

ADVANCED MEDICAL OPTICS INC

Form S-4/A

March 22, 2005

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 22, 2005

Registration No. 333-121009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 5 to
FORM S-4
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ADVANCED MEDICAL OPTICS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

3841
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

33-0986820
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1700 E. St. Andrew Place

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Santa Ana, California 92705

(714) 247-8200

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Aimee S. Weisner, Esq.

Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

1700 E. St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, California 92705

(714) 247-8200

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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Palo Alto, California 94304-1050

(650) 493-9300

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effectiveness of this registration statement and the satisfaction or waiver of all other conditions under the merger agreement described herein.

If the securities being registered on this form are to be offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box. "

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

The Registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is not complete and may be changed. AMO may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, of which this document is a part, is declared effective. This joint proxy statement/prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Subject to completion, dated March 22, 2005

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MERGER PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

The boards of directors of Advanced Medical Optics, Inc. and VISX, Incorporated have each unanimously approved the merger of VISX with a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO. If the proposed merger is completed, VISX stockholders are expected to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock they own at the completion of the merger. However, VISX stockholders could receive a different mix of cash and AMO common stock than is currently anticipated if the trading price of AMO common stock on the closing date of the merger is below the price at which counsel for either AMO or VISX is able to render an opinion that the merger qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. As a result, VISX stockholders will not know at the time of the VISX special meeting the number of shares of AMO common stock and the amount of cash they will receive in the merger. Each outstanding option to purchase VISX common stock that has an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 will be converted at the effective time of the merger into an option to acquire AMO common stock and will become fully vested and immediately exercisable and assumed by AMO.

Based on the number of shares of AMO and VISX common stock outstanding on _____, 2005, VISX stockholders are expected to hold approximately 41.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after the merger and are expected to receive an aggregate of approximately \$ _____ million in cash. AMO stockholders will continue to own their existing shares, which will not be affected by the merger.

AMO common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AVO. As of March 21, 2005, the last trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange, was \$37.33.

AMO and VISX cannot complete the merger unless AMO stockholders approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger and VISX stockholders approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. The obligations of AMO and VISX to complete the merger are also subject to the satisfaction or waiver of several other conditions to the merger. More information about AMO, VISX and the merger is contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **We encourage you to read carefully this joint proxy statement/prospectus before voting, including the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page 23.**

The AMO board of directors unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger. The VISX board of directors unanimously recommends that VISX stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

The proposals are being presented to the respective stockholders of each company at their special meetings. The dates, times and places of the meetings are as follows:

For AMO stockholders:
_____, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., local time at
Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

1700 East St. Andrew Place

For VISX stockholders:
_____, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., local time at
VISX, Incorporated

3400 Central Expressway

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Santa Ana, California 92705

Santa Clara, California 95051

Your vote is very important. Whether or not you plan to attend your respective company's special meeting, please take the time to vote by completing and mailing to us the enclosed proxy card or, if the option is available to you, by granting your proxy electronically over the Internet or by telephone. If your shares are held in street name, you must instruct your broker in order to vote.

Sincerely,

James V. Mazzo
President and Chief Executive Officer
Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

Elizabeth H. Dávila
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
VISX, Incorporated

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities regulator or any regulatory authority has approved or disapproved of these transactions or the securities to be issued under this joint proxy statement/prospectus or determined if the disclosure in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is accurate or adequate. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is dated _____, 2005, and is being mailed to stockholders of AMO and VISX on or about _____, 2005.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference important business and financial information about AMO and VISX from documents that are not included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. For a more detailed description of the information incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus and how you may obtain it, see **Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information** beginning on page 155.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus from AMO or VISX, as applicable, or from the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is referred to as the SEC, through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Documents incorporated by reference are available from AMO and VISX without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. AMO stockholders and VISX stockholders may request a copy of such documents by contacting the applicable department at:

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.
1700 East St. Andrew Place
Santa Ana, California 92705
Attn: Investor Relations

VISX, Incorporated
3400 Central Expressway
Santa Clara, California 95051
Attn: Investor Relations

In addition, you may obtain copies of the information relating to AMO, without charge, by sending an e-mail to investors@AMO-inc.com or by calling (714) 247-8348.

You may obtain copies of the information relating to VISX, without charge, by sending an e-mail to ir@VISX.com or by calling (408) 773-7600.

We are not incorporating the contents of the websites of the SEC, AMO, VISX or any other person into this document. We are only providing the information about how you can obtain certain documents that are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus at these websites for your convenience.

In order for you to receive timely delivery of the documents in advance of the AMO and VISX special meetings, AMO or VISX, as applicable, should receive your request no later than _____, 2005.

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ADVANCED MEDICAL OPTICS, INC.

1700 East St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, California 92705

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON _____, 2005

To the Stockholders of Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.:

We will hold a special meeting of stockholders of AMO at AMO's principal executive offices located at 1700 East St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, California 92705, on _____, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. local time, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 9, 2004, by and among Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., Vault Merger Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO, and VISX, Incorporated, as amended.
2. To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve an amendment to the amended and restated certificate of incorporation of AMO to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000.
3. To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan.
4. To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
5. To consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

AMO stockholders will also be asked to consider and vote upon any other business as may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

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These items of business are described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Only AMO stockholders of record at the close of business on , 2005, the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. A list of stockholders eligible to vote at the AMO special meeting will be available for inspection at the special meeting and at the executive offices of AMO during regular business hours for a period of no less than ten days prior to the special meeting.

The AMO board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, FOR the proposal to amend the amended and restated certificate of incorporation of AMO to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock, FOR the proposal to approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, FOR the proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and FOR the proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

Your vote is very important. If you are the record holder of your shares, whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible and return it in the postage-prepaid envelope provided, or use our 24-hour a day telephone or Internet voting options to submit a proxy. If you hold your shares through a broker or nominee (*i.e.*, in street name), whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete, sign and return the voting instruction form provided to you by the record holder of your shares. In addition, you should check the voting instruction form provided to you by the record holder of your shares to determine whether you will be able to submit voting instructions by telephone or the Internet. Submitting a proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by mailing the enclosed proxy card will ensure your shares are represented at the special meeting, but will not prevent you from attending and voting in person at the special meeting. However, if you do not submit a proxy or voting instructions now, or if you do not vote in person at the special meeting, the effect may be the same as a vote against the proposals being submitted to AMO stockholders at the special meeting or may have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary quorum or the number of votes necessary to be cast on a particular proposal. For more detailed instructions on how to vote your shares, please refer to the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled The AMO Special Meeting beginning on page 43.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

AIMEE S. WEISNER

Corporate Vice President,

General Counsel and Secretary

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

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VISX, INCORPORATED

3400 Central Expressway

Santa Clara, California 95051

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON _____, 2005

To the Stockholders of VISX, Incorporated:

We will hold a special meeting of stockholders of VISX at VISX's principal executive offices located at 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95051, on _____, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. local time, to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve and adopt the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of November 9, 2004, by and among Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., Vault Merger Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO, and VISX, Incorporated, as amended, and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, pursuant to which Vault Merger Corporation would merge with VISX and each outstanding share of VISX common stock is expected to be converted into the right to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash, subject to adjustment as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus.

VISX stockholders will also be asked to consider and vote upon such other business as may properly come before the special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting.

The VISX board of directors has unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, and recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, as described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Only VISX stockholders of record at the close of business on _____, 2005, the record date for the special meeting, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the special meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. A complete list of VISX stockholders entitled to vote at the VISX special meeting will be available for inspection at the executive offices of VISX during regular business hours for a period of no less than ten days before the special meeting. You should be prepared to present photo identification for admittance to the special meeting (including adjournments or postponements). In addition, if you are a record holder, your name is subject to verification against the list of record holders on the record date prior to being admitted to the meeting. If you are not a record holder but hold shares through a broker or nominee (*i.e.*, in street name), you should be prepared to provide proof of beneficial ownership on the record date, such as your most recent account statement prior to _____, 2005, or similar evidence of ownership. If you do not comply with the procedures outlined above, you may not be admitted to the special meeting.

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Your vote is very important. If you are the record holder of your shares, whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete, date and sign the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible and return it in the postage-prepaid envelope provided, or use our 24-hour a day telephone or Internet voting options to submit a proxy. If you hold your shares through a broker or nominee (*i.e.*, in street name), whether or not you plan to attend the special meeting, please complete, sign and return the voting instruction form provided to you by the record holder of your shares. In addition, you should check the voting instruction form provided to you by the record holder of your shares to determine whether you will be able to submit voting instructions by telephone or the Internet. Submitting a proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by mailing the enclosed proxy card will ensure your shares are represented at the special meeting, but will not prevent you from attending and voting in person at the special meeting. However, if you do not submit a proxy or voting instructions now, or if you do not vote in person at the special meeting, the effect will be the same as a vote against the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. For more detailed instructions on how to vote your shares, please refer to the section of this joint proxy statement/prospectus entitled "The VISX Special Meeting" beginning on page 63.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

JOHN F. RUNKEL, JR.

Senior Vice President of Business Development, General Counsel and Secretary

VISX, Incorporated

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER

The following are some questions that you, as a stockholder of AMO or VISX, may have regarding the merger and the other matters being considered at the respective special meetings of AMO and VISX stockholders and brief answers to those questions. AMO and VISX urge you to read carefully the remainder of this joint proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section does not provide all the information that might be important to you with respect to the merger and the other matters being considered at their respective special meetings of stockholders. Additional important information is also contained in the annexes to and the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: Why am I receiving this joint proxy statement/prospectus?

A: AMO and VISX have agreed to the merger of VISX with a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO under the terms of a merger agreement that is described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A.

In order to complete the merger, AMO stockholders must vote to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger and VISX stockholders must approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. AMO and VISX will hold separate special meetings of their respective stockholders to obtain these approvals.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the merger, the merger agreement and the special meetings of the respective stockholders of AMO and VISX, which you should read carefully.

Your vote is very important. We encourage you to vote as soon as possible. The enclosed voting materials allow you to vote your shares without attending your respective company's special meeting. For more specific information on how to vote, please see the questions and answers for each of the AMO and VISX stockholders below.

Q: Why are AMO and VISX proposing the merger?

A: AMO and VISX both believe that the merger will provide substantial strategic and financial benefits to the stockholders of both companies because the merger will allow stockholders of both companies the opportunity to participate in a larger, more diversified company. We both also believe that the combination will create a stronger and more competitive provider of ophthalmic medical devices that we believe to be well positioned to create more stockholder value than either AMO or VISX could on its own. VISX is also proposing the merger to provide its stockholders with the opportunity to receive a premium for their shares as well as the opportunity to participate in the growth and opportunities of the combined company and to realize cash for the value of a portion of their shares in the merger. The AMO and VISX boards of directors also considered various negative factors including the incremental debt associated with the merger, the costs and challenges of integrating the businesses of AMO and VISX, and the risk that the potential benefits sought in the merger might not be fully realized. To review the reasons for the merger as well as the negative factors considered by the AMO and VISX boards of directors in greater detail, see *The Merger Recommendation of the AMO Board of Directors* beginning on page 75, *The Merger Recommendation of the VISX Board of Directors* beginning on page 77, *The Merger Reasons for the Merger* beginning on page 79 and *Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger* beginning on page 23.

Q: What will happen in the merger?

A: In the merger, Vault Merger Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO, will merge with VISX, with VISX surviving as a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO.

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Q: What consideration will VISX stockholders receive in the merger?

A: VISX stockholders are expected to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock they own at the completion of the merger, but this mixture of AMO common stock and cash is subject to adjustment as more fully described below. Until the completion of the merger, the trading price of AMO common stock could fluctuate. Because you will receive a fixed number of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the value of AMO common stock you will receive could fluctuate as well. Therefore, you will not know the precise overall economic value of the merger consideration you will receive until the closing date of the merger. In this joint proxy statement/prospectus, we refer to the stock and cash consideration to be paid to VISX stockholders by AMO as the merger consideration. Each VISX stockholder will receive cash for any fractional share of AMO common stock that the stockholder would otherwise be entitled to receive in the merger after aggregating all fractional shares to be received by the stockholder.

Q: Under what circumstances would the mix of cash and stock consideration to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger change?

A: As more fully described below, the merger is expected to qualify as a reorganization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which we refer to as the Internal Revenue Code. If neither counsel to AMO nor counsel to VISX is able to render an opinion at the completion of the merger that the merger qualifies as a reorganization (based on the mix of cash and stock consideration described above in the preceding answer) within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, then the amount of the cash merger consideration will be reduced and the amount of the stock merger consideration will be increased, in each case to the minimum extent necessary to enable either counsel to render this opinion at the completion of the merger. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger beginning on page 23. Based upon the number of shares of VISX common stock outstanding on November 8, 2004, this would occur if the trading price of AMO common stock on the closing date is below approximately \$25.37.

In the event of any such adjustment, the overall economic value of the merger consideration issuable and payable for each share of VISX common stock in the merger as of the closing date will still be calculated based on the trading price of AMO common stock at the closing and therefore will not change. In other words, if an adjustment is made to the mix of cash and stock consideration, the total value of the stock consideration and the cash consideration after any adjustment will still be calculated on the closing date and will be equal to the total value of the stock consideration and the cash consideration prior to the adjustment, but the specific amounts of stock and cash consideration would change. For a full description of the possible adjustment, see The Merger Agreement Alternative Merger Consideration beginning on page 112. AMO and VISX will not know, however, whether any such adjustment is necessary until immediately prior to the completion of the merger. As a result, at the time of the VISX special meeting, VISX stockholders will not know the exact number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued and cash to be paid in the merger for each share of VISX common stock.

Q: How will AMO stockholders be affected by the merger and issuance of AMO common stock in the merger?

A: After the merger, AMO stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of AMO common stock. Accordingly, AMO stockholders will hold the same number of shares of AMO common stock that they held immediately prior to the merger. However, because AMO will be issuing new shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders in the merger, each outstanding share of AMO common stock immediately prior to the merger will represent a smaller percentage of the total number of shares of AMO common stock outstanding after the merger. Based on the number of shares of AMO and VISX common stock outstanding on _____, we expect that AMO stockholders before the merger will hold approximately 58.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately following the merger.

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Q: When do AMO and VISX expect the merger to be completed?

A: AMO and VISX are working to complete the merger as quickly as practicable and currently expect that the merger would be completed in the second quarter of 2005 within two business days following the approval and adoption by the VISX stockholders of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement and approval by the AMO stockholders of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

Q: What are the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger?

A: We expect the merger to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. If the merger qualifies as a reorganization, VISX stockholders will generally recognize gain, but not loss, equal to the lesser of:

the amount of cash they receive in the merger; or

the amount equal to the excess, if any, of (i) the sum of the amount of cash and the fair market value of AMO common stock they receive in the merger, over (ii) the adjusted tax basis of their VISX common stock exchanged.

No gain or loss will be recognized by VISX, AMO or AMO stockholders as a result of the merger.

Tax matters are complicated, and the tax consequences of the merger to each VISX stockholder will depend on the facts of each stockholder's situation. VISX stockholders are urged to read carefully the discussion in the section entitled "The Merger Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger" beginning on page 95 and to consult their tax advisors for a full understanding of the tax consequences of their participation in the merger.

Q: What are AMO stockholders voting on?

A: AMO stockholders are voting on a proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger. **The approval of this proposal by AMO stockholders is a condition to the effectiveness of the merger.**

AMO stockholders are also voting on a proposal to approve an amendment to the amended and restated certificate of incorporation of AMO, which is referred to as the AMO certificate of incorporation, to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000. **Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. However, as long as AMO stockholders approve the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation, even if AMO stockholders do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger or any of the other proposals, the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation could be implemented.** A copy of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex B.

In addition, AMO stockholders are voting on a proposal to approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan. **Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger or any of the other proposals, the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan will not be implemented.** A copy of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex C.

AMO stockholders are also voting on a proposal to approve the amendment to the AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. **Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan will not be implemented.** A copy of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D.

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Further, AMO stockholders are voting on a proposal to approve the amendment to the AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan. **Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan will not be implemented.** A copy of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex E.

AMO stockholders are voting on each proposal separately. Except as described above, the vote of an AMO stockholder on one proposal has no bearing on any of the other proposals, or any other matter that may come before the special meeting.

Q: What vote of AMO stockholders is required to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger?

A: Approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal.

Q: What vote of AMO stockholders is required to approve the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock?

A: The proposal to approve the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote at the AMO special meeting.

Q: What vote of AMO stockholders is required to approve the separate proposals to adopt the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan?

A: The separate proposals to approve the adoption of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan and the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan each requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. The vote of AMO stockholders is not required to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, but as a matter of good corporate governance, AMO is seeking the approval of the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on this proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal.

Q: How does the AMO board of directors recommend that AMO stockholders vote?

A: The AMO board of directors believes that the merger is advisable to and in the best interests of AMO and its stockholders and unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

The AMO board of directors also unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to amend the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock, **FOR** the proposal to approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, **FOR** the proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and **FOR** the proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

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For a more complete description of the recommendations of the AMO board of directors, see The AMO Special Meeting Recommendation of the AMO Board of Directors beginning on page 43.

Q: What are VISX stockholders voting on?

A: VISX stockholders are voting on a proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. **The approval of this proposal by VISX stockholders is a condition to the effectiveness of the merger.**

Q: What vote of VISX stockholders is required to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement?

A: The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of VISX common stock entitled to vote at the VISX special meeting is required to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

Q: How does the VISX board of directors recommend that VISX stockholders vote?

A: The VISX board of directors unanimously recommends that VISX stockholders vote **FOR** the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. The VISX board of directors has determined that the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement are advisable, and fair to and in the best interests of VISX and its stockholders. Accordingly, the VISX board of directors has approved the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. For a more complete description of the recommendation of the VISX board of directors, see The VISX Special Meeting Recommendation of the VISX Board of Directors beginning on page 63.

Q: When and where will the special meetings of stockholders be held?

A: The AMO special meeting will take place at 1700 East St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, California 92705, on _____, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. local time. The VISX special meeting will take place at VISX's principal executive offices located at 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95051, on _____, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. local time.

Q: Who can attend and vote at the special meetings?

A: All AMO stockholders of record as of the close of business on _____, 2005, the AMO record date, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the AMO special meeting. All VISX stockholders of record as of the close of business on _____, 2005, the VISX record date, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the VISX special meeting. You may cast one vote for each share of your respective company's common stock that you owned on your respective company's record date.

Q: What should I do now in order to vote on the proposals being considered at my company's special meeting?

A: AMO stockholders of record as of the AMO record date (including participants in the AMO Company Stock Fund of the AMO 401(k) Plan), and VISX stockholders of record as of the VISX record date may vote by proxy by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the accompanying pre-addressed postage paid envelope or by submitting a proxy over the Internet or by telephone by following the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. If you hold AMO common stock or VISX common stock in street name, which means your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or nominee, you must complete, sign, date and return the enclosed voting instruction form to the record holder of your shares with instructions on how to vote your shares. Please refer to the voting instruction form

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used by your broker, bank or nominee to see if you may submit voting instructions using the Internet or telephone.

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Additionally, you may also vote in person by attending your respective company's special meeting. If you plan to attend your respective company's special meeting and wish to vote in person, you will be given a ballot at the special meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held in street name, and you wish to vote at your respective company's special meeting, you must bring a proxy from the record holder of the shares authorizing you to vote at the special meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend your company's special meeting, you should submit your proxy card or voting instruction form as described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: What will happen if I abstain from voting or fail to vote?

A: An abstention occurs when a stockholder attends a meeting, either in person or by proxy, but abstains from voting.

An abstention or the failure of an AMO stockholder to vote will have the same effect as voting against the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the approval of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock, the approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, the approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan. The failure of an AMO stockholder to vote or to instruct your broker to vote if your shares are held in street name may have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the number of votes necessary to be cast for approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger in accordance with the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, which is referred to as the NYSE, the approval of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock, the approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, the approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the approval of the amendment to the AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

An abstention or the failure of a VISX stockholder to vote or to instruct your broker to vote if your shares are held in street name will have the same effect as voting against the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

Q: Can I change my vote after I have delivered my proxy?

A: Yes. If you are a holder of record, you can change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the special meeting by:

delivering a signed written notice of revocation to the Secretary of your respective company;

signing and delivering a new, valid proxy bearing a later date;

submitting another proxy by telephone or on the Internet (your latest telephone or Internet voting instructions will be followed); or

attending the special meeting and voting in person, although your attendance alone will not revoke your proxy.

If your shares are held in street name you must contact your broker, bank or other nominee to change your vote.

Q: What should I do if I receive more than one set of voting materials for my company's special meeting?

- A: You may receive more than one set of voting materials for your company's special meeting, including multiple copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and multiple proxy cards or voting instruction forms. For example, if you hold your shares in more than one brokerage account, you will receive a separate voting instruction form for each brokerage account in which you hold shares. If you are a holder of record and your shares are registered in more than one name, you will receive more than one proxy card. Please complete, sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction form that you receive.

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Q: Am I entitled to appraisal rights?

A: Under Delaware law, holders of VISX common stock have the right to dissent from the merger and obtain payment in cash for the fair value of their shares of common stock, as determined by the Delaware Chancery Court, rather than the merger consideration. The fair value determined by the court could be more than, less than or equal to the value of the merger consideration. To exercise appraisal rights, VISX stockholders must strictly follow the procedures prescribed by Delaware law. These procedures are summarized under the section entitled "The Merger Dissenters or Appraisal Rights" beginning on page 98. In addition, the text of the applicable provisions of Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, is included as Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any VISX stockholder wishing to exercise appraisal rights is urged to consult with legal counsel before attempting to exercise those rights.

Holders of AMO common stock are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the issuance of AMO common stock in the merger.

Q: Who can help answer my questions?

A: If you have any questions about the merger or how to submit your proxy, or if you need additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the enclosed proxy card or voting instructions, you should contact:

MacKenzie Partners, Inc.

105 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10016

Toll-Free: (800) 322-2885

Collect: (212) 929-5500

Email: proxy@mackenziepartners.com

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SUMMARY

*The following is a summary that highlights information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This summary may not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete description of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, we encourage you to read carefully this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the attached annexes. In addition, we encourage you to read the information incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, which includes important business and financial information about AMO and VISX that has been filed with the SEC. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus without charge by following the instructions in the section entitled *Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 155.*

The Companies

AMO

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

1700 E. St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, California 92705

(714) 247-8200

AMO's Business

AMO is a global leader in the development, manufacturing and marketing of ophthalmic surgical and eye care products. AMO focuses on developing a broad suite of innovative technologies and devices to address a wide range of eye disorders. Products in the ophthalmic surgical line include foldable intraocular lenses, phacoemulsification systems, viscoelastics and related products used in cataract and refractive surgery, and microkeratomes used in LASIK procedures. Products in the contact lens care line include disinfecting solutions, daily cleaners, enzymatic cleaners and lens rewetting drops.

AMO owns or has the rights to such well-known ophthalmic surgical product brands as Phacoflex[®], Clariflex[®], Array[®], Sensar[®], Tecnis[®], CeeOn[®] and Verisyse[®] intraocular lenses, the Sovereign[®] and Sovereign[®] Compact phacoemulsification systems with WhiteStar technology, the Healon[®] family of viscoelastics, the Baerveldt[®] glaucoma shunt and the Amadeus microkeratome. Among the well-known contact lens care product brands the company possesses are COMPLETE[®], COMPLETE[®] Blink-N-Clean[®], COMPLETE[®] Moisture PLUS, Consept[®]F, Consept[®] 1 Step, Oxysept[®] 1 Step, UltraCare[®], Ultrazyme[®], Total Care[®] and blink branded products. Amadeus is a licensed product of, and a trademark of SIS, Ltd.

AMO became an independent company in June 2002 following a spin-off from Allergan, Inc. AMO is based in Santa Ana, California, employs approximately 2,800 people worldwide and has operations in approximately 20 countries and markets products in approximately 60 countries.

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VISX

VISX, Incorporated

3400 Central Expressway

Santa Clara, California 95051

(408) 773-2020

VISX's Business

VISX is a leader in the design and development of proprietary technologies and systems for laser vision correction of refractive vision disorders. Laser vision correction treats refractive vision disorders by removing sub-micron layers of tissue from the surface of the cornea and reshaping the eye, thereby eliminating or reducing a patient's reliance on eyeglasses or contact lenses. VISX products include the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System, which is a fully integrated ophthalmic medical device incorporating an excimer laser and a computer-driven workstation; the VISX WaveScan[®] System, which is a diagnostic device that uses laser beam technology to measure comprehensive refractive errors of the eye and derive comprehensive refractive information about a patient's individual optical system; and VISX treatment cards, which provide the user with specific access to proprietary software and are required to operate the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System.

VISX sells products worldwide and generates the majority of its revenues through licensing fees charged for the performance of laser vision correction using the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System. The license fee charged for a particular procedure depends on whether the procedure is performed in the United States or internationally, and the type of procedure involved. VISX has also licensed its technology to other laser system companies and generally receives royalties for the sale of its systems or for procedures that are performed in the United States using its systems.

VISX is a Delaware corporation organized in 1988. VISX is headquartered in Santa Clara, California and employs approximately 350 people on a full-time basis.

The Merger (see page 67)

AMO and VISX have agreed to the acquisition of VISX by AMO under the terms of the merger agreement that is described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. In the merger, Vault Merger Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO, will merge with VISX, with VISX surviving as a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO. We have attached the merger agreement to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A. We encourage you to carefully read the merger agreement in its entirety because it is the legal document that governs the merger.

Merger Consideration

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VISX stockholders are expected to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock they own at the completion of the merger, but this mixture of AMO common stock and cash is subject to adjustment as more fully described below. Until the completion of the merger the trading price of AMO common stock could fluctuate. Because you will receive a fixed number of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the value of AMO common stock you will receive could fluctuate as well. Therefore, you will not know the precise overall economic value of the merger consideration you will receive until the closing date of the merger. If the merger is completed, we expect that up to approximately 29.2 million shares of AMO common stock will be issued on a fully diluted basis to VISX stockholders and holders of assumed options and phantom units.

The merger is expected to qualify as a reorganization under the Internal Revenue Code. If neither counsel to AMO nor counsel to VISX is able to render an opinion at the completion of the merger that the merger

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qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, based on the negotiated mixture of cash and stock consideration, then the amount of the cash merger consideration will be reduced and the amount of the stock merger consideration will be increased, in each case to the minimum extent necessary, to enable either counsel to render this opinion at the completion of the merger. In the event of any such adjustment, the number of shares of AMO common stock and amount of cash received by a VISX stockholder may change, but the overall economic value of the merger consideration issuable and payable for each share of VISX common stock in the merger as of the closing date will still be calculated based on the trading price of AMO common stock at the closing and therefore will remain the same. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Merger beginning on page 23.

For a full description of the merger consideration and the possible adjustment to the merger consideration, see The Merger Agreement Treatment of Securities beginning on page 109 and The Merger Agreement Alternative Merger Consideration beginning on page 112.

Fractional Shares

AMO will not issue fractional shares of AMO common stock in the merger. As a result, each VISX stockholder will receive cash for any fractional share of AMO common stock the stockholder would otherwise be entitled to receive in the merger after aggregating all fractional shares to be received by the stockholder.

For a full description of the treatment of fractional shares, see The Merger Agreement Fractional Shares beginning on page 110.

Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP

Each outstanding option to purchase VISX common stock that has an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 will be converted at the effective time of the merger into an option to acquire AMO common stock and will become fully vested and immediately exercisable and assumed by AMO. Each VISX stock option that has an exercise price in excess of \$26.93 will become fully vested and immediately exercisable upon the receipt of notice that if the option is not exercised within 15 days (30 days for options granted under VISX's 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan), the option will expire and be of no further force or effect. Each outstanding deferral account under VISX's 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan with respect to phantom units of VISX common stock will be assumed and converted at the effective time of the merger into a deferral account with respect to phantom units of AMO common stock.

Each outstanding purchase right under the 1993 VISX Employee Stock Purchase Plan will be automatically exercised prior to the effective time of the merger and each share of VISX common stock purchased under those exercised rights will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash, subject to adjustment in the event that the mixture of AMO common stock to be issued and cash to be paid in the merger for each share of VISX common stock is adjusted as more fully described beginning on page 112.

For a full description of the treatment of VISX equity awards, see The Merger Agreement Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP beginning on page 110.

AMO Board of Directors after the Merger (see page 121)

Upon completion of the merger, the AMO board of directors will be increased by one member. The directors of AMO prior to the completion of the merger will continue to serve as the directors of AMO after the merger and the vacancy created by the increase in the size of AMO board of directors will be filled by the appointment of Elizabeth H. Dávila, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VISX.

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Ownership of AMO after the Merger

Based on the number of shares of AMO and VISX common stock outstanding on a fully diluted basis on _____, 2005, VISX stockholders will hold approximately 41.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after the merger and will receive an aggregate of approximately \$ _____ million in cash. In addition, the amount of AMO common stock issuable for each share of VISX common stock may be increased, and the amount of cash payable for each share of VISX common stock may be decreased. In the event of any such adjustment, VISX stockholders as a whole will hold a larger percentage of the fully diluted AMO common stock immediately after giving effect to the merger.

For a full description of the possible adjustment, see *The Merger Alternative Merger Consideration* beginning on page 112.

Opinions of Financial Advisors (see pages 80 and 87)

AMO

On November 9, 2004, Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, or Morgan Stanley, financial advisor to AMO, delivered to the AMO board of directors its oral opinion, which was subsequently confirmed by delivery of a written opinion dated November 9, 2004, that, as of that date, the merger consideration to be paid by AMO pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to AMO. The full text of Morgan Stanley's written opinion is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex G. We encourage you to read this opinion carefully in its entirety for a description of the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken. Morgan Stanley's opinion is directed to the AMO board of directors and addresses only the fairness from a financial point of view of the merger consideration to be paid by AMO pursuant to the merger agreement as of the date of the opinion. Morgan Stanley's opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any AMO stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote with respect to the proposed transaction. Pursuant to an engagement letter between AMO and Morgan Stanley, AMO has agreed to pay Morgan Stanley a transaction fee equal to the lesser of 0.75% of the aggregate value of the transaction (which, calculated on the basis of market data as of March 15, 2005 would have been approximately \$9.6 million) or \$11.5 million. Of this transaction fee, \$2 million was payable upon the announcement of the transaction with the remaining approximately \$7.6 million (calculated on the basis of market data as of March 15, 2005) to be payable upon the completion of the transaction.

VISX

On November 9, 2004, Goldman, Sachs & Co., or Goldman Sachs, financial advisor to VISX, delivered its opinion to the VISX board of directors that, as of the date of the written fairness opinion and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its opinion, the consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock pursuant to the merger agreement, taken in the aggregate, is fair from a financial point of view to the VISX stockholders.

The full text of the written opinion of Goldman Sachs, dated November 9, 2004, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex H. Goldman Sachs provided its opinion for the information and assistance of the VISX board of directors in connection with its consideration of the merger. The Goldman Sachs opinion is not a recommendation as to how any holder of VISX common stock should vote with respect to the merger. Pursuant to an engagement letter between VISX and Goldman Sachs, VISX has agreed to pay Goldman Sachs a

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transaction fee equal to the greater of \$10 million or 0.75% of the aggregate consideration paid to VISX stockholders in connection with the transaction (which, calculated on the basis of market data as of March 15, 2005 would have been approximately \$8.6 million), all of which is payable upon consummation of the transaction.

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Share Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers

At the close of business on the AMO record date, directors and executive officers of AMO and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately _____ shares of AMO common stock, collectively representing approximately _____ % of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding on that date.

At the close of business on the VISX record date, directors and executive officers of VISX and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately _____ shares of VISX common stock, collectively representing approximately _____ % of the shares of VISX common stock outstanding on that date.

Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of VISX in the Merger (see page 102)

In considering the recommendation of the VISX board of directors with respect to the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, you should be aware that members of the VISX board of directors and VISX executive officers have interests in the merger contemplated by the merger agreement that may be different than, or in addition to, the interests of VISX stockholders, generally. These interests include:

the continued indemnification of, and provision of directors and officers insurance coverage to, current directors and officers of VISX following the merger;

the appointment of Elizabeth H. Dávila, currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VISX, to the AMO board of directors upon completion of the merger;

the employment of certain executive officers of VISX by AMO upon completion of the merger;

the potential receipt of severance payments, payable to the following executive officers in the following respective amounts if he or she were to be terminated without cause or were to resign pursuant to an involuntary termination at any time within the 24-month period following the completion of the merger:

Name and Title*	Total Severance Payment
Elizabeth H. Dávila Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	\$ 2,858,363.63
Douglas H. Post President and Chief Operating Officer	\$ 3,047,257.56
John F. Runkel, Jr. Senior Vice President of Business Development and General Counsel	\$ 2,207,791.91

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Derek A. Bertocci	\$ 2,000,096.73
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	
Carol F. H. Harner	\$ 1,340,092.40
Senior Vice President, Research and Development	
Donald L. Fagen	\$ 1,066,780.07
Vice President, Global Sales	
Alan F. Russell	\$ 1,657,192.76
Vice President, Regulatory & Clinical Affairs	
Joaquin V. Wolff	\$ 1,027,996.40
Vice President, Global Marketing	
Catherine E. Murphy	\$ 1,553,431.74
Vice President, Human Resources	
Theresa A. Johnson	\$ 1,581,659.75
Vice President, Operations	

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* For a discussion of executive officers currently expected to receive their respective severance benefits immediately after the merger and executive officers who have agreed to terminate their respective change of control severance agreements with VISX effective upon the completion of the merger, see [The Merger](#) Interests of Directors and Executive Officers of VISX in the Merger.

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and

the accelerated vesting of officers and directors outstanding stock options, as a result of which the following directors and executive officers will hold fully vested options as set forth below, assuming the value of the merger consideration paid in the merger in respect of each share of VISX common stock is \$26.52:

Non-Employee Directors	Aggregate Shares Subject to Outstanding Options*	Aggregate Shares Subject to Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Value of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger**	Weighted Average Exercise Price of All In-the-Money Options	Value of All In-the-Money Options***
Laureen De Buono	50,000	23,438	\$ 9.60	\$ 396,570.96	\$ 12.25	\$ 713,600.00
Glendon E. French	54,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 17.69	\$ 423,777.50
John W. Galiardo	104,612	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 13.65	\$ 1,269,116.36
Jay T. Holmes	123,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 12.83	\$ 1,067,815.00
Gary S. Petersmeyer	39,043	9,375	\$ 13.23	\$ 124,593.75	\$ 16.67	\$ 384,481.47
Richard B. Sayford	60,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 16.36	\$ 548,585.00

* Each aggregate share amount includes an option grant exercisable for 10,000 shares (11,972 solely in the case of Mr. Galiardo) and may include out-of-the-money options. These grants were made on May 13, 2004 in connection with the planned annual increase for members of the VISX board of directors.

** Illustrates the economic value of all unvested options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, held by each non-employee director assuming the acceleration of all such unvested options in the merger and the exercise of such options. Calculated for each non-employee director by multiplying the shares subject to unvested in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such unvested in-the-money options.

*** Illustrates the economic value of all options held by each non-employee director assuming the acceleration of all such options in the merger and the exercise of all options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, immediately upon completion of the merger. Calculated for each non-employee director by multiplying the shares subject to in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such in-the-money options.

Name and Title	Aggregate Shares Subject to Outstanding Options*	Aggregate Shares Subject to Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Value of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger**	Weighted Average Exercise Price of All In-the-Money Options	Value of All In-the-Money Options***
Elizabeth H. Dávila	1,900,108	304,688	\$ 14.38	\$ 3,698,118.62	\$ 15.87	\$ 18,318,889.07
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer						
Douglas H. Post	471,959	188,544	\$ 18.88	\$ 1,440,039.34	\$ 17.90	\$ 3,723,547.93
President and Chief Operating Officer						
John F. Runkel, Jr.	128,000****	90,158	\$ 16.86	\$ 870,926.81	\$ 16.41	\$ 1,294,692.27
Senior Vice President of Business Development and General Counsel						
Derek A. Bertocci	330,821	77,659	\$ 16.23	\$ 798,869.44	\$ 18.09	\$ 2,790,005.29

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Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Officer

Carol F.H. Harner	205,681	68,253	\$	17.16	\$	639,127.83	\$	18.25	\$	1,317,430.52
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Senior Vice President, Research and Development

Donald L. Fagen	104,500	51,251	\$	15.49	\$	565,236.38	\$	15.09	\$	1,194,677.50
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Vice President, Global Sales

Alan F. Russell	142,500	54,533	\$	14.88	\$	634,628.75	\$	16.67	\$	1,403,988.75
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Vice President of Regulatory & Clinical Affairs

Joaquin V. Wolff	64,324	34,376	\$	13.41	\$	450,655.13	\$	13.83	\$	530,662.15
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Vice President, Global Marketing

Catherine E. Murphy	103,000	54,376	\$	14.54	\$	651,645.49	\$	14.43	\$	1,245,076.25
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Vice President, Human Resources

Theresa A. Johnson	132,000	44,970	\$	19.46	\$	317,498.43	\$	19.26	\$	761,885.84
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Vice President, Operations

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- * Numbers include out-of-the money options to the extent held by a particular executive officer.
- ** Illustrates the economic value of all unvested options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, held by each executive officer assuming the acceleration of all such unvested options in the merger and the exercise of such options. Calculated for each executive officer by multiplying the shares subject to unvested in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such unvested in-the-money options.
- *** Illustrates the economic value of all options held by each executive officer assuming the acceleration of all such options in the merger and the exercise of all options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, immediately upon completion of the merger. Calculated for each executive officer by multiplying the shares subject to in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such in-the-money options.
- **** Includes options exercisable for 35,000 shares issued to Mr. Runkel on August 19, 2004 in connection with his promotion to senior vice president of business development.

The VISX board of directors was aware of these interests and considered them, among other matters, in making its recommendation.

Listing of AMO Common Stock and Delisting and Deregistration of VISX Common Stock (see page 102)

Application will be made to have the shares of AMO common stock issued in the merger approved for listing on the NYSE. If the merger is completed, VISX common stock will no longer be listed on the NYSE and will be deregistered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which is referred to as the Exchange Act, and VISX will no longer file periodic reports with the SEC.

Dissenters or Appraisal Rights (see page 98)

Holders of shares of VISX common stock who do not vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger and who properly demand appraisal of their shares will be entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger under Section 262 of the DGCL. Under the DGCL, holders of shares of AMO common stock are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger.

Merely voting against the merger will not preserve the right of VISX stockholders to appraisal under the DGCL. Also, because a submitted proxy not marked against or abstain will be voted FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, the submission of a proxy not marked against or abstain will result in the waiver of appraisal rights. VISX stockholders who hold shares in the name of a broker or other nominee must instruct their nominee to take the steps necessary to enable them to demand appraisal of their shares.

Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus contains the full text of Section 262 of the DGCL, which relates to the rights of appraisal. We encourage you to read these provisions carefully and in their entirety.

Conditions to Completion of the Merger (see page 122)

A number of conditions must be satisfied before the merger will be completed. These include among others:

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the receipt of the approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger by AMO stockholders, and the approval and adoption of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement by VISX stockholders;

the expiration or termination of the waiting period, or any extension of the waiting period, under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, which is referred to as the HSR Act, and receipt of all clearances, consents and approvals necessary for completion of the merger under United States and foreign antitrust laws;

the absence of any legal restraints or prohibitions preventing the completion of the merger;

the authorization for listing on the NYSE of the shares of AMO common stock to be issued in the merger;

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the delivery of tax opinions of legal counsel to the effect that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

the representations and warranties of each party contained in the merger agreement being true and correct, except to the extent that breaches of these representations and warranties would not result in a material adverse effect on the representing party;

the performance or compliance in all material respects of each party with all agreements and covenants contained in the merger agreement at the completion of the merger; and

the absence of events or developments since the date of the merger agreement that would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect with respect to either party.

Each of AMO, Vault Merger Corporation and VISX may waive the conditions to the performance of its respective obligations under the merger agreement and complete the merger even though one or more of these conditions has not been met. If either AMO or VISX were to waive the condition that the parties receive legal opinions that the transaction will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, both companies would re-solicit stockholder approval of the merger prior to completing the merger. Neither AMO nor VISX can give any assurance that all of the conditions to the merger will be either satisfied or waived or that the merger will occur.

Financing (see page 127)

AMO has obtained commitments from lenders under AMO's existing senior secured credit facilities to provide financing in connection with the merger. These include a commitment for \$100 million of a new delayed draw term loan and an increase of \$100 million in the revolving credit facility, each to be available upon the satisfaction of specified conditions.

