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VISX INC  
Form DEFA14A  
April 19, 2001

SCHEDULE 14A  
(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant  |  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  |  
Check the appropriate box:  
 Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only  
(as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e) (2))  
 Definitive Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Additional Materials  
 Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

VISX, INCORPORATED

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.  
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i) (1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  
common stock, \$.01 par value per share

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  
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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction  
computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the  
amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it  
was determined):  
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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:  
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(5) Total fee paid:  
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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.  
 Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange  
Act Rule 0-11(a) (2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting  
fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration  
statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

[VISX Logo]

April 18, 2001

To Our Stockholders:

There is a battle being waged for control of your Company and we believe your investment hangs in the balance. In order to protect your investment and ensure the continued growth and prosperity of VISX, WE URGE YOU TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING TWO ACTIONS:

- o If you have not already done so, please VOTE the enclosed GOLD proxy card "FOR" the VISX slate of directors and return the card in the enclosed envelope.
- o Please DISCARD any proxy materials you receive from Carl Icahn and his group, as any vote on the Icahn group's proxy--even an abstention--will nullify your YES vote on the VISX GOLD proxy.

We believe VISX's strong first quarter performance underscores the importance of voting "FOR" the VISX slate. Your Company's first quarter performance was exceptional on all major fronts:

- o VISX's earnings were \$0.21 per share, exceeding expectations;
- o VISX's industry-leading market share increased;
- o VISX's licensing revenue grew by 23% over fourth quarter, 2000;
- o VISX's licensing revenue from its top 4 corporate customers increased by 40% over fourth quarter, 2000;
- o VISX's systems sales grew by 29% over fourth quarter, 2000;
- o VISX repurchased more than 4 million shares of common stock, and VISX's Board authorized the repurchase of 10 million additional shares of common stock on April 3, 2001.

Industry experts project that the U.S. laser vision correction procedure market will grow at an average compound rate of 28% over the next four years,(1) and we believe VISX is well-positioned to capture the significant opportunities presented by this vast market.

Still, we believe there is an immediate threat to VISX's ability to remain the leader in this industry--that threat is the effort of a group led by New York financier Carl Icahn to take control of your Company. The Icahn group has made a proposal that, in our view, jeopardizes both the short-term and long-term value of your Company. If implemented, THIS PROPOSAL WOULD FORCE VISX TO ASSUME \$300 MILLION IN DEBT to finance a 20 million share stock buy-back program, thereby:

- o Immediately diluting VISX's earnings per share;
- o Severely weakening VISX's balance sheet; and
- o Depriving VISX of the flexibility to invest in essential research and development.

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The Icahn group has also proposed to auction your Company, despite the fact your Board of Directors previously conducted a review of strategic alternatives and concluded there were no currently available combinations that would enhance stockholder value. While VISX remains receptive to opportunities that would recognize our record of profitable performance and our global leadership position, this is an avenue that has been thoroughly explored.

We believe the bottom line is that Mr. Icahn and his group would plunge VISX into debt and restrict your Company's ability to invest in our future. For all of these reasons, we again urge you to vote "FOR" the VISX Board of Directors on the enclosed GOLD VISX proxy and to DISCARD ANY MATERIALS that you receive from Mr. Icahn. A postage paid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions about voting or need other assistance, please call MacKenzie Partners, Inc., the firm assisting us in the solicitation of proxies, toll-free at 800-322-2885 or collect at 212-929-5500.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth H. Davila

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Elizabeth H. Davila  
President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Mark B. Logan

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Mark B. Logan  
Chairman of the Board

The foregoing statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are based on management's current expectations and actual results could differ materially. Additional discussions of factors affecting the Company's business is contained in the Company's most recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including VISX's Annual Report and Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000.

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(1) Marketscope, "Comprehensive Report on the Refractive Market,"  
November 2000.