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APTARGROUP INC
Form DEF 14A
April 03, 2001

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

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AptarGroup, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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- [X] No fee required.
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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

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(4) Date Filed:

Notes:

[Aptar Group Logo]

475 West Terra Cotta Avenue,
Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
815-477-0424

April 6, 2001

Dear Stockholder,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend our annual meeting of stockholders on Wednesday, May 9, 2001. At the meeting, we will review Aptar's performance for fiscal year 2000 and our outlook for the future.

A notice of the annual meeting and proxy statement are attached. You will also find enclosed your proxy voting card. The vote of each stockholder is important to us. Whether or not you expect to attend the annual meeting, I urge you to complete and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible in the accompanying postage-paid envelope, or alternatively, vote by telephone or by the internet.

I look forward to seeing you on May 9th and addressing your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carl A. Siebel

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Carl A. Siebel
President and Chief Executive Officer

[Aptar Group Logo]

475 West Terra Cotta Avenue,
Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
815-477-0424

April 6, 2001

NOTICE OF 2001 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., at the offices of Sidley & Austin, Bank One Plaza, 10 South Dearborn Street, 55th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, 60603 to consider and take action on the following:

1. Election of three directors to terms of office expiring at the annual meeting in 2004; and
2. Transaction of any other business that is properly raised at the meeting.

Your Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of the three director nominees.

Stockholders owning our common stock as of the close of business on March 15, 2001 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Each stockholder has one vote per share.

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, we urge you to vote your shares by using the toll free telephone number, the internet or by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Stephen J. Hagge

Stephen J. Hagge
Secretary

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[LOGO] AptarGroup

475 West Terra Cotta Ave, Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION _____

This proxy statement contains information related to the annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. to be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2001, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the offices of Sidley & Austin, One First National Plaza, 55th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois, and at any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. The proxy statement was prepared under the direction of AptarGroup's Board of Directors to solicit your proxy for use at the annual meeting. It will be mailed to stockholders on or about April 6, 2001.

Who is entitled to vote? _____

Stockholders owning our common stock at the close of business on March 15, 2001 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting, or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting. Each stockholder has one vote per share on all matters to be voted on at the meeting. On March 15, 2001, there were 35,705,893 shares of common stock outstanding.

What am I voting on? _____

You are asked to vote on the election of three nominees to serve on our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors knows of no other business that will be presented at the meeting. If other matters properly come before the annual meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote on them in accordance with their best judgment.

How does the Board of Directors recommend I vote on the proposal? _____

The Board recommends a vote FOR the election of the three director nominees.

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Unless you give other instructions when voting your proxy, the persons named as proxies will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the Board.

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How do I vote? _____

You can vote your proxy in any of the following ways:

- . By Mail: Sign, date and complete the enclosed proxy card and return it in the prepaid envelope.
- . By Telephone: You can vote by touch tone telephone by following the instructions on your proxy card.
- . By Internet: You can vote by internet by following the instructions on your proxy card.

When voting to elect directors, you have three options:

- . Vote for all three nominees
- . Vote for only some of the nominees
- . Withhold authority to vote for all or some nominees

If you return your proxy with no votes marked, your shares will be voted as follows:

- . FOR the election of all three nominees for director

You can revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by one of the following methods:

- . Writing to AptarGroup's Corporate Secretary
- . Submitting another signed proxy card with a later date
- . Voting in person at the annual meeting
- . Entering a new vote by telephone or the internet

What is a quorum? _____

A "quorum" is the presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of AptarGroup's common stock on March 15, 2001. There must be a quorum for the meeting to be held. Proxies received but marked as abstentions and broker non-votes will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present at the meeting.

How are shares in a 401(k) plan voted? _____

If you hold shares of AptarGroup through your 401(k) plan, you will be instructing the trustee how to vote your shares by completing and returning your proxy card, voting by phone or by the internet. If you do not return your proxy card, or if you return it with unclear voting instructions, or if you do not vote by phone or the internet, the trustee will vote the shares in your 401(k) account in the same proportion as the 401(k) shares for which voting instructions are received.

How are shares held in a broker account voted? _____

If you own shares through a broker, you should be contacted by your broker regarding a proxy card and whether telephone or internet voting options are available. If you do not instruct your broker on how to vote your shares, your broker, as the registered holder of your shares, may represent your shares at the annual meeting for purposes of determining a quorum, and may vote your shares on some or all proposals. Any unvoted shares, called "broker non-votes", will not affect the outcome of the matter put to a vote.

How many votes are required to elect each director? _____

The three persons receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve as directors. As a result, withholding authority to vote for a director nominee and non-votes with respect to the election of directors will not affect the outcome of the election.

Who will count the votes? _____

Our transfer agent Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C. will count the votes.

How much does this proxy cost? _____

We have engaged Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C. to solicit proxies for our annual meeting for a fee of \$4,500. We also reimburse banks, brokerage firms and other institutions, nominees, custodians and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses for sending proxy materials to beneficial owners and obtaining their voting instructions. Certain directors, officers and employees of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries may solicit proxies personally or by telephone or facsimile without additional compensation.

Following is the proposal to be voted on at this year's annual meeting.