Regulatory Matters (see page 119)

The merger is subject to antitrust laws. AMO and VISX have made all required filings under applicable antitrust laws with the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice, referred to as the Antitrust Division, and the United States Federal Trade Commission, referred to as the FTC. The applicable waiting periods associated with those filings have expired and applicable regulatory clearances have been obtained. AMO and VISX are also required to make, and have made, applicable foreign antitrust filings and all foreign antitrust clearances, consents or approvals necessary for the completion of the merger have been obtained. Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO is not required to sell, dispose of or hold separately any assets or businesses or interests in any assets or businesses of AMO, VISX or their respective affiliates, or make any other change in any portion of the businesses of VISX or AMO or incur any limitation on the conduct of the business of VISX or AMO in order to obtain any clearances, consents or approvals in connection with the merger.

Agreement to Complete the Merger (see page 121)

Each of AMO and VISX has agreed to cooperate fully with the other party and, subject to provisions in the merger agreement discussed above under Regulatory Matters, use its reasonable best efforts to take, or cause to be taken, all actions necessary, proper or advisable under applicable law and regulations to complete the merger as promptly as practicable, but in no event later than June 30, 2005.

No Solicitation (see page 117)

The merger agreement contains detailed provisions that prohibit AMO and VISX and the subsidiaries of each of them, and their officers, directors and representatives from taking any action to solicit or engage in discussions or negotiations with any person or group with respect to an acquisition proposal as defined in the

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merger agreement, including an acquisition that would result in the person or group acquiring more than a 25% interest in the party's total outstanding securities, a sale of more than 25% of the party's assets or a merger or other business combination. The merger agreement does not, however, prohibit either party or its board of directors from considering and recommending to the party's stockholders an unsolicited acquisition proposal from a third party if specified conditions are met.

Termination of the Merger Agreement (see page 124)

Under circumstances specified in the merger agreement, either AMO or VISX may terminate the merger agreement. Subject to the limitations set forth in the merger agreement, the circumstances generally include if:

the other party consents to termination;

the merger is not completed by June 30, 2005;

a non-appealable final order of a court or other action of any governmental authority has the effect of permanently prohibiting completion of the merger;

the required approval of the stockholders of each of AMO and VISX has not been obtained at its special meeting;

the other party breaches its representations, warranties or covenants in the merger agreement such that its conditions to completion of the merger regarding representations, warranties or covenants would not be satisfied;

the other party has not complied with the provisions of the merger agreement relating to non-solicitation and board recommendations; or

if there is an increase in the stock portion of the merger consideration that would cause the total number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued by AMO in connection with the merger to constitute more than 44.9% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock following the merger, which we refer to as the walk away right.

We currently estimate that if the trading price of AMO common stock falls below approximately \$17.75, then the walk away right would be triggered. In fulfilling their fiduciary duties, the AMO and VISX boards would each need to consider a number of factors in determining whether to exercise its walk away right, including, in particular, whether the prior stockholder approvals remained valid in light of any such decrease in the trading price of AMO common stock and the facts and circumstances at that time, and whether re-solicitation of stockholder approval of the merger would be required under applicable law prior to completing the merger.

Break-up Fees (see page 125)

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If the merger is not completed under certain circumstances specified in the merger agreement, AMO or VISX may be required to pay the other expenses in the amount of \$8 million or a break-up fee of \$45 million.

Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger (see page 95)

Counsel to AMO and counsel to VISX have each rendered opinions, based upon certain facts, representations and assumptions, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. No gain or loss will be recognized for United States federal income tax purposes by VISX, AMO, or AMO stockholders. VISX stockholders who receive the merger consideration will recognize gain, but not loss, equal to the lesser of:

the amount of cash they receive in the merger; or

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the amount equal to the excess, if any, of (i) the sum of the amount of cash and the fair market value of AMO common stock they receive in the merger, over (ii) the adjusted tax basis of their VISX common stock exchanged.

Under certain circumstances, the merger agreement requires AMO and VISX to reduce the amount of the cash to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger to the minimum extent necessary, and increase the amount of stock to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger to the minimum extent necessary, to enable legal counsel to render their respective opinion or opinions, as the case may be, that the merger qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. AMO and VISX will not know whether any such adjustment is necessary until immediately prior to the completion of the merger because any determination regarding the tax qualification of the merger as a reorganization cannot be made until the date upon which AMO and VISX intend to complete the merger. For a full description of the possible adjustment, see *The Merger Agreement Alternative Merger Consideration* beginning on page 112.

Tax matters are complicated, and the tax consequences of the merger to each VISX stockholder will depend on the facts of each stockholder's situation. VISX stockholders are urged to read carefully the discussion in the section entitled *The Merger Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences* and to consult their tax advisors for a full understanding of the tax consequences of their participation in the merger.

Accounting Treatment (see page 97)

AMO will account for the merger as a business combination under United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Risk Factors

In evaluating the merger agreement and the merger, in the case of VISX stockholders, or the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, in the case of AMO stockholders, you should carefully read this joint proxy statement/prospectus and especially consider the factors discussed in the section entitled *Risk Factors* beginning on page 23.

Legal Proceedings Regarding the Merger (see page 108)

As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, VISX and AMO are aware of a consolidated class action lawsuit that has been filed against VISX, its board of directors and certain executive officers in connection with the merger. Among other things, the lawsuit seeks to prevent the completion of the merger. On March 14, 2005, VISX reached an agreement in principle to settle the lawsuit. The agreement in principle, which does not contemplate any changes to the merger agreement or the merger, remains subject to court approval, which is not expected to be obtained prior to completion of the merger.

Material Differences in Rights of AMO Stockholders and VISX Stockholders (see page 139)

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VISX stockholders receiving merger consideration in the form of shares of AMO common stock will have different rights once they become AMO stockholders due to differences between the governing documents of AMO and VISX. These differences are described in detail under Comparison of Stockholder Rights and Corporate Governance Matters beginning on page 139.

Table of Contents**Summary Selected Historical Financial Data**

AMO and VISX are providing the following information to aid you in your analysis of the financial aspects of the merger.

AMO

The selected consolidated financial data below as of and for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2004 has been derived from AMO's audited consolidated financial statements. The information is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with AMO's consolidated financial statements, accompanying notes and management's discussion and analysis of results of operations and financial condition, all of which can be found in publicly available documents, including those incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See [Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information](#) beginning on page 155.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	Pro Forma for Pfizer Acquisition					
	2004(1)	2004(2)	2003(3)	2002(3)	2001	2000
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)					
Statement of Operations:						
Net sales	\$ 816,976	\$ 742,099	\$ 601,453	\$ 538,087	\$ 543,095	\$ 570,573
Cost of sales	300,914	306,164	227,811	204,338	212,090	231,426
Gross profit	516,062	435,935	373,642	333,749	331,005	339,147
Selling, general and administrative	357,781	329,197	276,695	235,977	222,885	241,047
Research and development	47,040	45,616	37,413	29,917	28,990	29,878
In-process research and development		28,100				
Restructuring/impairment (reversal)						(2,237)
Operating income	111,241	33,022	59,534	67,855	79,130	70,459
Interest expense	24,503	26,933	24,224	13,764	3,302	3,625
Loss (gain) on investments, net				3,935	793	(231)
Unrealized loss (gain) on derivative instruments	403	403	246	3,199	(1,294)	
Loss due to exchange of 3 1/2% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2023		116,282				
Other, net	(273)	10,620	17,802	2,385	385	(1,135)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	86,608	(121,216)	17,262	44,572	75,944	68,200
Provision for income taxes	30,312	8,154	6,905	18,662	20,594	19,020
Earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	56,296	(129,370)	10,357	25,910	55,350	49,180
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle, net of \$160 of tax					(391)	
Net earnings	\$ 56,296	\$ (129,370)	\$ 10,357	\$ 25,910	\$ 54,959	\$ 49,180
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 1.53	\$ (3.89)	\$ 0.36			
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 1.44	\$ (3.89)	\$ 0.35			

- (1) Pro forma results have been adjusted to give pro forma effect to the acquisition of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business as if that transaction had occurred on January 1, 2004.
- (2) Results include incremental cost of sales of \$28.1 million from the sale of acquired inventory adjusted to fair value, a \$28.1 million in-process research and development charge, and \$133.7 million in charges associated with the early extinguishment of debt. Such costs and charges have been excluded from the pro forma results related to the acquisition of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business.
- (3)

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Other, net includes early debt extinguishment costs of \$3.5 million incurred in connection with AMO's spin-off from Allergan, Inc. in 2002 and, in 2003, the impact of a non-recurring charge of \$16.7 million, consisting of the aggregate premium of \$19.4 million paid in connection with the July 2003 modified dutch auction tender offer for, and the subsequent repurchase in September 2003 of, AMO's 1/4% senior subordinated notes and a foreign currency gain of \$2.7 million resulting from the settlement of certain intercompany amounts and related transfer of cash utilized to repurchase the 9 1/4% senior subordinated notes in the modified dutch auction tender offer and for the prepayment of the AMO term loan during 2003.

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	At December 31,				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(in thousands)				
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 49,455	\$ 46,104	\$ 80,578	\$ 6,957	\$ 12,641
Current assets	376,825	252,492	274,494	210,552	228,942
Total assets	1,076,534	461,345	463,206	377,466	404,655
Current liabilities	193,923	115,301	108,204	85,551	87,165
Long term debt, net of current portion	550,643	233,611	277,559	75,809	100,364

VISX

VISX has derived the following historical information from VISX audited consolidated financial statements for each of the five years ended December 31, 2000 through 2004 contained in VISX's annual reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The information is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with VISX's consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes, as well as management's discussion and analysis of results of operations and financial condition, all of which can be found in publicly available documents, including those incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 155.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)				
Statement of Operations Data:					
Total revenues	\$ 165,858	\$ 143,905	\$ 139,926	\$ 165,016	\$ 190,154
Cost of revenues	42,386	52,070	50,805	58,440	62,684
Total costs and expenses	106,306	109,300	121,056	157,665	146,018
Income from operations	59,552	34,605	18,870	7,351	44,136
Net income	\$ 38,442	\$ 23,251	\$ 15,342	\$ 10,909	\$ 35,221
Earnings per share:					
Basic	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.57
Diluted	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.55
Shares used for earnings per share:					
Basic	49,229	49,471	53,096	56,660	61,431
Diluted	50,869	50,937	53,816	58,081	63,778

	At December 31,				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	(in thousands)				
Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	\$ 138,408	\$ 86,076	\$ 122,955	\$ 123,807	\$ 229,453
Working capital	162,299	107,040	140,173	159,935	245,662
Total assets	222,823	163,963	200,592	219,925	321,507
Retained earnings	220,360	181,918	158,667	143,325	132,416
Stockholders' equity	\$ 178,656	\$ 125,799	\$ 155,190	\$ 176,278	\$ 268,772

Table of Contents**Selected Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Data**

The following selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data for the year ended December 31, 2004 gives effect to the merger and AMO's acquisition of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business as if each had occurred on January 1, 2004. The selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data as of December 31, 2004 gives effect to the merger as if it had occurred on December 31, 2004. The pro forma adjustments are based upon available information and assumptions that AMO's management believes are reasonable. The selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data are presented for illustrative purposes only. The companies may have performed differently had they always been combined. Stockholders should not rely on this information as being indicative of the historical results that would have been achieved had the companies always been combined or the future results that the combined company will experience after the merger.

The pro forma adjustments are based upon available information and certain assumptions that AMO believes are reasonable under the circumstances. A final determination of fair values relating to the merger, which cannot be made prior to the completion of the merger, may differ materially from the preliminary estimates and will include management's final valuation of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. This final valuation will be based on the actual net tangible assets of VISX that exist as of the date of the completion of the merger. The final valuation may change the allocations of the purchase price, which could affect the fair value assigned to the assets and liabilities and could result in a change to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements data. These adjustments are more fully described in the notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements under the heading "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 129.

The selected unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial data (i) have been derived from and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and accompanying notes included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as described under "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements" beginning on page 129, and (ii) should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements of AMO and VISX and other information filed by AMO and VISX with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See "Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 155.

	Year Ended December 31, 2004
	(in thousands, except per share amounts)
Income Statement Data:	
Net sales	\$ 982,834
Operating income	144,046
Net earnings	72,211
Net earnings per share:	
Basic	\$ 1.12
Diluted	\$ 1.07
	At December 31, 2004
	(in thousands)
Balance Sheet Data:	
Total assets	\$ 2,195,489
Total debt, including current portion	752,593

Stockholders equity

1,000,864

Table of Contents**Comparative Per Share Information**

The following tables set forth historical per share information of AMO and VISX and unaudited pro forma condensed combined per share information after giving effect to the merger under the purchase method of accounting, based on an average price per share of AMO common stock of \$40.90. The unaudited pro forma combined financial data are not necessarily indicative of the financial position had the merger occurred on December 31, 2004, or operating results that would have been achieved had the merger been in effect as of January 1, 2003 and should not be construed as representative of future financial position or operating results. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined per share information is derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and accompanying notes included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as described under Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Statements beginning on page 129. The historical per share information is derived from the audited financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 for each of AMO and VISX.

	AMO				Pro Forma
	Historical	As Adjusted	Historical	Pro Forma	Equivalent
	AMO	for Pfizer(1)	VISX	Combined	of One VISX Share(2)
Net earnings (loss) per share basic:					
Year ended December 31, 2003	\$ 0.36	NA	\$ 0.47	NA	NA
Year ended December 31, 2004	(3.89)	\$ 1.53	0.78	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.62
Net earnings (loss) per share diluted:					
Year ended December 31, 2003	\$ 0.35	NA	\$ 0.46	NA	NA
Year ended December 31, 2004	(3.89)	\$ 1.44	0.76	\$ 1.07	\$ 0.59
Book value per share:					
December 31, 2003	\$ 3.17		\$ 2.58	NA	NA
December 31, 2004	7.45		3.58	\$ 15.47	\$ 8.54
Cash dividends declared per share					
Outstanding shares (in millions):					
December 31, 2003	29.4		48.7	NA	
December 31, 2004	37.1		49.9	64.7	

- (1) Pro forma results to reflect the impact of the acquisition of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business as if that transaction, which was consummated on June 26, 2004, had occurred on January 1, 2004 and exclude certain non-recurring costs and charges related to the acquisition.
- (2) The Pro Forma Equivalent of One VISX Share amounts were calculated by applying the exchange ratio of 0.552 to the pro forma combined net earnings and book value per share. The exchange ratio does not include the \$3.50 per share cash consideration.

This information is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and accompanying notes of AMO and VISX contained in the annual reports and other information that has been filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus and with the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements referred to above. See Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information beginning on page 155.

Comparative Per Share Market Price Data

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AMO common stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol AVO. VISX common stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol EYE. The following table sets forth the closing prices for AMO common stock and VISX common stock as reported on the NYSE on November 8, 2004, the last trading day before AMO and VISX

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announced the merger, and March 21, 2005, the last trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. These historical and pro forma equivalent sales prices per share reflect the fluctuating value of the AMO common stock that VISX stockholders would receive in exchange for each share of VISX common stock if the merger was completed on either of these dates, applying the exchange ratio of 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock plus \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock.

	AMO	VISX	Pro Forma Equivalent Value
	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>of VISX Common Stock</u>
November 8, 2004	\$ 41.70	\$ 16.91	\$ 26.52
March 21, 2005	\$ 37.33	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.11

The above tables show only historical comparisons. These comparisons may not provide meaningful information to AMO stockholders in determining whether to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in connection with the merger or to VISX stockholders in determining whether to approve and adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. AMO and VISX stockholders are urged to obtain current market quotations for AMO and VISX common stock and to review carefully the other information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, when considering whether to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in connection with the merger in the case of AMO stockholders, or to approve and adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, in the case of VISX stockholders. See [Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information](#) beginning on page 155.

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RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the matters addressed in Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements, you should carefully consider the following risks before deciding whether to vote for approval and adoption of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, in the case of VISX stockholders, or for approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, in the case of AMO stockholders.

Risks Relating to the Merger

The issuance of shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders in the merger will substantially reduce the percentage interests of AMO stockholders.

If the merger is completed, we expect that, based on data as of the AMO and VISX record dates, approximately million shares of AMO common stock will be issued to VISX stockholders and, upon exercise of assumed options, up to approximately million shares will be issued to holders of assumed options and phantom units. Based on the number of shares of AMO and VISX common stock outstanding on the AMO and VISX record dates, VISX stockholders before the merger will own, in the aggregate, approximately 41.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after the merger. The issuance of approximately up to million shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders and holders of assumed options and phantom units will cause a significant reduction in the relative percentage interest of current AMO stockholders in earnings, voting, liquidation value and book and market value. In addition, under certain circumstances described more fully in the following risk factor, the amount of AMO common stock issuable for each share of VISX common stock may be increased, and the amount of cash payable for each share of VISX common stock may be decreased. In the event of any such adjustment, VISX stockholders as a whole will hold a larger percentage of the fully diluted AMO common stock immediately after giving effect to the merger.

The merger consideration may be adjusted in order to qualify the merger as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We intend for the merger to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, if neither Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, counsel to AMO, nor Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to VISX, is able to render an opinion at the completion of the merger that the merger qualifies as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, based on the negotiated mix of cash and stock consideration, then the amount of the cash merger consideration will be reduced and the amount of the stock merger consideration will be increased, in each case to the minimum extent necessary to enable either counsel to render this opinion at the completion of the merger. As a result of this adjustment of the merger consideration, VISX stockholders could receive a different mix of cash and AMO common stock for each share of VISX common stock than is currently anticipated. For a full description of the possible adjustment, see The Merger Agreement Alternative Merger Consideration beginning on page 112.

The price of AMO common stock may decline, which would decrease the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger and may prevent the completion of the merger.

The price of AMO common stock might decline from the \$41.70 price per share at the close of trading on November 8, 2004, the last full trading day prior to the public announcement of the proposed merger. Accordingly, if the price of AMO common stock declines prior to the completion

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of the merger, the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger will decrease as compared to the value on the date the merger was announced. See The Merger Agreement Treatment of Securities beginning on page 109. If on the closing date of the merger AMO common stock is trading below the price at which AMO's and VISX's counsel is able to render the opinion discussed in the immediately preceding

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risk factor, then the amount of the cash merger consideration will be reduced and the amount of the stock merger consideration will be increased, in each case to the minimum extent necessary for either of AMO's or VISX's counsel to be able to render such opinion. If the increase in stock merger consideration results in the aggregate stock merger consideration issuable to the VISX stockholders in the merger, to holders of VISX stock options assumed in the merger and to the holders of units of phantom stock accounts assumed in the merger constituting more than 44.9% of the number of outstanding shares of AMO common stock immediately following the completion of the merger, then the walk away right would be triggered. We currently estimate that the stock merger consideration would be increased to a level that would trigger this walk away right if the trading price of AMO common stock declined to approximately \$17.75. For a full description of the walk away right, see "The Merger Agreement - Termination; Break-Up Fees and Expenses" beginning on page 124.

AMO and VISX expect the completion of the merger to occur within two business days following the receipt of the requisite AMO and VISX stockholder approvals. Because the date that the merger is completed will be later than the date of the special meetings, AMO and VISX stockholders will not know the exact value of the AMO common stock that will be issued in the merger at the time they vote on the merger proposals. As a result, if the market price of AMO common stock at the completion of the merger is lower than the market price on the date of the special meetings, the value of the AMO common stock that VISX stockholders will receive for the AMO common stock portion of the merger consideration will be less than the value on the dates of the special meetings.

During the twelve-month period ending on _____, 2005, the most recent practicable date prior to the printing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the closing price of AMO common stock varied from a low of \$21.70 to a high of \$44.53, and ended that period at \$ _____. We encourage you to obtain current market quotations for AMO common stock before you vote your shares.

Even though AMO and VISX have obtained the regulatory approvals required to complete the merger, governmental authorities could still seek to block or challenge the merger.

The merger is subject to review by the Antitrust Division and the FTC under the HSR Act. Under the HSR Act, AMO and VISX are required to make pre-merger notification filings and to await the expiration or early termination of the statutory waiting period prior to completing the merger. The merger is also subject to review by certain other governmental authorities under the antitrust laws of various other jurisdictions where VISX conducts business. We have made all required regulatory filings, the applicable waiting periods have expired and we have therefore obtained all regulatory clearances, consents and approvals required to complete with the merger. However, after the statutory waiting periods have expired, and even after completion of the merger, governmental authorities could seek to block or challenge the merger as they deem necessary or desirable in the public interest. In addition, in some jurisdictions, a competitor, customer or other third party could initiate a private action under the antitrust laws challenging or seeking to enjoin the merger, before or after it is completed. AMO, VISX or the combined company may not prevail, or may incur significant costs, in defending or settling any action under the antitrust laws.

AMO will have more indebtedness after the merger, which could adversely affect its cash flows and business.

In order to complete the merger, AMO anticipates arranging for and funding at least \$200 million of new financing. Proceeds from the financing will be used to fund the cash portion of the consideration paid to VISX stockholders. AMO debt outstanding as of December 31, 2004 was approximately \$552.6 million. As a result of the increase in debt, demands on AMO cash resources will increase after the completion of the merger. The increased levels of debt could, among other things:

require AMO to dedicate a substantial portion of its cash flow from operations to payments on its debt, thereby reducing funds available for working capital, capital expenditures, dividends, acquisitions and other purposes;

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increase AMO's vulnerability to, and limit flexibility in planning for, adverse economic and industry conditions;

affect AMO's credit rating;

limit AMO's ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, additional acquisitions and other general corporate requirements;

create competitive disadvantages compared to other companies with less indebtedness; and

limit AMO's ability to apply proceeds from an offering or asset sale to purposes other than the repayment of debt.

Although AMO and VISX expect that the merger will result in benefits to the combined company, the combined company may not realize those benefits because of integration and other challenges.

AMO's ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the merger will depend, in part, on the ability of AMO to integrate the business of VISX with the business of AMO. The combination of two independent companies is a complex, costly and time-consuming process. This process may disrupt the business of either or both of the companies, and may not result in the full benefits expected by AMO and VISX. The difficulties of combining the operations of the companies include, among others:

coordinating marketing functions;

unanticipated issues in integrating information, communications and other systems;

unanticipated incompatibility of purchasing, logistics, marketing and administration methods;

retaining key employees;

consolidating corporate and administrative infrastructures;

the diversion of management's attention from ongoing business concerns; and

coordinating geographically separate organizations.

We cannot assure you that the combination of VISX with AMO will result in the realization of the full benefits anticipated from the merger. For a full description of the benefits anticipated from the merger, see "The Merger" "Reasons for the Merger" beginning on page 79.

If the proposed merger is not completed, AMO and VISX will have incurred substantial costs that may adversely affect AMO's and VISX's financial results and operations and the market price of AMO and VISX common stock.

AMO and VISX have incurred and will incur substantial costs in connection with the proposed merger. These costs are primarily associated with the fees of attorneys, accountants and AMO's and VISX's financial advisors. In addition, AMO and VISX have each diverted significant management resources in an effort to complete the merger and are each subject to restrictions contained in the merger agreement on the conduct of its business. If the merger is not completed, AMO and VISX will have incurred significant costs, including the diversion of management resources, for which each will have received little or no benefit. Also, if the merger is not completed under certain circumstances specified in the merger agreement, AMO or VISX may be required to pay the other expenses in the amount of \$8 million or a break-up fee of \$45 million. See The Merger Agreement Termination; Break-Up Fees and Expenses beginning on page 124.

In addition, if the merger is not completed, AMO and VISX may experience negative reactions from the financial markets and AMO's and VISX's collaborative partners, customers and employees. Each of these factors may adversely affect the trading price of AMO and/or VISX common stock and AMO's and/or VISX's financial results and operations.

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Provisions of the merger agreement may deter alternative business combinations and could negatively impact the stock prices of AMO and VISX if the merger agreement is terminated in certain circumstances.

Restrictions in the merger agreement on solicitation generally prohibit AMO and VISX from soliciting any acquisition proposal or offer for a merger or business combination with any other party, including a proposal that might be advantageous to the stockholders of AMO or VISX when compared to the terms and conditions of the merger described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. In addition, if the merger is not completed under certain circumstances specified in the merger agreement, AMO or VISX may be required to pay the other expenses in the amount of \$8 million or a break-up fee of \$45 million. These provisions may deter third parties from proposing or pursuing alternative business combinations that might result in greater value to AMO or VISX stockholders than the merger. In the event the merger is terminated by AMO or VISX in circumstances that obligate either party to pay the expenses or break-up fee to the other party, including where either party terminates the merger agreement because the other party's board of directors withdraws its support of the merger, AMO's and/or VISX's stock prices may decline. See "The Merger Agreement Termination; Break-Up Fees and Expenses" beginning on page 124.

Certain directors and executive officers of VISX have interests in the merger that may be different from, or in addition to, the interests of VISX stockholders.

When considering the VISX board of directors' recommendation that VISX stockholders vote in favor of the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, VISX stockholders should be aware that some directors and executive officers of VISX have interests in the merger that may be different from, or in addition to, the interests of VISX stockholders. These interests include the appointment of VISX's current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer to the AMO board of directors following completion of the merger, potential for severance payments to VISX's executive officers under change of control agreements, acceleration of vesting of options, phantom stock units as a result of the merger and the right to continued indemnification and insurance coverage by AMO for acts or omissions occurring prior to the merger. As a result of these interests, these directors and officers could be more likely to vote to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement than if they did not hold these interests, and may have reasons for doing so that are not the same as the interests of other VISX stockholders. For a full description of the interests of directors and executive officers of VISX in the merger, see "The Merger Interests of Executive Officers and Directors of VISX in the Merger" beginning on page 102.

The Tax Treatment of Dissenters is Uncertain

In the absence of authority directly on point, counsel to AMO and counsel to VISX are each unable to provide an unequivocal opinion with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences to a stockholder who perfects appraisal rights. VISX stockholders who are considering to perfect appraisal rights are urged to read carefully the discussion under the heading "Cash Received by Dissenting Stockholders" in the section entitled "The Merger-Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences" and to consult their tax advisors for a full understanding of the tax consequences to them.

Risks Relating to the Business of AMO

AMO may not successfully make or integrate acquisitions or enter into strategic alliances.

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As part of AMO's business strategy, AMO intends to pursue selected acquisitions and strategic alliances and partnerships. AMO competes with other ophthalmic surgical products and eye care companies, among others, for these opportunities and AMO cannot assure you that it will be able to effect strategic alliances, partnerships or acquisitions on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Even if AMO does enter into these transactions, AMO may experience:

delays in realizing the benefits it anticipates or it may not realize the benefits it anticipates at all;

difficulties in integrating any acquired companies and products into AMO's existing business;

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attrition of key personnel from acquired businesses;

costs or charges;

difficulties or delays in obtaining regulatory approvals;

higher costs of integration than AMO anticipated; or

unforeseen operating difficulties that require significant financial and managerial resources that would otherwise be available for the ongoing development or expansion of AMO's existing operations.

Consummating these transactions could also result in the incurrence of additional debt and related interest expense, as well as unforeseen contingent liabilities, all of which could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations. AMO may also issue additional equity in connection with these transactions, which would dilute AMO existing shareholders.

AMO conducts a significant amount of its sales and operations outside of the United States, which subjects AMO to additional business risks that may cause its profitability to decline.

Because AMO manufactures and sells a significant portion of its products in a number of foreign countries, AMO's business is subject to risks associated with doing business internationally. In particular, AMO's products are sold in over 60 countries, and its manufacturing facilities are located outside the continental United States, in Añasco, Puerto Rico; Madrid, Spain; and Hangzhou, China. In connection with the acquisition of the ophthalmic Pfizer surgical business, AMO acquired Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical products and certain manufacturing and research and development facilities located in Uppsala, Sweden; Groningen, Netherlands; and Bangalore, India. In 2004, on an historical basis, AMO derived approximately \$555 million, or 75%, of its net sales, from sales of its products outside of the United States, including 26% of its net sales in Japan. AMO intends to continue to pursue growth opportunities in sales internationally, which could expose it to greater risks associated with international sales and operations. AMO's international operations are, and will continue to be, subject to a number of risks and potential costs, including:

unexpected changes in foreign regulatory requirements;

differing local product preferences and product requirements;

fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;

political and economic instability;

changes in foreign medical reimbursement and coverage policies and programs;

diminished protection of intellectual property in some countries outside of the United States;

trade protection measures and import or export licensing requirements;

difficulty in staffing and managing foreign operations;

differing labor regulations; and

potentially negative consequences from changes in tax laws.

Any of these factors may, individually or as a group, have a material adverse effect on AMO's business and results of operations. In addition, AMO is particularly susceptible to the occurrence of any of these risks in Japan due to its high concentration of sales in Japan.

As AMO expands its existing international operations, it may encounter new risks. For example, as AMO focuses on building its international sales and distribution networks in new geographic regions, it must continue to develop relationships with qualified local distributors and trading companies. If AMO is not successful in developing these relationships, it may not be able to grow sales in these geographic regions. These or other similar risks could adversely affect AMO's revenue and profitability.

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AMO is exposed to foreign currency risks from its international operations that could adversely affect its financial results.

A significant portion of AMO's sales and operating costs are, and from time to time, a portion of AMO's indebtedness may be, denominated in foreign currencies. AMO is therefore exposed to fluctuations in the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the currencies in which its foreign operations receive revenues and pay expenses, including debt service. AMO's consolidated financial results are denominated in U.S. dollars and therefore, during times of a strengthening U.S. dollar, its reported international sales and earnings will be reduced because the local currency will translate into fewer U.S. dollars. In addition, the assets and liabilities of our AMO's non-U.S. subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date. Revenues and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars at the weighted average exchange rate for the period. Translation adjustments arising from the use of differing exchange rates from period to period are included in

Accumulated other comprehensive income in Stockholders' equity. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency fluctuations and remeasurements relating to foreign operations deemed to be operating in U.S. dollar functional currency are included in Other, net in AMO's consolidated statements of operations. Accordingly, changes in currency exchange rates will cause AMO's net earnings and stockholders' equity to fluctuate.

AMO's historical financial information and the historical financial information of Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business may not be indicative of future results.

AMO's historical financial information prior to its separation from Allergan does not reflect what AMO's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows would have been had AMO been a separate, stand-alone entity pursuing independent strategies during the periods presented. AMO has not made adjustments to its historical financial information for periods prior to June 29, 2002 to reflect changes that occurred in its cost structure, financing and operations as a result of its separation from Allergan. In addition, AMO's historical financial information for periods prior to June 29, 2002 does not reflect any increased costs associated with being a publicly traded, independent company. As a result, our historical financial information is not necessarily indicative of its future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows and should not be relied upon for evaluating its business.

The historical financial information of Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business does not reflect what the business' results of operations or financial condition would have been had it operated as a stand-alone entity. Prior to the acquisition of the Pfizer ophthalmic surgical business, Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business was comprised of a group of products within Pfizer's Global Pharmaceutical Group. Pfizer acquired the business in April 2003 as part of its acquisition of Pharmacia. Prior to that time, the business was part of a larger ophthalmic franchise within Pharmacia that included certain ophthalmic pharmaceutical products, and, after the acquisition, Pfizer retained the business under a similar structure. As a result, the financial information for the business reflects the business when it was within Pharmacia. The financial information includes the revenues and operating expenses directly attributable to the development, manufacture, sale and distribution of the products comprising the business. They also include an allocation of costs attributable to the sale and distribution of the products comprising Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business, which were not historically segregated by Pharmacia in its accounting records and which are not necessarily indicative of costs that would have been incurred by Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business on a stand-alone basis or on a combined basis with AMO.

If AMO does not introduce new commercially successful products in a timely manner, its products may become obsolete over time, customers may not buy its products and its revenue and profitability may decline.

Demand for AMO's products may change in ways AMO may not anticipate because of:

evolving customer needs;

the introduction of new products and technologies;

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evolving surgical practices; and

evolving industry standards.

Without the timely introduction of new commercially successful products and enhancements, AMO's products may become obsolete over time, in which case AMO's sales and operating results would suffer. The success of AMO's new product offerings will depend on several factors, including AMO's ability to:

properly identify and anticipate customer needs;

commercialize new products in a cost-effective and timely manner;

manufacture and deliver products in sufficient volumes on time;

obtain regulatory approval for such new products;

differentiate its offerings from competitors' offerings;

achieve positive clinical outcomes;

satisfy the increased demands by health care payors, providers and patients for lower-cost procedures;

innovate and develop new materials, product designs and surgical techniques; and

provide adequate medical and/or consumer education relating to new products and attract key surgeons to advocate these new products.

Moreover, innovations generally will require a substantial investment in research and development before AMO can determine the commercial viability of these innovations and AMO may not have the financial resources necessary to fund these innovations. In addition, even if AMO is able to successfully develop enhancements or new generations of its products, these enhancements or new generations of products may not produce revenue in excess of the costs of development and they may be quickly rendered obsolete by changing customer preferences or the introduction by AMO's competitors of products embodying new technologies or features.

AMO relies on certain suppliers and manufacturers for raw materials and other products and is vulnerable to fluctuations in the availability and price of such products and services.

AMO purchases certain raw materials and other products from third-party suppliers and vendors, sometimes from limited sources. AMO's suppliers and vendors may not provide the raw materials or other products needed by AMO in the quantities requested, in a timely manner, or at a price AMO is willing to pay. In the event any of AMO's third-party suppliers or vendors were to become unable or unwilling to continue to provide important raw materials and third-party products in the required volumes and quality levels or in a timely manner, AMO would be required to identify and obtain acceptable replacement supply sources. AMO may not be able to obtain alternative suppliers and vendors on a timely basis, or at all, which could result in lost sales because of AMO's inability to manufacture products containing such raw materials or deliver products AMO sells from certain suppliers. In addition, AMO also relies on certain manufacturers for some of its products. AMO has historically outsourced the manufacture of its phacoemulsification equipment to third parties. If AMO were unable to renew its third-party manufacturing agreements, or if the manufacturers were to cease manufacturing any of these products for AMO for any reason, AMO may not be able to find alternative manufacturers on terms favorable to it, in a timely manner, or at all. If any of these events should occur, AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

AMO faces intense competition, and its failure to compete effectively could have a material adverse effect on its profitability and results of operations.

AMO faces intense competition in the markets for its ophthalmic surgical and eye care products and these markets are subject to rapid and significant technological change. AMO has numerous competitors in the United

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States and abroad, including, among others, large companies such as Alcon, Inc., a publicly traded subsidiary of Nestle S.A.; Bausch & Lomb; CIBA Vision Corporation, a unit of Novartis; and Moria; Intralase; Eyeonics; CooperVision; and Vistakon, a Johnson and Johnson company. Many of its competitors have substantially more resources and a greater marketing scale than AMO does. AMO may not be able to sustain its current levels of profitability and growth as competitive pressures, including pricing pressure from competitors, increase. In addition, if AMO is unable to develop and produce or market its products to effectively compete against its competitors, AMO's operating results will materially suffer. AMO also competes against a large number of providers of alternative vision correction solutions, some of which may have greater financial resources than AMO. For example, if LASIK technology is advanced to be able to address a wider range of refractive errors, it could reduce demand for AMO's refractive IOLs. In addition, if contact lens use diminishes as a result of increased use of glasses, surgical correction or otherwise, AMO's contact lens business could be materially adversely affected. New or different methods of vision correction are continually being introduced. Any of these competitive pressures could result in decreased demand for AMO's products.

If AMO is unable to protect its intellectual property rights, its business and prospects may be harmed.

AMO's ability to compete effectively is dependent upon its ability to protect and preserve the proprietary aspects of the designs, processes, technologies and materials owned by, used by or licensed to it. AMO has numerous U.S. patents and corresponding foreign patents that are expected to expire by their own terms at various dates and has additional patent applications pending that may not result in issued patents. AMO's failure to secure these patents may limit its ability to protect the intellectual property rights that these applications were intended to cover. Although AMO has attempted to protect its proprietary property, technologies and processes both in the United States and in foreign countries through a combination of patent law, trade secrets and non-disclosure agreements, these may be insufficient. Competitors may be able to design around AMO's patents to compete effectively with AMO's products. AMO also may not be able to prevent third parties from using its technology without its authorization, breaching any non-disclosure agreements with AMO, or independently developing technology that is similar to AMO's. The use of AMO's technology or similar technology by others could reduce or eliminate any competitive advantage AMO has developed, cause AMO to lose sales or otherwise harm AMO's business. If it became necessary for AMO to resort to litigation to protect these rights, any proceedings could be costly and AMO may not prevail. Further, AMO may not be able to obtain patents or other protections on AMO's future innovations. In addition, because of the differences in foreign patent and other laws concerning proprietary rights, AMO's products may not receive the same degree of protection in foreign countries as they would in the United States. AMO cannot assure you that:

pending patent applications will result in issued patents;

patents issued to or licensed by AMO will not be challenged by third parties; or

AMO's patents will be found to be valid or sufficiently broad to protect AMO's technology or provide AMO with a competitive advantage.

AMO may be subject to intellectual property litigation and infringement claims, which could cause AMO to incur significant expenses or prevent it from selling our products.

There is a substantial amount of litigation over patent and other intellectual property rights in the eye care industry and in the ophthalmic surgical products and contact lens care markets particularly. The fact that AMO has patents issued to it for its products does not mean that it will always be able to successfully defend its patents and proprietary rights against challenges or claims of infringement by its competitors. A successful claim of patent or other intellectual property infringement or misappropriation against AMO could adversely affect its growth and profitability, in some cases materially. AMO cannot assure you that its products do not and will not infringe issued patents or other intellectual property rights of third parties. From time to time, in the ordinary course of business, AMO receives notices from third parties alleging infringement or misappropriation of the patent, trademark and other intellectual property rights of third parties by AMO or its consumers in connection with the use of AMO's products. AMO may be unaware of intellectual property rights of others that may cover

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some of its technology. If someone claims that AMO's products infringe their intellectual property rights, whether or not such claims are meritorious, any resulting litigation could be costly and time consuming and would divert the attention of management and personnel from other business issues. The complexity of the technology involved and the uncertainty of intellectual property litigation increase these risks. Claims of intellectual property infringement also might require AMO to enter into costly royalty or license agreements (if available on acceptable terms or at all). AMO also may be subject to significant damages or an injunction preventing it from manufacturing, selling or using some or some aspect of its products. AMO may also need to redesign some of its products or processes to avoid future infringement liability. Any of these adverse consequences could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business and profitability.

AMO may have difficulty transitioning its manufacturing operations, and its manufacturing capacity may not be adequate to meet the demands of its business.

AMO manufactures its products or contracts with third parties to manufacture products for it. In June 2005, AMO's manufacturing agreement with Allergan will terminate. As a result, in November 2003, AMO acquired a facility in Madrid, Spain, and AMO plans to transition products manufactured by Allergan for AMO to this facility as well as AMO's Hangzhou, China facility. AMO also plans to transition other products to third-party suppliers. The process to transfer manufacturing of AMO's products to a new facility or other third parties is lengthy and requires regulatory approval. AMO cannot assure you that it can successfully transition its manufacturing on a profitable basis, complete the regulatory approval process in a timely manner or contract with third parties on terms acceptable to it or at all. In addition, if AMO's sales increase substantially, AMO may need to increase its production capacity even further. Any prolonged disruption in the operation of AMO's manufacturing facilities or those of AMO's third-party manufacturers could materially harm AMO's business. AMO cannot assure you that if it chooses to scale-up its manufacturing operations, it will be able to obtain regulatory approvals in a timely fashion, which could affect its ability to meet product demand or result in additional costs.

Through the acquisition of the Pfizer ophthalmic surgery business, AMO acquired three manufacturing facilities in Groningen, Netherlands, Uppsala, Sweden and Bangalore, India. AMO expects to incur significant capital expenditures with respect to the Uppsala, Sweden manufacturing facility during the first two years following the acquisition in order to separate the facility from existing Pfizer operations. These capital expenditures may be significantly higher than AMO expects. Although AMO has an agreement with Pfizer to assist AMO with the separation and related transition services, there can be no assurances that Pfizer will be able to provide the necessary services to enable AMO to transition and separate the Uppsala facility in the manner and in the time frame that AMO desires.

AMO could experience losses due to product liability claims or product recalls or corrections.

