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NOVARTIS AG  
Form 6-K  
April 05, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

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

Report on Form 6-K dated April 5, 2004  
(Commission File No. 1-15024)

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Novartis AG  
(Name of Registrant)

Lichtstrasse 35  
4056 Basel  
Switzerland  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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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:

Enclosure: Press release, dated April 2, 2004

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[NOVARTIS LOGO]

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MEDIA RELEASE           o           COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS           o           MEDIENMITTEILUNG

Novartis acknowledges Aventis invitation

Basel, 2 April 2004 - Novartis takes note of the invitation by the Aventis Supervisory Board to enter into negotiations regarding a potential transaction.

Novartis now expects that the Supervisory Board and management of Aventis will clarify with the French Government the importance of such a transaction for the shareholders of Aventis as well as its benefits for employment and for research and development.

Novartis AG (NYSE: NVS) is a world leader in pharmaceuticals and consumer health. In 2003, the Group's businesses achieved sales of USD 24.9 billion and a net income of USD 5.0 billion. The Group invested approximately USD 3.8 billion in R&D. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis Group companies employ about 78,500 people and operate in over 140 countries around the world.

This release contains certain "forward-looking statements" relating to the Group's business, intentions or expectations. Such statements reflect the current views of the Group with respect to future events and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. There can be no guarantee regarding the existence or nonexistence of any major acquisitions in the future. Many factors can cause actual events to be materially different from the Group's current intentions or expectations.

For further information please consult <http://www.novartis.com>.

### SIGNATURES

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

NOVARTIS AG

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Date: April 5, 2004

By: /s/ MALCOLM B. CHEETHAM  
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Name: Malcolm B. Cheetham  
Title: Head Group Financial  
Reporting and Accounting