of HoldingCo or the Company, threatened by the SEC and not concluded or withdrawn. No similar proceeding with respect to the Proxy Statement shall have been initiated or, to the knowledge of HoldingCo or the Company, threatened by the SEC and not concluded or withdrawn.

3.1.2 This Agreement and the Merger shall have been approved by the requisite vote of the shareholders of the Company in accordance with the CBCA.

3.1.3 The HoldingCo Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the Merger shall have been approved for listing by The NASDAQ Capital Market (“NASDAQ”).

3.1.4 No order, statute, rule, regulation, executive order, injunction, stay, decree, judgment or restraining order that is in effect shall have been enacted, entered, promulgated or enforced by any court or governmental or regulatory authority or instrumentality that prohibits or makes illegal the consummation of the Merger or the transactions contemplated hereby.

3.1.5 The Boards of Directors of the Company and HoldingCo shall have received a legal opinion of Sparkman + Foote LLP in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to them indicating that holders of Company Common Stock will not recognize gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

### ARTICLE 4

#### COVENANTS

4.1 Listing of HoldingCo Common Stock. HoldingCo will use its reasonable best efforts to obtain, at or before the Effective Time, confirmation of listing on the NASDAQ of the HoldingCo Common Stock issuable pursuant to the Merger.

4.2 The Plans. The Company and HoldingCo will take or cause to be taken all actions necessary or desirable in order to implement the assumption by HoldingCo pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Company Plans, each stock option agreement or restricted stock agreement entered into pursuant thereto, and each Company Award granted thereunder, all to the extent deemed appropriate by the Company and HoldingCo and permitted under applicable law.

4.3 Insurance. HoldingCo shall procure insurance or cause the execution, amendment or endorsement of the insurance policies of the Company such that, upon consummation of the Merger, HoldingCo shall have insurance coverage that is substantially identical to the insurance coverage held by the Company immediately prior to the Merger.

## ARTICLE 5

### TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

5.1 Termination. This Agreement may be terminated and the Merger contemplated hereby may be abandoned at any time prior to the Effective Time by action of the Board of Directors of the Company if such Board of Directors should determine that for any reason the completion of the transactions provided for herein would be inadvisable or not in the best interest of the Company or its shareholders. In the event of such termination and abandonment, this Agreement shall become void and none of the Company, HoldingCo or MergerCo or their respective securityholders, directors or officers shall have any liability with respect to such termination and abandonment.

5.2 Amendment. At any time prior to the Effective Time, this Agreement may, to the extent permitted by the CBCA, be supplemented, amended or modified by the mutual consent of the parties to this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 6

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

6.1 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced under the laws of the State of Colorado.

6.2 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original but all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement.

6.3 Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and supersedes all other agreements and undertakings, both written and oral, among the parties, or any of them, with respect to the subject matter hereof.

6.4 Severability. The provisions of this Agreement are severable, and in the event any provision hereof is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not in any way affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions hereof.

6.5 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing contained in this Agreement is intended by the parties hereto to expand the rights and remedies of any person or entity not party hereto against any party hereto as compared to the rights and remedies which such person or entity would have had against any party hereto had the parties hereto not consummated the transactions contemplated hereby.

6.6 Tax Matters. Each of the Company and HoldingCo will comply with the recordkeeping and information reporting requirements of the Code that are imposed as a result of the transactions contemplated hereby, and will provide information reporting statements to holders of Company Common Stock at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Code and applicable Treasury Regulations.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company, HoldingCo and MergerCo have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the date first written above by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized.

ADA-ES, INC.

By: /s/ Mark H. McKinnies  
Mark H. McKinnies  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and  
Secretary

ADVANCED EMISSIONS SOLUTIONS, INC.

By: /s/ Mark H. McKinnies  
Mark H. McKinnies  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,  
Secretary and Treasurer

ADA MERGER CORP.

By: /s/ Mark H. McKinnies  
Mark H. McKinnies  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ADA-ES ANNOUNCES 2012 ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING AND REORGANIZATION**

Highlands Ranch, Colorado – March 16, 2012 – ADA-ES, Inc. (NASDAQ:ADES) (“ADA” or the “Company”) announced today that it will hold its annual meeting of shareholders at 9:00 a.m. (local time) on June 6, 2012 at the Company’s offices located at 9135 South Ridgeline Boulevard, Suite 200, Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129. At the meeting, ADA shareholders will be asked, among other things, to consider and vote on a proposal to approve an agreement and plan of merger among a new holding company incorporated in Delaware named Advanced Emissions Solutions, Inc. (“ADES”), ADA and a subsidiary of ADES whereby ADA will merge with the new subsidiary and become a wholly owned subsidiary of the new holding company. In the merger, the current ADA shareholders will become stockholders of ADES on a one-for-one basis, holding the same number of shares and same ownership percentage after the reorganization as they held immediately prior to the reorganization. The reorganization generally will be tax-free for ADA shareholders. Shareholders of record on March 29, 2012 will be entitled to attend and vote at the annual meeting on the proposal to approve the merger agreement, which is more fully described in the proxy statement/prospectus relating to the meeting.