AMO has in the past been, and continues to be, subject to product liability claims. In connection with its spin-off from Allergan, AMO assumed the defense of any litigation involving claims related to AMO's business and agreed to indemnify Allergan for all related losses, costs and expenses. As part of AMO's risk management policy, AMO has obtained third-party product liability insurance coverage. Product liability claims against AMO may exceed the coverage limits of AMO's insurance policies or cause AMO to record a self-insured loss. A product liability claim in excess of applicable insurance could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations. Even if any product liability loss is covered by an insurance policy, these policies have substantial retentions or deductibles that provide that AMO will not receive insurance proceeds until the losses incurred exceed the amount of those retentions or deductibles. To the extent that any losses are below these retentions or deductibles, AMO will be responsible for paying these losses. The payment of retentions or deductibles for a significant amount of claims could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, AMO is subject to medical device reporting regulations that require it to report to the FDA or similar governmental authorities in other countries if AMO's products cause or contribute to a death or serious

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injury or malfunction in a way that would be reasonably likely to contribute to death or serious injury if the malfunction were to recur. The FDA and similar governmental authorities in other countries have the authority to require the recall of AMO's products in the event of material deficiencies or defects in design or manufacturing. A government mandated or voluntary recall by AMO could occur as a result of manufacturing errors or design defects, including defects in labeling. AMO has undertaken voluntary recalls of its products in the past.

Any product liability claim or recall would divert managerial and financial resources and could harm AMO's reputation with customers. AMO cannot assure you that it will not have product liability claims or recalls in the future or that such claims or recalls would not have a material adverse effect on AMO's business.

If AMO fails to maintain its relationships with health care providers, customers may not buy its products and AMO's revenue and profitability may decline.

AMO markets its products to numerous health care providers, including eye care professionals, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, corporate optometry chains and group purchasing organizations. AMO has developed and strives to maintain close relationships with members of each of these groups who assist in product research and development and advise AMO on how to satisfy the full range of surgeon and patient needs. AMO relies on these groups to recommend its products to their patients and to other members of their organizations. The failure of AMO's existing products and any new products it may introduce to retain the support of these various groups could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations.

AMO generally does not have long-term contracts with its customers.

AMO generally does not enter into long-term contracts with its customers. As a result, AMO is exposed to volatility in the market for its products and loss of its customers. As a result, AMO may not be able to maintain its level of profitability. If AMO is unable to market its products on terms it finds acceptable, its financial condition and results of operations could suffer materially.

AMO's business is subject to extensive government regulation.

AMO's products and operations are subject to extensive regulation in the United States by the FDA and various other federal and state regulatory agencies, including with respect to regulatory approval of AMO's products and health care fraud and abuse, such as anti-kickback and physician self-referral laws and regulations. Additionally, in many foreign countries in which AMO markets its products, AMO is subject to similar regulations. Compliance with these regulations is expensive and time-consuming. If AMO fails to comply, it may be subject to fines, injunctions and penalties that could harm its business. Product sales, introductions or modifications may be delayed or canceled as a result of U.S. or foreign regulatory processes, which could cause AMO's sales to decline. Failure to obtain regulatory clearance or approvals of new products AMO develops, any limitations imposed by regulatory agencies on new product use or the costs of obtaining regulatory clearance or approvals could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, if AMO, its subcontractors or third-party manufacturers or suppliers of products AMO distributes fails to comply with applicable manufacturing regulations, AMO's business could be harmed.

Health care initiatives and other cost-containment pressures could cause AMO to sell its products at lower prices, resulting in less revenue to AMO. In the United States, a significant percentage of the patients who receive AMO's intraocular lenses are covered by the federal Medicare

program. Reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates and the implementation of other price controls could adversely affect AMO's revenues and financial condition. In addition, changes in existing regulatory requirements or adoption of new requirements could hurt AMO's business, financial condition and results of operations.

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AMO's business is subject to environmental regulations.

AMO's facilities and operations are subject to federal, state and local environmental and occupational health and safety requirements of the United States and foreign countries, including those relating to discharges of substances to the air, water and land, the handling, storage and disposal of wastes and the cleanup of properties affected by pollutants. Failure to maintain compliance with these regulations could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business or financial condition. The facilities AMO obtained in connection with the acquisition of the Pfizer ophthalmic surgical business are also subject to such requirements and risks.

In the future, federal, state or local governments in the United States or foreign countries could enact new or more stringent laws or issue new or more stringent regulations concerning environmental and worker health and safety matters that could affect AMO's operations. Also, in the future, contamination may be found at AMO's current or former facilities or off-site locations where AMO has sent wastes. AMO could be held liable for such newly discovered contamination which could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business or financial condition. In addition, changes in environmental and worker health and safety requirements could have a material adverse effect on AMO's business or financial condition.

If AMO fails to attract, hire and retain qualified personnel, it may not be able to design, develop, market or sell its products or successfully manage its business.

AMO's ability to attract new customers, retain existing customers and pursue its strategic objectives depends on the continued services of AMO's current management, sales, product development and technical personnel and AMO's ability to identify, attract, train and retain similar personnel. Competition for top management personnel is intense and AMO may not be able to recruit and retain the personnel it needs. The loss of any one of AMO's management personnel, or AMO's inability to identify, attract, retain and integrate additional qualified management personnel, could make it difficult for AMO to manage its business successfully and pursue its strategic objectives. Similarly, competition for skilled sales, product development and technical personnel is intense and AMO may not be able to recruit and retain the personnel it needs. The loss of services of a number of key sales, product development and technical personnel, or AMO's inability to hire new personnel with the requisite skills, could restrict AMO's ability to develop new products or enhance existing products in a timely manner, sell products to its customers or manage its business effectively.

AMO may not be able to hire or retain qualified personnel if it is unable to offer competitive salaries and benefits. If AMO's stock does not perform well, AMO may have to increase its salaries and benefits, which would increase its expenses and reduce its profitability.

AMO may be required to satisfy certain indemnification obligations to Allergan, and it may not be able to collect on indemnification rights from Allergan.

Under the terms of AMO's contribution and distribution agreement with Allergan, AMO and Allergan have each agreed to indemnify each other from and after AMO's spin-off with respect to the debt, liabilities and obligations retained by the respective companies. These indemnification obligations could be significant. The ability to satisfy these indemnities, if called upon to do so, will depend upon the future financial strength of each of the respective companies. AMO cannot determine whether it will have to indemnify Allergan for any substantial obligations, and AMO may not have control over the settlement of certain claims and lawsuits that may require partial indemnification by AMO. AMO also cannot assure you that, if Allergan is required to indemnify it for any substantial obligations, Allergan will have the ability to satisfy those obligations.

AMO may be responsible for federal income tax liabilities that relate to the distribution of its common stock by Allergan.

Allergan has received a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that the spin-off qualified as a tax-free transaction. If either AMO or Allergan breach representations to each other or to the Internal Revenue

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Service, or if AMO or Allergan take or fail to take, as the case may be, actions that result in the spin-off failing to meet the requirements of a tax-free spin-off pursuant to Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code, the party in breach will indemnify the other party for any and all resulting taxes. If AMO were required to pay any of the potential taxes described above, the payment would have a material adverse effect on AMO's financial position.

AMO has a significant amount of debt which contains covenants that may limit AMO's activities.

This level of debt could limit cash flows available for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other corporate purposes, could limit AMO's ability to obtain additional financing and could limit AMO's flexibility to react to competitive or other changes in the industry, and to economic conditions generally. AMO's ability to comply with loan covenants and to repay or refinance its indebtedness will depend upon its future operating performance, which will be affected by general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors beyond AMO's control.

Despite AMO's current level of indebtedness, AMO may incur substantially more debt, which could further exacerbate the risks associated with its substantial indebtedness.

Although certain of AMO's debt agreements contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and the indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. Also, these restrictions do not prevent AMO from incurring obligations that do not constitute indebtedness as defined in the relevant agreement. If new debt is added to AMO's current debt levels, the related risks that AMO now faces could intensify.

Recent changes in the accounting treatment of stock options could have a negative impact on AMO's financial statements and cause its stock price to decline.

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Statement No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, or FAS 123(R), which includes proposed rule changes requiring companies to expense the fair value of employee stock options and other forms of stock-based compensation. Currently, AMO includes the fair market value of employee stock options on a pro forma basis in the notes to its annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, but does not record a charge for employee stock option expense in the reported financial statements. Once AMO is required to comply with FAS 123(R) as of the beginning of the third quarter of 2005, AMO's reported earnings are expected to decrease. Such a decrease may lead to a decline in AMO's stock price.

AMO's stockholder rights plan, certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as provisions of Delaware law, could make it difficult for a third party to acquire AMO.

AMO has a stockholder rights plan that may have the effect of discouraging unsolicited takeover proposals. The rights issued under the stockholder rights plan would cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire AMO on terms not approved in advance by the AMO board of directors. In addition, Delaware corporate law and the AMO certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could delay, deter or prevent a change in control of AMO's company or AMO's management. These provisions could also discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for AMO's stockholders to elect directors and take other corporate actions without the concurrence of AMO's management or board of directors. These provisions:

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authorize the AMO board of directors to issue blank check preferred stock, which is preferred stock that can be created and issued by our board of directors, without stockholder approval, with rights senior to those of common stock;

provide for a staggered board of directors and three-year terms for directors, so that no more than one-third of AMO's directors could be replaced at any annual meeting;

provide that directors may be removed only for cause;

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provide that stockholder action may be taken only at a special or regular meeting and not by written consent;

provide for super-majority voting requirements for some provisions of the AMO certificate of incorporation; and

establish advance notice requirements for submitting nominations for election to the AMO board of directors and for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at a meeting.

AMO is also subject to anti-takeover provisions under Delaware law, which could also delay or prevent a change of control. Together, these provisions of the AMO certificate of incorporation and bylaws, Delaware law and AMO's stockholder rights plan may discourage transactions that otherwise could provide for the payment of a premium over prevailing market prices of AMO's common stock and, possibly, AMO's notes, and also could limit the price that investors are willing to pay in the future for shares of AMO's common stock and the notes.

Risks Relating to the Business of VISX

If laser vision correction is not broadly accepted by both doctors and patients, VISX's business, financial position and results of operations would be materially and adversely impacted.

VISX's business depends upon broad market acceptance of laser vision correction by both doctors and patients in the United States and key international markets. Laser vision correction has penetrated approximately 6% of the eligible United States population, and VISX's profitability and growth will be largely dependent on increasing levels of market acceptance and procedure growth, especially with regard to VISX's higher-priced CustomVue procedure. Potential complications and side effects of laser vision correction include: post-operative discomfort, corneal haze (an increase in the light scattering properties of the cornea) during healing, glare/halos (undesirable visual sensations produced by bright lights), decreases in contrast sensitivity, temporary increases in intraocular pressure in reaction to procedure medication, modest fluctuations in refractive capabilities during healing, modest decrease in best corrected vision (i.e., with corrective eyewear), unintended over- or under-corrections, regression of effect, disorders of corneal healing, corneal scars, corneal ulcers, and induced astigmatism (which may result in blurred or double vision and/or shadow images). Some consumers may choose not to undergo laser vision correction because of these complications or more general concerns relating to its safety and efficacy or a resistance to surgery in general. Alternatively, some consumers may elect to delay undergoing laser vision correction surgery because they believe improved technology or methods of treatment will be available in the near future. Should either the ophthalmic community or the general population turn away from laser vision correction as an alternative to existing methods of treating refractive vision disorders, or if future technologies replaced laser vision correction, these developments could delay or prevent market acceptance of laser vision correction, which would have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position and results of operations.

The possibility of long-term side effects and adverse publicity regarding laser correction surgery could seriously harm VISX's business.

Laser vision correction is a relatively new procedure. Consequently, there is no long-term follow-up data beyond ten years that might reveal additional complications or unknown side effects. Any future reported side effects, other adverse events or unfavorable publicity involving patient outcomes resulting from the use of laser vision correction systems manufactured by VISX or any participant in the laser vision correction market, may have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations.

The market in which VISX operates is subject to extensive government regulation, which increases VISX's costs and could prevent VISX from selling its products.

Government regulation includes inspection of and controls over research and development, testing, manufacturing, safety and environmental controls, efficacy, labeling, advertising, promotion, pricing, record

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keeping, the sale and distribution of pharmaceutical products and samples and electronic records and electronic signatures. In the United States, VISX must obtain approval or clearance from the United States Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, for each medical device that it markets. The FDA approval process is typically lengthy and expensive, and approval is never certain. Products distributed outside of the United States are also subject to government regulation, which may be equally or more demanding. VISX's new products could take a significantly longer time than expected to gain regulatory approval and may never gain approval. If a regulatory authority delays approval of a potentially significant product, VISX's market value and operating results may decline. Even if the FDA or another regulatory agency approves a product, the approval may limit the indicated uses for a product, may otherwise limit VISX's ability to promote, sell and distribute a product or may require post-marketing studies. If VISX is unable to obtain regulatory approval of VISX's products, it will not be able to market these products, which would result in a decrease in VISX's sales. Currently, VISX is actively pursuing approval for a number of VISX's products from regulatory authorities in a number of countries, including, among others, the United States, countries in the European Union and Japan. Continued growth in VISX's sales and profits will depend, in part, on the timely and successful introduction and marketing of some or all of these products.

Additionally, noncompliance with applicable United States regulatory requirements can result in fines, injunctions, penalties, mandatory recalls or seizures, suspensions of production, denial or withdrawal of pre-marketing approvals, recommendations by the FDA against governmental contracts and criminal prosecution. The FDA also has authority to request repair, replacement, or the refund of the cost of any device VISX manufactures or distributes. Regulatory authorities outside of the United States may impose similar sanctions for noncompliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

The clinical trial process required to obtain regulatory approvals of VISX's products is costly and uncertain, and could result in delays in new product introductions or even an inability to release a product.

The clinical trials required to obtain regulatory approvals for VISX's products are complex and expensive and their outcomes are uncertain. VISX incurs substantial expense for, and devotes significant time to, clinical trials but cannot be certain that the trials will ever result in the commercial sale of a product. VISX may suffer significant setbacks in clinical trials, even after earlier clinical trials showed promising results. Any of VISX's products may produce undesirable side effects that could cause VISX or regulatory authorities to interrupt, delay or halt clinical trials of a product candidate. VISX, the FDA, or another regulatory authority may suspend or terminate clinical trials at any time if they or VISX believe the trial participants face unacceptable health risks.

Intense competition in the laser vision correction industry could result in the loss of customers, an inability to attract new customers, a decline in the price VISX charges for its products and procedures or a decline in VISX's market share.

The medical device and ophthalmic laser industries are subject to intense competition and technological change. Not only does laser vision correction compete with more traditional vision correction options such as eyeglasses and contact lenses, it also competes with other technologies and surgical techniques such as intraocular lenses and surgery using different types of lasers. In addition, the market for laser vision correction systems has become increasingly competitive in recent years as a result of FDA approval of several laser systems. The VISX STAR Excimer Laser System competes with products marketed or under development by other laser and medical equipment manufacturers, many of which have greater financial and other resources. Competitors may offer laser systems at a lower price, may price their laser systems as part of a bundle of products or services, may lower the prices they charge for procedures, may develop procedures that involve a lower per procedure cost, or may offer products perceived as preferable to the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System. In addition, medical companies, academic and research institutions and others could develop new therapies, including new medical devices or surgical procedures, for the conditions targeted by VISX, which therapies could be more medically effective and less expensive than laser vision correction, and could potentially

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render laser vision correction obsolete. Any such developments could result in reductions in the quantity or average prices of products sold by VISX and which could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position and results of operations.

Additionally, Market Scope estimated that as at December 31, 2004 VISX was the leader in the United States procedures market with a market share of approximately 60%. Because of this position, all of VISX's competitors target VISX and its market share in order to grow their own revenues. VISX can give no assurance that it will be able to maintain or grow its existing market share and VISX may, in fact, be required to incur considerable expenditures in order to maintain or increase that market share. Should VISX's procedure market share decline, it could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations as well as the market price of VISX's common stock. The data in this joint proxy statement/prospectus attributed to Market Scope is used with the permission of Market Scope.

General economic conditions could have a negative impact on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations.

Because laser vision correction is not subject to reimbursement from third-party payors such as insurance companies or government programs, the cost of laser vision correction is typically borne by individuals directly. Accordingly, weak or uncertain economic conditions may cause individuals to be less willing to incur the procedure cost associated with laser vision correction as was evidenced by VISX's decline in revenues from 2002 compared to 2001 and from 2001 compared to 2000. A decline in economic conditions, especially in the United States, could result in a decline in the number of laser vision correction procedures performed and could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations.

VISX relies upon a small number of customers for a significant portion of its revenues, which makes VISX's financial position and operating results vulnerable to the loss of one or more of these customers.

A significant portion of VISX's revenues is derived from sales to TLC Vision Corporation, or TLC. Sales to TLC accounted for 17%, 16% and 14% of total revenues in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. TLC accounted for 21%, 22% and 22% of VISX's total receivables at December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002. Additionally, Taiwan Hwa-In Corporation accounted for 12% of VISX's total receivables at December 31, 2004. Should VISX lose a significant customer or if anticipated sales to a significant customer do not materialize, VISX's business, financial position and results of operations may suffer. In addition, should a significant customer become unable to pay balances owed, VISX would have to increase its charges for bad debt expense, which could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position and results of operations.

If VISX fails to keep pace with advances in VISX's industry or fail to develop new methods of vision correction, customers may not buy VISX's products and VISX's revenue may decline.

VISX must be able to manufacture and effectively market its products and persuade a sufficient number of eye care professionals to use its new products, as well as new methods of vision correction that VISX introduces, such as VISX's CustomVue procedure. Sales of VISX's existing products may decline rapidly if a new product is introduced by one of VISX's competitors or if VISX announces a new product that, in either case, represents a substantial improvement over VISX's existing products. A decrease in procedure volume may also occur if consumers elect to delay undergoing laser vision correction surgery because they believe improved technology or methods of treatment will be available in the near future.

While VISX devotes significant resources to research and development, VISX's research and development may not lead to new products that achieve commercial success.

VISX's research and development process is expensive, prolonged, and entails considerable uncertainty. Development of a new medical device, from discovery through testing and registration to initial product launch,

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typically takes between three and seven years. Each of these periods varies considerably from product to product and country to country. Because of the complexities and uncertainties associated with ophthalmic research and development, products VISX is currently developing may not complete the development process or obtain the regulatory approvals required to market such products successfully. The products currently in VISX's development pipeline may not be approved by regulatory entities and may not be commercially successful, and VISX's current and planned products could be surpassed by more effective or advanced products.

VISX's business is dependent on the enforceability and the validity of its United States and foreign patents; any unfavorable determinations with respect to these patents could negatively impact VISX's financial condition and harm its business.

VISX owns over 200 United States and foreign patents and has more than 200 patent applications pending. In the past, VISX's patents have been challenged on several fronts and VISX has asserted its patents against competitors. Generally, these proceedings centered on whether infringement of the patents had occurred, and on the validity or enforceability of the patents. While all of VISX's historical proceedings have now been resolved, VISX may assert its patents against competitors in the future. If VISX's patents were found to be invalid or unenforceable (or in the event that parties against whom VISX asserted patent infringement were found not to be infringing VISX's patents) in any future proceedings, VISX's ability to collect license fees from the parties to the litigation or from other sellers or users of laser vision correction equipment in the United States could suffer and VISX's revenues could decline. In addition, other companies own United States and foreign patents covering methods and apparatus for performing corneal surgery with ultraviolet lasers. If VISX were accused of infringing such competitors' patents and found to have infringed such patents, VISX could be subject to significant monetary liability and enjoined from distributing VISX's products. Any one of these results could harm VISX's business.

An unfavorable outcome in a product liability lawsuit could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations.

VISX has in the past, and may again in the future, become subject to product liability claims. VISX could be liable for injuries or damage resulting from use of the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System or WaveScan System. In addition, a claim that an injury resulted from a defect in any VISX product, even if successfully defended, could damage VISX's reputation. Product liability claims in excess of VISX's insurance coverage against product liability risks associated with the testing, manufacturing, and marketing of its products could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations.

If VISX becomes involved in litigation, unexpected costs and diversion of management's resources could result.

In the past, VISX has been involved in a number of legal proceedings, some of which have resulted in significant legal expenses and settlement costs. In the future, VISX may become involved in additional legal proceedings that, regardless of their outcome or validity, could lead to additional expenses being incurred and diversion of VISX's management's resources.

VISX's reliance on sales in international markets could negatively impact its revenues and operating results.

Sales to customers outside the United States represented 16%, 17% and 23% of VISX's total revenues in 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. To date, all of VISX's sales have been denominated in United States dollars. VISX's international presence exposes it to risks, including:

the need for export licenses in many countries;

unexpected regulatory requirements;

tariffs and other potential trade barriers and restrictions;

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political, legal and economic instability in foreign markets such as South Korea;

longer accounts receivable cycles in all international markets;

difficulties in managing operations across disparate geographic areas;

foreign currency fluctuations;

reduced or limited protection of VISX's intellectual property rights in some countries such as Taiwan; and

dependence on local distributors.

VISX is particularly susceptible to these risks in South Korea, Taiwan and Canada. If one or more of these risks materialize, VISX's sales to international customers may decrease and VISX's costs may increase, which could negatively impact VISX's revenues and operating results.

Any failure by third party financing entities to satisfy their obligations to VISX would negatively impact VISX's financial condition.

VISX has relationships with third party financing entities that purchase VISX's products directly and subsequently lease and/or sell these products to VISX's end-user customers, or provide financing directly to customers who purchase products directly from VISX. Should any third party financing entity or entities fail or refuse to pay VISX in a timely manner or at all, it could negatively affect VISX's cash flows and could have a material adverse effect on VISX's business, financial position and results of operations. In fact, DVI Financial Services, Inc., which is referred to as DVI, which provided equipment purchase financing to VISX's customers, entered into Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings in August 2003, and as a result, VISX recorded bad debt expense to increase VISX's reserve for doubtful accounts to cover any remaining exposure on the \$2.3 million of accounts receivables then outstanding from DVI.

Because VISX's expenses are relatively fixed in the short term, VISX's earnings will decline if it does not meet VISX's projected sales.

VISX's operating expenses, which include sales and marketing, research and development, and general and administrative expenses, are based on VISX's expectations of future revenues and are relatively fixed in the short term. If revenues fall below expectations, VISX will not be able to reduce its spending rapidly in response to such a shortfall. Accordingly, any shortfall in revenues below expectations would likely have an immediate impact on VISX's earnings per share, which could adversely affect the market price of VISX's common stock.

Adverse tax assessments could have a negative impact on VISX's earnings.

VISX operates throughout the United States and, consequently, is subject to various federal, state and local taxes, including sales, income, payroll, unemployment, property, franchise, capital and use tax on VISX's operations, payroll, assets and services. VISX has made provisions

and accruals in its financial statements for tax liabilities, but VISX cannot predict the outcome of all past and future tax assessments. If any taxing authority determines VISX owes amounts for taxes greater than expected, VISX's earnings may be negatively affected.

If any of VISX's single source suppliers were to cease providing components, VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations, could be materially adversely affected.

The manufacture of the VISX STAR Excimer Laser System and WaveScan System is a complex operation involving numerous procedures. VISX depends on single and limited sources for several key components. If any of these suppliers were to cease providing components, VISX would be required to locate and contract with a substitute supplier. VISX could have difficulty identifying a substitute supplier in a timely manner or on commercially reasonable terms. If the production of VISX's products, parts and services were interrupted or could not continue in a cost-effective or timely manner, VISX's business, financial position, and results of operations, could be materially adversely affected.

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Volatility in VISX's stock price may discourage investment in VISX's common stock.

The market price of VISX's common stock has experienced fluctuations and is likely to fluctuate significantly in the future. VISX's stock price can fluctuate for a number of reasons, including:

announcements about VISX or its competitors;

results or settlements of litigation;

quarterly variations in operating results;

the introduction or abandonment of new technologies or products;

changes in product pricing policies by VISX or its competitors;

changes in earnings estimates by analysts or changes in accounting policies; and

economic changes and political uncertainties.

In addition, stock markets have experienced significant price and volume volatility in recent years. This volatility has had a substantial effect on the market prices of securities of many public companies for reasons frequently unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of the specific companies. In addition, the securities of many medical device companies, including VISX, have historically been subject to extensive price and volume fluctuations that may affect the market price of their common stock. If these broad market fluctuations continue, they may adversely affect the market price of VISX's common stock.

If any of VISX's employees, consultants or others breach their proprietary information agreements, VISX's competitive position could be harmed.

VISX protects its proprietary technology, in part, through proprietary information and inventions agreements with employees, consultants and other parties. These agreements with employees and consultants generally contain standard provisions requiring those individuals to assign to VISX, without additional consideration, inventions conceived or reduced to practice by them while employed or retained by us, subject to customary exceptions. If any of VISX's employees, consultants or others breach these agreements VISX's competitors may learn of VISX's trade secrets.

Recent changes in the accounting treatment of stock options could have a negative impact on VISX's financial statements and cause its stock price to decline.

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Statement No. 123(R), Share-Based Payment, or FAS 123(R), which includes proposed rule changes requiring companies to expense the fair value of employee stock options and other forms of stock-based compensation. Currently, VISX includes such expenses on a pro forma basis in the notes to its annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, but does not record a charge for employee stock option expense in the reported financial statements. Once VISX is required to comply with FAS 123(R), as of the beginning of the third quarter of 2005 VISX's reported earnings will decrease significantly which could in turn lead to a decline in VISX's stock price.

The anti-takeover provisions in VISX's charter documents could delay or prevent a takeover attempt or make an investment in VISX common stock less appealing to future investors.

In 2000, VISX adopted a stockholder rights plan. The presence of this plan could make it more difficult for a third party to engage in a takeover attempt, even a takeover attempt in which the potential purchaser offers to pay a per share price greater than the current market price for VISX's common stock. In addition, the presence of the plan could delay or impede the removal of incumbent directors. These provisions may also impact the amount of interest investors have in VISX's business.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus contain or may contain forward-looking statements intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations about future events. Further, statements that include words such as may, will, project, might, expect, believe, anticipate, intend, could, would, estimate, continue or pursue, or the negative of these words or other expressions of similar meaning, may identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are found at various places throughout this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other documents incorporated by reference. These forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, those relating to future actions, new projects, strategies, future performance, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings and future financial results, in each case relating to AMO or VISX, respectively, wherever they occur in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the other documents incorporated by reference herein, are necessarily estimates reflecting the best judgment of the respective management of AMO and VISX and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements should, therefore, be considered in light of various important factors, including those set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. In addition to the risk factors identified elsewhere, important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from estimates or projections contained in the forward-looking statements include, without limitation:

the effects of local and national economic, credit and capital market conditions on the economy in general, and on the ophthalmic medical device industry in particular, and the effects of foreign exchange rates and interest rates;

the ability to obtain the approvals of each company's stockholders, to obtain or meet the closing conditions in the merger agreement, including applicable regulatory and tax requirements, and to otherwise complete the merger in a timely manner;

the ability to timely and cost-effectively integrate the operations of AMO and VISX;

the ability to realize the synergies and other perceived advantages resulting from the merger;

access to available and feasible financing, including financing for the merger, on a timely basis;

the ability to retain key personnel both before and after the merger;

the ability of each company to successfully execute its business strategies;

the extent and timing of market acceptance of new products or product indications;

the ability of each company to procure, maintain, enforce and defend its patents and proprietary rights;

changes in laws, including increased tax rates, regulations or accounting standards, third party relations and approvals, and decisions of courts, regulators and governmental bodies;

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litigation outcomes and judicial actions, including costs and existing or additional litigation associated with the merger, and legislative action, referenda and taxation;

the ability of AMO or the combined company to continue to increase customer loyalty;

the ability to recoup costs of capital investments through higher revenues;

environmental restrictions, soil and water conditions, weather and other hazards, site access matters and building permit issues;

the effects of environmental and structural building conditions relating to our properties;

acts of war or terrorist incidents; and

the effects of competition, including locations of competitors and operating and market competition.

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You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or, in the case of documents incorporated by reference, as of the date of those documents. Neither AMO nor VISX undertakes any obligation to publicly update or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law.

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THE AMO SPECIAL MEETING

General

This joint proxy statement/prospectus is being provided to AMO stockholders as part of a solicitation of proxies by the AMO board of directors for use at a special meeting of AMO stockholders. This joint proxy statement/prospectus provides AMO stockholders with information they need to know to be able to vote or instruct their vote to be cast at the AMO special meeting.

Date, Time, and Place

The AMO special meeting will be held on _____, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., local time, at 1700 East St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, California 92705.

Purpose; Other Matters

The AMO special meeting is being held for the following purposes:

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger;

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve an amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000;

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan;

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan; and

to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

AMO stockholders will also be asked to consider and vote upon any other business as may properly come before the special meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting. AMO does not expect that any matter other than the proposals presented in this joint proxy statement/prospectus will be brought before the AMO special meeting. However, if other matters incident to the conduct of the special meeting are properly presented at the special meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote in accordance with their best judgment with respect to those matters.

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AMO stockholders are voting on each proposal separately. Except as described below, the vote of an AMO stockholder on one proposal has no bearing on any of the other proposals, or any other matter that may come before the special meeting. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly be presented to the meeting or any adjournments, postponements, continuations or reschedulings thereof. If you vote **AGAINST** any of the proposals, the proxies are not authorized to vote for any adjournments, postponements, continuations or reschedulings of the meeting, including for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies, unless you so indicate by marking the appropriate box on the proxy card.

Recommendation of the AMO Board of Directors

Proposal 1

The AMO board of directors has unanimously approved a resolution, subject to stockholder approval, to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger and unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote **FOR** approval of the issuance of shares.

Approval of this proposal by AMO stockholders is a condition to the effectiveness of the merger.

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Proposal 2

The AMO board of directors has also unanimously approved a resolution, subject to stockholder approval, to amend the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000 and unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote FOR approval of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation.

Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. However, as long as the AMO stockholders approve the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation, even if the AMO stockholders do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger or any of the other proposals, the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation could be implemented.

If this proposal is approved by AMO stockholders, the authorized number of shares of AMO common stock will increase from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000. AMO intends to file the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock as soon as practicable following approval by the AMO stockholders. The form of the certificate of amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex B. AMO reserves the right to abandon, upon approval of the AMO board of directors, the proposed amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock at any time prior to the filing of the amendment with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, including after approval of the AMO stockholders has been obtained.

The AMO board of directors believes it is desirable to authorize additional shares of AMO common stock so that there will be sufficient shares available for issuance for purposes that the AMO board of directors may later determine to be in the best interests of AMO and its stockholders. Such purposes could include the offer of shares for cash, acquisitions, financings, mergers, stock splits, employee benefit programs and other general corporate purposes. No further action or authorization by AMO stockholders would be necessary prior to the issuance of additional shares of AMO common stock, unless required by applicable law or regulation.

Of the 120,000,000 shares of AMO common stock currently authorized for issuance, an aggregate of 37,181,209 shares were outstanding on March 10, 2005. An aggregate of 11,900,000 shares have been reserved for issuance under AMO's stock-based compensation plans, of which approximately 1,450,783 shares have been issued. In addition, AMO reserved for issuance the following numbers of shares: (a) 6,816,796 shares upon conversion of \$140.0 million aggregate principal amount (of which \$8.6 million aggregate principal amount remains outstanding) of AMO's 3.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2023, which we refer to as the 3.5% Notes (based on the current conversion rate of 48.6914 shares of AMO common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the 3.5% Notes), (b) 6,966,575 shares upon conversion of \$350.0 million aggregate principal amount (all of which remains outstanding) of AMO's 2.5% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2024, which we refer to as the 2.5% Notes (based on the current conversion rate of 19.9045 shares of AMO common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the 2.5% Notes), and (c) 7,947,482 shares issuable in certain refinancings of the 3.5% Notes for common stock (of which 7,020,784 shares have been issued). In accordance with the terms of the indenture governing the 2.5% Notes, AMO has elected to satisfy in cash its conversion obligation with respect to the principal amount of any 2.5% Notes converted after December 15, 2004, with any remaining amount of the conversion obligation to be satisfied in shares of AMO common stock, calculated as set forth in the indenture based on (a) the current conversion rate of 19.9045 shares of AMO common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of 2.5% Notes, and (b) the applicable stock price (as defined in the indenture). The current conversion rates of the 3.5% Notes and the 2.5% Notes are subject to adjustment as provided in the respective indentures. In the merger, AMO would issue approximately 27,600,000 shares of AMO common stock, based on the merger consideration of 0.552 shares of AMO common stock (not counting the \$3.50 in cash for each VISX share) for each share of VISX common stock outstanding, which as of December 31, 2004 was 49,923,381. Based upon the foregoing, if AMO did not increase its authorized common stock beyond the 120,000,000 shares currently authorized, immediately following the completion of the merger, AMO would have fewer than approximately 36.5 million shares unreserved and available for future issuances.

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The proposed increase in the authorized shares could have a number of effects on AMO stockholders, depending on the exact nature and circumstances of any actual issuance of shares. An issuance of additional shares by AMO could have an effect on the potential realizable value of an AMO stockholder's investment. In the absence of a proportionate increase in AMO's earnings and book value, an increase in the aggregate number of outstanding shares of AMO common stock caused by the issuance of the additional shares would dilute the earnings per share and book value per share of all outstanding shares. If such factors were reflected in the price per share of AMO common stock, the potential realizable value of a stockholder's investment could be adversely affected.

In addition, the increase could have an anti-takeover effect, in that additional shares could be issued (within the limits imposed by applicable law) in one or more transactions that could make a change in control or takeover of AMO more difficult. For example, additional shares could be issued by AMO to dilute the stock ownership or voting rights of persons seeking to obtain control of AMO. Similarly, the issuance of additional shares to certain persons allied with AMO's management could have the effect of making it more difficult to remove AMO's current management by diluting the stock ownership or voting rights of persons seeking to cause such removal. The proposed amendment to increase the authorized AMO common stock is not prompted by any specific effort or takeover threat currently perceived by AMO.

Proposal 3

General

The AMO board of directors has adopted the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, subject to the approval of the AMO stockholders. The AMO board of directors believes the proposed plan, pursuant to which 5,000,000 shares of AMO common stock will be reserved for issuance of awards, is essential to maintain AMO's balanced and competitive total compensation programs. AMO currently grants awards under its 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan, which is referred to as the 2002 Plan. As of November 30, 2004, 2,013,529 shares of AMO common stock remained available for future grants under the 2002 Plan and 5,788,548 shares of AMO common stock were subject to outstanding awards granted under the 2002 Plan. Immediately following the merger, AMO will be assuming the rights and obligations of VISX with respect to the VISX 2000 Stock Plan. The number of shares available for grant under the VISX 2000 Stock Plan to employees of VISX will be adjusted to reflect both the last reported sales price of AMO common stock on the day the merger is completed and the \$3.50 in cash paid to VISX stockholders in the merger. The proposed plan would enable AMO to continue to attract, retain and provide equity incentives to selected employees and other individuals to promote the financial success of AMO. In the event the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan becomes effective, no new awards will be granted under the 2002 Plan or the VISX 2000 Stock Plan. In the event the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan does not become effective, AMO will continue making awards under the 2002 Plan and, upon completion of the merger, the VISX 2000 Stock Plan, in accordance with the terms of such plans. If this proposal is not approved by AMO stockholders, the number of options that could be granted under the VISX 2000 Stock Plan is approximately 1,800,000 as of March 10, 2005.

Reflecting AMO's commitment to strong governance practices, including relating to compensation matters, the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan prohibits the repricing of stock options, the grant of discounted stock options or reload stock options, and loans to employees to finance a transaction under this plan. A reload stock option is one that entitles the optionee to the automatic grant of additional options in connection with an exercise of the original option.

In 1993, Section 162(m) was added to the Internal Revenue Code. Section 162(m) may limit AMO's ability to deduct for United States federal income tax purposes compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to each of its Chief Executive Officer and its four other highest paid executive officers in any one fiscal year. Grants of awards under the proposed plan would be subject to the \$1 million deduction limitation unless the proposed plan complies with the requirements for performance-based compensation. One of the requirements of performance-based compensation is that AMO stockholders approve the material terms of the proposed plan.

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The following is a summary of the principal features of the proposed plan. The summary is qualified by and subject to the actual provisions of the proposed plan attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex C.

Summary of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan

Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the proposed plan is to advance the interests of AMO and the AMO stockholders by affording AMO directors, employees and consultants an opportunity to acquire or increase a proprietary interest in AMO or to otherwise benefit from AMO's success through the grant of stock options, dividend equivalents, restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, stock payments, performance awards or other awards granted or sold under the proposed plan, collectively referred to as incentive awards. AMO thereby seeks to attract, retain and motivate those highly competent individuals upon whose judgment, initiative, leadership and continued efforts AMO's success in large measure depends.

All of AMO's regular employees, its independent directors, and certain consultants are eligible to receive incentive awards under the proposed plan if selected by the Organization, Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee, referred to as the committee, of the AMO board of directors. Currently, all of AMO's approximately 2,800 employees are eligible for selection, in addition to AMO's six independent directors. In addition, following the merger, approximately an additional 350 employees of VISX will also be eligible for selection. The target population for regular grants of awards is currently approximately 250 employees and will expand to approximately 340 with the addition of the VISX employees.

Administration, Amendment and Termination

The committee is responsible for administering the proposed plan and is composed of two or more persons appointed by the AMO board of directors. All committee members must be both non-employee as defined by Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and outside directors for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The committee has the authority to interpret the proposed plan, determine the terms and conditions of incentive awards and make all other determinations necessary and/or advisable for the administration of the proposed plan. The committee may, with the consent of a participant, amend the terms of any existing incentive award previously granted to the participant, in a manner consistent with the proposed plan. The committee may not, however, reduce the exercise price of an outstanding stock option without first obtaining approval from the AMO stockholders. The committee also has authority to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the proposed plan.

The AMO board of directors may alter, amend, suspend or terminate the proposed plan at any time. However, the AMO board of directors may not take any action to increase the maximum number of shares that may be sold or issued under the proposed plan or alter the class of eligible participants without the approval of the AMO stockholders.

Dividend Equivalents

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The committee may, in its discretion and at no additional cost, grant a holder of an incentive award denominated in shares of AMO common stock an amount payable in cash, common stock or a combination thereof that is equivalent to the amount of dividends paid to AMO stockholders who own an equal number of shares of AMO common stock.

Option Grants to Employees and Consultants

Stock options granted under the proposed plan may be incentive stock options, or ISOs, intended to qualify under the provisions of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code or nonqualified stock options which do not so

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qualify. The committee determines the exercise price of AMO common stock that is subject to an option at the date the option is granted. The exercise price of an option may be less than the fair market value on the date of grant of the common stock subject to the option; however, the exercise price for an ISO may not be less than the fair market value on the date of grant of the common stock subject to the ISO. Options may be exercised as determined by the committee provided that an ISO may not be exercised after ten years from the date of grant.

The proposed plan provides for automatic acceleration of vesting of options in the event of a change in control or an employee's termination due to death, total disability or job elimination. In the event employment terminates for cause, all options, vested and unvested, expire on the date of termination. In all other situations, options are exercisable upon termination only to the extent vested, unless otherwise determined by the committee.

Performance Awards

The committee may grant awards, payable in cash, common stock, restricted stock units, restricted stock or a combination thereof to employees and consultants, with the terms and conditions determined by the committee at the time of grant. The committee will determine the performance criteria to be utilized to calculate the value of the performance awards, the term of the performance awards, the event or events giving rise to the right to payment of a performance award, and the form (cash, common stock and/or restricted stock) and time of payment of performance awards.

The performance criteria may be any one of the following:

net income;

pre-tax income;

operating income;

cash flow;

earnings per share;

return on equity;

return on invested capital or assets;

cost reduction or savings;

funds from operations;

appreciation in the fair market value of AMO common stock;

earnings before any one or more of the following items: interest, taxes, depreciation or amortization; or

total stockholder return.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units

The committee may award restricted stock and restricted stock units to employees, consultants and independent directors. Shares of restricted stock and restricted stock units are nontransferable and subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture until specific conditions are met as set forth in the proposed plan and in any statement evidencing the grant. The committee determines the number of shares of restricted stock or restricted stock units awarded, the purchase price (if any), terms of payment of the purchase price, restrictions upon the restricted stock and restricted stock units and when the restrictions will lapse. Holders of restricted stock units have no rights of a stockholder until shares are issued upon vesting of the units.

Upon termination of a participant's employment, consultancy or directorship for death or total disability, restrictions on all restricted stock lapse, and all restricted stock units become vested and payable. In the event an employee is terminated for job elimination, restrictions lapse on a prorated number of shares or units. In all other cases, all shares of unvested restricted stock are forfeited and are repurchased by AMO if the participant paid any purchase price, and all unvested restricted stock units expire.

