

NOVARTIS AG
Form 6-K
April 17, 2018

UNITED STATES

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 17, 2018

(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:

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:**

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Novartis Global Communications
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<http://www.novartis.com>

MEDIA RELEASE • COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS • MEDIENMITTEILUNG

Novartis tender offer for AveXis commences

Basel, April 17, 2018 — Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) (“Novartis”) today announced that its indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, Novartis AM Merger Corporation, a Delaware corporation (“Purchaser”), has commenced a cash tender offer to purchase all the outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, of AveXis, Inc. (NASDAQ: AVXS) (“AveXis”) for a price of USD 218.00 per share, net to the seller in cash, without interest and subject to any tax withholding (the “Offer”). The Offer is being made upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase, dated April 17, 2018 and the related Letter of Transmittal and pursuant to the terms of the previously announced Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 6, 2018 (the “Merger Agreement”), among Novartis, Purchaser and AveXis.

The Offer will expire at 12:00 midnight, New York City time, at the end of the day on May 14, 2018, unless extended (the latest time and date at which the Offer will expire, the “Expiration Date”). Any extension of the Offer will be followed by public announcement of the extension by press release or other public announcement before 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the next business day after the Expiration Date.

Novartis will file today a Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). The Offer to Purchase contained within the Schedule TO sets out the full terms and conditions of the Offer.

AveXis will file today a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 (the “Schedule 14D-9”) with the SEC, which includes, among other things, the recommendation of the AveXis board of directors that AveXis’ stockholders accept the Offer and tender their shares of AveXis common stock pursuant to the Offer.

The Offer is subject to customary closing conditions, including the tender of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of AveXis common stock on a fully diluted basis and the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976. The Offer is subject to other important conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase. The Offer is not subject to a financing condition.

Innisfree M&A Incorporated is acting as information agent for Purchaser in the Offer. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC is acting as the depository and paying agent in the Offer. Requests for documents and questions by stockholders relating to the Offer may be directed to Innisfree M&A Incorporated by telephone at 1 (888) 750-5834 (toll free).

Additional Information

This press release is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell securities. On April 17, 2018, Purchaser and Novartis will file a Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO with the SEC and AveXis will file the Schedule 14D-9 with the SEC, in each case with respect to the Offer. The Tender Offer Statement (including the Offer to Purchase, the related Letter of Transmittal and other offer documents) and the Solicitation/Recommendation Statement contain important information that should be read carefully before any decision is made with respect to the Offer. Those materials and all other documents filed by, or caused to be filed by, Novartis, Purchaser or AveXis with the SEC will be available at no charge on the SEC’s

website at www.sec.gov. The Schedule TO Tender Offer Statement and related materials will be available for free under the “Investors – Financial Data” section of Novartis’ website at <https://www.novartis.com/investors/financial-data/sec-filings>. The Schedule 14D-9 and such other documents will be available for free from AveXis under the “Investor + Media” section of AveXis’ website at <http://investors.avexis.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=254285&p=irol-IRHome>.

Disclaimer

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, that can generally be identified by words such as “tender offer,” “commences,” “commenced,” “to purchase,” “offer,” “will,” “subject to,” “conditions,” or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the potential outcome of the tender offer for AveXis being commenced by Novartis. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward looking statements are based on our current beliefs and expectations regarding future events, and are subject to significant known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those set forth in the forward looking statements. There can be no guarantee that the proposed acquisition described in this press release will be completed, or that it will be completed as currently proposed, or at any particular time. In particular, our expectations could be affected by, among other things: regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally, including potential regulatory actions or delays relating to the completion of the potential acquisition described in this release; potential failures to meet other closing conditions, including a potential failure of sufficient shares to be tendered; uncertainties regarding actual or potential legal proceedings, including, among others, potential legal proceedings with respect to the proposed acquisition; and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Novartis is providing the information in this press release 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 innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic and biosimilar pharmaceuticals and eye care. Novartis has leading positions globally in each of these areas. In 2017, the Novartis Group achieved net sales of USD 49.1 billion, while R&D throughout the Novartis Group amounted to approximately USD 9.0 billion. Novartis Group companies employ approximately 122,000 full-time-equivalent associates. Novartis products are sold in approximately 155 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

Novartis is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at <http://twitter.com/novartis>

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For questions about the site or required registration, please contact media.relations@novartis.com

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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, thereunto duly authorized.

Novartis AG

Date: April 17, 2018 By: /s/ PAUL PENEPEPENT
Name: Paul Penepent
Head Group Financial
Title: Reporting and
Accounting