PROPOSAL -- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is comprised of nine members divided into three classes, with one class of directors elected each year for a three-year term. The terms of Robert L. Barrows, Alfred J. Pilz and Carl A. Siebel expire at the 2001 annual meeting. In order to devote more time to personal interests, Messrs. Barrows and Pilz are not standing for re-election. Their guidance and counsel have been appreciated and will be missed.

If any of the director nominees is unable or fails to stand for election, the persons named in the proxy presently intend to vote for a substitute nominee nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors. The following sets forth information as to each nominee for election at this meeting and each director continuing in office.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THIS MEETING TO TERMS EXPIRING IN 2004 _____

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Name	Director		Principal Occupation and Directorships
	Since	Age	
Alain Chevassus	--	56	Mr. Chevassus has been President of COSFIBEL (flexible plastic packaging) since 2000. From 1977 to 1999, Mr. Chevassus was President and Chief Executive Officer of Techpack International (a cosmetic packaging division of Pechiney S.A.).
Stephen J. Hagge	--	49	Mr. Hagge has been Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of AptarGroup since 1993. From 1993 to 2000, Mr. Hagge was also Treasurer of AptarGroup.
Carl A. Siebel	1993	66	Mr. Siebel has been President and Chief Executive Officer of AptarGroup since 1995. From 1993 through 1995, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of AptarGroup.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees for Director.

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DIRECTORS WHOSE PRESENT TERMS CONTINUE UNTIL 2002 _____

Name	Director		Principal Occupation and Directorships
	Since	Age	
King W. Harris	1993	57	Mr. Harris has been Chairman of the Board since 1996. Since 2000, Mr. Harris has been Chairman of Harris Holdings, Inc. (investments). From 1987 to 2000, Mr. Harris was President and Chief Executive Officer of Pittway Corporation (now the Security and Fire Solutions Group of Honeywell International, Inc. ("Honeywell")). Mr. Harris is Vice-Chairman and a director of Penton Media, Inc. (a business-to-business trade show operator and media company).
Peter H. Pfeiffer	1993	52	Mr. Pfeiffer has been Vice Chairman of the Board since 1993.
Dr. Joanne C. Smith	1999	40	Dr. Smith has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporate Partnership Division of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago since 1997. She has been a physician at the Rehabilitation Institute since 1992 and served as its Director of Business Development from 1994 to 1997.

DIRECTORS WHOSE PRESENT TERMS CONTINUE UNTIL 2003 _____

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Name	Director		Principal Occupation and Directorships
	Since	Age	
Ralph Gruska	1993	69	Mr. Gruska is retired. From 1989 to 1991, Mr. Gruska served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cosmetics Packaging and Dispensers Division of Cope Allman Packaging plc (a United Kingdom packaging company).
Leo A. Guthart	1993	63	Mr. Guthart has been Chairman of the Security and Fire Solutions Group of Honeywell, and Managing Member of the General Partners of Topspin Partners L.P. (venture capital investing) since 2000. For more than five years prior to 2000, Mr. Guthart was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ademco Security Group (now part of Honeywell). Mr. Guthart is a director of the Acorn Investment Trust (an investment trustee) and Symbol Technologies, Inc. (bar code scanners and wireless equipment), and Chairman of the Board and a director of Cylink Corporation (a data encryption and wireless product manufacturer).
Prof. Dr. Robert W. Hacker	2000	61	For more than the past five years, Prof. Dr. Hacker has served as the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Herz- und Gefaessklinik (Heart and Vessel Clinic), Bad Neustadt, Germany.

Alfred J. Pilz and Peter H. Pfeiffer are brothers-in-law.

BOARD COMMITTEES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE _____

The Board met 7 times in 2000. No director attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees on which each director served.

The Board of Directors has four active committees: the Executive, Audit, Compensation and Nominating Committees. Committees report their actions to the full Board at its next regular meeting. An affirmative vote of at least 70% of the Board is required to change the size, membership or powers of these committees, to fill vacancies in them, or to dissolve them. A description of the duties of each committee follows the table below.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS HELD

Name	Executive	Audit	Compensation	Nominating
R. L. Barrows				X
R. Gruska	X			X

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L. A. Guthart		X*	X*	
R. W. Hacker				
K. W. Harris		X*		X
P. H. Pfeiffer		X		X
A. J. Pilz				
C. A. Siebel		X		
J. C. Smith			X	
Number of Meetings in Fiscal 2000	4	4	3	2

X* Chairperson

Executive Committee _____

- . May exercise certain powers of the Board, when the Board is not in session, in the management of the business and affairs of AptarGroup.

Audit Committee _____

- . Provides oversight regarding accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of AptarGroup.
- . Considers annually the qualifications of our independent auditors and the scope of their audit and makes recommendations to the Board as to their appointment.
- . Retains other responsibilities as outlined in the Audit Committee Charter that is included as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement.

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Compensation Committee _____

- . Establishes executive compensation policies and programs.
- . Recommends to the Board base salaries and target bonus levels for officers of the company.
- . Approves awards and grants to be made in accordance with long-term compensation plans.

Nominating Committee _____

- . Reviews the qualifications of persons eligible to stand for election as directors and makes recommendations to the Board on this matter.
- . Considers as nominees for director, qualified persons recommended by directors, management and stockholders.