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Stock Appreciation Rights

The committee may approve the grant to employees or consultants of a stock appreciation right, or a right to receive a number of shares of AMO common stock or, in the discretion of the committee, an amount in cash or a combination of shares and cash, based on the increase in the fair market value of the shares subject to the right during a period as specified by the committee. They may be related or unrelated to stock options.

Stock Payments

The committee may approve payments in shares of AMO common stock to replace all or any portion of the compensation (other than base salary) that would otherwise become payable to any regular employee or consultant in cash.

Securities Subject to Plan

The aggregate number of shares of AMO common stock reserved for issuance under the proposed plan is 5,000,000. The maximum number of shares AMO common stock available for issuance pursuant to the exercise of ISOs is 5,000,000. Shares subject to the unexercised portion of any incentive award that expires, terminates or is canceled and shares issued pursuant to an incentive award that AMO reacquires will again become available for the grant of further incentive awards under the proposed plan.

The proposed plan provides that the maximum number of shares with respect to which incentive awards may be granted to any individual in any given calendar year is 500,000. The maximum dollar amount of performance awards paid in cash in the aggregate to any individual in any calendar year is \$500,000.

The maximum number of shares issuable under the proposed plan, the number and kind of shares or other securities subject to then outstanding incentive awards, and the price for each share or other unit of any other securities subject to then outstanding incentive awards, will be appropriately and proportionately adjusted to reflect mergers, consolidations, sales or exchanges of all or substantially all of AMO's properties, reorganizations, recapitalizations, reclassifications, stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, spin-offs or other distributions with respect to such shares of common stock (or any stock or securities received with respect to such common stock) or a reduction in the value of the outstanding shares of common stock by reason of an extraordinary cash dividend.

On March 21, 2005, the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours, as reported on the NYSE, was \$37.33 per share.

United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

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The following is a brief description of the United States federal income tax treatment which will generally apply to incentive awards made under the proposed plan, based on United States federal income tax laws currently in effect. The exact United States federal income tax treatment of an incentive award will depend on the specific nature of the incentive award. Such an incentive award may, depending on the conditions applicable to the incentive award, be taxable as an option, as restricted or unrestricted stock, as a cash payment, or otherwise. Employees that participate in the plan are advised to consult with their tax advisor for particular federal, as well as state and local, income and any other tax advice.

Incentive Stock Options. Pursuant to the proposed plan, employees may be granted options which are intended to qualify as ISOs under the provisions of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code. Generally, the optionee is not taxed and AMO is not entitled to a deduction on the grant or the exercise of an ISO. However, if the optionee sells the shares acquired upon the exercise of an ISO at any time within (a) one year after the date of transfer of ISO shares to the optionee pursuant to the exercise of the ISO or (b) two years after the date of grant of the ISO, then (1) the optionee will recognize capital gain equal to the excess, if any, of the sales price over the

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fair market value of the ISO shares on the date of exercise, (2) the optionee will recognize ordinary income equal to the excess, if any, of the lesser of the sales price or the fair market value of the ISO shares on the date of exercise, over the exercise price of the ISO, (3) the optionee will recognize capital loss equal to the excess, if any, of the exercise price of the ISO over the sales price of the ISO shares, and (4) AMO will generally be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount of ordinary income recognized by the optionee. If the optionee sells the ISO shares at any time after the optionee has held the ISO shares for at least (i) one year after the date of transfer of the ISO shares to the optionee pursuant to the exercise of the ISO and (ii) two years after the date of grant of the ISO, then the optionee will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the sales price and the exercise price of the ISO, and AMO will not be entitled to any deduction.

The amount by which the fair market value of the ISO shares received upon exercise of an ISO exceeds the exercise price will be included as a positive adjustment in the calculation of an optionee's alternative minimum taxable income, or AMTI in the year of exercise. The alternative minimum tax imposed on individual taxpayers is generally equal to the amount by which 28% (26% of AMTI below certain amounts) of the individual's AMTI (reduced by certain exemption amounts) exceeds his or her regular income tax liability for the year.

Nonqualified Options. The grant of an option or other similar right to acquire stock which does not qualify for treatment as an ISO is generally not a taxable event for the optionee. Upon exercise of the option, the optionee will generally recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the stock acquired upon exercise (determined as of the date of the exercise) over the exercise price of the option, and AMO will be entitled to a tax deduction equal to that amount.

Restricted Stock. Incentive awards under the proposed plan may also include the grant or sale of restricted stock. Unless the recipient makes an election within 30 days after the receipt of the restricted stock, the recipient generally will not be taxed on the receipt of restricted stock until the restrictions on the stock expire or are removed. When the restrictions expire or are removed, the recipient will recognize ordinary income (and AMO will be entitled to a deduction) in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the stock at that time over the purchase price (if any). However, if the recipient makes an election within 30 days of the receipt of restricted stock, he or she will recognize ordinary income (and AMO will be entitled to a deduction) equal to the excess of the fair market value of the stock on the date of receipt (determined without regard to vesting restrictions) over the purchase price (if any).

Restricted Stock Units. Recipients of restricted stock units generally do not recognize income upon the grant of such units. The recipient will recognize ordinary income (and AMO will be entitled to a deduction) in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the stock at the time or times the restricted stock units vest and become payable over the purchase price (if any).

Stock Appreciation Rights. Recipients of stock appreciation rights, or SARs, generally do not recognize income upon the grant of the rights. When a participant elects to receive payment of a SAR, the participant recognizes ordinary income in an amount equal to the cash and fair market value of shares of common stock received, and AMO is entitled to a deduction equal to that amount.

Performance Awards, Dividends, and Dividend Equivalents. A payment made under a performance award (e.g., stock and cash bonuses), dividends and dividend equivalent payments are taxable as ordinary income when actually or constructively received by the recipient. As to any performance award paid in common stock, the amount taxable as ordinary income is the aggregate fair market value of the common stock determined as of the date received. AMO is entitled to deduct the amount of a performance award, dividends, and dividend equivalent payments when these amounts are taxable as compensation to the recipient.

Miscellaneous Tax Issues. Incentive awards may be granted under the plan which do not fall clearly into the categories described above. The United States federal income tax treatment of these incentive awards will depend upon the specific terms of the awards. Generally, AMO will be

required to make arrangements for withholding

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applicable taxes with respect to any ordinary income recognized by a participant in connection with incentive awards made under the proposed plan. In addition, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 may change the tax treatment of incentive awards granted under the plan to the extent the incentive awards are subject to Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

Special rules will apply in cases where a recipient of an incentive award pays the exercise or purchase price of the incentive award or applicable withholding tax obligations under the proposed plan by delivering previously owned shares of common stock or by reducing the amount of shares otherwise issuable pursuant to the incentive award. The surrender or withholding of such shares will in certain circumstances result in the recognition of income with respect to such shares or a carryover basis in the shares acquired.

The proposed plan generally provides for accelerated vesting or payment of incentive awards in connection with a change in ownership or control. In that event and depending upon the individual circumstances of the recipient, certain amounts with respect to these awards may constitute excess parachute payments under the golden parachute provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Pursuant to these provisions, a recipient will be subject to a 20% excise tax on any excess parachute payment and AMO will be denied any deduction with respect to the payment. Recipients of incentive awards are advised to consult their tax advisors as to whether accelerated vesting of an incentive award in connection with a change of ownership or control would give rise to an excess parachute payment.

AMO generally obtains a deduction equal to the ordinary income recognized by the recipient of an incentive award. AMO's deduction for these amounts (including amounts attributable to the ordinary income recognized with respect to options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, SARs, and performance awards) may be limited under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code to \$1 million (per person) annually if this plan is not approved by AMO stockholders. The \$1 million annual limit generally only applies to nonperformance-based compensation paid to AMO's Chief Executive Officer and its other four most highly compensated officers.

New Plan Benefits

At this time AMO cannot determine the amount of incentive awards under the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, if approved, that will be granted in the future to specific officers, officers as a group, or non-officer employees as a group. Grants under the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan will be made at the discretion of the committee and, accordingly, are not yet determinable. In addition, benefits under the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan will depend on a number of factors, including the fair market value of AMO common stock on future dates and the exercise decisions made by participants. Consequently, it is not possible to determine the benefits that might be received by participants of incentive awards that will be made thereunder during 2004 or the incentive awards that would have been made thereunder during 2003 had the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan been in effect.

Recent Accounting Development

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123 (revised), Share-Based Payment. This standard requires expensing of stock options and other share-based payments and supercedes the FASB's earlier rule (the original SFAS 123) that had allowed companies to choose between expensing stock options or showing pro forma disclosure only. AMO will be required to implement the new pronouncement and begin recording share-based expense at the beginning of the third quarter of fiscal 2005.

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The AMO board of directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR the approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan.

Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of

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AMO common stock in the merger, the 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan will not be implemented and the 2002 Plan will remain in effect.

Proposal 4

General

In June 2002, the AMO board of directors adopted, and AMO's then sole stockholder subsequently approved, the AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, which, as amended and restated, is referred to as the ESPP. The aggregate number of shares initially reserved under the ESPP (together with shares reserved under the 2002 AMO International Stock Purchase Plan, which is referred to as the International ESPP, in the aggregate) was equal to the lesser of (i) 290,000 shares of common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of June 29, 2002, and increased once per year beginning October 1, 2003 by the lesser of (x) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (y) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter, such aggregate number reduced by the purchase rights granted under the International ESPP.

As of March 10, 2005, an aggregate of 401,061 shares of AMO common stock had been issued under the ESPP and International ESPP and 466,174 shares of AMO common stock remained available for future issuance before the next scheduled annual increase.

On November 18, 2004, the AMO board of directors approved amendments to the ESPP that, subject to the approval of AMO stockholders, would:

increase the number of shares available for issuance under the ESPP;

extend the term of the ESPP; and

reflect other administrative ESPP changes.

Reasons for the Amendments: Merger Commitments Will Prematurely Deplete Available Reserves.

AMO stockholders are being asked to approve an increase in ESPP and International ESPP shares on each November 1 beginning November 1, 2005, and ending (and including), November 1, 2014, by the lesser of (i) 400,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter in lieu of the increase on each October 1 beginning October 1, 2005, by the lesser of (i) 290,000 shares of common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter. The AMO board of directors believes this increase in the number of shares available for issuance under the ESPP is necessary to accommodate the enrollment of VISX employees who will be entitled to participate in the ESPP and International ESPP within thirty days following completion of the merger. In the event the AMO stockholders do not approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, the ESPP and the International

ESPP will continue in accordance with their terms without giving effect to the amendments.

The following is a summary of the principal features of the ESPP, as amended and restated. The summary is qualified by and subject to the actual provisions of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, a copy of which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D.

Summary of the ESPP

Purpose and Eligibility

The purposes of the ESPP are (i) to assist eligible employees of AMO and certain of its subsidiary corporations in acquiring ownership of shares of AMO common stock pursuant to a plan which is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan, within the meaning of Section 423(b) of the Internal Revenue

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Code and (ii) to help these employees provide for their future security and to encourage them to remain in AMO's employment.

Employees are eligible to participate if they are employed by AMO or any designated subsidiary; provided, however, an employee may not be granted the right to purchase stock under the ESPP if the employee (i) immediately after the grant would own stock possessing 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of AMO's capital stock, or (ii) holds rights to purchase stock under any of AMO's employee stock purchase plans that together accrue at a rate which exceeds \$25,000 worth of stock for each calendar year. As of the AMO record date, a total of _____ employees have elected to participate in the ESPP.

Administration

The committee administers the ESPP and is composed of two or more persons appointed by the AMO board of directors. All committee members must be non-employee directors as defined by Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act. The committee has the power to interpret the ESPP and the terms of the purchase rights granted under the ESPP and to adopt rules for the administration, interpretation, and application of the ESPP as are consistent with the ESPP and to interpret, amend or revoke those rules.

Duration, Amendment and Termination

The AMO board of directors may alter, amend, suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time. However, the AMO board of directors may not take any action to increase the maximum number of shares that may be sold or issued under the plan or alter the class of eligible participants without the approval of the AMO stockholders and may not take any action to abbreviate the offering period then in effect, unless such action is in connection with a change in control or required in order for the ESPP to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan within the meaning of Section 423(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Unless earlier terminated by the AMO board of directors, the ESPP currently expires in June 2012. AMO stockholders are being asked to approve an amendment to the ESPP to extend the term until after the scheduled purchase under the ESPP occurs on October 31, 2015.

Offering Periods

The ESPP initially contained offering periods that commenced October 1 and April 1 of each year, and ended on March 31 and September 30, respectively. On August 15, 2004, the AMO board of directors amended the ESPP to provide that the offering period commencing on October 1, 2004, would end on April 30, 2005, and thereafter offering periods would commence on May 1 and November 1 of each year and end on April 30 and October 31, respectively.

Participation in the ESPP

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The ESPP permits eligible employees to contribute up to 10% of the employee's compensation through automatic payroll deductions. The maximum number of shares an employee may purchase during a single offering period is 10,000.

Purchase Price; Payment of Purchase Price

The price of AMO common stock offered under the ESPP is an amount equal to 85% of the lower of the fair market value of AMO common stock at the beginning or at the end of each offering period. The purchase price of the shares is accumulated by payroll deductions over the offering period.

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Withdrawal; Termination of Employment

Employees may end their participation in the ESPP at any time during an offering period. In that event, any amounts withheld through payroll deductions and not otherwise used to purchase shares will be returned to them. Participation ends automatically upon termination of employment with AMO.

Change in Control

In the event of a change in control of AMO, the committee will provide that all outstanding purchase rights under the plan will (i) continue, (ii) be assumed by the successor or survivor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary thereof, or (iii) be substituted for by similar purchase rights covering the stock of the successor or survivor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary thereof, with appropriate adjustments as to the number and kind of shares and prices. In the event that all outstanding purchase rights do not continue or are not assumed or substituted for, the committee will provide that all outstanding purchase rights will be exercised immediately prior to the change in control and the purchase rights will terminate immediately after they are exercised.

Securities Subject to Plan

Currently, a maximum of 2,900,000 shares of AMO common stock are authorized under the ESPP (together with the International ESPP). AMO stockholders are being asked to approve an increase in the number of shares subject to the ESPP on each November 1 beginning November 1, 2005, and ending (and including), November 1, 2014, by the lesser of (i) 400,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter in lieu of the increase on each October 1 beginning October 1, 2005, by the lesser of (i) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter. If the proposal is approved by the AMO stockholders, a maximum of 4,867,235 shares of AMO common stock would be authorized under the ESPP (together with the International ESPP) through October 2015.

The maximum number of shares issuable under the ESPP, the number of shares or other securities subject to then outstanding purchase rights, and the price for each share or other securities subject to then outstanding purchase rights, will be appropriately and proportionately adjusted to reflect mergers, consolidations, sales or exchanges of all or substantially all of AMO's properties, reorganizations, recapitalizations, reclassifications, stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, spin-offs or other distributions with respect to such shares of common stock (or any stock or securities received with respect to such common stock) or a reduction in the value of the outstanding shares of common stock by reason of an extraordinary cash dividend.

On March 21, 2005, the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours, as reported on the NYSE, was \$37.33 per share.

United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

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The following is a brief description of the United States federal income tax treatment which will generally apply to shares of AMO common stock acquired under the ESPP, based on United States federal income tax laws currently in effect. Employees that participate in the ESPP are advised to consult with their tax advisor for particular United States federal, as well as state and local, income and any other tax advice.

Under the ESPP, no income will be taxable to a participant until the shares purchased under the ESPP are sold or otherwise disposed of. Upon sale or other disposition of the shares, the participant will generally be subject to tax and the amount of the tax will depend upon the holding period. If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of more than two (2) years from the first day of the offering period and more than one (1) year from the date of transfer of the stock to the participant, then the participant will recognize ordinary income measured as the lesser of (i) the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time of the sale or disposition over the purchase price, or (ii) an amount equal to 15% of the fair market value of the shares as of the first day of the

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offering period. Any additional gain will be treated as long-term capital gain. If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before the expiration of both of these holding periods, the participant will recognize ordinary income generally measured as the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date the shares are purchased over the purchase price. Any additional gain or loss on the sale or disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. AMO is not entitled to a deduction for amounts taxed as ordinary income or capital gain to a participant except to the extent ordinary income is recognized by participants upon a sale or disposition of shares prior to the expiration of the holding period(s) described above.

The ESPP is intended to comply with Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code. The International ESPP is not intended to comply with Section 423 of the Code, but includes provisions to provide tax advantages to employees in the foreign jurisdictions where the International ESPP is offered. By complying with foreign rules, AMO did not want to risk disqualification of the ESPP under the Code, and therefore segregated the two plans to protect the United States benefit.

New Plan Benefits

At this time AMO cannot determine the amount of benefits under the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, if approved, that will be granted in the future, or that would have been made thereunder during 2003 had the ESPP been in effect, to specific officers, officers as a group, or non-officer employees as a group.

Recent Accounting Development

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123 (revised), Share-Based Payment. This standard requires expensing of stock options and other share-based payments and supercedes the FASB s earlier rule (the original SFAS 123) that had allowed companies to choose between expensing stock options or showing pro forma disclosure only. AMO will be required to implement the new pronouncement and begin recording share-based expense at the beginning of the third quarter of fiscal 2005.

The AMO board of directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR the approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan will not be implemented and the AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan will remain as currently in effect.

Proposal 5

General

In June 2002, the AMO board of directors adopted, and AMO's then sole stockholder subsequently approved, the AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, which, as amended and restated, is referred to as the International ESPP. The aggregate number of shares initially reserved under the International ESPP (together with shares reserved under the ESPP, in the aggregate) was equal to the lesser of (i) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the June 29, 2002, and increased once per year beginning October 1, 2003 by the lesser of (x) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (y) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter, such aggregate number reduced by the purchase rights granted under the ESPP.

As of March 10, 2005, an aggregate of 401,061 shares of AMO common stock had been issued under the International ESPP and ESPP and 466,174 shares of AMO common stock remained available for future issuance before the next scheduled annual increase.

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On November 18, 2004, the AMO board of directors approved amendments to the International ESPP that, subject to the approval of the AMO stockholders, would:

increase the number of shares available for issuance under the International ESPP,

extend the term of the International ESPP, and

reflect other administrative International ESPP changes.

Reasons for the Amendments: Merger Commitments Will Prematurely Deplete Available Reserves.

AMO stockholders are being asked to approve an increase in International ESPP and ESPP shares on each November 1 beginning November 1, 2005, and ending (and including), November 1, 2014, by the lesser of (i) 400,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter in lieu of the increase on each October 1 beginning October 1, 2005, by the lesser (i) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter. The AMO board of directors believes this increase in the number of shares available for issuance under the International ESPP is necessary to accommodate the enrollment of VISX employees who will be entitled to participate in the International ESPP within thirty days following completion of the merger. In the event the AMO stockholders do not approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, the ESPP and the International ESPP will continue in accordance with their terms without giving effect to the amendments.

The following is a summary of the principal features of the International ESPP, as amended and restated. The summary is qualified by and subject to the actual provisions of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, a copy of which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex E.

Summary of the International Stock Purchase Plan

Purpose and Eligibility

The purposes of the International ESPP are (i) to assist eligible employees of certain of AMO's subsidiary corporations outside of the United States in acquiring ownership of shares of AMO common stock and (ii) to help these employees provide for their future security and to encourage them to remain in AMO's employment.

Employees are eligible to participate if they are employed by any designated subsidiary; provided, however, an employee may not be granted the right to purchase stock under the International ESPP if the employee (i) immediately after the grant would own stock possessing 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of AMO's capital stock, or (ii) holds rights to purchase stock under any of AMO's employee stock purchase plans that together accrue at a rate which exceeds \$25,000 worth of stock for each calendar year. As of the AMO

record date, a total of employees have elected to participate in the International ESPP.

Administration

The committee administers the International ESPP and is composed of two or more persons appointed by the AMO board of directors. All committee members must be non-employee directors as defined by Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act. The committee has the power to interpret the International ESPP and the terms of the purchase rights granted under the International ESPP and to adopt rules for the administration, interpretation, and application of the International ESPP as are consistent with the International ESPP and to interpret, amend or revoke those rules.

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Duration, Amendment and Termination

The AMO board of directors may alter, amend, suspend or terminate the International ESPP at any time. However, the AMO board of directors may not take any action to increase the maximum number of shares that may be sold or issued under the plan or alter the class of eligible participants without the approval of the AMO stockholders and may not take any action to abbreviate the offering period then in effect, unless such action is in connection with a change in control or the offering period under the ESPP is abbreviated in order for the ESPP to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan within the meaning of Section 423(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Unless earlier terminated by the AMO board of directors, the International ESPP currently expires in June 2012. AMO stockholders are being asked to approve an amendment to the International ESPP to extend the term until after the scheduled purchase under the International ESPP occurs on October 31, 2015.

Offering Periods

The International ESPP initially contained offering periods that commenced October 1 and April 1 of each year, and ended on March 31 and September 30, respectively. On August 15, 2004, the AMO board of directors amended the International ESPP to provide that the offering period commencing on October 1, 2004, would end on April 30, 2005, and thereafter offering periods would commence on May 1 and November 1 of each year and end on April 30 and October 31, respectively.

Participation in the International ESPP

The International ESPP permits eligible employees to contribute up to 10% of the employee's compensation through automatic payroll deductions. The maximum number of shares an employee may purchase during a single offering period is 10,000.

Purchase Price; Payment of Purchase Price

The price of AMO common stock offered under the International ESPP is an amount equal to 85% of the lower of the fair market value of AMO common stock at the beginning or at the end of each offering period. The purchase price of the shares is accumulated by payroll deductions over the offering period.

Withdrawal; Termination of Employment

Employees may end their participation in the International ESPP at any time during an offering period. In that event, any amounts withheld through payroll deductions and not otherwise used to purchase shares will be returned to them. Participation ends automatically upon termination of employment with AMO.

Change in Control

In the event of a change in control of AMO, the committee will provide that all outstanding purchase rights under the plan will (i) continue, (ii) be assumed by the successor or survivor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary thereof, or (iii) be substituted for by similar purchase rights covering the stock of the successor or survivor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary thereof, with appropriate adjustments as to the number and kind of shares and prices. In the event that all outstanding purchase rights do not continue or are not assumed or substituted for, the committee will provide that all outstanding purchase rights will be exercised immediately prior to the change in control and the purchase rights will terminate immediately after they are exercised.

Securities Subject to Plan

The International ESPP and ESPP share the same share reserve. Currently, a maximum of 2,900,000 shares of AMO common stock are authorized under the International ESPP (together with the ESPP). AMO

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stockholders are being asked to approve an increase in the number of shares subject to the International ESPP on each November 1 beginning November 1, 2005, and ending (and including), November 1, 2014, by the lesser of (i) 400,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter in lieu of the increase on each October 1 beginning October 1, 2005, by the lesser of (i) 290,000 shares of AMO common stock, or (ii) one percent of the shares of AMO common stock outstanding as of the last day of the second quarter of the then current year as reported on AMO's Form 10-Q for such quarter. If the proposal is approved by the AMO stockholders, a maximum of 4,867,235 shares of AMO common stock would be authorized under the International ESPP (together with the ESPP) through October 2015.

The maximum number of shares issuable under the International ESPP, the number of shares or other securities subject to then outstanding purchase rights, and the price for each share or other securities subject to then outstanding purchase rights, will be appropriately and proportionately adjusted to reflect mergers, consolidations, sales or exchanges of all or substantially all of AMO's properties, reorganizations, recapitalizations, reclassifications, stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, spin-offs or other distributions with respect to such shares of AMO common stock (or any stock or securities received with respect to such common stock) or a reduction in the value of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock by reason of an extraordinary cash dividend.

On March 21, the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours, as reported on the NYSE, was \$37.33 per share.

New Plan Benefits

At this time AMO cannot determine the amount of benefits under the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, if approved, that will be granted in the future, or that would have been made thereunder during 2003 had the International ESPP been in effect, to specific officers, officers as a group, or non-officer employees as a group.

Recent Accounting Development

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 123 (revised), Share-Based Payment. This standard requires expensing of stock options and other share-based payments and supercedes the FASB's earlier rule (the original SFAS 123) that had allowed companies to choose between expensing stock options or showing pro forma disclosure only. AMO will be required to implement the new pronouncement and begin recording share-based expense at the beginning of the third quarter of fiscal 2005.

The AMO board of directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR the approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan.

Approval of this proposal is not a condition to the effectiveness of the merger. If AMO stockholders approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan but do not approve the proposal to issue shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan will not be implemented and the AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan will remain as currently in effect.

Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Stockholders

All of AMO's equity compensation plans were approved by Allergan, Inc., as AMO's sole stockholder, prior to AMO's spin-off from Allergan, and AMO stockholders also approved the 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan at the AMO 2003 annual stockholders meeting, and approved its amendment at the AMO 2004 annual stockholders meeting.

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The following table sets forth, for each of AMO's equity compensation plans, the number of outstanding option grants and the number of shares remaining available for issuance as of the end of fiscal 2004.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

Category of Plan	Number of Securities	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options	Number of Securities Remaining Available
	to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options (1)		for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (2)
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Security Holders	5,734,466	\$ 15.642	2,645,072
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Security Holders			
Total	5,734,466	\$ 15.642	2,645,072

- (1) Includes 1,718,222 options which remain outstanding under the AMO 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan, and which were issued upon conversion of Allergan stock options as a consequence of AMO's spin-off. Does not include an aggregate of 19,880 shares of restricted stock issued under such Plan.
- (2) Includes 466,174 shares currently authorized for issuance, in the aggregate, under our 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan. These plans contain evergreen features which provide that each year on October 1 (though October 1, 2011), the number of authorized shares (for both plans, on an aggregate basis) increases by the lesser of 290,000 shares or 1% of our shares of common stock outstanding. Also includes 149,196 shares authorized for issuance under our Irish Savings Related Share Option Scheme and 150,000 shares authorized for issuance under our AMO (Ireland) Share Participation Scheme. All of such shares have been registered with the SEC. Does not include an aggregate of 19,880 shares of restricted stock issued under the 2002 Incentive Compensation Plan.

Record Date; Outstanding Shares; Voting Rights

Only holders of record of AMO common stock at the close of business on the AMO record date, _____, 2005, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the AMO special meeting. As of the AMO record date, there were _____ shares of AMO common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting, held by approximately _____ holders of record. Each holder of AMO common stock on the AMO record date is entitled to one vote for each share of AMO common stock owned as of the AMO record date.

A list of AMO stockholders will be available for review at the AMO special meeting and at the executive offices of AMO during regular business hours for a period of ten days before the AMO special meeting.

Admission to the Special Meeting

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Only AMO stockholders, their designated proxies and guests of AMO may attend the AMO special meeting. If you plan to attend the AMO special meeting and wish to vote in person, you will be given a ballot at the special meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held in street name, which means your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee, and you wish to vote at the AMO special meeting, you must bring to the special meeting a proxy from the record holder of the shares authorizing you to vote at the AMO special meeting.

Quorum and Vote Required

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid special meeting of AMO stockholders. The required quorum for the transaction of business at the AMO special meeting is a majority of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote and present, whether in person or by proxy, at the AMO special meeting.

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All shares of AMO common stock represented at the AMO special meeting, including abstentions and broker non-votes, will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Broker non-votes are shares held by a broker or other nominee that are represented at the meeting, but with respect to which the broker or nominee is not instructed by the beneficial owner of the shares to vote on the particular proposal and the broker does not have discretionary voting power on the proposal.

Proposal 1

In accordance with NYSE listing requirements, the approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Votes for, votes against and abstentions count as votes cast, while broker non-votes do not count as votes cast. All outstanding shares of AMO common stock, including broker non-votes, count as shares entitled to vote. Thus the total sum of votes for, plus votes against, plus abstentions, which is referred to as the NYSE votes cast, must be greater than 50% of the total outstanding shares of AMO common stock. Once this requirement is satisfied, the number of votes for the proposal must be greater than 50% of NYSE votes cast. Brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary voting authority on this proposal and thus broker non-votes will result from this proposal. Broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of NYSE votes cast. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

Proposal 2

In accordance with the requirements of the DGCL, approval of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of outstanding AMO common stock and entitled to vote on the proposal. For this proposal, an abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. It is expected that brokers and other nominees will have discretionary voting authority on this proposal and thus broker non-votes will not result from this proposal.

Proposal 3

In accordance with NYSE listing requirements, the approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Votes for, votes against and abstentions count as votes cast, while broker non-votes do not count as votes cast. All outstanding shares of AMO common stock, including broker non-votes, count as shares entitled to vote. Thus the total NYSE votes cast must be greater than 50% of the total outstanding shares of AMO common stock. Once this requirement is satisfied, the number of votes for the proposal must be greater than 50% of NYSE votes cast. It is expected that brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary voting authority on this proposal and thus broker non-votes will result from this proposal. Broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of NYSE votes cast. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

Proposal 4

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The approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Votes for, votes against and abstentions count as votes cast, while broker non-votes do not count as votes cast. All outstanding shares of AMO common stock, including broker non-votes, count as shares entitled to vote. Thus the total sum of votes for, plus votes against, plus

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abstentions, which is referred to as the votes cast, must be greater than 50% of the total outstanding shares of AMO common stock. Once this requirement is satisfied, the number of votes for the proposal must be greater than 50% of votes cast. It is expected that brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary voting authority on this proposal and thus broker non-votes will result from this proposal. Broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of votes cast. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

Proposal 5

In order to approve the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan, AMO is seeking the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of shares of AMO common stock cast on such proposal, in person or by proxy, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Votes for, votes against and abstentions count as votes cast, while broker non-votes do not count as votes cast. All outstanding shares of AMO common stock, including broker non-votes, count as shares entitled to vote. Thus the total votes cast must be greater than 50% of the total outstanding shares of AMO common stock. Once this requirement is satisfied, the number of votes for the proposal must be greater than 50% of votes cast. It is expected that brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary voting authority on this proposal and thus broker non-votes will result from this proposal. Broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of votes cast. An abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

Voting by AMO Directors and Executive Officers

As of the AMO record date, the directors and executive officers of AMO as a group beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately shares of AMO common stock, or approximately % of the AMO common stock on that date.

Voting; Proxies, Revocation

General

AMO stockholders of record as of the AMO record date (including participants in the AMO Company Stock Fund of the AMO 401(k) Plan) may vote their shares by attending the AMO special meeting and voting their shares in person, by completing, signing and dating their proxy cards and mailing them in the enclosed pre-addressed envelopes, or by using the 24-hour a day telephone or Internet voting options. AMO stockholders holding shares of AMO common stock in street name, which means that their shares are held of record by a broker or nominee, may vote by mail by completing, signing and dating the voting instruction forms for the AMO special meeting provided by their brokers or nominees and returning their voting instruction forms to the record holders of their shares. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, AMO recommends that you submit a proxy prior to the vote at the special meeting. You can always change your vote as described below.

Voting by Proxy

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All properly signed proxies that are received prior to the AMO special meeting and that are not revoked will be voted at the special meeting according to the instructions indicated on the proxies. If you do not specify how you wish AMO to vote your shares, your shares will be voted

FOR approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, FOR approval of the amendment to AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of AMO common stock, FOR approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, FOR approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and FOR approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan. Proxy holders will also vote shares according to their discretion on any other matter properly brought before the meeting.

You may receive more than one proxy card depending on how you hold your shares. Generally, you need to either call the toll free number, vote by accessing the Internet, or sign and return all of your proxy cards to vote

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all of your shares. For example, if you hold shares through someone else, such as a stockbroker, you may get proxy material from that person. Shares registered in your name and shares held in the AMO 401(k) Plan are covered by a separate proxy card. If a proxy card representing shares in the AMO 401(k) Plan is not voted, those shares will be voted by the trustee of the plan in accordance with the direction of AMO's corporate benefits committee.

As of March 10, 2005, there were approximately 547,000 shares of AMO common stock held by employees of AMO through the AMO 401(k) Plan. Each share of AMO common stock held by this plan will be voted by the trustee of the plan in accordance with the instructions it receives from the respective plan participant. Shares of AMO common stock for which the trustee has not received instructions from the respective plan participant, or for which the plan participant has revoked his or her proxy before the special meeting, will be considered unvoted. All unvoted shares of common stock in the plan will be voted at the AMO special meeting by the trustee as instructed by AMO's corporate benefits committee.

Changing Your Vote

AMO stockholders may change their votes at any time prior to the vote at the AMO special meeting. AMO stockholders of record may change their votes by granting new proxies bearing a later date (which automatically revoke the earlier proxies) or by attending the AMO special meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the AMO special meeting in and of itself will not cause previously granted proxies to be revoked. AMO stockholders may also revoke their proxies by notifying the Secretary of AMO in writing at any time prior to the vote at the special meeting. Written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to revocation of AMO proxies should be addressed to:

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

1700 East St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Attn: Secretary

AMO stockholders who hold their AMO shares in street name may change their votes by submitting new voting instructions to the record holders of their shares or by attending the AMO special meeting and voting in person, provided that they have obtained a signed legal proxy from the record holders of their shares giving them the right to vote their shares at the AMO special meeting. AMO stockholders who hold their shares in street name should contact the record holders of their shares for information about obtaining legal proxies for the AMO special meeting.

Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes

For Proposal 1, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger and broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of NYSE votes cast.

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For Proposal 2, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against approval of the amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation to increase the authorized number of shares of AMO common stock.

For Proposal 3, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against approval of the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan and broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of NYSE votes cast.

For Proposal 4, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of votes cast.

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For Proposal 5, abstentions will have the same effect as voting against approval of the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan and broker non-votes could have a negative effect on AMO's ability to obtain the necessary number of votes cast.

Under the listing requirements of the NYSE, brokers who hold shares of AMO common stock in street name for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on routine proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, brokers are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters which the NYSE determines to be non-routine, such as approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. These non-voted shares are referred to as broker non-votes. If your broker holds your AMO common stock in street name, your broker will vote your shares only if you provide instructions on how to vote by filling out the voter instruction form sent to you by your broker with this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Proxy Solicitation

AMO is soliciting proxies for the AMO special meeting from AMO stockholders. AMO will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from AMO stockholders, except that AMO and VISX have each agreed to share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing with the SEC of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, and the printing and mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and related proxy materials. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, AMO will request that brokers, banks and other nominees send proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of AMO common stock held by them and secure their voting instructions, if necessary. AMO will reimburse those record holders for their reasonable expenses. AMO has also made arrangements with MacKenzie Partners, Inc. to assist it in soliciting proxies, and has agreed to pay a fee of approximately \$9,500 plus expenses for those services. AMO also may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from AMO stockholders, either personally or by telephone, Internet, telegram, facsimile or special delivery letter.

Please do not send in any AMO stock certificates with your proxy cards or voting instruction forms.

Postponements and Adjournments

Postponements and adjournments may be made for the purpose of, among other things, soliciting additional proxies. An adjournment may be made from time to time by approval of the holders of shares representing a majority of the votes present in person or by proxy at the special meeting, whether or not a quorum exists, without further notice other than by an announcement made at the special meeting. AMO does not currently intend to seek an adjournment of the AMO special meeting.

Assistance

If you need assistance in completing your proxy card or have questions regarding the AMO special meeting, please contact AMO Investor Relations at (714) 247-8200 or write to Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., 1700 East St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705, Attn: Investor Relations, or contact MacKenzie Partners, Inc. toll-free at (800) 322-2885, or collect for banks and brokers at (212) 929-5500.

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THE VISX SPECIAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place

The special meeting of VISX stockholders will be held on _____, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. local time at VISX's principal executive offices located at 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95051.

Purpose; Other Matters

At the VISX special meeting, the VISX stockholders will be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. VISX stockholders will also be asked to consider and vote upon such other business as may properly come before the special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting. VISX is not aware of any business to be acted upon at the VISX special meeting other than the proposals set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. If, however, other matters incident to the conduct of the special meeting are properly brought before the VISX special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the special meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote in accordance with their best judgment with respect to those matters. If you vote AGAINST the proposal, the proxies are not authorized to vote for any adjournments, postponements, continuations or reschedulings of the meeting, including for the purpose of soliciting additional proxies, unless you so indicate by marking the appropriate box on the proxy card.

Recommendation of the VISX Board of Directors

After careful consideration, the VISX board of directors, having unanimously determined that the merger is advisable, fair to and in the best interests of VISX and its stockholders, unanimously approved the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement. Accordingly, the VISX board of directors unanimously recommends that VISX's stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

Record Date; Outstanding Shares; Voting Rights

Holders of record of VISX common stock at the close of business on the VISX record date, _____, 2005, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the VISX special meeting. As of the VISX record date, there were _____ shares of VISX common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the special meeting, held by approximately _____ holders of record. Each holder of VISX common stock on the VISX record date is entitled to one vote for each share of VISX common stock owned as of the VISX record date on the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

A list of VISX stockholders will be available for review at the VISX special meeting and at the executive offices of VISX during regular business hours for a period of ten days before the VISX special meeting.

Admission to the Special Meeting

Only VISX stockholders, including joint holders, as of the close of business on the VISX record date and other persons holding valid proxies for the special meeting will be entitled to attend the special meeting. All stockholders and their proxies should be prepared to present photo identification. In addition, record holders' names are subject to verification against the list of record holders on the record date prior to being admitted to the special meeting. VISX stockholders who are not record holders but hold shares through a broker or nominee (*i.e.*, in street name) should be prepared to provide proof of beneficial ownership on the record date, such as a recent account statement prior to the VISX record date, or similar evidence of ownership. Persons who do not provide photo identification or comply with the other procedures outlined above upon request may not be admitted to the special meeting. If you plan to attend the VISX special meeting and wish to vote in person, you will be given a ballot at the special meeting.

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Quorum and Vote Required

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting of VISX stockholders. A majority of the shares of VISX common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the VISX special meeting for a quorum to be established.

Approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of VISX common stock outstanding on the VISX record date.

Voting by VISX Directors and Executive Officers

As of the VISX record date for the VISX special meeting, the directors and executive officers of VISX and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately _____ shares of VISX common stock, which represents approximately _____ % of the shares of VISX common stock outstanding on that date.

Voting; Proxies, Revocation

General

VISX stockholders of record may vote their shares by attending the VISX special meeting and voting their shares in person, by completing, signing and dating their proxy cards and mailing them in the enclosed pre-addressed envelopes, or by using the 24-hour a day telephone or Internet voting options. VISX stockholders holding shares of VISX common stock in street name, which means that their shares are held of record by a broker or nominee, may vote by mail by completing, signing and dating the voting instruction forms for the VISX special meeting provided by their brokers or nominees and returning their voting instruction forms to the record holders of their shares. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, VISX recommends that you submit a proxy prior to the meeting. You can always change your vote as described below.

Voting by Proxy

All properly signed proxies that are received prior to the VISX special meeting and that are not revoked will be voted at the special meeting according to the instructions indicated on the proxies. If VISX stockholders of record do not include instructions on how to vote their properly signed proxy cards for the VISX special meeting, their shares will be voted FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

You may receive more than one proxy card depending on how you hold your shares. Generally, you need to either call the toll free number, vote by accessing the Internet, or sign and return all of your proxy cards to vote all of your shares. For example, if you hold shares through someone

else, such as a stockbroker, you may get proxy material from that person.

Changing Your Vote

VISX stockholders may change their votes at any time prior to the vote at the VISX special meeting. VISX stockholders of record may change their votes by granting new proxies bearing a later date (which automatically revoke the earlier proxies) or by attending the VISX special meeting and voting in person. Attendance at the VISX special meeting in and of itself, will not cause previously granted proxies to be revoked, unless VISX stockholders so request. VISX stockholders may also revoke their proxies by notifying the Secretary of VISX in writing. Written notices of revocation and other communications with respect to revocation of VISX proxies should be addressed to:

VISX, Incorporated

3400 Central Expressway

Santa Clara, California 95051

Attn: Secretary

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VISX stockholders who hold their VISX shares in street name may change their votes by submitting new voting instructions to the record holders of their shares or by attending the VISX special meeting and voting in person, provided that they have obtained a signed legal proxy from the record holders of their shares giving them the right to vote their shares at the VISX special meeting. VISX stockholders who hold their shares in street name should contact the record holders of their shares for information about obtaining legal proxies for the VISX special meeting.

Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present at the VISX special meeting. Under the listing requirements of the NYSE, brokers who hold shares of VISX common stock in street name for a beneficial owner of those shares typically have the authority to vote in their discretion on routine proposals when they have not received instructions from beneficial owners. However, brokers are not allowed to exercise their voting discretion with respect to the approval of matters which the NYSE determines to be non-routine, such as the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, without specific instructions from the beneficial owner. These non-voted shares are referred to as broker non-votes. If a broker holds a VISX stockholder's common stock in street name, that broker will vote shares held in street name only to the extent the VISX stockholder provides instructions on how to vote by filling out the voting instruction form sent by the broker with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Shares held by a broker or nominee that are not voted because the customer has not provided instructions to the broker or nominee will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

For the purpose of determining whether the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and to approve the merger contemplated by the merger agreement has received the requisite number of affirmative votes, abstentions will be counted and have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. Failing to vote will also have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.

Postponements and Adjournments

Postponements and adjournments may be made for the purpose of, among other things, soliciting additional proxies. Pursuant to the VISX bylaws, VISX stockholders present in person or represented by proxy at the VISX special meeting have the power to adjourn the meeting without notice other than announcement at the meeting.

Proxy Solicitation

VISX is soliciting proxies for the VISX special meeting from VISX stockholders. VISX will bear the entire cost of soliciting proxies from VISX stockholders, except that VISX and AMO have each agreed to share equally all expenses incurred in connection with the filing with the SEC of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, and the printing and mailing of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and related proxy materials. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, VISX will request that brokers, banks and other nominees send proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of VISX common stock held by them and secure their voting instructions, if necessary. VISX will reimburse those record holders for their reasonable expenses. VISX has also made arrangements with MacKenzie Partners, Inc. to assist it in soliciting proxies, and has agreed to pay a fee of approximately \$12,000 plus expenses for those services. VISX also may use several of its regular employees, who will not be specially compensated, to solicit proxies from VISX stockholders, either personally or by telephone, Internet, telegram, facsimile or special delivery letter.

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Please do not send in any VISX stock certificates with your proxy cards or voting instruction forms. Mellon Investor Services, the exchange agent for the merger, will send transmittal forms with instructions for the surrender of certificated representing shares of VISX common stock to former VISX stockholders shortly after the merger is completed. If you hold your shares of VISX common stock in book entry, instructions for the exchange of your shares for the merger consideration will be included in the transmittal forms sent to you by the exchange agent.

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Assistance

If you need assistance in completing your proxy card or have questions regarding the VISX special meeting, please contact VISX Investor Relations at (408) 773-7600 or write to VISX, Incorporated, 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, CA 95051, Attn: Investor Relations, or contact MacKenzie Partners, Inc. toll-free at (800) 322-2885, or collect for banks and brokers at (212) 929-5500.

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THE MERGER

The following is a description of the material aspects of the merger, including the merger agreement. While AMO and VISX believe that the following description covers the material terms of the merger, the description may not contain all of the information that is important to you. AMO and VISX encourage you to read carefully this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the merger agreement attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A, for a more complete understanding of the merger.

Background of the Merger

Over the past several years, the VISX board of directors and members of VISX management have worked to secure VISX's future by broadening its product offerings and geographical presence. As part of this process, the VISX board of directors and VISX management have considered a range of strategic alternatives, including the following:

a stand-alone scenario whereby VISX would continue to sell and innovate in its current area of strategic focus;

an augmentation scenario, whereby VISX would remain independent while pursuing strategic incremental acquisitions to diversify its product portfolio and earnings base;

a sale scenario, whereby VISX would seek to sell the company to one of the few large corporations in the ophthalmic industry; and

a merger scenario, whereby VISX would seek to merge with another mid-size company in the ophthalmic industry in an effort to strengthen both companies by expanding their mutual product offerings.

When the AMO opportunity arose, VISX management relied, in part, upon information gained during its earlier strategic assessments to determine that a broader relationship, or business combination, with AMO would be in the best interests of VISX and its stockholders. In particular, VISX management believed that such a relationship or combination could help broaden VISX's product offerings and geographical presence more quickly and effectively than any other approach.

During early March 2004, James V. Mazzo, President and Chief Executive Officer of AMO, initiated an informal discussion with Elizabeth H. Dávila, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VISX, regarding the potential for a broader strategic relationship between AMO and VISX, including a possible business combination. During this discussion, Mr. Mazzo and Ms. Dávila did not agree to explore any particular relationship or transaction, but agreed to have further discussions on these general subjects, and Ms. Dávila requested that Mr. Mazzo provide more specific information regarding AMO's products in development during their next discussion.

On March 19, 2004, Mr. Mazzo and Ms. Dávila met in Santa Ana, California, together with William J. Link, Ph.D., a member of the AMO board of directors. The parties discussed the possible rationales for a broader strategic relationship between AMO and VISX, including a possible business combination, and Mr. Mazzo discussed AMO's research and development pipeline.

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In early April 2004, Ms. Dávila contacted representatives of Goldman Sachs, who historically had provided investment banking services for VISX, to begin a review and analysis of AMO.

On April 29, 2004, representatives of Goldman Sachs met with several senior members of VISX management, including Ms. Dávila, Douglas H. Post, VISX's President and Chief Operating Officer, Derek A. Bertocci, VISX's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and John F. Runkel, Jr., VISX's General Counsel, who in August 2004 was named Senior Vice President of Business Development and General Counsel,

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to discuss AMO. The discussion focused upon publicly available financial data and also included an analysis of the financial condition and results of operations for both AMO and VISX.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the VISX board of directors on May 12 and 13, 2004, VISX management discussed AMO. The discussion focused upon publicly available financial data and also included an analysis of the financial condition and results of operations for both AMO and VISX.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the AMO board of directors on May 20, 2004, AMO management informed the AMO board of directors of discussions with VISX regarding a possible business combination. The AMO board of directors authorized management to continue discussions with VISX and to engage financial and legal advisors with respect to a possible business combination. AMO engaged Morgan Stanley as AMO's financial advisor in connection with a possible business combination with VISX.

On June 14, 2004, Mr. Mazzo telephoned Ms. Dávila to further discuss the potential for a broader strategic relationship between AMO and VISX, including a possible business combination. Again, neither Mr. Mazzo nor Ms. Dávila agreed to any particular relationship or transaction at this time, but continued to express interest in, and both agreed to continue to explore the idea of, a broader strategic relationship between the parties.

On June 21, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special telephonic meeting. Mr. Post also attended the meeting. During this meeting, Ms. Dávila informed the VISX board of directors of her conversations with Mr. Mazzo. The VISX board of directors also determined to engage Goldman Sachs as its financial advisor in connection with a possible business combination with AMO and authorized VISX management to negotiate and execute an engagement letter with Goldman Sachs.

On July 16, 2004, Mr. Mazzo and Richard A. Meier, AMO's Executive Vice President of Operations and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, traveled to Santa Clara, California to meet with Ms. Dávila, Mr. Bertocci and Mr. Post to discuss their respective business models and to explore the possible rationales for a strategic relationship between AMO and VISX, including a possible business combination. During this meeting, Messrs. Mazzo and Meier discussed the strategic rationale for a possible business combination and suggested that the parties consider a tax-free exchange of stock to effect the transaction in a manner that would enable the stockholders of both companies to realize the benefit of a combination.

Between July 16, 2004 and July 23, 2004, Mr. Mazzo and Ms. Dávila had telephonic meetings in which they discussed economic contribution and valuation issues relating to a possible business combination.

On July 23, 2004, Goldman Sachs highlighted for Ms. Dávila and other members of the VISX management team the key financial considerations and issues arising out of the July 16, 2004 discussions regarding a possible business combination.

Between July 23, 2004 and July 29, 2004, Mr. Mazzo and Ms. Dávila had a number of telephonic meetings in which they continued to discuss economic contribution and valuation issues relating to a possible business combination.

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On July 29 and August 2, 2004, Mr. Mazzo indicated to Ms. Dávila that AMO continued to be interested in exploring a possible business combination between the two companies, and further discussed the proposed structure of the transaction as a 100% stock-for-stock tax-free reorganization, the potential premium that VISX stockholders could receive and the resulting ownership interest for VISX stockholders in the new combined company.

On August 4, 2004, VISX engaged Goldman Sachs to act as its financial advisor for the limited purpose of participating in the August 4, 2004 meeting of the VISX board of directors and discussing the possible business combination transaction with AMO, the scope of which engagement was expanded on August 16, 2004 when

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VISX engaged Goldman Sachs to act as exclusive financial advisor to the VISX board of directors in connection with the potential business combination between VISX and AMO.

On August 4 and 5, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a two-day regular meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX and representatives of Goldman Sachs also attended this meeting. During this meeting, Ms. Dávila updated the VISX board of directors on the status of her discussions with Mr. Mazzo regarding a possible 100% stock-for-stock business combination between AMO and VISX, in which VISX stockholders could hold approximately 48% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately following the possible business combination. Representatives of Goldman Sachs then discussed its preliminary analysis of a possible business combination with AMO. The VISX board of directors requested additional analysis from Goldman Sachs regarding a strategic combination with AMO including analysis concerning the addition of a cash component to the consideration and the differences associated with seeking a fixed equity share as compared to other alternatives. Mr. Runkel then discussed with the VISX board of directors its fiduciary duties in connection with the board's consideration of a possible business combination.

On August 30, 2004, Ms. Dávila and Mr. Post traveled to Costa Mesa, California to meet with Mr. Mazzo and Mr. Meier. During this meeting, the parties further discussed the potential benefits of a possible business combination between AMO and VISX.

On September 7 and 8, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting in Irving, Texas. Mr. Post of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, and Mr. Mazzo of AMO also attended portions of this meeting. At this meeting, Ms. Dávila updated the VISX board of directors on the status of her discussions with Mr. Mazzo regarding a possible business combination transaction between AMO and VISX. Mr. Post then joined the meeting. Representatives of Goldman Sachs then discussed its updated preliminary analysis of a possible business combination with AMO. The Goldman Sachs representatives also discussed Goldman Sachs' analysis of including a cash component in the consideration payable to VISX stockholders in connection with a possible business combination between AMO and VISX. The board members and their representatives discussed the tax treatment of any potential cash portion of the consideration and the likely impact adding cash to the mix of consideration would have on the post-transaction ownership interest of the VISX stockholders in the combined company. On September 8, Mr. Mazzo joined the meeting and discussed a possible business combination with the VISX board of directors. Mr. Mazzo, Mr. Post and Ms. Dávila then left the meeting and the outside directors met in an executive session. After discussion, the VISX board of directors directed management to obtain additional information regarding the equity share for the VISX stockholders in the combined company as well as information regarding the proposed operations of VISX as part of the combined company.

On September 10, 2004, AMO and VISX executed a mutual confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement.

From September 10 through September 29, 2004, Ms. Dávila and Mr. Mazzo had several additional telephonic meetings in which they discussed economic contribution and valuation issues relating to the proposed business combination and the governance and management of the combined company.

On September 15, 2004, the VISX board of directors retained Morrison & Foerster LLP to act as special counsel to the outside directors.

On September 22, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a regular meeting at which it received an update from management on recent discussions with VISX, and the AMO board of directors authorized management to engage in further discussions with VISX and to begin a formal due diligence process with respect to the proposed business combination with VISX.

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On September 29 and 30, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a regular meeting. Messrs. Post, Bertocci and Runkel of VISX also attended the meeting. During this meeting, Ms. Dávila updated the VISX board of directors on her conversations with Mr. Mazzo since September 8, 2004 regarding the proposed business combination. Upon conclusion of these discussions, the board authorized management to engage in

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further discussions with AMO and to begin a formal due diligence process with respect to the proposed business combination.

Shortly thereafter, AMO, with the assistance of Morgan Stanley, and VISX, with the assistance of Goldman Sachs, each initiated an extensive business due diligence investigation of the business and operations of the other and of the proposed business combination.

On October 7, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, outside counsel to VISX, and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP, special counsel to the outside directors, also attended this meeting. Mr. Runkel began by updating the VISX board of directors on the status of the legal due diligence process for the proposed business combination. A representative of Goldman Sachs then updated the VISX board of directors on preliminary discussions between Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley concerning the proposed business combination.

On October 12, 2004, Ms. Dávila and Mr. Post traveled to Costa Mesa, California to meet with Mr. Mazzo and Mr. Meier. During this meeting, Mr. Post discussed the VISX business model and organizational structure. The parties also discussed potential cost and revenue synergies to be realized from a strategic combination of the entities.

On October 14, 2004, representatives of AMO and VISX, as well as their respective financial and legal advisors, met at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, in Palo Alto, California to engage in management discussions regarding their respective businesses and operations.

On October 15, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting, Ms. Dávila updated the VISX board of directors regarding the management discussions described above, and the VISX board of directors discussed with counsel the legal due diligence process. Following these discussions the outside directors met in executive session with a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP.

Also on October 15, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting. AMO management updated the AMO board of directors regarding the status of discussions relating to the proposed business combination with VISX. At this meeting, Morgan Stanley reviewed with the AMO board of directors its preliminary financial analysis of the proposed business combination. Representatives of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, outside counsel to AMO, outlined the fiduciary duties of the AMO board of directors and various legal and regulatory issues that could arise in connection with the proposed business combination. The AMO board of directors discussed the fact that any transaction that would result in VISX stockholders holding more than 45% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock following the proposed business combination would trigger a change in control under AMO's stock option plans and employment agreements with AMO management, which would be a negative factor relating to the proposed business combination. The AMO board of directors authorized management to continue discussions with respect to the proposed business combination with VISX, which would include the introduction of a cash component to the proposed consideration.

AMO and VISX subsequently convened a series of meetings from October 15, 2004 through November 8, 2004 among the management teams of AMO and VISX, as well as each of their respective financial and legal advisors. During these meetings, each of AMO and VISX performed due diligence on the other to facilitate their ongoing due diligence efforts in connection with the proposed business combination. During this period, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs held a series of discussions regarding the status of due diligence and the potential economic terms of the proposed transaction.

On October 19, 2004, AMO's legal counsel delivered a draft merger agreement to VISX's legal counsel relating to the proposed business combination.

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On October 20, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Mr. Runkel of VISX, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati discussed with the VISX board of directors its fiduciary duties as well as future board processes in connection with the board's consideration of the proposed business combination and various legal and regulatory issues that could arise in connection with the business combination.

On October 21, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened another special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting, Ms. Dávila updated the VISX board of directors on the status of her discussions with AMO regarding the proposed business combination, including the potential form of the transaction consideration. The VISX board of directors also received an update on the status of the due diligence investigation of AMO, including the financial review being conducted by VISX's management, as assisted by Goldman Sachs, the financial accounting, tax and Sarbanes-Oxley Act financial controls review, the international and domestic legal due diligence review and the regulatory legal review conducted by accounting and legal advisors. The outside directors met in executive session with a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP.

On October 22, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting, at which AMO management provided an update on the status of the due diligence process and the draft merger agreement and an overview of the transaction considerations. At this meeting, Morgan Stanley reviewed its revised preliminary financial analysis of the proposed business combination with VISX. AMO's Organization, Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee discussed the potential negative impact of the change in control provisions in AMO's stock option plans and employment agreements being triggered by VISX stockholders holding more than 45% of the outstanding shares by AMO common stock immediately following completion of the proposed business combination. The AMO board of directors authorized management to continue negotiations with VISX.

From October 22 to October 26, 2004, legal advisors to AMO and VISX held several meetings to negotiate the terms and conditions of the draft merger agreement for the proposed business combination. Additionally, during this time period the parties reached an informal understanding that Ms. Dávila would likely be selected to continue to serve on the board of directors of the combined company and that Mr. Post would continue as an executive officer of the combined company, although no discussions occurred regarding any terms and conditions of Mr. Post's employment.

On October 26, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post, Bertocci and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. At this meeting, a representative of Goldman Sachs provided the VISX board of directors with an update regarding its discussions with representatives of Morgan Stanley and its preliminary financial analyses of the proposed business combination. Representatives from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation then reviewed with the VISX board of directors the proposed terms of the draft merger agreement for the proposed business combination. Also on October 26, 2004, VISX's legal counsel delivered a revised draft of the merger agreement to AMO's legal counsel.

On October 28, 2004, the parties held a full-day financial due diligence session at the offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation in Palo Alto, California. Representatives of Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley attended, as well as Messrs. Bertocci and Post from VISX and Mr. Meier from AMO.

On October 29, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting to receive an update from management on the status of negotiations with VISX on the proposed business combination. In addition, representatives of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP provided a summary of the due diligence conducted on VISX to date and Morgan Stanley provided its updated preliminary financial analyses of

the proposed business combination.

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On November 1, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting at which it received updates from its financial, legal, accounting, tax and regulatory advisors regarding their respective due diligence investigations of AMO. Messrs. Post, Bertocci, Runkel and Allen Russell, Ph.D., Vice President of Regulatory and Clinical Affairs, all representing VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and representatives of VISX's other legal and accounting advisors also attended this meeting. During this meeting, members of VISX's management and its advisors reviewed their due diligence investigation of AMO and their respective discussions with AMO and its advisors regarding the terms and conditions of the business combination. Mr. Post and Mr. Bertocci reviewed VISX management's view of the strategic rationale for the business combination, discussed the prospects for VISX as a stand-alone entity, the potential operations and risks of the combined entity, financial projections and anticipated synergies expected from the proposed business combination. VISX's accounting advisors then discussed their accounting and tax review of AMO, including a specific discussion of tax matters relating to AMO's spin-off from Allergan and AMO's Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 compliance efforts. VISX's legal advisors then provided a summary of their international and domestic legal due diligence review of AMO and its operations. Dr. Russell then discussed the findings of VISX's domestic regulatory counsel regarding its regulatory due diligence investigation of AMO. Following the due diligence summaries, a representative of Goldman Sachs then discussed possible structures for, and preliminary financial analyses of, the proposed business combination, after which the directors met in executive session for further discussion. After counsel rejoined the meeting, the VISX board of directors also discussed the proposed terms of the draft merger agreement.

On November 2, 2004, AMO's and VISX's legal advisors continued to negotiate the proposed terms of the draft merger agreement for the proposed business combination.

On the evening of November 2, 2004, representatives of Morgan Stanley on AMO's behalf delivered AMO's proposal to representatives of Goldman Sachs regarding certain key terms of the proposed business combination, which included a proposal that VISX stockholders would receive \$20 of AMO common stock, based on an exchange ratio to be fixed at signing and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock, and explained that the proposal reflected an offer AMO believed to be fair in light of the recent decline in VISX's stock price as well as the recent increase in AMO's stock price and reflective of the relative values of the two companies.

On November 3 and 4, 2004, representatives of Goldman Sachs and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation had numerous meetings with representatives of Morgan Stanley and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP to discuss various financial and legal aspects of the proposed business combination and draft merger agreement, including legal structure, financing sources, option assumption issues and break-up fees. Additionally, Mr. Mazzo and Ms. Dávila discussed the proposed exchange ratio for the merger.

On November 4, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting, a representative of Goldman Sachs provided the VISX board of directors with an update regarding discussions between Goldman Sachs and representatives of Morgan Stanley since receiving the November 2, 2004 proposal, which would have resulted in VISX stockholders receiving approximately 0.507 of a share of AMO common stock, based on the price of AMO common stock on November 3, 2004 and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock held at completion of the proposed business combination, and VISX stockholders holding an aggregate of approximately 39.2% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after completion of the proposed business combination. The VISX board of directors then discussed the recent decline in VISX's stock price and the recent increase in AMO's stock price relative to the proposal. The Goldman Sachs representative then summarized Goldman Sachs' preliminary financial analysis of the proposed business combination based on different exchange ratios. A representative of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation then reviewed the terms of the draft merger agreement with the VISX board of directors, after which the VISX board of directors met in executive session to discuss the AMO proposal and

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other matters and concluded that the AMO offer did not fully take into account the long-term potential value of the VISX stock and VISX's economic contribution to the combined entity and, therefore, did not provide VISX stockholders with sufficient share ownership of the combined company. The VISX board of directors authorized VISX management to continue negotiations with AMO regarding the terms and conditions of the proposed business combination and authorized Goldman Sachs to communicate a counter proposal to AMO through Morgan Stanley that included a stock exchange ratio of 0.576 shares of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock that would have resulted in VISX stockholders holding approximately 42.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after the transaction and receiving \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock. The VISX board of directors believed that its counterproposal more accurately reflected the long-term potential value of its stock and the economic contribution of VISX to the combined company.

Thereafter, on the evening of November 4, 2004, representatives of Goldman Sachs on VISX's behalf communicated the counterproposal to representatives of Morgan Stanley and continued discussions regarding the terms of the proposed business combination.

On the morning of November 5, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP, and VISX's accounting advisors also attended this meeting. During this meeting, VISX's accounting advisors discussed tax matters related to AMO's spin-off from Allergan, after which a representative of Goldman Sachs provided the VISX board of directors with an update on discussions with Morgan Stanley since delivering the VISX counterproposal.

Later in the day on November 5, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a subsequent special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting, a representative of Goldman Sachs updated the VISX board of directors regarding the timing for an expected counterproposal from AMO and discussed the expected counterproposal. A representative of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation then discussed unresolved areas of the draft merger agreement including the size of the break-up fees, conditions to closing, the number of directorships VISX would receive in the combined company and the treatment of VISX stock options.

On November 5, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting. AMO management updated the AMO board of directors regarding discussions with VISX management with respect to the proposed business combination, summarized outstanding issues and outlined a revised offer to VISX. The AMO board of directors supported management's recommendation for a revised offer based on its belief in the long-term potential value of the VISX stock and analyses of VISX's relative economic contribution to the combined company. AMO management and the AMO board of directors also discussed the terms of a commitment letter received from Morgan Stanley to, among other things, finance the cash component of the merger consideration, if required.

During the evening of November 5, 2004, representatives of Morgan Stanley on AMO's behalf delivered AMO's proposal to representatives of Goldman Sachs, which specified an exchange ratio of 0.552 shares of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock, and that Ms. Dávila would serve on the board of directors of the combined company. Goldman Sachs communicated the proposal to VISX management, and indicated that this proposal would result in VISX stockholders holding an aggregate of approximately 41.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after completion of the proposed business combination and payment of \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock.

On November 6, 2004, the parties' legal advisors continued negotiations on the draft merger agreement for the proposed business combination throughout the day. VISX's legal counsel then distributed to AMO and its legal advisor a revised draft of the merger agreement, reflecting the then-current state of negotiations.

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On November 7, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting. Messrs. Post and Runkel of VISX, representatives of Goldman Sachs, representatives of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation and a representative of Morrison & Foerster LLP also attended this meeting. During this meeting, a representative of Goldman Sachs provided the VISX board of directors with a summary of the AMO proposal dated November 5, 2004. A Goldman Sachs representative then reviewed certain aspects of the proposed business combination, including the proposed consideration to be received by VISX stockholders and the strategic objectives of VISX. The representative also summarized Goldman Sachs' preliminary financial analysis of the business combination based on the proposed consideration described above, after which the VISX board of directors met in executive session and discussed the proposal, including the valuation of VISX and the premium it represented to VISX's stock price. Additionally, the VISX board of directors discussed the potential effects of the business combination on AMO and the value of its stock after the merger given that the proposal contemplated that VISX's stockholders would receive a substantial portion of their consideration in AMO common stock. Following the executive session of the VISX board of directors, a representative of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation reviewed the terms of the draft merger agreement with the VISX board of directors, including, among other things, the following issues that remained unresolved: conditions to closing, assumption of VISX stock options, termination rights and break-up fees.

On the morning of November 8, 2004, AMO's legal advisors delivered a revised draft of the merger agreement to VISX's legal counsel. The parties' legal advisors then continued negotiations on the draft merger agreement throughout the day.

Later that day, on November 8, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting. AMO management provided the AMO board of directors with a summary of discussions with VISX since the November 5, 2004 meeting and Morgan Stanley reviewed its updated preliminary financial analyses of the proposed business combination. Representatives of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP reviewed the proposed merger agreement, provided a summary of the progress in negotiating its definitive terms and highlighted open items that had not yet been resolved between the parties. Later that evening AMO's legal counsel distributed to the parties and their legal advisors another revised draft of the merger agreement, reflecting the then current state of negotiations.

On November 9, 2004, the VISX board of directors convened a special meeting to consider approval of the merger agreement. Prior to the meeting, the members of the VISX board of directors were provided with a substantially final draft of the merger agreement as well as a summary of the draft merger agreement. During the meeting, a representative of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation advised the directors of their fiduciary duties in considering the business combination and described the structure of the merger and the provisions of the merger agreement. Representatives of Goldman Sachs presented their financial analyses of the business combination and delivered Goldman Sachs' oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing that, as of November 9, 2004 and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its written fairness opinion, the merger consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock, taken in the aggregate, pursuant to the merger agreement is fair from a financial point of view to such holders. Following a discussion, the VISX board of directors unanimously determined that the merger was advisable, and fair to and in the best interests of VISX and its stockholders, approved the merger agreement and the proposed merger, resolved to recommend that the VISX stockholders vote to approve and adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger.

On November 9, 2004, the AMO board of directors convened a special meeting during which AMO management gave the AMO board of directors a further update as to the status of negotiations with VISX, indicating that the open items discussed at the prior meeting were close to resolution. At this meeting, Morgan Stanley rendered its oral opinion, and subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of that date, and based upon and subject to the considerations described in its opinion and based upon such other matters as Morgan Stanley considered relevant, the merger consideration to be paid by AMO pursuant to the merger agreement was fair to AMO from a financial point of view. Following the presentation by Morgan Stanley, the AMO board of directors

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unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby and unanimously resolved to recommend that the AMO stockholders approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

Following the meetings of the board of directors of each of AMO and VISX and following the closing of trading on the NYSE, AMO and VISX executed the merger agreement as of November 9, 2004. During the afternoon of November 9, 2004, AMO and VISX then issued a joint press release announcing the execution of the merger agreement and the proposed merger.

On December 3, 2004, the merger agreement was amended to correct technical inaccuracies. On March 17, 2005, the merger agreement was amended to clarify Section 6.10(f) and to provide that the current VISX directors will remain as the directors of the surviving corporation upon completion of the merger. The parties anticipate that the VISX directors will hold such positions for a limited period of time following the merger. This second amendment was made to clarify and implement the provision of the merger agreement requiring AMO to register shares of AMO common stock issuable pursuant to assumed phantom units and assumed options held by the VISX directors.

On February 10, 2005, Elizabeth Dávila, who is VISX's current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and who will serve on the AMO board of directors upon completion of the merger, adopted a prearranged plan to sell up to approximately 891,200 shares of AMO common stock (calculated based on the closing price of AMO common stock on March 21, 2005) issuable upon exercise of assumed options over a three year period, subject to certain price restrictions and other contingencies. The effectiveness of the plan is subject to completion of the merger. The plan will be used by Ms. Dávila to exercise certain options that are set to expire and to diversify her AMO holdings as part of estate planning activities. The terms of this plan comply with AMO's insider trading program and Rule 10b5-1 of the Exchange Act.

Recommendation of the AMO Board of Directors

The AMO board of directors believes there are substantial benefits to AMO and the AMO stockholders that can be obtained as a result of the merger. If the merger is completed, the AMO board of directors believes that the acquisition of VISX will combine two highly complementary companies with a broad range of superior technologies and a singular focus on serving the vision care needs of practitioners and patients around the world. At a meeting held on November 9, 2004, the AMO board of directors unanimously determined that the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the issuance of AMO common stock in the merger, are advisable and in the best interests of AMO and the AMO stockholders. Therefore, the AMO board of directors resolved to recommend that the AMO stockholders approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

The AMO board of directors consulted with AMO senior management as well as its legal counsel, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and its financial advisor, Morgan Stanley, in reaching its decisions to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, and unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger. Particularly persuasive among the factors considered by the AMO board of directors in its deliberations were the reasons for the merger described in the section entitled "Reasons for the Merger" beginning on page 79 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The AMO board of directors also considered each of the following factors in its deliberations:

information concerning the financial performance, financial condition, business and prospects of AMO and VISX, as well as conditions in the ophthalmic medical device industry generally;

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information concerning the recent and past stock price performance of AMO and VISX common stock, as well as the views of Wall Street equity analysts regarding the two companies;

the prices paid in comparable transactions involving other ophthalmic medical device companies, as well as the trading performance of the stock of comparable companies in the industry;

the largely stock-based merger consideration, which preserves AMO's financial strength for continued business investment;

the fixed exchange ratio and cash merger consideration amount, which provide a level of certainty as to the aggregate number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued to VISX stockholders and the percentage of the total shares of AMO common stock that current VISX stockholders will own after the merger;

the provisions that prohibit VISX from soliciting other acquisition offers;

the conditions to consummation of the merger, in particular the likelihood of obtaining the necessary regulatory and stockholder approvals;

the provisions that require VISX to pay AMO expenses in the amount of \$8 million or a break-up fee of \$45 million if the merger agreement is terminated for specified reasons;

an assessment of alternatives to the merger, including development opportunities and other possible acquisition candidates, and the determination that the acquisition of VISX was a strategic fit and presented a unique opportunity to enhance and expand AMO operations, product and service offerings and position for future growth; and

the written opinion of Morgan Stanley dated November 9, 2004, that, as of that date, and based upon and subject to the considerations described in its opinion, the full text of which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex G, the merger consideration to be paid by AMO pursuant to the merger agreement was fair from a financial point of view to AMO.

The AMO board of directors also considered the following factors, uncertainties and risks in its deliberations concerning the merger. However, the AMO board of directors concluded that these risks were outweighed by the potential benefits of the merger:

the incremental debt associated with the merger could cause AMO to have reduced financial flexibility;

the risk that the potential benefits sought in the merger might not be fully realized;

the possibility that the merger might not be completed, or that completion might be unduly delayed, for reasons beyond AMO's control;

the possibility that the merger might not be completed and that in certain circumstances, AMO might be required to pay VISX expenses in the amount of \$8 million or a break-up fee of \$45 million;

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the effect of the public announcement of the merger on AMO's and VISX's stock prices;

the potential dilution of AMO earnings per share as a result of the issuance of the shares in the merger, and the estimated time period for the merger to be accretive to AMO's earnings per share;

the risk that AMO management's efforts to integrate VISX will disrupt AMO's operations;

the substantial charges to be incurred in connection with the merger, including the costs of integrating the businesses of AMO and VISX and the transaction expenses arising from the merger;

the risk that, despite AMO's efforts and the efforts of VISX after the merger, the combined company may lose key personnel;

the restrictions on the conduct of AMO's business during the period between the signing of the merger agreement and the completion of the merger; and

the other risks described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23.

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It was not practical to, and thus the AMO board of directors did not, quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the wide variety of factors it considered in evaluating the merger and the merger agreement, nor did the board determine that any one factor was of particular importance in deciding that the merger agreement and associated transactions were in the best interests of AMO and its stockholders. This discussion of information and material factors considered by the AMO board of directors is intended to be a summary rather than an exhaustive list. In considering these factors, individual members of the AMO board of directors may have given different weight to different factors. The board conducted an overall analysis of the factors described above, and overall considered the factors to support its decision in favor of the merger and the merger agreement. The decision of each member of the AMO board of directors was based upon his or her own judgment, in light of all of the information presented, regarding the overall effect of the merger agreement and associated transactions on the AMO stockholders as compared to any potential alternative transactions or courses of action. After considering this information, all members of the AMO board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, including the issuance of AMO common stock in the merger and recommended that the AMO stockholders approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

On the basis of the foregoing, the AMO board of directors unanimously recommends that AMO stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger.

Recommendation of the VISX Board of Directors

At a special meeting of the VISX board of directors held on November 9, 2004, the VISX board of directors unanimously:

determined that the merger is advisable, and is fair to and in the best interests of VISX and its stockholders;

approved the merger agreement;

directed that approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger be submitted for consideration by VISX stockholders at a VISX special meeting; and

resolved to recommend that the VISX stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement, the VISX board of directors held discussions with representatives of Goldman Sachs, its financial advisor, regarding the past and current business operations, financial condition and future prospects of VISX and AMO, as well as other financial matters. The VISX board of directors also relied on the expertise of Goldman Sachs for quantitative analysis of the financial terms of the merger and consulted with them regarding the fairness, from a financial point of view, to the holders of VISX common stock of the merger consideration to be received by them in the merger. The VISX board of directors also consulted with management, its special accounting and tax advisor and its legal advisors in connection with the merger. Particularly persuasive among the factors considered by the VISX board of directors in its deliberations were the reasons for the merger described in the section entitled "Reasons for the Merger" beginning on page 79 of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The VISX board of directors also considered each of the following factors in its deliberations:

the fact that the value of the merger consideration, based on the then-current market price for VISX common stock, will provide an opportunity for VISX stockholders to receive a significant premium over the trading value of VISX common stock on November 8, 2004, the last trading day before public announcement of the proposed merger, and also over the average trading value of VISX

common stock in recent historical periods;

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the fact that the fixed exchange ratio for the stock portion of the merger consideration provides certainty as to the number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued to VISX stockholders and the percentage of shares of AMO common stock that current VISX stockholders will own as a group after the merger;

the fact that VISX stockholders will receive the majority of the merger consideration in stock, which provides them with an opportunity to participate in the potential growth of the combined company following the merger as stockholders of AMO;

the fact that VISX stockholders will receive a portion of the consideration in cash, which provides them with a measure of certainty of value despite stock market or industry volatility compared to a transaction in which they would receive all stock or other non-cash consideration;

the fact that the merger is structured such that VISX stockholders will not be immediately taxed on the stock component of the merger consideration and the requirement under the merger agreement to adjust the stock component of the merger consideration to preserve such tax treatment;

the financial analyses and presentations by Goldman Sachs, and its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing that, as of November 9, 2004, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth in its written fairness opinion, the full text of which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex H, the merger consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock, taken in the aggregate, pursuant to the merger agreement is fair from a financial point of view to such holders;

the fact that VISX stockholders will have the opportunity to vote upon the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement;

the conditions to consummation of the merger, in particular the likelihood of obtaining the necessary regulatory and stockholder approvals, and the likelihood that the merger will be completed;

reports from management, legal, accounting, tax and financial advisors as to the results of the due diligence investigation of AMO;

current financial market conditions and historical market prices, volatility and trading information with respect to VISX common stock;

the prospects for VISX's growth and profitability as a stand-alone company, and the risks of such growth and profitability; and

the interests that certain executive officers and directors of VISX may have with respect to the merger. See "The Merger - Interests of Executive Officers and Directors of VISX in the Merger" beginning on page 102.

In addition, the VISX board of directors also identified and considered a variety of potentially negative factors in its deliberations concerning the merger, including, but not limited to:

the effect of the public announcement of the merger, and the possibility that the merger might not be completed, on demand for VISX's products and services, VISX's operating results, VISX's stock price and VISX's ability to attract and retain key management and marketing, sales, technical and other personnel;

the risk that the potential benefits sought in the merger might not be fully realized;

the challenges of integrating the management teams, strategies, cultures and organizations of the companies;

the limitations on the right of VISX to pursue alternative transactions that could conflict with the merger, including the possible effect of the expense and break-up fee provisions in the merger agreement; and

other applicable risks described in the section entitled **Risk Factors** beginning on page 23.

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The VISX board of directors concluded, however, that these negative factors could be managed or mitigated by VISX or by AMO or were unlikely to have a material impact on the merger or AMO after the merger, and that, overall, the potentially negative factors associated with the merger were outweighed by the potential benefits of the merger.

The above discussion of material factors considered by the VISX board of directors is not intended to be exhaustive, but does set forth the principal factors considered by the VISX board of directors. The VISX board of directors collectively reached the unanimous conclusion to approve the merger agreement and the merger in light of the various factors described above and other factors that each board member felt were appropriate. In view of the wide variety of factors considered by the VISX board of directors in connection with its evaluation of the merger and the complexity of these matters, the VISX board did not consider it practical, and did not attempt, to quantify, rank or otherwise assign relative weights to the specific factors it considered in reaching its decision. Rather, the VISX board of directors made its recommendations based on the totality of the information presented to and the investigation conducted by it, and the judgments of individual members of the board of directors may have been influenced to a greater or lesser degree by different factors.

On the basis of the foregoing, the VISX board of directors unanimously recommends that VISX stockholders vote FOR the approval and adoption of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement.

Reasons for the Merger

AMO and VISX believe the merger presents a unique opportunity to create a combined entity that will be able to compete more effectively in the refractive surgical sector, while simultaneously creating a company with a diverse product base that can compete in the broader ophthalmic medical device industry. The AMO and VISX boards of directors and their respective management teams each analyzed numerous alternative strategies to address their respective risks and challenges as stand-alone entities. See the section entitled *Background of the Merger* beginning on page 67. After reviewing and debating their respective strategic alternatives and the opportunity for the combined company presented by the merger, as more fully described below, the AMO and VISX boards of directors each determined to pursue the merger in lieu of the other alternatives because both believe the merger will create a combined company that will be able to achieve the strategic and financial benefits described below.

The AMO and VISX boards of directors each identified the following anticipated strategic and financial benefits of the merger:

Leadership in High-Growth Refractive Surgical Sector. The combined company is expected to take a leadership position in the high-growth refractive surgical sector. AMO will contribute its refractive IOL technologies and its Amadeus-brand microkeratomes to VISX's leading installed base of excimer laser technology and, together, the combined entity will be able to offer refractive and cataract surgeons a full suite of laser and accommodative lens products, including a wide choice of premium brand name IOLs, viscoelastics, lasers, microkeratomes and phacoemulsification equipment.

Increased International Sales Opportunities. The combined company is expected to build upon VISX's leading position in the United States laser refractive surgery sector by using AMO's global infrastructure and distribution network to generate additional international revenues from sales of VISX Custom Vue systems.

Increased Cross-Selling Opportunities. AMO and VISX will form a global, diversified company that will be able to take advantage of previously unavailable cross-selling opportunities among the expanded customer base.

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Enhanced Revenues and Growth. With its expanded customer base, increased international sales and cross-selling opportunities, the combined entity is expected to have significant earnings growth potential and significantly greater revenues than either of AMO or VISX as stand-alone entities.

Enhanced Research and Development Opportunities. The combined company will have greater technical expertise and financial resources to devote to research and development, consistent with each party's focus on building stockholder value by pursuing technological leadership through continuous innovation. By pooling the resources and skills of both AMO and VISX, the combined company will be better able to deliver new refractive technologies and confront the challenges in the path of meeting the tremendous unmet need from presbyopia.

Customer Support Synergies. The combined company is expected to benefit from VISX's industry-leading customer support and training. VISX's field service capabilities can be utilized across the existing AMO organization.

Increased Economic Resilience. The combined company is expected to be better able than VISX or AMO to withstand the vagaries of economic cycles because of its broader range of product offerings.

Reduction in Operating Costs. The combined company is expected to generate a minimum of annualized cost savings of at least \$10 million, providing the combined company with a stronger, more efficient operating model than either company could achieve on its own.

There can be no assurance that the anticipated strategic and financial benefits of the merger will be achieved, including that the net present value of the combined entity's anticipated cost savings resulting from the merger will be reflected in the trading price of AMO common stock following the completion of the merger.

Opinion of AMO's Financial Advisor

AMO retained Morgan Stanley to provide financial advice and assistance, including a financial fairness opinion, to the AMO board of directors in connection with the transaction. The AMO board of directors selected Morgan Stanley to act as its financial advisor based on Morgan Stanley's qualifications, expertise, reputation and its knowledge of the business of AMO. At the meeting of the AMO board of directors on November 9, 2004, Morgan Stanley rendered its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of November 9, 2004, and based upon and subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth therein, the merger consideration to be paid by AMO in the proposed merger was fair from a financial point of view to AMO.

The full text of Morgan Stanley's opinion, dated November 9, 2004, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and qualifications and limitations of the reviews undertaken in rendering its opinion is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex G. The summary of Morgan Stanley's fairness opinion set forth in this document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the opinion. AMO stockholders should read this opinion carefully and in its entirety. Morgan Stanley's opinion is directed to the AMO board of directors and addresses only the fairness from a financial point of view of the merger consideration to be paid by AMO pursuant to the merger agreement as of the date of the opinion. Morgan Stanley's opinion does not constitute a recommendation to any AMO stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote with respect to the proposed transaction.