Upon completion of the reorganization, ADES would replace the present company as the publicly held corporation and it and its subsidiaries will conduct all of the operations we currently conduct. The officers of ADES would include the current President and Chief Executive Officer, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Technology Officer, and Vice President and Corporate Counsel of ADA. The directors of ADA prior to the reorganization would be the same as the directors of ADES following the reorganization. We expect that the shares of ADES common stock will trade on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the ticker symbol “ADES.”

Dr. Michael Durham, President and CEO of ADA, stated, “We believe the name Advanced Emissions Solutions more accurately reflects the scope of our current operations and our future direction. Since ADA spun out from Earth Sciences in 2003, we’ve become a prominent participant in the pollutant control industry including emission control technology, equipment and chemicals that reduce emissions mercury, CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants from coal-fired power plants, industrial boilers and cement kilns. Implementing the holding company structure will provide us with strategic, operational and financing flexibility and, by incorporating ADES in Delaware, we will be in a better position to take advantage of the flexibility, predictability and responsiveness that Delaware corporate law provides. We are enthusiastic about the significant opportunities for the Company from the release of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (“MATS”) by the EPA in December 2011 and believe the reorganization and new name better positions the Company to capitalize on these opportunities.”

If approved at the annual meeting, we expect that the reorganization will become effective on or about July 1, 2012. At the annual meeting, shareholders will also be asked to elect nine directors, ratify auditors,

approve Amendment No. 1 to ADA's Amended and Restated 2007 Equity Incentive Plan and approve the Amended and Restated 2010 Non-Management Compensation and Incentive Plan.

### **About ADA-ES**

ADA-ES is a leader in clean coal technology and the associated specialty chemicals, serving the coal-fueled power plant industry. Our proprietary environmental technologies and specialty chemicals enable power plants to enhance existing air pollution control equipment, minimize mercury, CO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions, maximize capacity, and improve operating efficiencies, to meet the challenges of existing and pending emission control regulations.

With respect to mercury emissions:

- We supply activated carbon ("AC") injection and Dry Sorbent Injection ("DSI") systems, mercury measurement instrumentation, and related services.
- Under an exclusive development and licensing agreement with Arch Coal, we are developing and commercializing an enhanced Powder River Basin ("PRB") coal with reduced emissions of mercury and other metals.
- Through our consolidated subsidiary, Clean Coal Solutions, LLC ("CCS"), we provide our patented Refined Coal ("RC") CyClean<sup>TM</sup> technology to enhance combustion of and reduce emissions from burning PRB coals in cyclone boilers and our patent pending M45<sup>TM</sup> technology for other types of coal and boilers. Both technologies reduce emissions of NOx and mercury in coal fired boilers.

In addition, we are developing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions technologies under projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") and industry participants.

*This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which provides a "safe harbor" for such statements in certain circumstances. The forward-looking statements include statements or expectations regarding the anticipated benefits, timing, tax effect and results of the annual shareholder meeting and reorganization; the trading symbol, stock market and directors and officers of ADES after the reorganization. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates, projections, beliefs and assumptions of our management. Such statements involve significant risks and uncertainties. Actual events or results could differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including but not limited to, changes in laws and regulations and legal challenges to them, reaction of our shareholders to the reorganization proposal and other factors discussed in greater detail in the proxy statement for the annual meeting and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements and to consult filings we make with the SEC for additional risks and uncertainties that may apply to our business and the ownership of our securities. Our forward-looking statements are presented as of the date made, and we disclaim any duty to update such statements unless required by law to do so.*

### Additional Information

ADES and ADA have filed a registration statement that includes a preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents in connection with the proposed Delaware holding company reorganization. ADA SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ CAREFULLY THESE DOCUMENTS AND THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS, WHEN FILED AND MAILED, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN AND WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED DELAWARE HOLDING COMPANY REORGANIZATION. Investors may obtain a free copy of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings

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ADA-ES News Release  
March 16, 2012

containing information about ADA, ADES and the proposed reorganization, from the SEC at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings containing information about ADA, ADES and the proposed reorganization can be obtained without charge by directing a request to ADA-ES, Inc., 9135 South Ridgeline Boulevard, Suite 200, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 80129, Attention: Secretary (telephone: (888) 822-8617) or accessing them on ADA's corporate website at [www.adaes.com](http://www.adaes.com).

ADA and its directors, executive officers, certain other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of ADA in favor of the proposed holding company reorganization. Additional information regarding the interests of potential participants in the proxy solicitation is included in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and will be included in the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents that ADA and ADES have filed and intend to file with the SEC in connection with the annual meeting of shareholders of ADA.

This press release is being made pursuant to and in compliance with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and does not constitute an offer of any securities for sale or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of the securities in any state or jurisdiction in which such an offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state or jurisdiction. Any offer of the securities will be made solely by means of a prospectus included in the registration statement and any prospectus supplement that may be issued in connection with such offering.

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