BOARD COMPENSATION _____

Employees of AptarGroup do not receive any additional compensation for

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serving as members of the Board or any of its committees. Compensation of non-employee directors consists of the following:

- . an annual retainer of \$10,000, payable \$2,500 per quarter
- . a fee of \$5,000 for each Board meeting attended in person and \$1,000 for any teleconference Board meeting
- . a fee of \$1,000 for each committee meeting attended in person (other than a committee meeting held on the same day as a Board meeting) and \$250 for each phone meeting of a committee
- . an annual retainer of \$2,000 for the Chairperson of the Audit Committee
- . an annual fee of \$100,000 is paid to the Chairman of the Board, who is not an executive of AptarGroup, in lieu of the annual retainer and any meeting fees

Each director is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending Board and committee meetings.

Pursuant to the 1996 Director Stock Option Plan, on May 19, 1997 each non-employee director was granted a nonqualified option to purchase 8,000 shares of Common Stock at a purchase price of \$20.875 per share. These options became exercisable as to 2,000 shares on November 19, 1997 and an additional 2,000 shares became exercisable on each anniversary of the date of the annual meeting of stockholders. On May 18, 1998, Mr. Barrows was granted a nonqualified option to purchase 6,000 shares of Common Stock at a purchase price of \$32.375. This option became exercisable as to 2,000 shares on November 18, 1998 and an additional 2,000 shares became exercisable on each anniversary of the date of the annual meeting of stockholders. On May 14, 1999, Dr. Smith was granted a nonqualified option to purchase 4,000 shares of Common Stock at a purchase price of \$29.50. This option became exercisable as to 2,000 shares on November 14, 1999 and an additional 2,000 shares became exercisable on the anniversary of the date of the annual meeting of stockholders. On May 15, 2000, Prof. Dr. Hacker was granted a nonqualified option to purchase 2,000 shares of Common Stock

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at a purchase price of \$27.38. This option became exercisable on November 15, 2000. A non-employee director is only eligible for one grant under this Plan.

Pursuant to the 2000 Director Stock Option Plan, which succeeds the 1996 Director Stock Option Plan, on the third trading date following the date of the 2001 annual meeting, each non-employee director will be granted a non-qualified option to purchase 8,000 shares of Common Stock at a purchase price equal to the fair market value of the Common Stock on the date of grant. Each option will become exercisable as to 2,000 shares on the date which is six months after the date of grant and an additional 2,000 shares will become exercisable on the earlier of each anniversary of the date of grant or date of the annual meeting of stockholders. Under the 2000 Director Stock Option Plan, a non-employee director is only eligible for one grant under the Plan.

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SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table contains information with respect to the beneficial ownership of Common Stock, as of March 15, 2001, by (a) the persons known by

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AptarGroup to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, (b) each director or director nominee of AptarGroup, (c) each of the executive officers of AptarGroup named in the Summary Compensation Table below, and (d) all directors, director nominees and executive officers of AptarGroup as a group. Except where otherwise indicated, the mailing address of each of the stockholders named in the table is: c/o AptarGroup, Inc., 475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

Name	Shares Owned		Options
	Number of Shares (1)	Percentage (2)	Exercisable Within 60 Days of March 15, 2001
Neuberger & Berman LLC(3) 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158	3,414,334	9.6	--
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co.(4) One State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61710	2,521,568	7.1	--
Robert L. Barrows	80,822	*	6,000
Alain Chevassus	5,250	*	--
Ralph Gruska	10,000	*	8,000
Leo A. Guthart(5)	92,074	*	10,000
Prof. Dr. Robert W. Hacker	--	--	--
Stephen J. Hagge(6)	124,341	*	109,753
King W. Harris(7)	808,020	2.3	16,000
Emil D. Meshberg	135,646	*	19,000
Peter H. Pfeiffer	738,072	2.1	206,954
Alfred J. Pilz(8)	436,000	1.2	2,000
Eric S. Ruskoski	99,569	*	77,667
Carl A. Siebel(9)	403,681	1.1	332,725
Dr. Joanne C. Smith(10)	4,870	*	4,000
All Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers as a Group (22 persons)(11)	3,380,053	9.2	1,200,031

* Less than one percent.

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- (1) Except as otherwise indicated below, beneficial ownership means the sole power to vote and dispose of shares. Number of shares includes options exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2001.
- (2) Based on 35,705,893 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 15, 2001 plus respective options exercisable within 60 days of that date.

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- (3) The information as to Neuberger & Berman LLC and related entities ("Neuberger & Berman") is derived from a statement on Schedule 13G with respect to the Common Stock, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Such statement discloses that Neuberger & Berman has the sole power to vote 1,343,234 shares, shares power to vote 2,060,800 shares and shares power to dispose of 3,414,334 shares.
- (4) The information as to State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and related entities ("State Farm") is derived from a statement on Schedule 13G with respect to the Common Stock, filed with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act. Such statement discloses that State Farm has the sole power to vote and dispose of 2,516,132 shares and shares power to vote and dispose of 5,436 shares.
- (5) Mr. Guthart shares the power to vote and dispose of 37,878 shares.
- (6) Mr. Hagge shares the power to vote and dispose of 4,194 shares.
- (7) Mr. Harris shares the power to vote and dispose of 566,714 shares.
- (8) Mr. Pilz shares the power to vote 420,000 shares.
- (9) Mr. Siebel shares the power to vote and dispose of 68,114 shares.
- (10) Dr. Smith shares the power to vote and dispose of 700 shares.
- (11) Includes 1,097,600 shares as to which voting power is shared other than with directors and executive officers of AptarGroup.