In connection with rendering its opinion, Morgan Stanley, among other things:

reviewed certain publicly available financial statements and other business and financial information of VISX and AMO, respectively;

reviewed certain internal financial statements and other financial and operating data concerning VISX and AMO, prepared by senior executives of VISX and AMO, respectively;

discussed the past and current operations and financial condition and the prospects of VISX and AMO with senior executives of VISX and AMO, respectively;

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discussed certain strategic, financial and operational benefits anticipated from the merger with senior executives of VISX and AMO;

reviewed certain financial forecasts of VISX, including certain sensitivity cases, prepared based on discussions with the management of AMO;

reviewed the pro forma impact of the merger on AMO's earnings per share, consolidated capitalization and financial ratios;

reviewed the reported prices and trading activity for the VISX common stock and the AMO common stock;

compared the financial performance of VISX and AMO and the prices and trading activity of the VISX common stock and the AMO common stock, respectively, with that of certain other comparable publicly-traded companies and their securities;

discussed the strategic rationale for the merger with senior executives of VISX and AMO;

reviewed the financial terms, to the extent publicly available, of certain comparable acquisition transactions;

participated in discussions and negotiations among representatives of VISX and AMO and their financial and legal advisors;

reviewed copies of AMO's debt financing commitment letters, dated November 8, 2004, from Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, Inc.;

reviewed the draft merger agreement and certain related documents; and

performed such other analyses and considered such other factors as Morgan Stanley deemed appropriate.

In arriving at its opinion, Morgan Stanley assumed and relied upon without independent verification the accuracy and completeness of the information reviewed by it for the purposes of its opinion. With respect to the financial projections of VISX and information relating to certain strategic, financial and operational benefits anticipated from the merger, Morgan Stanley assumed that they were reasonably prepared on bases reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of the future financial performance of VISX and AMO. With respect to the financial projections of AMO, Morgan Stanley relied on publicly available estimates of equity research analysts who cover AMO. Morgan Stanley also relied upon, without independent verification, the assessment of the management of AMO of VISX's technologies, products and intellectual property and the validity of, and risks associated with, VISX's existing and future technologies, products and intellectual property, including the timing and scope of any associated risks or benefits. Furthermore, Morgan Stanley relied upon the assessment by management of AMO and VISX of their ability to retain key employees of VISX. Morgan Stanley did not make any independent valuation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of VISX or AMO, nor has it been furnished with any such appraisals. In addition, Morgan Stanley is not a regulatory or legal expert and instead relied on the assessment of regulatory and legal advisors to VISX and AMO in connection with such issues. Morgan Stanley has assumed that the merger agreement will be consummated in accordance with the terms set forth therein without material modification or waiver, including, among other things, that the merger will be treated as a tax-free reorganization, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code and that all necessary regulatory consents will be obtained. In addition, Morgan Stanley also assumed that the financing of the merger would be consummated on the terms described in the commitment letter. Morgan Stanley's opinion was necessarily based on financial, economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to it as of, November 9, 2004.

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The following is a summary of the material financial analyses performed by Morgan Stanley in connection with its oral opinion and the preparation of its written opinion, dated November 9, 2004. Some of these summaries include information in tabular format. In order to understand fully the financial analyses used by

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Morgan Stanley, the tables must be read together with the text of each summary. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the analyses.

Historical Share Price Analysis. Morgan Stanley reviewed the historical trading prices and daily trading volume for the VISX common stock for the twelve month period ended November 8, 2004. Morgan Stanley noted that during the same twelve month period the price per share of VISX common stock ranged from \$15.50 to \$26.80. Morgan Stanley noted that the closing price per share of VISX common stock as of November 8, 2004 was \$16.91 and that the implied merger consideration was \$26.52, based on a closing price per share of AMO common stock of \$41.70 on November 8, 2004.

Comparable Company Analysis. Morgan Stanley reviewed and analyzed certain public market trading multiples for stand alone public companies similar to VISX from a size, business mix and geographic perspective and derived an implied value for VISX based on this information. The comparable companies operate within the ophthalmic medical device industry and develop, manufacture and market medical devices that compete with AMO and VISX in the segments of cataract and refractive surgery, contact lens, eye care, eye care products and glaucoma. For purposes of its analysis, Morgan Stanley did not include subsidiaries or divisions of pharmaceutical or medical supply or device companies that operate within the ophthalmic medical device industry since the operating results of these companies would not necessarily represent the results of these subsidiaries or divisions. The multiples analyzed for these comparable companies included aggregate market value (defined as public equity market value plus total book value of debt, total book value of preferred stock and minority interest less cash and other short term investments) divided by estimated 2005 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, which is referred to as EBITDA, common stock price divided by estimated 2005 earnings per share, and common stock price divided by estimated 2005 earnings per share divided by estimated five-year long-term growth rate ratios. Morgan Stanley calculated the financial multiples and ratios based on publicly available financial data as of November 8, 2004. The estimates of 2005 EBITDA for the comparable companies were based on selected Wall Street equity research reports. The estimates of 2005 earnings per share and estimated five-year long-term growth rates were based on the Institutional Brokers Estimate System. For purposes of its analysis, Morgan Stanley identified the following five publicly traded corporations in the ophthalmic medical device industry:

Alcon Inc.;

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.;

Bausch & Lomb Inc.;

The Cooper Companies, Inc.; and

Ocular Sciences Inc.

A summary of the reference range of market trading multiples that Morgan Stanley used are set forth below:

	Reference Range of Multiples
Aggregate Value / 2005E EBITDA	10.5x - 13.5x
Price / 2005E Earnings Per Share	19.0x - 23.0x

Using these representative reference ranges of multiples, Morgan Stanley calculated an implied valuation range for VISX by applying the reference ranges of multiples to the applicable VISX operating statistic based on information publicly available in Wall Street equity research reports. Based on such analysis, Morgan Stanley calculated an implied valuation range for VISX common stock of \$19.56 to \$25.48 per share. Morgan Stanley noted that the implied merger consideration based on the closing price per share of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004 was \$26.52.

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Although the foregoing ophthalmic medical device companies were compared to VISX for purposes of this analysis, Morgan Stanley noted that no company utilized in this analysis is identical to VISX because of differences between the business mix, operations, and other characteristics of VISX and the comparable companies. In evaluating the comparable companies, Morgan Stanley made judgments and assumptions with regard to industry performance, general business, economic, market and financial conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of VISX, such as the impact of competition on the business of VISX and the industry in general, potential industry growth and the absence of any adverse material change in the financial condition and prospects of VISX or the industry or the markets in general. Mathematical analysis (such as determining the average or median) is not in itself a meaningful method of using comparable company data.

Discounted Analyst Price Targets. Morgan Stanley reviewed available estimates of the target price for VISX common stock published by Wall Street equity research analysts as of November 8, 2004 to derive an implied value for VISX based on these publicly available estimates. Morgan Stanley discounted the Wall Street analyst price targets for one year at VISX's estimated cost of equity capital of approximately 11%, based on the capital asset pricing model, a theoretical financial model that estimates the cost of equity capital of a particular company based on such company's beta. A company's beta is a metric designed to represent the systemic business risk and financial risk of such company versus the overall market. Based on the foregoing analysis, the Wall Street analyst price targets yielded an implied valuation of VISX common stock of \$17.15 to \$22.56. Morgan Stanley noted that the implied merger consideration based on closing price per share of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004 was \$26.52.

Precedent Transactions Analysis. Morgan Stanley compared publicly available information for selected transactions to the relevant financial statistics for VISX based on publicly available Wall Street equity research estimates and derived an implied value for VISX based on this information. For purposes of its analysis, Morgan Stanley did not include transactions involving sales of subsidiaries or divisions of pharmaceutical or medical supply or device companies since information regarding these transactions was not publicly available. The group of transactions consisted of seven selected ophthalmic medical device transactions within the segments of refractive surgery/vision correction, cataract surgery and contact lens/eye care. For each transaction, Morgan Stanley analyzed, as of the announcement date of each transaction, the multiples implied by the transaction value of (i) aggregate value to the acquired company's forward sales, (ii) aggregate value to the acquired company's forward earnings before interest and taxes, which is referred to as EBIT, and (iii) price to the acquired company's forward earnings per share. In each case, Morgan Stanley applied such multiples to the applicable VISX operating statistic based on publicly available information. The following table sets forth the acquisition transactions that were reviewed in connection with this analysis:

Summit Autonomous/Alcon Holdings (Nestle);

Pfizer Surgical Business/Advanced Medical Optics;

Ocular Sciences/Cooper Companies;

Eye Care Ops (Biocompatibles)/Cooper Companies;

Wesley Jessen VisionCare, Inc./Novartis;

Wesley Jessen VisionCare, Inc./Bausch & Lomb; and

Ocular Sciences/Wesley Jessen VisionCare, Inc.

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Morgan Stanley then derived from these selected transactions reference ranges of (i) forward sales multiples of 7.0x to 8.0x, (ii) forward EBIT multiples of 13.0x to 15.0x, and (iii) forward earnings per share multiples of 20.0x to 22.0x. In applying these ranges of multiples to the relevant VISX statistic based on Wall Street equity research estimates, Morgan Stanley calculated an implied valuation range for VISX common stock of \$19.60 to \$30.22 per share.

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In addition, Morgan Stanley also analyzed the premium paid to the acquired company in the transactions referenced above to the one-day prior and thirty-day prior unaffected stock price of the acquired company. Morgan Stanley then derived a reference range of premiums to the one-day prior unaffected acquired company price of 20% to 50% and premiums to the thirty-day prior unaffected acquired company price of 15% to 40%, and applying these ranges to VISX common stock prices one and thirty-days prior to November 9, 2004, Morgan Stanley calculated an implied valuation range for VISX common stock of \$20.29 to \$26.47.

Morgan Stanley also analyzed approximately thirty precedent transactions across all industries in which stockholders of the acquired company retained a relatively high ownership percentage of the pro forma company, and calculated the premium paid to the one-day unaffected price and the thirty-day average historical exchange ratio, measured prior to the public announcement of such transactions. Morgan Stanley developed a reference range of premiums paid to the one-day unaffected price and the thirty-day average exchange ratio of 15% to 30% and 30% to 50%, respectively. By applying these ranges of premiums to the thirty-day average exchange ratio derived from the quotient obtained by dividing the VISX common stock price by the AMO common stock price and then multiplying such quotient by the AMO common stock price as of November 8, 2004, Morgan Stanley calculated an implied valuation range for VISX common stock of \$19.45 to \$30.64. Morgan Stanley noted that the implied merger consideration based on the closing price per share of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004 was \$26.52.

Morgan Stanley noted that the merger and acquisition transaction environment varies over time because of macroeconomic factors such as interest rate and equity market fluctuations and microeconomic factors such as industry results and growth expectations. Morgan Stanley noted that no company or transaction reviewed was identical to the proposed transactions and that, accordingly, these analyses involve complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of VISX and other factors that would affect the acquisition values in the comparable transactions, including the size and demographic and economic characteristics of the markets of each company and the competitive environment in which it operates. Mathematical analyses (such as determining the average or median) is not in itself a meaningful method of using comparable transaction data.

Discounted Equity Value Analysis. Morgan Stanley performed an analysis of the implied present value per share of VISX common stock on a stand-alone basis based on VISX's projected future equity value using the fiscal year 2005, 2006 and 2007 estimates provided by VISX management as well as based on similar estimates from published Wall Street equity research reports. With respect to the financial projections of VISX and based on discussions with VISX and AMO management, Morgan Stanley understood that VISX management reviewed VISX's recent financial performance to form the basis of its projections, but further understood that VISX's revenue, EBITDA and net income would steadily increase over time generally due to new product introductions and market expansion, and that such projections were further adjusted based on AMO management's assessment of VISX's future performance. To calculate the discounted equity value, Morgan Stanley multiplied the applicable VISX earnings estimate by the next calendar year multiple range of 19.0x to 23.0x, based on the reference range derived from the comparable company analysis, and discounted the implied nominal equity values of VISX to a present value at an illustrative discount rate of 11%, which reflected the VISX average cost of equity capital. Based on the aforementioned projections and assumptions, Morgan Stanley derived an implied valuation range for VISX common stock of \$18.62 to \$23.62 and \$21.25 to \$31.13, using Wall Street equity research estimates and VISX management estimates, respectively. Morgan Stanley noted that the implied merger consideration based on the closing price per share of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004 was \$26.52.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Morgan Stanley performed a five year discounted cash flow analysis, which is designed to represent the value of a company based on its future cash flows and expenses and the riskiness of achieving such projections, of the after-tax unlevered free cash flows derived from VISX for fiscal years 2005 through 2009, which included estimates of synergies. Morgan Stanley performed this analysis based on the following projections: (i) financial forecasts and estimates provided by VISX management, (ii) Wall Street research estimates adjusted based on guidance from AMO management, and (iii) a downside case which

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reflected adjustments to the financial forecasts and estimates provided by VISX management based on discussions with AMO management. Morgan Stanley estimated a range of terminal values calculated in 2009 based on a range of forward EBITDA multiples of 10.5x to 13.5x. Morgan Stanley then discounted the unlevered free cash flow streams and the estimated terminal value to a present value at a range of discount rates from 10.0% to 12.0%, based on VISX's estimated weighted average cost of capital. In addition, Morgan Stanley included the value of the estimated synergy benefits expected through the proposed transaction as developed by the management of AMO based upon discussions with the management of VISX.

Based on the aforementioned projections and assumptions, the discounted cash flow analysis of VISX yielded an implied valuation range of:

	Implied Value Range per Share of VISX Common Stock
VISX Management Estimates	\$29.35 - \$43.85
Adjusted Wall Street Research Estimates	\$19.11 - \$30.06
Downside Case	\$18.85 - \$29.62

Morgan Stanley noted that the implied merger consideration based on the closing price per share of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004 was \$26.52. The results of a discounted cash flow analysis may vary based upon, among other factors, the discount rates, the terminal values and synergy estimates used in the analysis by a particular investment bank.

Pro Forma Impact to AMO. Morgan Stanley analyzed the pro forma impact of the transaction on AMO's operating statistics, credit/capitalization statistics and projected earnings per share in 2005 through 2009 as published by Wall Street equity analysts. In discussing the publicly available projections of AMO with Morgan Stanley, AMO management reviewed AMO's recent financial performance and assumed that AMO's revenue, EBITDA and net income would steadily increase over time generally due to new product introductions and market expansion. Morgan Stanley's analysis indicated that after payment of the merger consideration, that the merger would reduce AMO's total debt divided by EBITDA ratio and total debt divided by total book capitalization, and increase the EBITDA divided by total interest ratio and free cash flow divided by total debt ratio. Morgan Stanley's analysis also indicated that the merger would improve AMO's revenue, EBITDA, and free cash flow growth from 2005 through 2009 and it would increase AMO's EBITDA margin from 2005 to 2009. Furthermore, Morgan Stanley's analysis indicated that the merger is dilutive to AMO's estimated earnings per share in 2005 and accretive to estimated earnings per share in 2006 through 2009 based on generally accepted accounting principles, which include the annual non-cash intangible asset amortization expenses incurred in the merger, as estimated by the management of AMO. Morgan Stanley noted that the merger is accretive to AMO's estimated cash earnings per share, which exclude the annual non-cash intangible amortization expenses incurred in the merger, in 2005 through 2009. Morgan Stanley also noted that it had included the estimated impact to operating income of the annual cost and revenue synergy benefits that ranged from \$22 million to \$74 million during the period from 2005 to 2009 expected through the proposed merger as developed by the management of AMO based upon discussions with the management of VISX when it reviewed the pro forma impact of the merger to AMO.

In connection with review of the transaction by the AMO board of directors, Morgan Stanley performed a variety of financial and comparable analyses for purposes of rendering its opinion. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. In arriving at its opinion, Morgan Stanley considered the results of all of its analyses as a whole and did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor considered. Furthermore, Morgan Stanley believes that the summary provided and the analyses described above must be considered as a whole and that selecting any portion of the analyses, without considering all of them, would create an incomplete view of the process underlying Morgan Stanley's analyses and opinion. As a result, the ranges of valuations resulting from any particular analysis or

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combination of analyses described above should not be taken to be the view of Morgan Stanley with respect to the actual value of VISX common stock.

In performing its analyses, Morgan Stanley made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many of which are beyond the control of Morgan Stanley. Any estimates contained in the analyses of Morgan Stanley are not necessarily indicative of future results or actual values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by such estimates. The analyses performed were prepared solely as part of the analyses of Morgan Stanley of the fairness of the merger consideration to be paid by AMO to holders of shares of VISX common stock pursuant to the merger agreement, from a financial point of view, and were prepared in connection with the delivery by Morgan Stanley of its opinion, dated November 9, 2004, to the AMO board of directors.

The opinion of Morgan Stanley was one of many factors taken into consideration by the AMO board of directors in making its determination to approve the proposed transaction. The foregoing summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Morgan Stanley.

The AMO board of directors selected Morgan Stanley as its financial advisor because of its reputation as an internationally recognized investment banking and advisory firm with substantial experience in transactions similar to this proposed transaction and because Morgan Stanley is familiar with AMO and its business. As part of its investment banking and financial advisory business, Morgan Stanley is continually engaged in the valuation of businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, competitive biddings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for corporate and other purposes.

Morgan Stanley provides a full range of financial advisory and securities services and in the past, has provided financial advisory and financing services to AMO and has received fees for the rendering of such services and also may provide such services to AMO in the future for which it would expect to receive fees. In addition, Morgan Stanley is a full service securities firm engaged in securities trading, investment management and brokerage services. In the ordinary course of its trading, brokerage, investment management and financing activities, Morgan Stanley or its affiliates may actively trade the equity and debt securities and senior loans of VISX and AMO for its own accounts or for the accounts of its customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold long or short positions in such securities or loans.

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated October 4, 2004, AMO has agreed to pay Morgan Stanley a transaction fee in connection with the Merger equal to 0.75% of the aggregate value of the transaction (which, on the basis of market data as of March 15, 2005, would have been approximately \$9.6 million), provided, however, that under no circumstances shall the transaction fee exceed \$11.5 million. In addition, \$2 million of the transaction fee was payable upon the announcement of the transaction, with the remaining portion of which is contingent upon the completion of the merger. AMO has also agreed to reimburse Morgan Stanley for its fees and expenses incurred in performing its services. Morgan Stanley also provided a loan commitment to AMO in connection with the merger, and AMO has agreed to pay Morgan Stanley fees equal to approximately \$2 million in connection with such commitment and subsequent loan. In addition, AMO has agreed to indemnify Morgan Stanley and its affiliates, their respective directors, officers, agents and employees and each person, if any, controlling Morgan Stanley or any of its affiliates against certain liabilities and expenses, including certain liabilities under the federal securities laws, related to or arising out of Morgan Stanley's engagement and any related transactions.

Morgan Stanley has also provided certain investment banking services to AMO over the past two years from the date of the opinion, including having acted as:

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Joint bookrunner with respect to the offering of AMO's \$350 million of 2.50% convertible senior subordinated notes due 2024 in June 2004;

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Joint bookrunner with respect to the offering of AMO's \$140 million of 3.5% convertible senior subordinated notes due 2023 in June 2003; and

Participant in \$100 million senior credit facility due 2007 in June 2003.

In connection with such transactions, Morgan Stanley received fees of approximately \$4 million.

Opinion of VISX's Financial Advisor

Goldman Sachs rendered its opinion to the VISX board of directors that, as of the date of the written fairness opinion and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock, taken in the aggregate, pursuant to the merger agreement is fair from a financial point of view to such holders.

The full text of the written opinion of Goldman Sachs, dated November 9, 2004, which sets forth assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex H. Goldman Sachs provided its opinion for the information and assistance of the VISX board of directors in connection with its consideration of the merger. The Goldman Sachs opinion is not a recommendation as to how any holder of VISX common stock should vote with respect to the merger.

In connection with rendering the opinion described above and performing its related financial analyses, Goldman Sachs reviewed, among other things:

the merger agreement;

annual reports to stockholders and Annual Reports on Form 10-K of VISX for the five years ended December 31, 2003;

annual reports to stockholders and Annual Reports on Form 10-K of AMO for the two years ended December 31, 2003;

certain interim reports to stockholders and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q of VISX and AMO;

certain other communications from VISX and AMO to their respective stockholders; and

certain internal financial analyses and forecasts for VISX prepared by VISX management; certain internal financial analyses and forecasts for AMO prepared by AMO management, as adjusted by VISX management; and certain cost savings and operating synergies projected to result from the merger prepared by the managements of VISX and AMO and subsequently adjusted by VISX management.

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Goldman Sachs also held discussions with members of the senior management of VISX and AMO regarding their assessment of the strategic rationale for, and the potential benefits of, the merger and the past and current business operations, financial condition, and future prospects of their respective companies. In addition, Goldman Sachs reviewed the reported price and trading activity for the VISX common stock and the AMO common stock, compared certain financial and stock market information for VISX and AMO with similar information for certain other companies the securities of which are publicly traded, reviewed the financial terms of certain recent business combinations in the medical device industry specifically and in other industries generally and performed such other studies and analyses, and considered such other factors, as it considered appropriate.

Goldman Sachs relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial, accounting, legal, tax and other information discussed with or reviewed by it and assumed such accuracy and completeness for purposes of rendering the opinion described above. VISX management reviewed VISX's recent financial performance to form the basis of its projections, but further assumed that VISX's revenue, EBITDA and net income would

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steadily increase over time generally due to new product introductions and market expansion. As is typical in transactions of this nature, VISX management made adjustments to AMO's revenue and expense projections, and also to selected capital expenditures and working capital estimates. These adjustments were made by VISX management in order to perform a conservative analysis of the proposed transaction, not because VISX management was in possession of any specific facts or information to warrant the adjustments. Goldman Sachs assumed with VISX's consent that the internal financial analyses and forecasts for VISX prepared by VISX management, the internal financial analyses and forecasts for AMO prepared by AMO management as adjusted by VISX management and the cost savings and operating synergies projected to result from the merger prepared by the managements of VISX and AMO and subsequently adjusted by VISX management have been reasonably prepared on a basis reflecting the best currently available estimates and judgments of VISX. Goldman Sachs also assumed that all governmental, regulatory or other consents and approvals necessary for the consummation of the merger contemplated by the agreement will be obtained without any adverse effect on VISX or AMO or on the expected benefits of the merger in any way meaningful to Goldman Sachs' analysis. In addition, Goldman Sachs did not make an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets and liabilities (including any contingent, derivative or off-balance-sheet assets and liabilities) of VISX or AMO or any of their respective subsidiaries, nor was any evaluation or appraisal of the assets or liabilities of VISX or AMO or any of their respective subsidiaries furnished to Goldman Sachs. Goldman Sachs' opinion does not address the underlying business decision of VISX to engage in the merger. In addition, Goldman Sachs did not express any opinion as to the prices at which shares of AMO common stock will trade at any time.

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses delivered by Goldman Sachs to the VISX board of directors in connection with rendering the opinion described above. The following summary, however, does not purport to be a complete description of the financial analyses performed by Goldman Sachs, nor does the order of analyses described represent relative importance or weight given to those analyses by Goldman Sachs. Some of the summaries of the financial analyses include information presented in tabular format. The tables must be read together with the full text of each summary and are alone not a complete description of Goldman Sachs' financial analyses. Except as otherwise noted, the following quantitative information, to the extent that it is based on market data, is based on market data as it existed on or before November 8, 2004 and is not necessarily indicative of current market conditions.

Historical Stock Trading Analysis. Goldman Sachs reviewed the historical trading prices and volumes for the VISX common stock for the three-year period ended November 8, 2004. In addition, Goldman Sachs analyzed the consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock pursuant to the merger agreement, calculated as of the close of business on November 8, 2004, in relation to the latest one month, two months, three months, six months, one year and three year average market price of the VISX common stock as of the close of business on November 8, 2004.

This analysis indicated that the price per share to be paid to VISX stockholders pursuant to the merger agreement represented:

a premium of 56.8% based on the closing market price on November 8, 2004 of \$16.91 per share;

a premium of 45.9% based on the latest one month average market price of \$18.18 per share;

a premium of 35.6% based on the latest two months average market price of \$19.56 per share;

a premium of 34.2% based on the latest three months average market price of \$19.76 per share;

a premium of 22.2% based on the latest six months average market price of \$21.70 per share;

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a premium of 22.7% based on the latest one year average market price of \$21.62 per share; and

a premium of 62.5% based on the latest three year average market price of \$16.32 per share.

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis. Goldman Sachs performed a discounted cash flow analysis on VISX using VISX management's projections. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative net present value indications of free cash

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flows for VISX for the years 2005 through 2009 using discount rates ranging from 11% to 13%. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative value indications per share for VISX using illustrative terminal value indications in the year 2009 based on perpetuity growth rates ranging from 2% to 4%. These illustrative terminal value indications were then discounted to calculate illustrative present value indications using discount rates ranging from 11% to 13%. The results of a discounted cash flow analysis may vary based upon, among other factors, the discount rates, the terminal values, and synergy estimates used in the analysis by a particular investment bank. The various ranges for discount rates and perpetuity growth rates were chosen to reflect theoretical analyses of cost of capital solely for the purpose of the discounted cash flow analysis. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Illustrative Per Share Value Indications	
	<hr/>	
VISX	\$	20.58-\$29.87

Goldman Sachs also performed a discounted cash flow analysis on AMO using AMO management's projections, as adjusted by VISX management. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative net present value indications of free cash flows for AMO for the years 2005 through 2009 using discount rates ranging from 10% to 12%. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative value indications per share for AMO using illustrative terminal value indications in the year 2009 based on perpetuity growth rates ranging from 2% to 4%. These illustrative terminal value indications were then discounted to calculate illustrative present value indications using discount rates ranging from 10% to 12%. The results of a discounted cash flow analysis may vary based upon, among other factors, the discount rates, the terminal values, and synergy estimates used in the analysis by a particular investment bank. The various ranges for discount rates and perpetuity growth rates were chosen to reflect theoretical analyses of cost of capital solely for the purpose of the discounted cash flow analysis. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Illustrative Per Share Value Indications	
	<hr/>	
AMO	\$	34.90-\$54.61

In addition, Goldman Sachs performed a discounted cash flow analysis on the combined company, with synergies using (a) VISX management's projections, (b) AMO management's projections, as adjusted by VISX's management, and (c) VISX and AMO managements' projected synergies, subsequently adjusted by VISX's management. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative net present value indications of free cash flows for the combined company for the years 2005 through 2009 using discount rates ranging from 10% to 12%. Goldman Sachs calculated illustrative value indications per share of the combined company using illustrative terminal value indications in the year 2009 based on perpetuity growth rates ranging from 2% to 4%. These illustrative terminal value indications were then discounted to calculate illustrative present value indications using discount rates ranging from 10% to 12%. The results of a discounted cash flow analysis may vary based upon, among other factors, the discount rates, the terminal values, and synergy estimates used in the analysis by a particular investment bank. The various ranges for discount rates and perpetuity growth rates were chosen to reflect theoretical analyses of cost of capital solely for the purpose of the discounted cash flow analysis. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Illustrative Per Share Value Indications	
	<hr/>	
The Combined Company	\$	41.43-\$66.11

Goldman Sachs also performed a discounted cash flow analysis on the combined company without synergies using (a) VISX management's projections and (b) AMO management's projections, as adjusted by VISX's management. Goldman Sachs calculated the illustrative per share value to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger based on multiplying the illustrative per share values for the combined company resulting from the discounted cash flow analysis of the combined company with synergies by 0.552 and adding \$3.50. This analysis resulted in a range of illustrative per share consideration equal to \$26.37 - \$39.99. Goldman Sachs then calculated the illustrative per share value to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger as a

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premium to the illustrative per share values for VISX resulting from the discounted cash flow analysis of VISX. This analysis resulted in a premium range equal to 28.1% - 33.9%.

Goldman Sachs performed these various discounted cash flow analyses because such analyses which are based on management's estimates of future cash flows and the perceived riskiness of achieving such projections result in illustrative per share equity values for AMO, VISX and the combined company, respectively.

Pro Forma Merger Analysis. Goldman Sachs prepared illustrative pro forma analyses with synergies of the potential financial impact of the merger on a GAAP basis using (a) earnings estimates for VISX prepared by its management, (b) earnings estimates for AMO prepared by its management, as adjusted by VISX management and (c) synergies estimates prepared by VISX and AMO managements, subsequently adjusted by VISX management. For each of the estimated years 2005 and 2006, Goldman Sachs compared the projected earnings per share of AMO common stock, on a stand-alone basis, to the projected earnings per share of the common stock of the combined companies. Based on such analyses, the proposed transaction would be dilutive to AMO stockholders on an earnings per share basis in the above scenarios in the years 2005 and 2006.

Goldman Sachs prepared illustrative pro forma analyses without synergies of the potential financial impact of the merger using (a) earnings estimates for VISX prepared by its management and (b) earnings estimates for AMO prepared by AMO management, as adjusted by VISX management. For each of the estimated years 2005 and 2006, Goldman Sachs compared the projected earnings per share of AMO common stock, on a stand-alone basis, to the projected earnings per share of the common stock of the combined companies. Based on such analyses, the proposed transaction would be dilutive to AMO's stockholders on an earnings per share basis in the above scenarios in the years 2005 and 2006.

Goldman Sachs performed this pro forma merger analysis because such analysis which is based on management's estimates of future earnings of VISX and AMO, respectively, and the synergies expected to be realized from the transaction results in a measure of how accretive or dilutive the transaction is expected to be to the earnings per share of AMO.

Contribution Analysis. Goldman Sachs reviewed estimated future operating and financial information including, among other things, sales, EBITDA, net income and pre-tax income for VISX, AMO and the combined entity resulting from the merger without synergies based on (a) VISX management's financial forecasts and (b) AMO management's financial forecasts, as adjusted by VISX management. Goldman Sachs calculated that the consideration to be paid in the merger for each share of VISX common stock of 0.552 shares of AMO common stock plus \$3.50 would result in VISX's stockholders owning approximately 41.5% of the outstanding common equity of the combined company following consummation of the merger. Goldman Sachs also calculated that the consideration to be paid in the merger for each share of VISX common stock of 0.552 shares of AMO common stock plus \$3.50 resulted in an illustrative exchange ratio of 0.637 shares of AMO common stock for each share of VISX common stock based on the market value of AMO common stock on November 8, 2004. Based on this illustrative exchange ratio, Goldman Sachs further determined that VISX stockholders would own on an illustrative basis 45.0% of the outstanding common equity of the combined company following consummation of the merger. Goldman Sachs also analyzed the relative potential contribution of VISX to the combined company following consummation of the merger without synergies for the estimated years 2005 and 2006. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	VISX Contribution To Combined Company			
	Sales	EBITDA	Pre-Tax Income	Net Income
2005E	19.5%	34.2%	42.7%	40.6%

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2006E	20.4%	35.2%	43.1%	40.2%
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Goldman Sachs performed the contribution analysis in order to permit a comparison of the implied percentage equity ownership of VISX s and AMO s stockholders, respectively, in the combined company to

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VISX's and AMO's respective estimated contributions to various estimated pro forma financial results for the combined company. Such a comparison is one measure of whether the stockholders of VISX and AMO, respectively, are receiving a fair share of the equity ownership of the combined company.

Selected Companies Analysis. Goldman Sachs reviewed and compared certain financial information for VISX and AMO to corresponding financial information, ratios and public market multiples for the following publicly traded corporations in the Diversified Ophthalmology, Large Cap Diversified, and Contact Lens segments of the ophthalmology industry:

Diversified Ophthalmology

Alcon Inc.

Allergan Inc.

AMO*

Bausch & Lomb Inc.

Large Cap Diversified

Johnson & Johnson

Merck & Company Inc.

Novartis

Contact Lens

Cooper Companies Inc.**

Ocular Sciences Inc.

Although none of the selected companies is directly comparable to VISX or AMO, the companies included were chosen because they are publicly traded companies with operations that for purposes of analysis may be considered similar to certain operations of VISX and AMO based on selected criteria including size, geographic presence, product offerings and growth potential.

Goldman Sachs also calculated and compared various financial multiples and ratios based on information it obtained from SEC filings and Institutional Brokers Estimate System, which is referred to as IBES, median estimates. The multiples and ratios of VISX were calculated using the VISX closing price on November 8, 2004 and were based on the most recent publicly available information and IBES estimates. The multiples and ratios for each of the selected companies were based on the most recent publicly available information and IBES estimates. With respect to the selected companies, Goldman Sachs calculated:

levered market capitalization as a multiple of last twelve months, which is referred to as LTM, sales;

levered market capitalization as a multiple of LTM EBITDA; and

levered market capitalization as a multiple of LTM EBIT.

* AMO pro forma for recapitalization and \$450 million acquisition of Pfizer's Surgical Ophthalmology Business.

** Cooper Companies Inc. announced on July 24, 2004 its intention to acquire Ocular Sciences Inc. for \$1.2 billion. The transaction was completed on January 6, 2005, and the multiples are not pro forma for the transaction.

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The results of these analyses are summarized as follows:

	Diversified Ophthalmology Companies		Large Cap Diversified		Contact Lens		VISX
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	
Levered Market Capitalization as a multiple of:							
LTM Sales	3.9x	3.9x	3.5x	3.7x	4.7x	4.7x	4.4x
LTM EBITDA	16.7x	18.2x	10.6x	11.8x	18.1x	18.1x	9.9x
LTM EBIT	21.5x	21.0x	12.4x	13.8x	23.3x	23.3x	11.4x

Goldman Sachs also calculated the selected companies' LTM and estimated calendar years 2005 and 2006 price to earnings ratios and compared such ratios to the results for VISX. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Diversified Ophthalmology Companies		Large Cap Diversified		Contact Lens		VISX
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	
Price/Earnings Ratio:							
LTM	27.9x	28.4x	16.9x	19.5x	26.7x	26.7x	20.6x
2005	22.8x	23.6x	15.6x	18.0x	22.8x	22.8x	17.3x
2006	19.5x	19.8x	14.5x	16.6x	19.5x	19.5x	14.7x

Goldman Sachs also considered LTM EBITDA margins and LTM EBIT margins, five-year EPS compounded annual growth rate, which is referred to as CAGR, and estimated calendar year 2005 price/earnings to five-year EPS CAGR provided by IBES.

The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Diversified Ophthalmology Companies		Large Cap Diversified		Contact Lens		VISX
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	
LTM EBITDA Margin	23.3%	23.6%	35.0%	31.5%	25.8%	25.8%	44.3%
LTM EBIT Margin	18.8%	19.0%	30.1%	27.1%	20.2%	20.2%	38.4%
5 Year EPS CAGR	17.3%	17.4%	9.2%	12.0%	14.8%	14.8%	20.0%
2005E Price/Earnings/5-Year EPS CAGR	1.3x	1.3x	2.1x	1.5x	1.6x	1.6x	0.9x

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Goldman Sachs also reviewed and compared certain financial information for VISX to corresponding financial information, ratios and public market multiples for the following publicly traded corporations in the high growth medical technology industry:

Advanced Neuromodulation Systems Inc.

Align Technology Inc.

Given Imaging Limited

Integra LifeSciences Holding

Intuitive Surgical Inc.

Kyphon Inc.

Resmed Inc.

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Respironics Inc.

Varian Medical Systems Inc.

Wright Medical Technology Inc.

Although none of the selected companies is directly comparable to VISX, the companies included were chosen because they are publicly traded companies with operations that for purposes of analysis may be considered similar to certain operations of VISX and AMO based on selected criteria including size, geographic presence, product offerings and growth potential.

Goldman Sachs also calculated and compared various financial multiples and ratios based on information it obtained from SEC filings and IBES median estimates. The multiples and ratios of VISX were calculated using the VISX closing price on November 8, 2004. The multiples and ratios of VISX were based on the most recent publicly available information and IBES estimates. The multiples and ratios for each of the selected companies were based on the most recent publicly available information and IBES estimates. With respect to the selected companies, Goldman Sachs calculated:

levered market capitalization, which is the market value of common equity plus the book value of debt less cash, as a multiple of LTM sales;

levered market capitalization as a multiple of LTM earnings before interest, taxes and depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA; and

levered market capitalization as a multiple of LTM earnings before interest and taxes, or EBIT.

The results of these analyses are summarized as follows:

	Selected Companies			
	Range	Median	Mean	VISX
Levered Market Capitalization as a multiple of:				
LTM Sales	2.6x-15.3x	4.9x	6.0x	4.4x
LTM EBITDA	11.5x-96.3x	20.7x	29.5x	9.9x
LTM EBIT	15.6x-65.0x	22.7x	28.7x	11.4x

Goldman Sachs also calculated the selected companies' LTM and estimated calendar years 2005 and 2006 price to earnings ratios and compared such ratios to the results for VISX. The following table presents the results of this analysis:

Price/Earnings Ratio:	Selected Companies	VISX
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	Range	Median	Mean	
LTM	24.3x-466.2x	37.8x	85.8x	20.6x
2005E	20.5x-57.0x	28.6x	31.2x	17.3x
2006E	17.4x-29.1x	23.5x	22.9x	14.7x

Goldman Sachs also considered LTM EBIT margin, five-year earnings per share compound annual growth rate which is referred to as EPS CAGR and estimated calendar years 2005 and 2006 price/earnings to five-year EPS CAGR provided by IBES.

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The following table presents the results of this analysis:

	Selected Companies			
	Range	Median	Mean	VISX
LTM EBIT Margin	(36.7)%-25.2%	18.6%	12.0%	38.4%
5-Year EPS CAGR	18.0%-38.0%	25.0%	26.0%	20.0%
2005E Price/Earnings/5-Year EPS CAGR	1.0x-1.4x	1.1x	1.2x	0.9x
2006E Price/Earnings/5-Year EPS CAGR	0.7x-1.2x	0.9x	0.9x	0.7x

The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Selecting portions of the analyses or of the summary set forth above, without considering the analyses as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying Goldman Sachs' opinion. In arriving at its fairness determination, Goldman Sachs considered the results of all of its analyses and did not attribute any particular weight to any factor or analysis considered by it. Rather, Goldman Sachs made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of all of its analyses. No company or transaction used in the above analyses as a comparison is directly comparable to VISX or AMO or the proposed merger.

Goldman Sachs prepared these analyses for purposes of Goldman Sachs' providing its opinion to VISX's board of directors as to the fairness from a financial point of view of the consideration to be received by holders of VISX common stock, taken in the aggregate, in the merger. These analyses do not purport to be appraisals nor do they necessarily reflect the prices at which businesses or securities actually may be sold. Any estimates contained in the analyses performed by Goldman Sachs are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those suggested by such analyses. Accordingly, such analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

As described above, Goldman Sachs' opinion to the VISX board of directors was one of many factors taken into consideration by the VISX board of directors in making its determination to approve the merger agreement. The foregoing summary does not purport to be a complete description of the analyses performed by Goldman Sachs in connection with the fairness opinion and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the written opinion of Goldman Sachs attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex H.

Goldman Sachs and its affiliates, as part of their investment banking business, are continually engaged in performing financial analyses with respect to businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, competitive biddings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and other transactions as well as for estate, corporate and other purposes. Goldman Sachs has acted as financial advisor to VISX in connection with, and has participated in certain of the negotiations leading to, the merger contemplated by the agreement. In addition, Goldman Sachs has provided certain investment banking services to VISX from time to time, including having acted as financial advisor to VISX with respect to an unsolicited proposal to acquire all of the VISX common stock in May 2001; and as sole bookrunning manager in connection with the acquisition of 6,000,000 shares of VISX common stock, of which 3,500,000 were purchased by VISX, in May 2003. Goldman Sachs did not receive any compensation in connection with the acquisition and subsequent sale of VISX common stock in May 2003 described above. Goldman Sachs also may provide investment banking services to VISX and AMO in the future. In connection with the above-described investment banking services Goldman Sachs has received, and may receive in the future, compensation.

Goldman Sachs is a full service securities firm engaged, either directly or through its affiliates, in securities trading, investment management, financial planning and benefits counseling, risk management, hedging, financing and brokerage activities for both companies and individuals. In the ordinary course of these activities, Goldman Sachs and its affiliates may provide such services to VISX, AMO and their respective affiliates,

may

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actively trade the debt and equity securities of VISX and AMO (or related derivative securities) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers and may at any time hold long and short positions of such securities.

The VISX board of directors selected Goldman Sachs as its financial advisor because it is an internationally recognized investment banking firm that has substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger. Pursuant to a letter agreement dated August 16, 2004, VISX engaged Goldman Sachs to act as its financial advisor in connection with the proposed merger. Pursuant to the terms of this engagement letter, VISX agreed to pay Goldman Sachs a transaction fee equal to the greater of \$10 million or 0.75% of the aggregate consideration paid to VISX stockholders in the merger (which, calculated on the basis of market data as of March 15, 2005 would have been approximately \$8.6 million), all of which is payable upon consummation of the merger. In addition, VISX has agreed to reimburse Goldman Sachs for its expenses, including attorneys' fees and disbursements, and to indemnify Goldman Sachs and related persons against various liabilities, including certain liabilities under the federal securities laws.

Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger

The following summary discusses the material United States federal income tax consequences of the merger applicable to a holder of shares of VISX common stock that receives cash and AMO common stock in the merger. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, judicial authorities, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service, which is referred to as the IRS, and other applicable authorities, all as currently in effect and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations (possibly with retroactive effect). This discussion is limited to United States residents and citizens that hold their shares of VISX common stock as capital assets for United States federal income tax purposes (generally, assets held for investment). This discussion does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular VISX stockholder, including non-United States holders, or to a VISX stockholder that is subject to special treatment under United States federal income tax laws. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences set forth below.

HOLDERS OF SHARES OF VISX COMMON STOCK ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE MERGER, AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF STATE, LOCAL AND NON-UNITED STATES TAX LAWS.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, counsel to AMO, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, counsel to VISX, have each rendered opinions, attached to this Registration Statement as Exhibit 8.1 and Exhibit 8.2, respectively, based upon certain facts, representations and assumptions, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, the obligation of VISX to complete the merger is conditioned upon the receipt by VISX at closing of a tax opinion from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, (or from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP if Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation fails to give the opinion) to the effect that, on the basis of certain facts, representations and assumptions, the merger will constitute a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The obligation of AMO to complete the merger is also conditioned upon the receipt by AMO at closing of a tax opinion from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (or from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, if Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP fails to give the opinion), to the effect that, on the basis of certain facts, representations and assumptions, the merger will constitute a reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under certain circumstances, the merger agreement requires AMO and VISX to reduce the amount of the cash to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger to the minimum extent necessary, and increase the amount of stock to be received by VISX stockholders in the merger to the minimum extent necessary, to enable legal counsel to render their respective opinion or opinions, as the case may be, that the merger qualifies as a

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reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The tax opinions are not binding on the IRS or any court and do not preclude the IRS from asserting, or a court from sustaining, a contrary conclusion. Moreover, no rulings have been or will be sought from the IRS concerning the tax consequences of the merger.

Exchange of Shares of VISX Common Stock for Merger Consideration

A VISX stockholder that has shares of VISX common stock converted into merger consideration in the merger will recognize gain (but not loss) in an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the amount of cash received in the merger and (2) an amount equal to the excess, if any, of (a) the sum of the amount of cash received in the merger and the fair market value of the AMO common stock received in the merger over (b) the stockholder's tax basis in its shares surrendered in exchange therefor. For this purpose, a VISX stockholder must calculate gain or loss separately for each identifiable block of shares exchanged by such stockholder, and a VISX stockholder cannot offset a loss recognized on one block of such shares against a gain recognized on another block of such shares. The gain recognized will be capital gain unless the receipt of cash by the stockholder has the effect of a distribution of a dividend, in which case such gain will be treated as ordinary dividend income to the extent of the stockholder's ratable share of accumulated earnings and profits as calculated for United States federal income tax purposes. For purposes of determining whether the receipt of cash by the stockholder has the effect of a distribution of a dividend, a stockholder will be treated as if the stockholder first exchanged all of its shares solely for AMO common stock and then AMO immediately redeemed a portion of such stock for the cash that such stockholder actually received pursuant to the merger agreement. The IRS has indicated in rulings that any reduction in the interest of a minority stockholder that owns a small number of shares in a publicly and widely held corporation and that exercises no control over corporate affairs would result in capital gain (as opposed to dividend) treatment. In determining the interest of a stockholder in a corporation, certain constructive ownership rules must be taken into account. Any capital gain will be long-term if the stockholder's holding period for its shares is more than one year.

Tax Basis for AMO Common Stock

A VISX stockholder will have an aggregate tax basis in AMO common stock received in the merger (other than a fractional share) equal to the stockholder's aggregate tax basis in its shares surrendered pursuant to the merger, (1) reduced by (a) the portion of the stockholder's tax basis in its shares surrendered in the merger that is allocable to a fractional share of AMO common stock for which cash is received and (b) the amount of cash received by the stockholder in the merger (other than cash received in lieu of a fractional share), and (2) increased by the amount of gain (including any portion of such gain that is treated as a dividend as described above), if any, recognized by the stockholder in the merger (but not by gain recognized upon the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share of AMO common stock).

Holding Period for AMO Common Stock

The holding period for AMO common stock received by a VISX stockholder in the merger will include the holding period of the shares surrendered in the merger.

Cash Received in Lieu of a Fractional Share of AMO Common Stock

If a VISX stockholder receives cash in lieu of a fractional share of AMO common stock in the merger, the stockholder will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount of cash received in lieu of the fractional share and the portion of the stockholder's tax

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basis in its shares surrendered in the merger that is allocable to the fractional share. The capital gain or loss will be long-term if the stockholder's holding period for the portion of the shares deemed exchanged for the fractional share is more than one year.

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Treatment of the Entities

No gain or loss will be recognized by AMO or VISX as a result of the merger.

Cash Received by Dissenting Stockholders

In the absence of authority directly on point, counsel to AMO and counsel to VISX are each unable to provide an unequivocal opinion with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences to a stockholder who perfects appraisal rights. It is possible that an eligible VISX stockholder that perfects its appraisal rights will be required to recognize capital gain or loss at the effective time of the Merger in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the tax basis of such stockholder's shares of VISX common stock. In addition, a portion of any proceeds received following the effective time of the merger may be characterized as interest, taxable as ordinary income, thus reducing the amount of such capital gain or increasing the amount of such capital loss (as the case may be). It is also possible that a stockholder who perfects his or her appraisal rights will be required to recognize gain or loss at the time of actual payment for such shares, measured by the difference between the amount of cash received by such stockholder and the stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such shares. Given the uncertain treatment under the federal income tax law, a stockholder who determines to perfect appraisal rights should consult his or her tax advisor.

Accounting Treatment

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, AMO will account for the merger as a business combination. Upon the completion of the merger, AMO will record the cash consideration, the market value of its common stock issued (based on an average of the closing prices of AMO common stock for a range of trading days from two days before and after November 9, 2004, the announcement date) in the merger, the fair value of VISX's debt at the time of the merger, the fair value of AMO options issued in exchange for options to purchase shares of VISX common stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger and the amount of direct transaction costs associated with the merger, as the estimated purchase price of acquiring VISX. AMO will allocate the estimated purchase price to the tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their respective fair values at the effective time of the merger. Any excess of the estimated purchase price over the fair value of net assets acquired will be accounted for as goodwill.

In accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets, goodwill resulting from the business combination will not be amortized but instead will be tested for impairment at least annually (more frequently if certain indicators are present). In the event that AMO management determines that the value of goodwill has become impaired, the combined company will incur an accounting charge for the amount of impairment during the fiscal quarter in which the determination is made.

Regulatory Matters

The merger is subject to review by the Antitrust Division and the FTC under the HSR Act, and by foreign governmental authorities under the antitrust laws of various other jurisdictions where AMO and VISX conduct business. Under the HSR Act, AMO and VISX are required to make pre-merger notification filings and must await the expiration of statutory waiting periods prior to completing the merger. AMO and VISX have made the requisite pre-merger notification filings with the Antitrust Division and the FTC, and the applicable waiting period has expired. AMO and VISX have filed the requisite notification of the merger with the Administrative Council for Economic Defense in Brazil and with the Fair Trade Commission in Taiwan. On January 17, 2005, the Federal Trade Commission in Taiwan decided to waive its jurisdiction over the merger.

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The completion of the merger is also conditioned upon the expiration or termination of all necessary antitrust waiting periods and receipt of all necessary antitrust clearances, consents and approvals. All applicable waiting periods have expired and AMO and VISX have obtained the governmental or regulatory approvals required to complete the merger.

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Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO is not required to sell, dispose of or hold separately any assets or businesses or interests in any assets or businesses of AMO, VISX or their respective affiliates, or make any other change in any portion of the businesses of VISX or AMO or incur any limitation on the conduct of the business of VISX or AMO in order to obtain any clearances, consents or approvals in connection with the merger. Either AMO or VISX may refuse to complete the merger if any such restrictions or conditions are required by governmental authorities as a condition to approving the merger. No additional stockholder approval is expected to be required for any decision by AMO or VISX, after the special meeting of AMO's stockholders and the special meeting of VISX's stockholders, to agree to any terms and conditions necessary to resolve any regulatory objections to the merger.

In addition, during or after the statutory waiting periods and clearance of the merger, and even after completion of the merger, either the Antitrust Division, the FTC, or other United States or foreign governmental authorities could challenge or seek to block the merger under the antitrust laws, as it deems necessary or desirable in the public interest. Moreover, in some jurisdictions, a competitor, customer or other third party could initiate a private action under the antitrust laws challenging or seeking to enjoin the merger, before or after it is completed. AMO and VISX cannot be sure that a challenge to the merger will not be made or that, if a challenge is made, AMO and VISX will prevail.

Dissenters or Appraisal Rights

Holders of shares of VISX common stock who do not vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger and who properly demand appraisal of their shares will be entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger under Section 262 of the DGCL. Under the DGCL, holders of shares of AMO common stock are not entitled to appraisal rights in connection with the merger.

The following discussion is not a complete statement of the law pertaining to appraisal rights under the DGCL and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of Section 262 which is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex F. The following summary does not constitute any legal or other advice nor does it constitute a recommendation that stockholders exercise their appraisal rights under Section 262. All references in Section 262 and in this summary to a stockholder are to the record holder of the shares of VISX common stock as to which appraisal rights are asserted. A person having a beneficial interest in shares of VISX common stock held of record in the name of another person, such as a broker, fiduciary, depository or other nominee, must act promptly to cause the record holder to follow the steps summarized below properly and in a timely manner to perfect appraisal rights.

Under Section 262, persons who hold shares of VISX common stock who do not vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger and who otherwise follow the procedures set forth in Section 262 will be entitled to have their shares appraised by the Delaware Court of Chancery and to receive payment in cash of the fair value of the shares, exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with a fair rate of interest, if any, as determined by the court.

Notice of Appraisal Rights. Under Section 262, where a merger is to be submitted for approval at a meeting of a corporation's stockholders, as in the case of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger by VISX's stockholders, the corporation, not less than 20 days prior to the meeting, must notify each of its stockholders entitled to appraisal rights that appraisal rights are available and include in the notice a copy of Section 262. This joint proxy statement/prospectus shall constitute the notice, and the full text of Section 262 is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex F. Any holder of VISX common stock who wishes to exercise appraisal rights, or who wishes to preserve such holder's right to do so, should review the following discussion and Annex F carefully because failure to timely and properly comply with the procedures specified will result in the loss of appraisal rights. Moreover, because of the complexity of the procedures for exercising the right to seek appraisal of shares of common stock, VISX believes that if a VISX stockholder considers exercising such rights, such stockholder should seek the advice of legal counsel.

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Filing Written Demand. Any VISX stockholder wishing to exercise appraisal rights must deliver to VISX, before the vote on approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger at the VISX special meeting, a written demand for the appraisal of the stockholder's shares, and that stockholder must not vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger. A holder of shares of VISX common stock wishing to exercise appraisal rights must hold of record the shares on the date the written demand for appraisal is made and must continue to hold the shares of record through completion of the merger, since appraisal rights will be lost if the shares are transferred prior to completion of the merger. The holder must not vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger. A proxy which is signed and submitted but does not contain voting instructions will, unless revoked, be voted in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger, and it will constitute a waiver of the stockholder's right of appraisal and will nullify any previously delivered written demand for appraisal. Therefore, a stockholder who votes by proxy and who wishes to exercise appraisal rights must vote against approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger or abstain from voting on the merger agreement and the merger. Neither voting against approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger (in person or by proxy), nor abstaining from voting or failing to vote on the proposal to approve and adopt the merger agreement and approval of the merger will in and of itself constitute a written demand for appraisal satisfying the requirements of Section 262. The written demand for appraisal must be in addition to and separate from any proxy or vote. The demand must reasonably inform VISX of the identity of the holder as well as the intention of the holder to demand an appraisal of the fair value of the shares held by the holder. A stockholder's failure to make the written demand prior to the taking of the vote on approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger at the VISX special meeting will constitute a waiver of appraisal rights.

Only a holder of record of shares of VISX common stock is entitled to assert appraisal rights for the shares registered in that holder's name. A demand for appraisal in respect of shares of VISX common stock should be executed by or on behalf of the holder of record, fully and correctly, as the holder's name appears on the holder's stock certificates, should specify the holder's name and mailing address and the number of shares registered in the holder's name and must state that the person intends thereby to demand appraisal of the holder's shares in connection with the merger. If the shares are owned of record in a fiduciary capacity, such as by a trustee, guardian or custodian, execution of the demand should be made in that capacity, and if the shares are owned of record by more than one person, as in a joint tenancy and tenancy in common, the demand should be executed by or on behalf of all joint owners. An authorized agent, including an agent for two or more joint owners, may execute a single demand for appraisal on behalf of a holder of record; however, the agent must identify the record owner or owners and expressly disclose that, in executing the demand, the agent is acting as agent for the record owner or owners. If the shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or nominee, the broker, bank or nominee may exercise appraisal rights with respect to the shares held for one or more beneficial owners while not exercising the rights with respect to the shares held for other beneficial owners; in such case, however, the written demand should set forth the number of shares as to which appraisal is sought, and where no number of shares is expressly mentioned, the demand will be presumed to cover all shares of VISX common stock held in the name of the record owner. Stockholders who hold their shares in brokerage accounts or other nominee forms and who wish to exercise appraisal rights are urged to consult with their brokers to determine the appropriate procedures for the making of a demand for appraisal by such a nominee.

All written demands for appraisal pursuant to Section 262 should be sent or delivered to VISX, Incorporated, 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, CA 95051, Attention: Secretary. The method of delivery of the written demand for appraisal to the address above is the option and risk of the stockholder.

Withdrawal of Demand. Any holder of VISX common stock may withdraw his, her or its demand for appraisal and accept the consideration offered pursuant to the merger agreement by delivering to the surviving corporation a written withdrawal of the demand for appraisal. However, any such attempt to withdraw the demand made more than 60 days after the effective date of the merger will require written approval of the surviving corporation. No appraisal proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery will be dismissed without the

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approval of the Delaware Court of Chancery, and such approval may be conditioned upon such terms as the Court deems just. If the surviving corporation does not approve a request to withdraw a demand for appraisal when that approval is required, or if the Delaware Court of Chancery does not approve the dismissal of an appraisal proceeding, the VISX stockholder will be entitled to receive only the appraised value determined in any such appraisal proceeding, which value could be less than, equal to or more than the consideration being offered pursuant to the merger agreement.

Notice by the Surviving Corporation. Within ten days after completion of the merger, the surviving corporation must notify each holder of VISX common stock who has made a written demand for appraisal pursuant to Section 262, and who has not voted in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger, that the merger has become effective.

Filing a Petition for Appraisal. Within 120 days after completion of the merger, but not thereafter, the surviving corporation or any holder of VISX common stock who has complied with Section 262 and is entitled to appraisal rights may file a petition in the Delaware Court of Chancery demanding a determination of the fair value of the shares held by all dissenting holders. The surviving corporation is under no obligation to and has no present intention to file such a petition and holders should not assume that the surviving corporation will file a petition. Accordingly, it is the obligation of the holders of VISX common stock to initiate all necessary action to perfect their appraisal rights in respect of shares of VISX common stock within the time prescribed in Section 262. Within 120 days after completion of the merger, any holder of VISX common stock who has complied with the requirements for exercise of appraisal rights will be entitled, upon written request, to receive from the surviving corporation a statement setting forth the aggregate number of shares not voted in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger and with respect to which demands for appraisal have been received and the aggregate number of holders of such shares. The statement must be mailed within ten days after a written request therefore has been received by the surviving corporation or within ten days after the expiration of the period for delivery of demands for appraisal, whichever is later.

Under the merger agreement, VISX has agreed to provide AMO notice of any demands for appraisal received by it. AMO will have the right to participate in and direct all negotiations and proceedings with respect to demands for appraisal under Section 262 of the DGCL. VISX will not voluntarily make any payments with respect to, or settle or offer to settle, any demand for appraisal without the prior written consent of AMO. If a petition for an appraisal is timely filed by a holder of shares of VISX common stock and a copy thereof is served upon the surviving corporation, the surviving corporation will then be obligated within 20 days to file with the Delaware Register in Chancery a duly verified list containing the names and addresses of all stockholders who have demanded an appraisal of their shares and with whom agreements as to the value of their shares have not been reached. After notice to the stockholders as required by the court, the Delaware Court of Chancery is empowered to conduct a hearing on the petition to determine those stockholders who have complied with Section 262 and who have become entitled to appraisal rights thereunder. The Delaware Court of Chancery may require the stockholders who demanded payment for their shares to submit their stock certificates to the Register in Chancery for notation thereon of the pendency of the appraisal proceeding; and if any stockholder fails to comply with the direction, the Court of Chancery may dismiss the proceedings as to the stockholder.

Determination of Fair Value. After determining the holders of VISX common stock entitled to appraisal, the Delaware Court of Chancery will appraise the fair value of their shares, exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger, together with a fair rate of interest, if any, to be paid upon the amount determined to be the fair value. In determining fair value and, if applicable, a fair rate of interest, the Court of Chancery of Delaware will take into account all relevant factors. In *Weinberger v. UOP, Inc.*, the Supreme Court of Delaware discussed the factors that could be considered in determining fair value in an appraisal proceeding, stating that proof of value by any techniques or methods that are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered, and that fair price obviously requires consideration of all relevant factors involving the value of a company. The Delaware Supreme Court stated that, in making this determination of fair value, the court must consider market value, asset

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value, dividends, earnings prospects, the nature of the enterprise and any other facts that could be ascertained as of the date of the merger that throw any light on future prospects of the merged corporation. Section 262 provides that fair value is to be exclusive of any element of value arising from the accomplishment or expectation of the merger. In *Cede & Co. v. Technicolor, Inc.*, the Delaware Supreme Court stated that this exclusion is a narrow exclusion [that] does not encompass known elements of value, but which rather applies only to the speculative elements of value arising from such accomplishment or expectation. In *Weinberger*, the Supreme Court of Delaware also stated that elements of future value, including the nature of the enterprise, which are known or susceptible of proof as of the date of the merger and not the product of speculation, may be considered.

Stockholders considering seeking appraisal should be aware that the fair value of their shares as so determined could be more than, the same as or less than the merger consideration they would receive pursuant to the merger (0.552 shares of AMO common stock and \$3.50 for each share of VISX common stock, and cash in lieu of any fractional shares) if they did not seek appraisal of their shares, and that an investment banking opinion as to fairness from a financial point of view is not necessarily an opinion as to fair value under Section 262. Although VISX believes that the merger consideration is fair, no representation is made as to the outcome of the appraisal of fair value as determined by the Delaware Court of Chancery, and stockholders should recognize that such an appraisal could result in a determination of a value higher or lower than, or the same as, the merger consideration. Neither VISX nor AMO anticipate offering more than the applicable merger consideration to any VISX stockholder exercising appraisal rights, and reserve the right to assert, in any appraisal proceeding, that for purposes of Section 262, the fair value of a share of VISX common stock is less than the applicable merger consideration, and that the methods which are generally considered acceptable in the financial community and otherwise admissible in court should be considered in the appraisal proceedings. In addition, Delaware courts have decided that the statutory appraisal remedy, depending on factual circumstances, may or may not be a dissenter's exclusive remedy. The Delaware Court of Chancery will also determine the amount of interest, if any, to be paid upon the amounts to be received by persons whose shares of VISX common stock have been appraised. If a petition for appraisal is not timely filed, then the right to an appraisal will cease. The costs of the action may be determined by the Court and taxed upon the parties as the Court deems equitable under the circumstances. The Court may also order that all or a portion of the expenses incurred by a stockholder in connection with an appraisal, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and the fees and expenses of experts utilized in the appraisal proceeding, be charged pro rata against the value of all the shares entitled to be appraised.

If any stockholder who demands appraisal of shares of VISX common stock under Section 262 fails to perfect, or successfully withdraws or loses, his or her right to appraisal, the stockholder's shares of VISX common stock will be deemed to have been converted upon completion of the merger into the right to receive the merger consideration under the merger agreement (0.552 shares of AMO common stock and \$3.50, without interest for each share of VISX common stock owned by such stockholder (and cash in lieu of any fractional shares)). A stockholder will fail to perfect, or effectively lose or withdraw, the holder's right to appraisal if no petition for appraisal is filed within 120 days after completion of the merger or if the stockholder delivers to the surviving corporation a written withdrawal of the holder's demand for appraisal and an acceptance of the merger, in accordance with Section 262.

From and after completion of the merger, no dissenting stockholder shall have any rights of a VISX stockholder with respect to that holder's shares for any purpose, except to receive payment of fair value and to receive payment of dividends or other distributions on the holder's shares of VISX common stock, if any, payable to VISX stockholders of record as of a time prior to completion of the merger; provided, however, that if a dissenting stockholder delivers to the surviving company a written withdrawal of the demand for an appraisal within 60 days after completion of the merger or subsequently with the written approval of the surviving company, or, if no petition for appraisal is filed within 120 days after completion of the merger, then the right of that dissenting stockholder to an appraisal will cease and the dissenting stockholder will be entitled to receive only the merger consideration. Once a petition for appraisal is filed with the Delaware court, the appraisal proceeding may not be dismissed as to any VISX stockholder without the approval of the court.

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Failure to comply strictly with all of the procedures set forth in Section 262 of the DGCL will result in the loss of a stockholder's statutory appraisal rights. Consequently, any stockholder wishing to exercise appraisal rights is urged to consult legal counsel before attempting to exercise those rights.

Listing of AMO Common Stock and Delisting and Deregistration of VISX Common Stock after the Merger

Application will be made to have the shares of AMO common stock issued in the merger approved for listing on the NYSE. If the merger is completed, VISX common stock will be delisted from the NYSE and deregistered under the Exchange Act, and VISX will no longer file periodic reports with the SEC.

Restrictions on Sales of Shares of AMO Common Stock Received in the Merger

The shares of AMO common stock to be issued in connection with the merger will be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which is referred to as the Securities Act of 1933, and will be freely transferable, except for shares of AMO common stock issued to any person who is deemed to be an affiliate of VISX prior to the merger. Persons who may be deemed to be affiliates of VISX prior to the merger include individuals or entities that control, are controlled by, or are under common control of VISX prior to the merger, and may include officers and directors, as well as principal stockholders of VISX prior to the merger.

Persons who may be deemed to be affiliates of VISX prior to the merger may not sell any of the shares of AMO common stock received by them in connection with the merger except pursuant to:

an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 covering the resale of those shares;

an exemption under paragraph (d) of Rule 145 under the Securities Act of 1933; or

any other applicable exemption under the Securities Act of 1933.

Interests of Executive Officers and Directors of VISX in the Merger

In considering the recommendation of the VISX board of directors that VISX stockholders vote in favor of approval and adoption of the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, VISX stockholders should be aware that some VISX executive officers and directors may have interests in the merger that may be different from, or in addition to, their interests as stockholders of VISX.

These interests relate to or arise from, among other things:

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the continued indemnification of, and provision of directors and officers insurance coverage to, current directors and officers of VISX following the merger;

the appointment of Elizabeth H. Dávila, currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VISX, to the AMO board of directors upon completion of the merger;

the employment of certain executive officers of VISX by AMO upon completion of the merger;

the potential receipt of severance payments by executive officers; and

the accelerated vesting of officers and directors outstanding stock options and phantom units of VISX common stock, and the payments of cash and AMO common stock for shares of VISX common stock issued upon exercise of the officers and directors outstanding stock options.

Indemnification; Directors and Officers Insurance

AMO agreed that, for a period of six years following completion of the merger, the indemnification obligations set forth in VISX's certificate of incorporation and bylaws and any VISX indemnification agreements will survive. To do so, AMO will cause the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the surviving corporation of the merger to reflect provisions at least as favorable as the indemnification and exculpation provisions

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contained in VISX's current certificate of incorporation and bylaws and, for a period of six years following completion of the merger, AMO will not amend, repeal or otherwise modify the certificate of incorporation or bylaws in any manner that would adversely affect the indemnification rights of any individual who on or prior to completion of the merger was protected under indemnification provisions in any of these VISX documents.

In addition, for a period of six years from the completion of the merger, AMO will cause VISX's existing policy of directors' and officers' and fiduciary liability insurance (coverage limits of which were increased on November 4, 2004 by \$15 million) to be maintained, subject to certain limitations. Alternatively, subject to certain limitations, prior to the completion of the merger, VISX is also permitted to purchase a six-year tail prepaid policy on its current policy of directors' and officers' and fiduciary liability insurance and, if VISX elects to do so, AMO will maintain the policy in full force and effect.

AMO Board of Directors after the Merger

Under the merger agreement, AMO has agreed to take all action necessary so that upon completion of the merger, one current director of VISX will be appointed as a Class II director of AMO to serve a two-year term. The parties have agreed that Elizabeth H. Dávila will serve as the new AMO board member. Under existing AMO compensation policies, Ms. Dávila would become entitled to receive the compensation paid by AMO to its non-employee directors (other than the lead director) currently consisting of (i) an annual retainer of \$24,000 per year, plus meeting fees and pay for days spent on affairs of the combined company, and (ii) annual equity grants.

Employment of VISX Executive Officers by AMO after the Merger

Prior to executing the merger agreement, AMO and VISX reached an informal understanding that Mr. Douglas H. Post would continue as an executive officer of the combined company following the merger, although no discussions occurred regarding any terms and conditions of Mr. Post's employment. On December 14, 2004, AMO entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Post, who currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer of VISX. Pursuant to the agreement, Mr. Post will be employed by AMO as its Region President of the Americas, effective upon and subject to completion of the merger. The agreement provides for termination of Mr. Post's rights under his change of control severance agreement with VISX, dated as of September 12, 2001. The agreement has an initial three-year term, which will commence on the effective date of the merger and which may be renewed by the AMO board of directors for successive one-year periods. During the term of the agreement, Mr. Post's base salary may not be less than \$315,000 per year, and Mr. Post will be eligible to participate in AMO's bonus, equity-based compensation, vacation and other health and welfare programs customarily available to AMO's executive officers.

In the event that Mr. Post's employment is terminated by AMO other than for cause, or if he terminates his employment for good reason (as such terms are defined in the agreement), he will receive severance pay that includes:

a prorated portion of his targeted annual bonus for the year in which his termination occurred;

an amount representing his unused accrued vacation time (at his base salary rate) through the date of termination;

continued medical and other welfare plan coverage for Mr. Post and his eligible dependents for twelve months; and

a severance payment calculated by multiplying his annual compensation by two.

In the event Mr. Post's employment is terminated by AMO without cause or if he terminates his employment for good reason, 120 days prior to or within two years after a change in control event occurs, the agreement provides that he will receive a severance payment equal to three times annual compensation using the same method of calculation described above. The agreement also provides that all of Mr. Post's stock options, incentive compensation awards and restricted stock that are outstanding at the time of the termination will immediately become fully exercisable, payable or free from restrictions, respectively. Mr. Post will also be

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allowed to continue to participate for three years following his termination in all employee benefit plans that were available to him before termination. In the event that any payment or benefit Mr. Post receives pursuant to the agreement is deemed to constitute an excess parachute payment under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code, he is entitled to an excise tax gross-up payment to the full extent of his corresponding excise tax liability.

Since the signing of the merger agreement, Carol F. H. Harner, Ph.D., Donald L. Fagen, Alan F. Russell, Ph.D. and Theresa A. Johnson have accepted offers of employment with AMO, effective upon the completion of the merger. The offers of employment provide for these individuals to become at will employees at AMO with their current base salary and annual bonus targets, as well as other compensation and benefits consistent with those provided to similarly situated employees at AMO. Each of these individuals has agreed to the termination of her or his change in control agreement with VISX, effective upon the completion of the merger, which will be replaced with a change of control severance agreement with AMO.

The offers of employment for Dr. Harner and Dr. Russell provide for a special one-time stock grant of 2,000 shares of restricted stock that will vest in full at the end of two years. The special award is in lieu of participation in the AMO long term incentive program. The offers of employment with Dr. Harner and Dr. Russell provide her or him with the option of a two-year consulting arrangement at the rate of \$250,000 per year if she or he elects to retire from AMO two years following the completion of the merger. The offers of employment with Dr. Harner and Dr. Russell also provide that if she or he is terminated without cause within two years of the completion of the merger, then she or he is entitled to severance in the amount of the base salary owed for the remainder of two-year period and the \$500,000 consulting fee, subject to execution of a release of claims satisfactory to AMO. The offer of employment for Mr. Fagen provides for continuation of his VISX Relocation Bonus Agreement that provided for an aggregate payment of \$150,000.

Executive Officer Severance Payments and Stock Option Acceleration

All outstanding options to purchase VISX common stock, including options held by executive officers, will become fully vested and exercisable in connection with the merger. The terms of the equity incentive plans and agreements pursuant to which such options were granted provide for the acceleration of vesting in connection with a change of control of VISX and existed before the beginning of merger discussions with AMO. At the effective time of the merger, each outstanding option to purchase VISX common stock held by an executive officer of VISX that has an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 will be assumed by AMO. For more information, see The Merger Agreement Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP beginning on page 110.

In addition, VISX has from time to time entered into change of control severance agreements with each of its executive officers. The earliest of these agreements were entered into on May 12, 1999 between VISX and Derek A. Bertocci, Elizabeth H. Dávila, Carol F. H. Harner, Ph.D. and Douglas H. Post. Over time, VISX has amended and restated the forms of its change of control severance agreements and, currently, each of the executive officers is subject to an agreement with substantially similar terms and conditions that provide each executive officer with certain severance payments if he or she is terminated without cause, as defined below, or terminates due to an involuntary termination, as defined below, at any time within the 24-month period following a change of control, which includes the completion of the merger. These benefits include payment of a lump sum amount equal to (i) three times the executive's annual base salary and target bonus, (ii) three times the amount that would have been contributed by VISX on behalf of the executive to its 401(k) plan during the three-year period immediately following the termination date, and (iii) a pro rata bonus for the year in which the termination occurs. In addition, for the three-year period, the executive will receive continuation of life, disability, accident and health insurance benefits at VISX's expense plus continuation of perquisites for the same applicable period and outplacement services for such period or, if earlier, upon the first acceptance of a new employment offer. If an executive who is at the vice president level or above is subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code, VISX will provide that executive with a full gross-up payment. The agreements are binding on any successor to VISX.

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The following is a list of all executive officers who are parties to change of control severance agreements with VISX and the dates on which the executive officers first entered into these agreements: Derek A. Bertocci, May 12, 1999; Elizabeth H. Dávila, May 12, 1999; Donald L. Fagen, February 1, 2001; Carol F. H. Harner, Ph.D., May 12, 1999; Theresa A. Johnson, October 22, 2003; Catherine E. Murphy, September 24, 2001; Douglas H. Post, May 12, 1999; John F. Runkel, Jr., January 29, 2001; Alan F. Russell, Ph.D., June 12, 2001; and Joaquin V. Wolff, January 1, 2001. None of these agreements were modified in anticipation of, or in connection with, the merger. Currently, only Ms. Dávila, Mr. Runkel and Mr. Wolff are expected to receive their respective severance benefits immediately after the transaction is consummated. Mr. Post has entered into an employment agreement with AMO and Dr. Harner, Mr. Fagen, Dr. Russell and Ms. Johnson have accepted offers of employment with AMO effective upon completion of the merger pursuant to which, among other things, each of these individuals has agreed to the termination of his or her change in control agreement with VISX, effective upon completion of the merger, as described above. The parties have not made determinations with respect to the employment following the merger of other VISX executive officers with change of control severance agreements. Accordingly, additional severance payments may be made in the event these executive officers are not retained by AMO, or are subsequently terminated without cause.

The following table identifies, for each VISX executive officer as of March 1, 2005, the estimated total severance payment to which he or she would be entitled (including 280G gross-ups) if he or she were to be terminated without cause or were to resign pursuant to an involuntary termination at any time within the 24-month period following completion of the merger, the aggregate number of shares of his or her outstanding vested and unvested VISX stock options, the aggregate number of shares subject to his or her outstanding unvested VISX stock options that will become fully vested and exercisable in connection with the merger, the weighted average exercise price of his or her unvested VISX stock options that will be accelerated in the merger and the value of such accelerated options, the weighted average exercise price of his or her collective vested and unvested in-the-money VISX stock options and the value of all in-the-money options.

Name and Title	Total Severance Payment	Aggregate Shares Subject to Outstanding Options*	Aggregate Shares Subject to Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Value of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger**	Weighted Average Exercise Price of All In-the-Money Options	Value of All In-the-Money Options***
Elizabeth H. Dávila Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	\$ 2,858,363.63	1,900,108	304,688	\$ 14.38	\$ 3,698,118.62	\$ 15.87	\$ 18,318,889.07
Douglas H. Post President and Chief Operating Officer	\$ 3,047,257.56	471,959	188,544	\$ 18.88	\$ 1,440,039.34	\$ 17.90	\$ 3,723,547.93
John F. Runkel, Jr. Senior Vice President of Business Development and General Counsel	\$ 2,207,791.91	128,000****	90,158	\$ 16.86	\$ 870,926.81	\$ 16.41	\$ 1,294,692.27
Derek A. Bertocci Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$ 2,000,096.73	330,821	77,659	\$ 16.23	\$ 798,869.44	\$ 18.09	\$ 2,790,005.29
Carol F.H. Harner Senior Vice President, Research and Development	\$ 1,340,092.40	205,681	68,253	\$ 17.16	\$ 639,127.83	\$ 18.25	\$ 1,317,430.52
Donald L. Fagen Vice President, Global Sales	\$ 1,066,780.07	104,500	51,251	\$ 15.49	\$ 565,236.38	\$ 15.09	\$ 1,194,677.50

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Alan F. Russell	\$ 1,657,192.76	142,500	54,533	\$	14.88	\$ 634,628.75	\$	16.67	\$ 1,403,988.75
Vice President, Regulatory & Clinical Affairs									
Joaquin V. Wolff	\$ 1,027,996.40	64,324	34,376	\$	13.41	\$ 450,655.13	\$	13.83	\$ 530,662.15
Vice President, Global Marketing									
Catherine E. Murphy	\$ 1,553,431.74	103,000	54,376	\$	14.54	\$ 651,645.49	\$	14.43	\$ 1,245,076.25
Vice President, Human Resources									
Theresa A. Johnson	\$ 1,581,659.75	132,000	44,970	\$	19.46	\$ 317,498.43	\$	19.26	\$ 761,885.84
Vice President, Operations									

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- * Numbers include out-of-the money options to the extent held by a particular executive officer.
- ** Illustrates the economic value of all unvested options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, held by each executive officer assuming the acceleration of all such unvested options in the merger and the exercise of such options. Calculated for each executive officer by multiplying the shares subject to unvested in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such unvested in-the-money options.
- *** Illustrates the economic value of all options held by each executive officer assuming the acceleration of all such options in the merger and the exercise of all options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, immediately upon completion of the merger. Calculated for each executive officer by multiplying the shares subject to in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such in-the-money options.
- **** Includes options exercisable for 35,000 shares issued to Mr. Runkel on August 19, 2004 in connection with his promotion to senior vice president of business development.

As used in the agreements between VISX and its executive officers described above, the term *cause* means: (i) the willful and continued failure by the executive to substantially perform the executive's duties with VISX (other than any such failure resulting from the executive's incapacity due to physical or mental illness) after a written demand for substantial performance is delivered to the executive by the VISX board of directors, which demand specifically identifies the manner in which the VISX board of directors believes that the executive has not substantially performed the executive's duties, or (ii) the willful engaging by the executive in conduct which is demonstrably and materially injurious to VISX or its subsidiaries, monetarily or otherwise. For purposes of clauses (i) and (ii) of this definition, (x) no act, or failure to act, on the executive's part shall be deemed willful unless done, or omitted to be done, by the executive not in good faith and without reasonable belief that the executive's act, or failure to act, was in the best interest of VISX and (y) in the event of a dispute concerning the application of this provision, no claim by VISX that cause exists shall be given effect unless VISX establishes to the VISX board of directors by clear and convincing evidence that cause exists.

As used in the agreements between VISX and its executive officers described above, the term *involuntary termination* means: (i) without the executive's express written consent, a significant reduction of the executive's duties, position or responsibilities relative to the executive's duties, position or responsibilities in effect immediately prior to the reduction, or the removal of the executive from such position, duties and responsibilities, unless the executive is provided with comparable duties, position and responsibilities; (ii) without the executive's express written consent, a substantial reduction of the facilities and perquisites (including office space and location) available to the executive immediately prior to such reduction; (iii) a reduction by VISX of the executive's base salary as in effect immediately prior to the reduction; (iv) a material reduction by VISX in the kind or level of employee benefits to which the executive is entitled immediately prior to the reduction with the result that the executive's overall benefits package is significantly reduced; provided, however, that a reduction of the executive's benefits to a level greater than or equal to those available to similarly situated employees of VISX and employees of any entity in control of VISX shall not constitute an involuntary termination; (v) without the executive's express written consent, the relocation of the executive to a facility or a location more than thirty five (35) miles from his or her location immediately prior to the change of control; (vi) any termination of the executive by VISX which is not effected for cause; or (vii) the failure of VISX to obtain the assumption of the agreements by any successors contemplated in Section 6 of the agreements.

Non-Employee Director Stock Option Acceleration and Phantom Units

All outstanding options to purchase VISX common stock and phantom units of VISX common stock held by non-employee directors will become fully vested and exercisable in connection with the merger. The terms of the equity incentive plans and agreements pursuant to which such options and phantom stock units were granted provide for the acceleration of vesting in connection with a change of control of VISX and existed before the beginning of merger discussions with AMO. The VISX board of directors made clarifying amendments to the VISX 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan, but these amendments did not have any effect on the amount that directors of VISX would receive for their options and phantom units in the merger. This plan provides that directors who meet the qualifying retirement provision in the plan will be able to exercise each of

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their options with an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 within the lesser of (a) a period of five years from the date of their termination from the VISX board of directors or (b) the original ten-year term of the option. Qualifying retirement means a non-employee director's termination from the VISX board of directors, including pursuant to the director's death or disability, if such termination follows (x) five full terms of board membership and attainment of age 62 or greater, or (y) ten full terms of board membership.

Non-employee members of the VISX board of directors are eligible to participate in the stock deferral portion of the 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan, which allows non-employee directors to defer all or a portion of their annual cash retainer in exchange for phantom units of VISX common stock. Amounts deferred by a non-employee director are held in an unfunded account that is hypothetically invested in VISX common stock with cash equal to the value of VISX common stock representing one phantom unit. Deferrals are paid by VISX (or its successor) in shares of VISX common stock upon a non-employee director's termination or retirement in accordance with the elections specified in a non-employee director's deferral election. Distribution alternatives include: a single lump sum payment; 10 quarterly installments; 20 quarterly installments; 30 quarterly installments or 40 quarterly installments; provided, that, in the event a non-employee director has less than \$25,000 credited to his or her deferral account as of the date of retirement or termination, 100% of his or her deferral account will be distributed in a single lump-sum distribution; provided, further, VISX can terminate the deferral arrangement at any time and all benefits will be paid pursuant to the applicable non-employee director's election. After the completion of the merger, each non-employee director's deferral account will represent an unfunded account that is hypothetically invested in AMO common stock pursuant to the adjustment mechanism set forth in the merger agreement. For more information, see The Merger Agreement Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP beginning on page 110.

The following table identifies, for each non-employee director, as of March 1, 2005, the aggregate number of shares subject to his or her outstanding vested and unvested VISX stock options, the aggregate number of shares subject to his or her outstanding unvested VISX stock options that will become fully vested and exercisable in connection with the merger, the weighted average exercise price of his or her unvested VISX stock options that will be accelerated in the merger and the value of such accelerated options, the weighted average exercise price of his or her collective vested and unvested in-the-money VISX stock options, the value of all in-the-money options and the aggregate shares subject to his or her outstanding phantom units of VISX common stock.

