

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP
 Form 4
 October 13, 2004

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 MATTHEWS JAMES R

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP [ADS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 C/O WELSH, CARSON, ANDERSON & STOWE, 320 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 2500

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/01/2003

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

(Street)
 NEW YORK, NY 10022

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

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	12/01/2003		J ⁽¹⁾	655,555	A	\$ 0 <u>(1)</u>	655,555 ⁽²⁾	I	By WCAS Capital Partners III, L.P. ⁽²⁾

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MATTHEWS JAMES R C/O WELSH, CARSON, ANDERSON & STOWE 320 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 2500 NEW YORK, NY 10022			X	

Signatures

Jonathan M. Rather, 10/13/2004
 Attorney-in-Fact Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

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) The Reporting Person became a managing member of the sole general partner of WCAS Capital Partners III, L.P. ("WCAS CP III") effective 12/01/03, and may therefore be deemed to have acquired indirect beneficial ownership of the securities held by such limited partnership as of that date.
- (2) The Reporting Person indirectly beneficially owns 17,790,349 shares of Common Stock held by Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VIII, L.P. ("WCAS VIII"). The Reporting Person is one of several managing members of the respective sole general partners of WCAS VIII and WCAS CP III. Pursuant to Instruction (4)(b)(iv) of Form 4, the Reporting Person has elected to report as indirectly beneficially owned the entire number of securities beneficially owned by each such limited partnership. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities, and any proceeds thereof, that exceed his pecuniary interest therein, and/or that are not actually distributed to him.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.