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COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION _____

Compensation Policy _____

The compensation policy is designed to support AptarGroup's overall objective of increasing stockholder value by:

- . Attracting, motivating and retaining key executives who are critical to the long-term success of AptarGroup.
- . Awarding short-term incentives based upon respective unit performance and overall Company performance.
- . Aligning executive and stockholder interests through a stock-based long-term incentive program which will reward executives for increased stockholder value.

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The Compensation Committee's general policy is to qualify long-term incentive compensation of U.S. based executive officers for deductibility under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The total compensation program consists of three components:

Base Salary _____

The salary ranges of executive officers are established in relation to competitive market data provided by outside executive compensation consultants and review of proxy statements of similar publicly-held companies in the packaging industry. Comparisons are made to positions with similar job responsibilities, positions in companies of comparable sales volume, and positions in similar companies in the same industry as AptarGroup. Four of the companies used in establishing salary ranges are included in the Value Line Packaging and Container Industry Group used in the performance graph below. Generally, salaries are established at approximately the 50th to 75th percentile of an executive's salary range. Salary ranges and salaries are reviewed annually. Generally, management performance and accomplishment of goals and objectives are weighted most important in determining base salary increases.

Short-term Incentives _____

Executives are eligible for annual bonuses based upon:

- . Profit growth
- . Return on capital
- . Achievement of other goals and objectives
- . General management performance

Generally, profit growth and return on capital are weighted most important in determining annual cash bonuses. For 2000, no set bonus formula was used for Messrs. Siebel, Pfeiffer and Hagge.

Long-term Incentives _____

Executives are eligible for awards of stock options and other awards under AptarGroup's Stock Awards Plans. The awards to executives are made to provide an incentive for future performance to

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increase stockholder value. The members of the Compensation Committee administer this Plan. In 2000, the total amount of options granted was approximately 1.5% of the total stock outstanding. As reflected in the table of option grants, stock options were granted on January 26, 2000 to all of the named executive officers. Awards were determined in relation to the individual's position and responsibility. The exercise price of the options equaled the market price of AptarGroup's Common Stock on the date of the grants.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation _____

Mr. Siebel's salary was increased approximately 9% to \$600,000 on January 1, 2000, as compensation for Mr. Siebel's performance. The Committee set the CEO's compensation slightly above the 50th percentile of the comparable salary range. His 2000 bonus of \$353,600, including \$81,600 of restricted stock, was established based upon AptarGroup's performance in 2000 compared to 1999.

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During 2000, Mr. Siebel was awarded an option to purchase 56,000 shares of Common Stock.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Leo Guthart, Chairman
Robert Barrows
Ralph Gruska

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth compensation information for the President and Chief Executive Officer and AptarGroup's four other most highly compensated executive officers serving at the end of 2000 (the "named executive officers").

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation		Long Term Compensation Awards		
		Salary	Cash Bonus	Restricted Stock (1)	Securities Underlying Options/ SARs	All Other Compensation
Carl A. Siebel President and Chief Executive Officer	2000	\$600,000	\$272,000	\$ 81,600 (2)	56,000	\$ --
	1999	550,000	162,500	195,000	60,000	1,389
	1998	500,000	300,000	--	60,000	2,537
Peter H. Pfeiffer Vice Chairman of the Board	2000	400,000	255,000	--	44,000	--
	1999	365,000	240,000	--	47,000	--
	1998	325,000	225,000	--	47,000	--
Stephen J. Hagge Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	2000	300,000	180,000	60,000 (2)	20,000	9,344 (3)
	1999	275,000	165,000	60,000	21,000	8,891
	1998	250,000	200,000	--	21,000	8,891
Emil D. Meshberg Vice President, Chief	2000	312,000	93,600	--	17,000	16,225 (4)
	1999	258,750	75,000	90,000	20,000	11,500
	1998	--	--	--	--	--

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Executive
Officer of
EMSAR,
Inc.

Eric S. Ruskoski	2000	265,000	44,900	35,160 (2)	17,000	8,567 (5)
President of Seaquist Closures L.L.C.	1999	250,000	57,500	48,000	18,000	8,239
	1998	240,000	117,600	--	18,000	8,239

(1) The number and value of restricted shares held by the named executives as of December 31, 2000, respectively, are as follows:

Carl A. Siebel--8,525 / \$250,422
 Stephen J. Hagge--2,623 / \$77,051
 Emil Meshberg--3,934 / \$115,561
 Eric S. Ruskoski--2,098 / \$61,629

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The restricted shares were valued using the closing share price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$29.375 on December 29, 2000. All of the shares of restricted stock vest ratably over three years from the date of grant and dividends are paid on vested shares only.

- (2) Restricted stock values are based upon the issuance of 2,785 shares, 2,048 shares and 1,200 shares to Messrs. Siebel, Hagge and Ruskoski, respectively, and the closing share price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$29.30 on February 16, 2001. These shares of restricted stock were issued at the election of the named executive in lieu of a portion of their 2000 annual bonus. All of the shares of restricted stock vest ratably over three years from the date of grant and dividends are paid on vested shares only.
- (3) Consists of \$5,100 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup, Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$3,207 for Company-provided supplemental disability insurance and \$1,037 for Company-provided term life insurance.
- (4) Consists of \$4,625 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup, Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$11,284 for Company-provided split dollar term life insurance and \$316 for Company-provided term life insurance.
- (5) Consists of \$5,100 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup, Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$3,151 for Company-provided supplemental disability insurance and \$316 for Company-provided term life insurance.

