

FRIEDMANS INC  
Form 4  
March 16, 2005

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**HARBERT DISTRESSED INVESTMENT MASTER FUND LTD**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**C/O INTERNATIONAL FUND SERVICES, THIRD FL BISHOP SQUARE REDMONDS HILL**

(Street)

**DUBLIN IRELAND, L2 00000**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**FRIEDMANS INC [FRDM]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**03/14/2005**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

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

**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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	03/14/2005		P		14,625	A	\$ 1.69
					2,195,600 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock	03/14/2005		P		0	A	\$ 0
					2,195,600 <sup>(2)</sup>	I	
Common Stock	03/14/2005		P		375	A	\$ 1.69
					55,300 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	

By Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd.  
By Alpha US Sub Fund VI,

LLC

Common Stock 03/14/2005 P 142,050 A \$ 1.66 2,337,650 <sup>(1)</sup> D

Common Stock 03/14/2005 P 0 A \$ 0 2,337,650 <sup>(2)</sup> I

Common Stock 03/14/2005 P 3,650 A \$ 1.66 58,950 <sup>(3)</sup> I

By Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd.

By Alpha US Sub Fund VI, LLC

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount
Warrant	\$ 1.75	03/14/2005		P	2,925,000	09/07/2004 09/06/2009	Common Stock 2,925,000
Warrant	\$ 1.75	03/14/2005		P	0	09/07/2004 09/06/2009	Common Stock 0
Warrant	\$ 1.75	03/14/2005		P	75,000	09/07/2004 09/06/2009	Common Stock 75,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

HARBERT DISTRESSED INVESTMENT MASTER FUND LTD C/O INTERNATIONAL FUND SERVICES THIRD FL BISHOP SQUARE REDMONDS HILL DUBLIN IRELAND, L2 00000	X
HMC DISTRESSED INVESTMENT OFFSHORE MANAGER LLC 555 MADISON AVENUE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022	X
HMC INVESTORS LLC ONE RIVERCHASE PARKWAY SOUTH BIRMINGHAM, AL 35244	X
FALCONE PHILIP 555 MADISON AVE 16TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022	X
HARBERT RAYMOND J ONE RIVERCHASE PARKWAY SOUTH BIRMINGHAM, AL 35244	X
LUCE MICHAEL D ONE RIVERCHASE PARKWAY SOUTH BIRMINGHAM, AL 35244	X

## Signatures

Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd. HMC Distressed Investment Offshore Manager, LLC By: HMC Investors, LLC, Managing Member By: /s/ Joel B. Piassick	03/16/2005
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
HMC Distressed Investment Offshore Manager, LLC By: HMC Investors, LLC, Managing Member By: /s/ Joel Piassick	03/16/2005
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
HMC Investors, LLC By: /s/ Joel Piassick	03/14/2005
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
By: /s/ Philip Falcone	03/16/2005
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
By: /s/ Raymond J. Harbert	03/16/2005
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
By: /s/ Michael D. Luce	03/16/2005
__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) These securities are owned by Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd., which is a Reporting Person.
  - (2) These securities may be deemed to be beneficially owned by HMC Distressed Investment Offshore Manager, L.L.C. ("HMC Management"), the investment manager of Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd., HMC Investors, L.L.C., its managing

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member ("HMC Investors"), Philip Falcone, a member of HMC Management and the portfolio manager of Harbert Distressed Investment Master Fund, Ltd., Raymond J. Harbert, a member of HMC Investors, and Michael D. Luce, a member of HMC Investors. Each such Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that such Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or for any other purpose.

- These securities may be deemed to be beneficially owned by HMC Investors, Philip Falcone, who is the portfolio manager of Alpha US Sub Fund VI, LLC, Raymond J. Harbert and Michael D. Luce. Each such Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of the
- (3) reported securities except to the extent of his or its pecuniary interest therein, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that such Reporting Person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or for any other purpose.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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