

NOVARTIS AG
Form 6-K
April 08, 2011

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 or 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Report on Form 6-K dated April 8, 2011

(Commission File No. 1-15024)

Novartis AG

(Name of Registrant)

Lichtstrasse 35

4056 Basel

Switzerland

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

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Form 20-F: **Form 40-F:**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes: **No:**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes: **No:**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes: **No:**

Novartis International AG

Novartis Global Communications
CH-4002 Basel
Switzerland
<http://www.novartis.com>

- Investor Relations Release -

Novartis completes merger with Alcon

- *Novartis shares required in transaction total 165 million shares instead of 215 shares million following purchase of Alcon shares in open market*
- *The 108 million new shares in combination with an additional 57 million shares held in treasury used to fund part of the merger consideration*
- *Merger of Alcon into Novartis completed following entry in commercial registry*

Basel, April 8, 2011 Novartis announced today that it completed the merger of Alcon, Inc. (Alcon; NYSE: ACL) into Novartis. The completion of the merger follows the Novartis shareholders' approval of the merger, as well as the proposed capital increase at the company's Extraordinary Shareholder Meeting today and the subsequent entry of the merger into the commercial registry.

The number of Novartis shares required in connection with the merger are 165 million shares instead of the initially expected 215 million shares. The amount of shares required for the merger was reduced through the purchase of 16.1 million Alcon shares in the open market since the announcement of the merger agreement in December 2010.

The 165 million shares are composed of 108 million newly issued shares from the authorized capital increase approved by the Novartis Board of Directors today and 57 million shares already held as treasury shares. Under the terms of the agreement, Alcon shareholders will receive 2.9228 Novartis shares (which includes the dividend adjustment) and USD 8.20 in cash for each share of Alcon, for a total consideration of USD 168 per share.

Novartis has appointed Mellon Investor Services LLC (operating with the service name BNY Mellon Shareowner Services) as agent for the payment of merger consideration. Alcon shareholders with questions regarding the payment of merger consideration should contact BNY Mellon Shareowner Services at +1 (201) 680-6579.

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A full update on expected synergies, one-time costs and progress of integration process resulting from the merger will be provided with the Novartis quarterly earnings update on April 19, 2011.

Disclaimer

These materials contain forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as will, to be issued, will continue, expected, committed, would, or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential future sales or earnings of the Novartis Group or any of its divisions; or by discussions of strategy, plans, expectations or intentions. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Group regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can

be no guarantee that the Novartis Group, or any of its divisions will achieve any particular financial results. In particular, management's expectations could be affected by, among other things, unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; unexpected clinical trial results, including additional analyses of existing clinical data or unexpected new clinical data; the Group's ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; disruptions from the integration of Alcon making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships, and relationships with key employees; unexpected product manufacturing issues; uncertainties regarding actual or potential legal proceedings, including, among others, litigation seeking to prevent the merger from taking place, product liability litigation, litigation regarding sales and marketing practices, government investigations and intellectual property disputes; competition in general; government, industry, and general public pricing and other political pressures; uncertainties regarding the after-effects of the recent global financial and economic crisis; uncertainties regarding future global exchange rates and uncertainties regarding future demand for our products; uncertainties involved in the development of new eye care products; the impact that the foregoing factors could have on the values attributed to the Group's assets and liabilities as recorded in the Group's consolidated balance sheet; and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in these materials as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

About Novartis

Novartis provides healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Focused solely on healthcare, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, eye care, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, consumer health products, preventive vaccines and diagnostic tools. Novartis is the only company with leading positions in these areas. In 2010, the Group's continuing operations achieved net sales of USD 50.6 billion, while approximately USD 9.1 billion (USD 8.1 billion excluding impairment and amortization charges) was invested in R&D throughout the Group. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ approximately 119,000 full-time-equivalent associates and operate in more than 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

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Novartis Media Relations

Central media line : +41 61 324 2200

Eric Althoff

Novartis Global Media Relations

+41 61 324 7999 (direct)

+41 79 593 4202 (mobile)

eric.althoff@novartis.com

e-mail: media.relations@novartis.com

Novartis Investor Relations

Central phone:

Susanne Schaffert

Pierre-Michel Bringer

Thomas Hungerbuehler

Isabella Zinck

+41 61 324 7944

+41 61 324 7944

+41 61 324 1065

+41 61 324 8425

+41 61 324 7188

North America:

Richard Jarvis

Jill Pozarek

Edwin Valeriano

+1 212 830 2433

+1 212 830 2445

+1 212 830 2456

e-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com

e-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com

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, thereunto duly authorized.

Novartis AG

Date: April 8, 2011

By: /s/ MALCOLM B. CHEETHAM

Name: Malcolm B. Cheetham
Title: Head Group Financial
Reporting and Accounting