Option Grants

The following table shows all grants in 2000 of stock options to the named executive officers. The exercise price of all such options was the fair market value on the date of grant. No SARs were granted in 2000.

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Individual Grants (1) (2)

Name	Securities Underlying Options Granted (#)	% of Total Options Granted to Employees in 2000	Per Share Exercise or Base Price	Expiration Date	Potential Realizable Value as Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Price Appreciation for Option Term	
					5%	10%
Carl A. Siebel	56,000	10.5	\$22.75	1/26/10	\$ 801,192	\$ 2,030,448
Peter H. Pfeiffer	44,000	8.2	22.75	1/26/10	629,508	1,595,352
Stephen J. Hagge	20,000	3.7	22.75	1/26/10	286,140	725,160
Emil D. Meshberg	17,000	3.2	22.75	1/26/10	243,219	616,386
Eric S. Ruskoski	17,000	3.2	22.75	1/26/10	243,219	616,386

(1) All options become exercisable in equal one-third annual increments beginning one year from the grant date.

(2) All options listed in the table expire ten years after their date of grant. Based on 36,146,910 shares of Common Stock outstanding on January 26, 2000, the closing price per share of Common Stock of \$22.75 on January 26, 2000 and a ten-year period, the potential realizable

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value to all stockholders at 5% and 10% assumed annual rates of stock appreciation would be approximately \$517,154,000 and \$1,310,615,000, respectively.

Aggregated Option Exercises and Option Values at Year-End _____

The following table provides information as to options exercised and the value of options held by the named executive officers at year-end measured in terms of the closing price of the Common Stock on December 31, 2000. AptarGroup has not granted any SARs.

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized (\$)	Number of Securities Underlying Options at December 31, 2000 (#)		Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options at December 31, 2000 (\$)	
			Exercisable	Not Exercisable	Exercisable	Not Exercisable
Carl A. Siebel	--	--	274,058	116,000	\$3,691,703	\$547,875
Peter H. Pfeiffer	--	--	160,954	91,000	1,802,289	430,053
Stephen J. Hagge	--	--	99,086	41,000	1,336,501	194,406
Emil D. Meshberg	--	--	6,667	30,333	24,585	161,790
Eric R. Ruskoski	--	--	60,000	35,000	625,875	165,688

Employment Agreements _____

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Mr. Siebel's employment agreement provides for employment through December 31, 2001 at a minimum salary of \$600,000 and provides for a payment of three months' salary to his survivors in the event of his death while employed. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of one year, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Siebel by written notice seven months before the end of the then current contract period. A separate pension agreement provides Mr. Siebel with an annual pension compensation, subject to cost of living adjustments, of 60% of his 2000 salary for life, and in the event of his death, provides his surviving widow with annual payments of 60% of his then pension for life. Mr. Siebel began receiving benefits from this pension in February 2000, and pension benefits for the year 2000, which are denominated in Deutsche Marks, are equivalent to approximately \$314,000. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security benefits or other offset items.

Mr. Pfeiffer's employment agreement provides for employment through April 21, 2003 at a minimum salary of \$400,000 and provides for a payment of three months' salary to his survivors in the event of his death while employed. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of five years, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Pfeiffer by written notice one year before the end of the then current contract period; however, the agreement automatically terminates on June 28, 2013. A separate pension agreement provides Mr. Pfeiffer with an annual pension compensation, subject to cost of living adjustments, of up to 60% of his final year's salary for life, and in the event of his death, provides his surviving widow with annual payments of 60% of his then pension for life and may provide any surviving child with annual payments of up to 30% of his then pension to as late as age 27. Pension benefits would normally commence at age 60, but reduced

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benefits are available after age 55 subject to a minimum annual payment of approximately \$127,000. Estimated annual pension benefits upon retirement at age 60 (assuming the current salary remains constant) are equivalent to \$240,000. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security or other offset items.

Mr. Hagge's employment agreement provides for employment through February 1, 2004 at a minimum annual salary of \$300,000 and provides, in the event of disability, payment for a period of two years from termination due to disability of one-half of the amount Mr. Hagge would have received and, in the event of death, payment to his estate for a period of two years from the anniversary of his death of one-half of the amount he would have received. Mr. Hagge is also entitled to additional term life insurance coverage and supplemental long-term disability coverage. The agreement provides for an automatic extension as of each February 1 for one additional year unless either AptarGroup or Mr. Hagge terminates the automatic extension provision by written notice at least 30 days prior to the automatic extension date; provided, however, that in no event shall the term extend beyond October 28, 2016. Mr. Hagge's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause, Mr. Hagge will continue to receive his salary until the end of the employment period then in effect. In the event of a change in control of AptarGroup, Mr. Hagge may not be terminated unless he receives written notice of such termination at least six months prior to the date of termination. If Mr. Hagge is terminated within two years following a change in control or if he terminates his employment for good reason within such two-year period, Mr. Hagge will continue to receive his salary for 18 months following the date of termination.

Mr. Meshberg's employment agreement provides for employment through February

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17, 2002 at a minimum annual salary of \$312,000. Mr. Meshberg is also entitled to additional split-dollar life insurance coverage. Mr. Meshberg's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause or if he terminates for good reason (which includes, among other things, a change in control of AptarGroup), Mr. Meshberg will continue to receive his salary until the later to occur of February 17, 2002 and 24 months following the date of termination of employment. Under such circumstances, any portion of Mr. Meshberg's option to purchase 20,000 shares of Common Stock granted under the employment agreement that has not vested as of the date of termination will become fully exercisable, and he is also entitled to receive any accrued salary and bonus through the date of termination, as well as certain other benefits.

Mr. Ruskoski's employment agreement provides for employment through February 1, 2004 at a minimum annual salary of \$265,000 and provides, in the event of disability, payment for a period of two years from termination due to disability of one-half of the amount Mr. Ruskoski would have received and, in the event of death, payment to his estate for a period of two years from the anniversary of his death of one-half of the amount he would have received. Mr. Ruskoski is also entitled to additional term life insurance coverage and supplemental long-term disability coverage. The agreement provides for an automatic extension as of each February 1 for one additional year unless either AptarGroup or Mr. Ruskoski terminates the automatic extension provision by written notice at least 30 days prior to the automatic extension date; provided, however, that in no event shall the term extend beyond September 12, 2012. Mr. Ruskoski's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause, Mr. Ruskoski will continue to receive his salary until the end of the employment period then in effect. In the event of a change in control of AptarGroup, Mr. Ruskoski

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may not be terminated unless he receives written notice of such termination at least six months prior to the date of termination. If Mr. Ruskoski is terminated within two years following a change in control or if he terminates his employment for good reason within such two-year period, Mr. Ruskoski will continue to receive his salary for 18 months following the date of termination.

Pension Plan

Substantially all U.S. employees of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries are eligible to participate in the Pension Plan. Employees are eligible to participate after six months of credited service and become fully vested after five years of credited service. The annual benefit payable to an employee under the Pension Plan upon retirement computed as a straight life annuity equals the sum of the separate amounts the employee accrues for each of his years of credited service under the Plan. Such separate amounts are determined as follows: for each year of credited service through 1988, 1.2% of such year's compensation up to the Social Security wage base for such year and 1.8% (2% for years after 1986) of such year's compensation above such wage base, plus certain increases put into effect prior to 1987; for each year after 1988 through the year in which the employee reaches 35 years of service, 1.2% of such year's "Covered Compensation" and 1.85% of such year's compensation above such "Covered Compensation"; and for each year thereafter, 1.2% of such year's compensation. The employee's compensation under the Pension Plan for any year includes all salary, commissions and overtime pay and, beginning in 1989, bonuses, subject to such year's limit applicable to tax-qualified retirement plans. The employee's "Covered Compensation" under the Pension Plan for any year is generally the average of the Social Security wage base for each of the 35 years preceding the employee's Social Security retirement age, assuming that such year's Social Security wage base will not change in the future. Normal retirement under the Pension Plan is age 65 and reduced benefits are available

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as early as age 55. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security benefits or other offset items.

Officers of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries participating in the Pension Plan are also eligible for AptarGroup's non-qualified supplemental retirement plan ("SERP"). The benefits payable under the SERP will generally be in the form of a single sum and will be computed as a single life annuity equal to the sum of the separate amounts the participant accrues for each year of credited service. Such separate amounts are determined as follows: for each year of credited service through the year in which the participant reaches 35 years of service, 1.85% of the participant's "Supplemental Earnings"; and for each year after 35 years of credited service, 1.2% of such year's "Supplemental Earnings." "Supplemental Earnings" is generally the difference between (i) the participant's earnings calculated as if the limitation of Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code were not in effect and (ii) the participant's recognized earnings under the Pension Plan. Participants who terminate service prior to being eligible for retirement (i.e., age 65 or age 55 with 10 years of credited service) will forfeit all accrued benefits under the SERP. The SERP provides for the vesting of all accrued benefits in the event of a change of control.

Estimated annual benefits payable under the Pension Plan and the SERP upon retirement at normal retirement age for Messrs. Hagge, Meshberg and Ruskoski are approximately \$197,000, \$86,000 and \$130,000, respectively. Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer are not eligible to receive benefits under the Pension Plan but, as described above, Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer are entitled to certain pension benefits pursuant to their respective employment agreements.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph shows a five year comparison of the cumulative total stockholder return on AptarGroup's Common Stock as compared to the cumulative total return of two other indexes: the Value Line Packaging & Container Industry Group ("Peer Group") and the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index. These comparisons assume an initial investment of \$100 and the reinvestment of dividends.

[GRAPH APPEARS HERE]

	12/31/95	12/31/96	12/31/97	12/31/98	12/31/99	12/31/00
AptarGroup	100	95	151	153	138	163
Peer Group	100	129	159	138	127	81
S&P 500	100	123	164	211	255	232

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CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

On February 17, 1999, AptarGroup acquired the capital stock of privately

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held Emson Research Inc. and related companies ("Emsar", formerly known as Emson), for a purchase price of approximately \$122.8 million in cash and approximately \$4 million in Common Stock. Emil Meshberg, who prior to the Emsar acquisition was chief executive officer of Emsar, entered into an employment agreement with AptarGroup and became an executive officer of AptarGroup immediately following the Emsar acquisition.

Under the terms of the agreement governing the Emsar acquisition, AptarGroup may from time to time receive certain indemnification payments. The aggregate amount received in 2000 was approximately \$655,000.

As a result of the Emsar acquisition, AptarGroup leases real estate from, purchases materials from and sells products to entities related to Mr. Meshberg or certain members of his family. In 2000, the transactions between AptarGroup and these entities amounted to lease payments of approximately \$625,000, purchases of approximately \$20,000 and sales of approximately \$308,000.

SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE _____

Based on AptarGroup records and other information, AptarGroup believes that all SEC filing requirements applicable to its Executive Officers and Directors were complied with for 2000.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT _____

The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors is composed of three independent, non-employee directors and operates under a written charter adopted by the Board. A copy of this charter is included as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement.

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and the financial reporting process. The independent accountants are responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and issuing a report thereon. The Committee's responsibility is to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for overseeing the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Company.

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent accountants. Management has represented to the Committee that the consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Also, the Committee has discussed with the independent accountants the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees), as amended.

In addition, the Committee discussed with the independent accountants the accountants' independence from the Company and its management, and the independent accountants provided the Committee the written disclosures and letter required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees). In considering the independence of the

Company's independent accountants, the Committee took into consideration the amount and nature of the fees paid to the independent accountants for non-audit services as described under "Other Matters" in this Proxy Statement.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board has approved, that the

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audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Leo Guthart, Chairman
Ralph Gruska
Dr. Joanne Smith

ANNUAL REPORT

AptarGroup's annual report for the year ended December 31, 2000 is being distributed with this proxy statement. Stockholders are referred to the report for financial and other information about the company, but such report is not incorporated in this proxy statement and is not deemed a part of the proxy soliciting material.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

In order to be considered for inclusion in AptarGroup's proxy materials for the 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, any stockholder proposal must be received at AptarGroup's principal executive offices at 475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 by December 7, 2001. In addition, AptarGroup's Bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before any meeting of stockholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to the Board. Stockholders at the 2001 annual meeting may consider stockholder proposals or nominations brought by a stockholder of record on March 15, 2001, who is entitled to vote at the annual meeting and who has given AptarGroup's Secretary timely written notice, in proper form, of the stockholder's proposal or nomination. A stockholder proposal or nomination intended to be brought before the 2001 annual meeting must have been received by the Secretary on or after February 9, 2001 and on or prior to March 11, 2001. The 2002 annual meeting is expected to be held on May 8, 2002. A stockholder proposal or nomination intended to be brought before the 2002 annual meeting must be received by the Secretary on or after February 8, 2002 and on or prior to March 10, 2002.

OTHER MATTERS

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, who served as independent accountants for the year ended December 31, 2000, has been selected by the Board, upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, to audit the consolidated financial statements of AptarGroup for the year ending December 31, 2001. It is expected that a representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will attend

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the annual meeting, with the opportunity to make a statement if he should so desire, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The following fees were billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, AptarGroup's independent accountants, for services rendered in 2000:

. Audit Fees	\$498,000
. All Other Fees:	
Tax Planning and Consulting Fees	285,000
Other Fees	193,000

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Total Fees	----- \$976,000 =====
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Audit Fees primarily represent amounts paid for the audit of AptarGroup's annual financial statements, reviews of SEC Forms 10-Q and 10-K and statutory audit requirements at certain non-U.S. locations.

Tax Planning and Consulting Fees represent assistance in the preparation of AptarGroup's U.S. tax return, domestic and international income tax planning assistance, expatriate and executive tax work and tax work related to foreign entity statutory audits.

Other Fees include amounts paid for non-financial systems management consulting, financial due diligence assistance, and audits of benefit plans. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not bill AptarGroup for fees related to financial information systems design or implementation in 2000.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Stephen J. Hagge
Stephen J. Hagge
Secretary

Crystal Lake, Illinois
April 6, 2001

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APPENDIX A

Audit Committee Charter

Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee (the "Committee") is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to financial reports and other financial information. The Committee will review the financial reporting process, the system of internal control, the audit process and the Company's process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and with the Company's compliance policy ("Code of Conduct"). In performing its duties, the Committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board of Directors, management and the external auditors. To effectively perform his or her role, each committee member will obtain an understanding of the Company's business operation and risks, as well as an understanding of the detailed responsibilities of committee membership.

Membership

The Committee will be comprised of at least three members, each of which shall meet the independence and experience requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board of Directors shall appoint the members of the Committee. The Committee will meet with representatives of the independent auditors of the corporation and management, prior to the commencement of the annual audit, for purposes of reviewing the scope of such audit and meet again with said representatives subsequent to the completion of the audit for purposes of reviewing the results thereof. In addition, the Committee shall also either meet in person or telephonically with representatives of the external auditors of the corporation and management prior to the announcement of its quarterly/annual earnings.

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Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- . Require that the external auditors keep the Committee informed about fraud, illegal acts, and deficiencies in internal control and certain other matters.
- . Ask management about the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.
- . Review the annual financial statements including MD&A and other sections of the annual report before its release and determine whether they are consistent with the information known to committee members.
- . Meet with management and, with the external auditors, either telephonically or in person, to review the interim financial statements and the results of their review. This may be done by the committee chairperson or by the entire committee.
- . Review the findings of any examinations by the regulatory agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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- . Require that the Code of Conduct is formalized in writing and periodically obtain updates from management regarding compliance with the Code of Conduct.
- . Review the external auditor's proposed audit scope and approach.
- . Recommend to the Board of Directors the employment of the external auditor.
- . Approve the fees to be paid to the external auditor.
- . Request from the external auditor annually, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditor and the Company.
- . Discuss with the external auditors any such disclosed relationships and their impact on the external auditor's independence.
- . Recommend that the Board of Directors take appropriate action in response to the external auditor's report to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence.
- . Meet with the external auditors and management in separate regularly scheduled executive sessions.
- . Review with the Company's legal counsel as deemed necessary any legal matters that could have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.
- . If necessary, institute special investigations and, if appropriate, hire special counsel or experts to assist and perform such other duties, as the Board of Directors shall from time to time assign to it.

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- . Review and reassess the adequacy of this charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board before its approval.
- . Prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

Reporting Responsibilities

- . Regularly update the Board of Directors about committee activities and make appropriate recommendations.

While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This is the responsibility of management and the external auditor. Nor is it the duty of the Committee to conduct investigations, to resolve disagreements, if any, between management and the external auditor or to assure compliance with laws and regulations and the Company's Code of Conduct.

Approved by Board of Directors of AptarGroup, Inc.
April 19, 2000

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COMMON
STOCK
PROXY

AptarGroup, Inc.
475 West Terra Cotta Ave., Suite E
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PROXY SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ralph A. Poltermann and Matthew J. DellaMaria or either of them (each with full power of substitution), are hereby authorized to vote all the shares of Common Stock which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. to be held on May 9, 2001, and at any adjournment thereof as specified on reverse side.

(continued on reverse side)

. FOLD AND DETACH HERE .

You can now access your AptarGroup, Inc. account online.

Access your AptarGroup, Inc. stockholder account online via Investor ServiceDirect/SM/ (ISD).

Mellon Investor Services LLC, as transfer agent for AptarGroup, Inc., now makes it easy and convenient to get current information on your shareholder account. After a simple and secure process of establishing a Personal Identification Number (PIN), you are ready to log in and access your account to:

- . View account status
- . View payment history for dividends
- . View certificate history
- . Make address changes

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- . View book-entry information
- . Obtain a duplicate 1099 tax form
- . Establish/change your PIN

Visit us on the web at <http://mellon-investor.com>
and follow the instructions shown on this page.

Step 1: FIRST TIME USERS - Establish a PIN

You must first establish a Personal Identification Number (PIN) online by following the directions provided in the upper right portion of the web screen as follows. You will also need your Social Security Number (SSN) available to establish a PIN.

Investor ServiceDirect/SM/ is currently only available for domestic individual and joint accounts.

- . SSN
- . PIN
- . Then click on the Establish Pin button

Please be sure to remember your PIN, or maintain it in a secure place for future reference.

Step 2: Log in for Account Access

You are now ready to log in. To access your account please enter your:

- . SSN
- . PIN
- . Then click on the Submit button

If you have more than one account, you will now be asked to select the appropriate account.

Step 3: Account Status Screen

You are now ready to access your account information. Click on the appropriate button to view or initiate transactions.

- . Certificate History
- . Book-Entry Information
- . Issue Certificate
- . Payment History
- . Address Change
- . Duplicate 1099

For Technical Assistance Call 1-877-978-7778 between
9am-7pm Monday-Friday Eastern Time

The shares represented by this proxy will be voted as herein directed, but if no direction is given, the shares will be voted FOR proposal 1. This proxy revokes any proxy heretofore given.

Please mark your [X]
votes as indicated
in this example

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1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

FOR all nominees listed at right (except as marked to the contrary)

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for all nominees listed at right

01 Carl A. Siebel, 02 Stephen J. Hagge, and 03 Alain Chevassus

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, write that nominee's name in the space provided below.)

2. IN THEIR DISCRETION UPON SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING.

Please disregard if you have previously provided your consent decision.

By checking the box to the right, I consent to future delivery of annual reports, proxy statements, prospectuses and other materials and shareholder communications electronically via the Internet at a webpage which will be disclosed to me. I understand that the Company may no longer distribute printed materials to me from any future shareholder meeting until such consent is revoked. I understand that I may revoke my consent at any time by contacting the Company's transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services LLC, Ridgely Park, NJ and that costs normally associated with electronic delivery, such as usage and telephone charges as well as any costs I may incur in printing documents, will be my responsibility.

(Please fill in, sign and date this proxy and mail it in the envelope provided.)

Signature _____ Signature _____ Date _____

IMPORTANT: Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear hereon. Joint owners should each sign personally. If you sign as agent or any other capacity, please state the capacity in which you sign.

. FOLD AND DETACH HERE .

Vote by Internet or Telephone or Mail
24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

Your telephone or Internet vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.

Internet
<http://www.proxyvoting.com/atr>

Use the internet to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site. You will be prompted to enter your control number, located

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in the box below, to create and submit an electronic ballot.

OR

Telephone
1-800-840-1208

Use any touch-tone telephone to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you call. You will be prompted to enter your control number, located in the box below, and then follow the directions given.

OR

Mail

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

If you vote your proxy by internet or by telephone,
you do NOT need to mail back your proxy card.

You can view the Annual Report and Proxy Statement on the internet at
www.aptargroup.com
(<http://www.aptargroup.com>)