Name	Aggregate Shares Subject to Outstanding Options*	Aggregate Shares Subject to Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger	Value of Unvested Options to be Accelerated in the Merger**	Weighted Average Exercise Price of All In-the-Money Options	Value of All In-the-Money Options***	Phantom Units****
Lauren De Buono	50,000	23,438	\$ 9.60	\$ 396,570.96	\$ 12.25	\$ 713,600.00	1,537
Glendon E. French	54,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 17.69	\$ 423,777.50	880
John W. Galiardo	104,612	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 13.65	\$ 1,269,116.36	
Jay T. Holmes	123,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 12.83	\$ 1,067,815.00	3,074
Gary S. Petersmeyer	39,043	9,375	\$ 13.23	\$ 124,593.75	\$ 16.67	\$ 384,481.47	1,537
Richard B. Sayford	60,000	2,250	\$ 17.04	\$ 21,326.25	\$ 16.36	\$ 548,585.00	880

* Each aggregate share amount includes an option grant exercisable for 10,000 shares (11,972 solely in the case of Mr. Galiardo) and may include out-of-the-money options. These grants were made on May 13, 2004 in connection with the planned annual increase for members of the VISX board of directors.

** Illustrates the economic value of all unvested options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, held by each non-employee director assuming the acceleration of all such unvested options in the merger and the exercise of such options. Calculated for each non-employee director by multiplying the shares subject to unvested in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such unvested in-the-money options.

*** Illustrates the economic value of all options held by each non-employee director assuming the acceleration of all such options in the merger and the exercise of all options with exercise prices below \$26.52, or in-the-money options, immediately upon completion of the merger. Calculated for each non-employee director by multiplying the shares subject to in-the-money options by the difference between the value of the merger consideration as of the date of the merger agreement, November 9, 2004 (\$26.52), and the weighted average exercise price of such in-the-money options.

**** All outstanding phantom units are vested as of March 1, 2005.

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Legal Proceedings Regarding the Merger

On or about November 12, 2004, two putative class action lawsuits were filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, against VISX and the VISX board of directors. The cases were captioned William Kinchy vs. VISX, Incorporated, et al., Case No. 104CV030447 and Douglas Shearer vs. VISX, Incorporated, et al., Case No. 104CV030452. On January 27, 2005, the court ordered the two cases consolidated under the Kinchy case. On January 28, 2005, William Kinchy filed an amended complaint that alleges, among other things, the VISX board of directors and certain executive officers breached their fiduciary duties of loyalty and due care by approving the merger agreement and the merger contemplated by the merger agreement without undertaking sufficient efforts to obtain the best offer possible for stockholders. The complaint further alleges that the consideration to be paid in the merger is unfair and inadequate, and that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and candor to VISX's public stockholders in connection with the merger. The complaint seeks an injunction prohibiting VISX from consummating the merger and rights of rescission against the merger and any of the terms of the merger agreement, as well as attorneys' fees and costs.

On March 14, 2005, VISX reached an agreement in principle with plaintiff's counsel pursuant to which plaintiff will release the defendants, as well as AMO and certain VISX agents and affiliates, from all claims that have been brought or could have been brought under state or federal law arising out of or relating to the merger. The settlement agreement remains subject to approval by the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Santa Clara, which is not expected to be obtained prior to the completion of the merger. Under the agreement in principle, VISX agreed to make certain additional disclosures that have been included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. In addition, VISX has agreed that it will not oppose a fee application by plaintiff's counsel of up to \$500,000. The settlement does not contemplate any changes to the merger agreement or the merger.

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THE MERGER AGREEMENT

The following summary describes the material provisions of the merger agreement. The provisions of the merger agreement are complicated and not easily summarized. This summary may not contain all of the information about the merger agreement that is important to you. The merger agreement is attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A and is incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus, and we encourage you to read it carefully in its entirety for a more complete understanding of the merger agreement.

The Merger

The merger agreement provides for the merger of Vault Merger Corporation, a newly formed, wholly owned subsidiary of AMO, with VISX. VISX will survive the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of AMO.

Closing and Effective Time of the Merger

We will complete the merger when all of the conditions to completion of the merger contained in the merger agreement, which are described in the section entitled **Conditions to Obligations to Complete the Merger** beginning on page 122, are satisfied or waived, including approval by the AMO stockholders of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger and approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger contemplated by the merger agreement by the VISX stockholders. The merger will become effective upon the filing of a certificate of merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

We are working to complete the merger as quickly as possible. Because completion of the merger is subject to certain conditions that are beyond our control, we cannot predict the exact timing, although absent any unanticipated delay, we expect to close the merger during the second quarter of 2005 and in any event, within two business days of obtaining the required AMO and VISX stockholder approvals.

Treatment of Securities

Upon completion of the merger, each share of VISX common stock (including, with respect to each share of VISX common stock, the associated rights described in the section entitled **Comparison of Stockholder Rights and Corporate Governance Matters** beginning on page 139) outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the merger will be canceled and extinguished and automatically converted into the right to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash, without interest, subject to the ability of AMO and VISX to obtain an opinion of legal counsel that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. For more information, see **Alternative Merger Consideration** beginning on page 112. Upon completion of the merger, AMO also will assume outstanding options to purchase VISX common stock with an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 per share and phantom stock units under the 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan. For more information see **Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP** beginning on page 110.

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The exchange ratio in the merger (*i.e.*, 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock for each share of VISX common stock) will be adjusted to reflect the effect of any stock split, reverse stock split, reclassification, stock dividend (including any dividend or distribution of securities convertible into AMO common stock or VISX common stock), reorganization, recapitalization, consolidation, exchange or other like change with respect to AMO common stock or VISX common stock occurring or having a record date after the date of the merger agreement and prior to the effective time of the merger.

Each share of VISX common stock, together with each associated right, held by VISX or owned by AMO or any of their direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiaries immediately prior to the merger will be automatically canceled and retired and cease to exist, and none of VISX, AMO or any of their direct or indirect subsidiaries will receive any securities of AMO or other consideration in exchange for those shares.

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Based on the exchange ratio and the number of shares of VISX common stock outstanding as of the record date, a total of approximately million shares of AMO common stock will be issued and a total of approximately \$ million of cash merger consideration will be distributed in connection with the merger to holders of VISX common stock. In addition, a total of approximately million shares of AMO common stock will be reserved for issuance upon the exercise of options to purchase VISX common stock assumed by AMO and phantom units in connection with the merger. As more fully described below under Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP, however, the exact number of shares of AMO common stock to be reserved for issuance upon exercise of the assumed options will not be known until the completion of the merger.

After the merger, AMO stockholders will continue to own their existing shares of AMO common stock. Accordingly, AMO stockholders will hold the same number of shares of AMO common stock that they held immediately prior to the merger. However, because AMO will be issuing new shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders in the merger, each outstanding share of AMO common stock immediately prior to the merger will represent a smaller percentage of the total number of shares of AMO common stock outstanding after the merger. Based on the number of shares of AMO and VISX common stock outstanding on the AMO and VISX record dates, we expect that AMO stockholders before the merger will hold approximately 58.5% of the fully diluted shares of AMO common stock immediately after the merger.

Fractional Shares

AMO will not issue any fractional shares of common stock in connection with the merger. Instead, each holder of VISX common stock who would otherwise be entitled to receive a fraction of a share of AMO common stock will receive cash, without interest, in an amount equal to the fraction multiplied by the last reported sales price of AMO common stock (determined after aggregating all of the VISX common stock held by each such holder and multiplying such shares by the stock exchange ratio) at the end of regular trading hours on the closing date of the merger, as reported on the NYSE.

Treatment of VISX Stock Options, Deferred Phantom Stock and ESPP

When the merger is completed, AMO will assume outstanding options to purchase shares of VISX common stock with an exercise price equal to or less than \$26.93 per share and convert them into options to purchase shares of AMO common stock. AMO will convert each assumed VISX option into an option to purchase that number of shares of AMO common stock equal to the number of shares of VISX common stock subject to the VISX option immediately prior to the merger, multiplied by the sum of (x) 0.552 and (y) the number obtained from dividing (i) \$3.50 by (ii) the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours on the NYSE on the date of the merger, rounded down to the nearest whole share. The exercise price per share for each assumed VISX option will be equal to (x) the exercise price per share of the VISX option multiplied by the total number of shares of VISX common stock that are issuable upon the exercise of each assumed option immediately prior to the merger, divided by (y) the total number of shares of AMO common stock issuable upon the exercise of each assumed option, rounded up to the nearest whole cent. Each assumed option will be subject to all other terms and conditions set forth in the applicable documents evidencing each VISX option immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. As of the VISX record date, options for approximately shares of VISX common stock were outstanding in the aggregate under various VISX stock option plans.

All VISX options with an exercise price in excess of \$26.93 will not be assumed by AMO and will be cancelled immediately prior to the merger. AMO will give the holders of each cancelled option at least a 15-day (or 30-day, with respect to options granted under the VISX 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan) period prior to the completion of the merger in which the cancelled options will be deemed fully vested and exercisable. During this 15-day or 30-day period, holders of cancelled options may exercise their cancelled options. Any shares of VISX common stock issued upon exercise of these cancelled options during the foregoing 15-day or 30-day period will be treated as issued and outstanding shares of VISX common stock eligible to receive the

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merger consideration (*i.e.*, 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash per share of VISX common stock). At the time of the merger, all cancelled options that have not been exercised during the 15-day or 30-day period will be cancelled without any payment to the option holders.

AMO will also assume outstanding VISX phantom stock units under the 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan. Each assumed phantom stock unit will be converted into a deferred account under the 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan with respect to phantom stock units of AMO common stock equal to the number of phantom stock units held in a participant's deferred account immediately prior to the merger, multiplied by the sum of (x) 0.552 and (y) the number obtained from dividing (i) \$3.50 by (ii) the last reported sales price of AMO common stock at the end of regular trading hours on the NYSE on the date of the merger, rounded down to the nearest whole share. Each assumed phantom stock unit will be subject to all other terms and conditions set forth in the applicable documents evidencing each VISX phantom stock unit immediately prior to the effective time of the merger. As of the record date, VISX phantom stock units relating to an aggregate of approximately _____ shares of VISX were outstanding under the 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferral Plan. For more information, see *The Merger Non-Employee Director Stock Option Acceleration and Phantom Units* beginning on page 106.

AMO has agreed to file, within five business days after completion of the merger, a registration statement on Form S-8 (or such other form as may be required under applicable law) with the Securities and Exchange Commission to register the sale of shares of AMO common stock issuable in connection with the assumed options and phantom stock units, and to cause the registration statement to become and remain effective until the later of (i) the date on which all assumed options and phantom units are no longer outstanding and (ii) the date on which all such shares of AMO common stock issued pursuant to the assumed options and phantom units are freely tradable or tradable under Rule 144 of the Securities Act without being subject to the volume restrictions of Rule 144. AMO will take such further actions as may be reasonably necessary to include under such registration statement shares of AMO common stock subject to assumed options and phantom stock units held by VISX non-employee directors eligible immediately prior to the completion of the merger pursuant to the VISX 1995 Director Option and Stock Deferred Plan.

Prior to the effective time of the merger, the VISX employee stock purchase plan will be terminated and all outstanding purchase rights will be automatically exercised. At the effective time of the merger, all shares of VISX common stock issued pursuant to the exercise of these rights will be cancelled and converted into the right to receive shares of AMO common stock and cash merger consideration.

Exchange Fund; Exchange of Stock Certificates

Upon completion of the merger, AMO will establish an exchange fund with Mellon Investor Services, the exchange agent for the merger, to hold the stock and cash merger consideration to be paid to VISX stockholders (other than holders demanding appraisal of their shares of VISX common stock) in connection with the merger. The exchange fund will consist of stock certificates representing shares of AMO common stock, cash, including cash to be issued in lieu of fractional shares of AMO common stock, and, if required pursuant to the merger agreement, any dividends or other distributions on AMO common stock with a record date occurring after the completion of the merger.

Promptly following completion of the merger, Mellon Investor Services will mail to each record holder of VISX common stock a letter of transmittal and instructions for surrendering the record holder's stock certificates in exchange for the cash merger consideration and a certificate representing the shares of AMO common stock issuable to each such holder pursuant to the merger. Only those holders of VISX common stock who properly surrender their VISX stock certificates in accordance with the exchange agent's instructions will receive (1) a certificate representing the shares of AMO common stock issuable to each such holder pursuant to the merger, (2) the cash merger consideration, (3) cash in lieu of any fractional share of AMO common stock issuable to any such holders, and (4) dividends or other distributions, if any, to which they are entitled under the terms of the

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merger agreement. The surrendered certificates representing VISX common stock will be canceled. After the effective time of the merger, each certificate representing shares of VISX common stock that has not been surrendered will represent only the right to receive the cash merger consideration, shares of AMO common stock issuable pursuant to the merger and cash in lieu of any fractional share of AMO common stock to which the holder of any such certificate is entitled. VISX stockholders who hold their shares in book entry will receive instructions for the exchange of their shares for the merger consideration included in the transmittal forms sent to them by the exchange agent. Following the completion of the merger, VISX will not register any transfers of VISX common stock on its stock transfer books.

Holders of VISX common stock should not send in their VISX stock certificates until they receive a letter of transmittal from Mellon Investor Services with instructions for the surrender of VISX stock certificates.

Distributions with Respect to Unexchanged Shares

Holders of VISX common stock are not entitled to receive any dividends or other distributions on AMO common stock until the merger is completed. After the merger is completed, holders of VISX common stock will be entitled to dividends and other distributions declared or made after completion of the merger with respect to the number of whole shares of AMO common stock which they are entitled to receive upon exchange of their VISX common stock. These holders will not be entitled to receive these dividends or distributions, however, until they surrender their VISX common stock to the exchange agent in accordance with the exchange agent instructions.

Termination of Exchange Fund; No Liability

At any time following the first anniversary of the completion of the merger, AMO will be entitled to the return of all cash and shares of AMO common stock held in the exchange fund. Thereafter, VISX stockholders may look only to AMO for any merger consideration and any cash payment relating to any dividends or distributions to which they may be entitled upon surrender of their certificates representing shares of VISX common stock.

Neither AMO, Vault Merger Corporation nor VISX will be liable to any holder of VISX common stock or AMO common stock, as the case may be, for any shares (or any related dividends or distributions) delivered to a public official under any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law following the passage of time specified therein.

Lost, Stolen and Destroyed Certificates

AMO will issue only (1) AMO common stock, (2) the cash merger consideration, (3) cash in lieu of a fractional share and (4) any dividends or distributions that may be applicable in a name other than the name in which a surrendered VISX stock certificate is registered if the person requesting the exchange presents to the exchange agent all documents required to show and effect the unrecorded transfer of ownership and to show that the requesting person paid any applicable stock transfer taxes. If a VISX stock certificate is lost, stolen or destroyed, the holder of the certificate may need to deliver an affidavit and an indemnity bond prior to receiving any merger consideration.

Alternative Merger Consideration

AMO and VISX intend that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. AMO and VISX each will use their respective reasonable best efforts in order for AMO to obtain from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and for VISX to obtain from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation, an opinion that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. In order for counsel to

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render such opinions, the value of the stock merger consideration must equal 80% or more of the value of the aggregate consideration paid to VISX stockholders in the merger. Because the number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued in the merger is determined pursuant to a fixed exchange ratio (i.e., 0.552 shares of AMO common stock for each share of issued and outstanding VISX common stock), the aggregate value of the AMO common stock to be issued to VISX stockholders cannot be determined until the completion of the merger. If, at the anticipated time of closing, the trading price of AMO common stock has declined such that, based upon the negotiated exchange ratio the value of the stock merger consideration equals less than 80% of the value of the aggregate merger consideration, the merger will no longer qualify as a reorganization, and counsel for AMO and VISX will not be able to render their opinions. Therefore, if the trading price of AMO common stock so declines, then under the agreement, the cash merger consideration shall be decreased to the minimum extent necessary and the stock merger consideration shall be increased to the minimum extent necessary, to meet the test described above and enable counsel to render their opinions that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. In the event of any such adjustment, the number of shares of AMO common stock and amount of cash received by a VISX stockholder may change, but the overall economic value of the merger consideration issuable and payable for each share of VISX common stock in the merger as of the closing date will still be calculated based on the trading price of AMO common stock at the closing and therefore will remain the same. In this situation AMO would be required to issue a greater number of shares of common stock to VISX stockholders, as a result of which VISX stockholders as a whole will hold a larger percentage of the fully diluted AMO common stock immediately after giving effect to the merger.

Based upon the number of shares of VISX common stock outstanding on November 8, 2004, as long as the trading price of AMO common stock on the closing date is at least approximately \$25.37, then the merger consideration received in exchange for each share of VISX common stock will be 0.552 shares of AMO common stock and \$3.50. If the trading price of AMO common stock falls below approximately \$25.37 an adjustment to the mix of cash and stock merger consideration would be required. We currently estimate that if the trading price of AMO common stock falls below approximately \$17.75, then the walk away right would be triggered. For a full description of the walk away right, see The Merger Agreement Termination; Break-Up Fees and Expenses beginning on page 124.

Assuming, for illustrative purposes only, no VISX stockholders exercise their appraisal rights and assuming that no cash is to be paid in lieu of fractional shares, the following chart illustrates the approximate adjusted number of shares of AMO common stock and cash that would be exchanged for each share of VISX common stock at the lowest price of AMO common stock on the closing date prior to which an adjustment would be required and at various intervals below such price:

AMO Trading Price at Closing	Number (and Value) of Shares					
	of AMO Common Stock		Amount of Cash		Aggregate Economic Value	
	to be Issued Per Share		to be Paid Per Share		of AMO Common Stock	
	of VISX Common Stock		of VISX Common Stock		and Cash Per Share	
	Before Adjustment	After Adjustment	Before Adjustment	After Adjustment	Before Adjustment	After Adjustment
\$25.37	0.552 (\$14.00)	N/A	\$3.50	N/A	\$17.50	N/A
\$25.00	0.552 (\$13.80)	0.554 (\$13.85)	\$3.50	\$3.45	\$17.30	\$17.30
\$22.50	0.552 (\$12.42)	0.567 (\$12.75)	\$3.50	\$3.17	\$15.92	\$15.92
\$20.00	0.552 (\$11.04)	0.582 (\$11.64)	\$3.50	\$2.90	\$14.54	\$14.54
\$17.50	0.552 (\$9.66)	0.602 (\$10.53)	\$3.50	\$2.63	\$13.16	\$13.16

AMO and VISX will not know whether any such adjustment is necessary until immediately prior to the completion of the merger because any determination regarding the tax qualification of the merger as a reorganization cannot be made until the date upon which AMO and VISX intend to complete the merger. As a result, at the time of the AMO special meeting and the VISX special meeting, neither VISX stockholders nor AMO stockholders will know the exact number of shares of AMO common stock to be issued and cash to be

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paid in the merger for each share of VISX common stock, the percentage of AMO's fully diluted common stock that VISX stockholders as a whole will hold after giving effect to the merger, or the total amount of cash that AMO will pay to VISX stockholders in the merger.

Representations and Warranties

The merger agreement contains general representations and warranties made by each of AMO and Vault Merger Corporation on the one hand, and VISX on the other, regarding aspects of their respective businesses, financial condition and structure, as well as other facts pertinent to the merger. These representations and warranties are subject to materiality, knowledge and other similar qualifications in many respects, expire at the effective time of the merger and relate to the following subject matters:

corporate organization, qualifications to do business, corporate standing and corporate power;

absence of any breach of each party's certificate of incorporation and bylaws and the certificates of incorporation, bylaws and similar organizational documents of its subsidiaries;

capitalization;

corporate authorization, including board approval, to enter into and carry out the obligations contained in the merger agreement;

enforceability of the merger agreement;

the vote of stockholders required to complete the merger;

governmental and regulatory approvals required in connection with the merger;

absence of any conflict or violation of the corporate charter and bylaws and the charter, bylaws and similar organizational documents of subsidiaries, any applicable legal requirements, or any agreements with third parties, as a result of entering into and carrying out the obligations contained in the merger agreement;

absence of any rights of first refusal or acquisition or pre-emptive rights with respect to capital stock or other assets or properties arising or resulting from entering into and carrying out the obligations contained in the merger agreement;

compliance with applicable laws, and possession and compliance with all permits required for the operation of business;

SEC filings and the financial statements contained in those filings;

controls and procedures for required disclosures of financial and non-financial information to the SEC;

absence of certain changes or events between the date of the last audited balance sheet and November 9, 2004;

absence of undisclosed liabilities;

litigation;

material contracts and the absence of breaches of material contracts;

employee benefit plans and labor relations;

real property matters;

taxes;

environmental matters;

intellectual property;

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FDA compliance;

brokers used in connection with the merger;

applicability of Delaware and California anti-takeover statutes to the merger;

insurance;

stockholder rights plans; and

opinions of financial advisors.

The merger agreement also contains additional representations and warranties of AMO relating to the sufficiency of its funds to both complete the merger and maintain working capital and liquidity reasonably needed for its business following the merger and the absence of any conflict, breach or event of default under any outstanding debt as a result of entering into and carrying out the obligations contained in the merger agreement.

Conduct of Business before Completion of the Merger

Under the merger agreement, each of AMO and VISX has agreed that, until the earlier of the completion of the merger or termination of the merger agreement, or unless the other party consents in writing, it will carry on its business in the ordinary course consistent with past practices and in material compliance with applicable law, and will use commercially reasonable efforts to:

preserve intact its present business organization;

keep available the services of its current officers, employees and consultants; and

preserve its relationships with customers, suppliers, distributors and others with which it has significant business relations.

Under the merger agreement, each of AMO and VISX has also agreed that, until the earlier of the completion of the merger or termination of the merger agreement, or unless the other party consents in writing, it will not (and will not permit its subsidiaries to):

modify or amend its charter and bylaws or the charter, bylaws or similar organizational documents of its subsidiaries;

issue, sell, transfer, authorize or encumber its capital stock, or securities convertible into its capital stock, other than issuances of common stock upon the exercise of employee stock options or other stock based awards existing prior to the date of the merger

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agreement or permitted under the merger agreement;

sell, lease, license, mortgage or otherwise encumber or dispose of its assets other than (1) sales by AMO of assets with a value that does not exceed \$20 million in the aggregate, (2) sales by VISX of assets with a value that does not exceed \$1 million in the aggregate and (3) sales, leases or licenses of material proprietary products in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

declare or pay dividends or make any other distributions;

effect any stock splits, recapitalizations and similar transactions;

purchase, redeem or acquire its capital stock or the capital stock of its subsidiaries, other than repurchases of unvested shares held by individuals terminating employment or service with it or its subsidiaries;

acquire other entities or equity interests in other entities, other than acquisitions by AMO with a value that does not exceed \$200 million in the aggregate and that would not have a material adverse impact on AMO's credit rating, would not require approval of AMO's stockholders and would not delay completion of the merger;

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incur any indebtedness for borrowed money, guarantee any obligations, or make any loans, advances, capital contributions or investments other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, and, other than for AMO (1) to finance the merger and (2) other additional indebtedness that does not exceed \$200 million in the aggregate and that would not have a material adverse impact on AMO's credit rating;

adopt or implement any new stockholder rights plan;

change accounting policies and procedures except as required by United States generally accepted accounting principles or other applicable law;

make any tax election inconsistent with past practice and take (or fail to take) certain other actions with regard to tax liabilities and obligations;

adopt any plan of complete or partial liquidation, dissolution, recapitalization or reorganization, other than with respect to the merger or as provided in the merger agreement;

enter into any oral or written agreement with respect to any of the foregoing matters; or

take any action that would make any of its representations and warranties contained in the merger agreement inaccurate such that the closing conditions of the other party would not be satisfied or that would prevent it from performing (or cause it not to perform) its obligations contained in the merger agreement.

In addition, under the terms of the merger agreement, VISX has agreed not to:

amend any of its existing material agreements or entering into any agreement which it or its subsidiaries is a bound and which either:

has a term of more than one year from the date of the merger agreement hereof and (1) cannot be unilaterally terminated by it without material penalty upon thirty (30) days prior notice, and (2) involves the payment or receipt of money in excess of \$500,000 per year,

involves the payment or receipt of money in excess of \$1 million per year, or

contains covenants limiting the freedom of it or any of its subsidiaries to sell any products or services of or to any other person, engage in any line of business or compete with any person or operate at any location;

terminate cancel or waive any right under any of its existing material agreements other than in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice;

authorize any capital expenditures or purchase of fixed assets exceeding \$500,000 individually or \$1.5 million in the aggregate;

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modify or amend standard product warranty terms or any other existing warranty obligations in a materially adverse manner, other than extensions or warranties in the ordinary course of business;

except as required by law or certain existing contracts:

increase the compensation of, or making any severance or termination benefits to, any director, officer or employee,

pay any discretionary bonuses to any of its officers,

grant any stock options or any other equity awards,

hire or promote any officer or director-level employee or appoint any director to its board or the board of any of its subsidiaries,

make any loan, advance, capital contribution or modification to its employee benefits plans,

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establish or enter into any collective bargaining agreements or new employee benefits plan, or

materially change any assumption or contribution method with respect to pension or retirement plans;

pay or satisfy any claims, liabilities or obligations other than payment or satisfaction in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice of liabilities reflected in its financial statements or incurred in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

fail to pay accounts payable and other obligations in the ordinary course of business;

accelerate the collection, or modify the payment terms, of receivables other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

sell, securitize or transfer any accounts receivable;

except in compliance with applicable law, implement any plant closings or layoffs; and

terminate or lay off employees in such numbers as would give rise to liability for severance, termination pay or other payments due upon termination of employment, reduction of hours, or temporary or permanent layoffs.

AMO and VISX Prohibited from Soliciting Other Offers

Under the terms of the merger agreement, subject to certain exceptions described below, each of AMO and VISX agreed that it will not, directly or indirectly:

solicit, initiate, facilitate, encourage, furnish information or take any other action (other than to disclose the existence of its non-solicitation obligation under the merger agreement) that is designed to, or is reasonably likely to lead to, any acquisition proposal by a third party of the type described below;

participate in any discussions or negotiations with any third party regarding any acquisition proposal of the type described below; or

enter into any letter of intent or similar document or any contract agreement or commitment constituting or otherwise relating to any acquisition proposal of the type described below or any transaction contemplated by the acquisition proposal.

In addition, each of AMO and VISX agreed that it will not authorize or permit any of its subsidiaries, directors, officers, employees, agents or representatives (including any retained investment banker, attorney or accountant), to do any of the foregoing.

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For purposes of the restrictions described above, an acquisition proposal is any inquiry, proposal or offer, filing of any regulatory application or disclosure of any intention relating to any of the following:

the direct or indirect acquisition of a business that constitutes a substantial portion of the net revenues, net income or assets of the party or its significant subsidiaries;

the direct or indirect acquisition by any person or group of equity securities representing 25% or more of the party or any of its significant subsidiaries;

a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in any person owning 25% or more of the party's voting power; or

any merger, consolidation, business combination or similar transaction involving a party or any of its subsidiaries, other than transactions specifically permitted under the merger agreement.

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Under the merger agreement, each of AMO and VISX also agreed, and agreed to cause their subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives (including any retained investment banker, attorney or accountant), to:

cease all existing activities or negotiations with respect to any acquisition proposal; and

not release any third party from, or waive any provisions of, any existing confidentiality or standstill agreement with respect to any acquisition proposal.

Each of AMO and VISX is obligated to notify the other orally and in writing within 24 hours from its receipt of any acquisition proposal of the type described above or any request for nonpublic information from a party who has made, or indicated an intention to enter into discussions relating to, an acquisition proposal of the type described above. The notice must include the material terms and conditions of the acquisition proposal or information request, the identity of the person or group making the acquisition proposal or information request, and all related written materials provided in connection with the proposal or request. If either AMO or VISX enters into discussions or provides nonpublic information relating to an acquisition proposal, such party shall notify the other within 24 hours from the discussion or production of information and shall keep the other party reasonably informed of the status and terms of the proposals, requests or discussions on a current basis, including by providing a copy of all related material documentation and correspondence.

Notwithstanding the prohibitions described above, if either AMO or VISX receives an unsolicited bona fide written acquisition proposal before the date of its stockholder meeting to approve the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, under the terms of the merger agreement, the party receiving the acquisition proposal is permitted to engage in discussions and negotiations with, and provide nonpublic information to, the party making the acquisition proposal as long as:

the receiving party's board of directors determines in good faith, after consulting with outside legal counsel, that the failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to be a breach of its fiduciary duties under applicable law; and

the receiving party has entered into a confidentiality agreement with the person making the acquisition proposal at least as restrictive as the confidentiality agreement between AMO and VISX.

Obligations of each of the AMO and VISX Boards of Directors with Respect to its Recommendation and Holding a Meeting of its Stockholders

Under the terms of the merger agreement, the AMO and VISX boards of directors each agreed to call, hold and convene a meeting of its stockholders promptly after the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus forms a part is declared effective by the SEC. The AMO board of directors agreed to recommend the approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock in the merger to its stockholders and to use reasonable best efforts to obtain the required stockholder approval. The VISX board of directors agreed to recommend the approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger to its stockholders and to use reasonable best efforts to obtain the required stockholder adoption and approvals.

Each of the VISX and AMO boards of directors also agreed not to withdraw or modify, or publicly propose to withdraw or modify, its recommendations relating to the merger and the merger agreement, and not to adopt, approve or recommend to its stockholders that they accept any other acquisition proposal of the type described above or any superior proposal. For purposes of this restriction, a superior proposal is an acquisition proposal of the type described above on terms that the recipient board of directors has determined in good faith to be more favorable

to such party's stockholders than the merger (or a counterproposal from the other party to the merger), after consulting with its independent financial advisor of nationally recognized reputation and after taking into account all the terms of conditions of the proposal and the merger agreement, including:

any counterproposal by the other party to the merger agreement,

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the likelihood that the transactions contemplated by the other proposal will be completed in a timely manner, and

the extent to which any financing required in the acquisition proposal is committed or capable of being obtained.

Notwithstanding the obligations described above, in response to an acquisition proposal of the type described above deemed by the AMO or VISX board of directors to be a superior proposal, the board of directors of AMO or VISX, as the case may be, may change its recommendation, announce an intention to change its recommendation or recommend its stockholders accept or approve a superior proposal of the type described above if the following conditions are met:

a superior proposal of the type described above has been made and has not been withdrawn;

the stockholders' meeting of that party has not occurred;

the party's board of directors has determined in good faith, after consulting with outside legal counsel, that in light of the superior proposal, the failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to be a breach of its fiduciary duties under applicable law; and

the party has provided the other party with five business days' prior written notice of its intention to take such action, specifying in the notice the material terms and conditions of the superior proposal, as well as the identity of the third party making the proposal.

Regardless of whether either the AMO or VISX board of directors has received an acquisition proposal or a superior proposal of the type described above, or has withheld, withdrawn, amended or modified its recommendation to its stockholders relating to the merger, or has approved or recommended that its stockholders accept a superior proposal of the type described above, each of AMO and VISX is obligated to call, give notice of, convene and hold a special meeting of its stockholders to consider and vote upon its respective proposal relating to the merger and the fact that any of the foregoing has occurred will not give AMO or VISX a right to terminate the merger agreement or affect any other obligation of the parties under the merger agreement. Neither AMO nor VISX is permitted under the merger agreement to submit any acquisition proposal, including a superior proposal, to a vote of its respective stockholders at or prior to its stockholders' meeting relating to the merger.

Regulatory Matters

The merger is subject to review by the Antitrust Division and the FTC under the HSR Act, and by foreign governmental authorities as more fully described in the section "The Merger - Regulatory Matters" beginning on page 97.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO is not required to sell, dispose of or hold separately any assets or businesses or interests in any assets or businesses of AMO, VISX or their respective affiliates, or make any other change in any portion of the businesses of VISX or AMO or incur any limitation on the conduct of the business of VISX or AMO in order to obtain any clearances, consents or approvals in connection with the merger. In addition, neither AMO nor any of its affiliates is required to, if any governmental body that has the authority to enforce any antitrust law seeks, or authorizes its staff to seek, a preliminary injunction or restraining order to enjoin completion of the merger, take or agree to take any action which AMO reasonably believes would be prohibited or restricted under the preliminary injunction or restraining order.

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AMO and VISX Rights Agreements

Under the terms of the merger agreement, until the earlier of the time the merger is completed or the merger agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms, neither AMO nor VISX may, directly or indirectly, take any action that would result in any of the following under the parties' respective stockholder rights agreements:

in the case of AMO, VISX being deemed an acquiring person and in the case of VISX, AMO or Vault Merger Corporation being deemed an acquiring person ;

the issuance of or creation of an obligation to issue any rights ;

in the case of AMO, causing any provisions under the agreement to be triggered, including giving rise to a distribution date or a shares acquisition date, and in the case of VISX, causing any provisions under the agreement to be triggered, including giving rise to a distribution date or a stock acquisition date; or

amendment, modification or termination of the stockholder rights agreements, other than (1) to render the agreements inapplicable to the merger and the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement, (2) as required by a court of law, or (3) if its board of directors has determined, after consulting with outside legal counsel, that the failure to take such action would be reasonably likely to be a breach of its fiduciary duties under applicable law.

Public Announcements

Neither AMO nor VISX will issue any press release or make any public statement with respect to the merger agreement or the merger without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. However, AMO and VISX may, without the prior consent of the other, issue a press release or make a public statement relating to the merger agreement or the merger if, after consulting with outside counsel, it determines that the press release or public statement is required by applicable law or the rules and regulations of the NYSE, and it has used its reasonable best efforts to consult with the other party. Also, AMO and VISX may, without the prior written consent of the other, issue a press release or make a public statement relating to a change in recommendation by the AMO board of directors or VISX board of directors, as the case may be, that is permitted under the merger agreement.

Indemnification and Insurance

Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO agreed to honor all obligations of VISX contained in any indemnification agreement in effect prior to completion of the merger between VISX or its subsidiaries and any of its current or former directors or officers for a period of six years after completion of the merger. Also, for six years following completion of the merger, AMO and its subsidiaries will cause the certificate of incorporation and bylaws of the surviving corporation in the merger to contain provisions with respect to indemnification and exculpation that are at least as favorable as the indemnification and exculpation provisions contained in the certificate of incorporation or bylaws or similar organizational documents of VISX and its subsidiaries in effect prior to completion of the merger, and AMO and its subsidiaries will not amend, repeal or otherwise modify the documents in any respect, except as required by law.

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For six years from completion of the merger, AMO also agreed to maintain the existing policy of VISX's directors and officers and fiduciary liability insurance covering claims arising from facts or events that occurred prior to the completion of the merger, including acts or omissions occurring in connection with the merger agreement and completion of the merger to the extent such acts or omissions are covered by the existing insurance policy, and covering each director and officer of VISX who was covered at the effective time of the merger on terms with respect to coverage and amounts no less favorable than those in effect prior to the signing of the merger agreement. However, AMO will not be required to expend in any one year an amount in excess of 200% of the annual premium paid by VISX at the time the merger agreement was signed. In the event the premium exceeds 200% of the annual premium at the time the merger agreement was signed, AMO will be

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obligated to obtain an insurance policy with the greatest coverage available for a cost not exceeding 200% of the annual premium paid by VISX at the time the merger agreement was signed. Alternatively, VISX may, prior to completion of the merger, purchase a six year tail prepaid insurance policy on terms and conditions no less advantageous than the existing insurance policy at a cost not to exceed six times the maximum amount AMO is required to expend under the merger agreement to maintain this insurance for a one-year period, in which case AMO and the surviving corporation in the merger will maintain such tail policy in full force and effect and continue to honor such obligations for so long as such tail policy is in full force and effect.

AMO Board of Directors after the Merger

AMO has agreed to increase the size of the AMO board of directors by one member, effective upon completion of the merger, and to appoint one member from the existing VISX board of directors reasonably agreed to by AMO and VISX, to fill this spot and serve as a Class II AMO director for a two-year term.

Reasonable Best Efforts to Complete the Merger

Under the terms of the merger agreement, each of AMO and VISX has agreed to cooperate fully with the other and use its reasonable best efforts to take all actions, and to do all things necessary, proper or advisable to complete the merger in the most expeditious manner possible, including:

obtaining any clearance, consent or approval of any governmental entity required to be obtained by AMO or VISX in connection with the merger, and making any and all registrations and filings necessary or advisable to obtain the approval or waiver from any governmental entity, including all filings required by the HSR Act and any other applicable United States or foreign antitrust laws; provided, however, that AMO is not required to sell dispose of or hold separately any assets or businesses or interests in any assets or businesses of AMO, VISX or their respective affiliates, or make any other change in any portion of the businesses of VISX or AMO or incur any limitation on the conduct of the business of VISX or AMO in order to obtain any clearances, consents or approvals in connection with the merger;

obtaining all necessary consents, waivers and approvals under any of AMO's material contracts and VISX's material contracts and real property leases in connection with the merger;

authorizing for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance, the shares of AMO common stock to be issued in connection with the merger;

reserving for issuance the shares of AMO common stock issuable upon the exercise of all VISX assumed options;

defending any lawsuit or proceeding seeking to challenge the merger agreement or the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, including seeking to have lifted or rescinded any injunction or restraining order or other order adversely affecting the ability AMO or VISX to complete the merger; and

executing any certificates, instruments or other documents necessary to complete the merger.

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Each of AMO and VISX also agreed to keep the other reasonably informed of the status of their respective efforts to complete the merger, including by:

promptly notifying the other of any written communications or material oral communications from any governmental entity with respect to the merger;

permitting the other to review and discuss in advance, and consider in good faith the views of the other in connection with proposed communications with any such governmental entity;

not participating in any meeting with any such governmental entity unless it consults with the other in advance and to the extent permitted by such governmental entity gives the other the opportunity to attend and participate at such meeting;

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furnishing the other with copies of all correspondence, filings and communications between it and any governmental entity with respect to the merger; and

furnishing the other with such necessary information and reasonable assistance as each of them may reasonably request in connection with its preparation of necessary filings or submissions of information to any such governmental entity.

VISX agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to cooperate with AMO in AMO's effort to obtain financing of the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, including by:

providing direct contact between prospective lenders and the officers and directors of VISX and its subsidiaries;

providing assistance in preparing confidential information memoranda and other materials used in connection with obtaining such financing;

cooperating with respect to matters relating to pledges of collateral to take effect at the effective time of the merger in connection with such financing; and

providing the financial and other information necessary for the satisfaction of the obligations and conditions set forth in the commitment letter relating to such financing.

AMO agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to obtain all financing required for the merger contemplated by the merger agreement, such that after the transactions, AMO and its subsidiaries have an amount of working capital and other liquidity reasonable for the business, taken as a whole and after giving effect to the merger. Such efforts include obtaining additional financing if required and obtaining all consents and amendments to agreements related to any material amount of indebtedness for borrowed money required to ensure that completion of the merger does not result in a conflict, breach or event of default under such agreements, or repaying any such indebtedness and terminating the related agreement if such consent or amendment is not obtained.

Conditions to Obligations to Complete the Merger

The respective obligations of AMO and Vault Merger Corporation, on the one hand, and VISX, on the other, to complete the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of each of the following conditions:

the SEC shall have declared AMO's registration statement effective, no stop order suspending its effectiveness shall have been issued and no proceedings for suspension of the registration statement's effectiveness, or a similar proceeding in respect of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, shall have been initiated or threatened in writing by the SEC;

the issuance of shares of AMO common stock to holders of VISX common stock in the merger shall have been approved by the vote of holders of the requisite number of shares of AMO common stock under the rules of the NYSE, as more fully described under the section entitled "The AMO Special Meeting Quorum and Vote Required" beginning on page 58;

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the merger agreement shall have been approved and adopted and the merger shall have been approved by the vote of holders of the requisite number of shares of VISX common stock under applicable law, as more fully described under The VISX Special Meeting Quorum and Vote Required beginning on page 64;

all waiting periods under the HSR Act with respect to the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement shall have expired or terminated early and all clearances, consents, approvals, orders and authorizations necessary for the completion of the merger under the United States or foreign antitrust laws shall have been received and become final and non-appealable;

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no temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other legal restraint or prohibition preventing the completion of the merger shall be in effect;

no statute, rule, regulation or order shall have been enacted, entered, enforced or deemed applicable to the merger by a governmental entity of competent jurisdiction and has the effect of making completion of the merger illegal;

the shares of AMO common stock to be issued in connection with the merger shall have been authorized for listing on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance; and

each of AMO and VISX shall have received from its respective tax counsel an opinion to the effect that the merger will constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and such opinions shall not have been withdrawn, or to the extent counsel for VISX does not issue such tax opinion, counsel to AMO shall have delivered such tax opinion to VISX and to the extent counsel for AMO does not issue such tax opinion, counsel to VISX shall have delivered such tax opinion to AMO.

In addition, individually, the respective obligations of AMO and Vault Merger Corporation on the one hand, and VISX on the other, to effect the merger and the other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement are subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the following additional conditions:

the representations and warranties of the other party shall have been true and correct (without giving any effect to any qualification as to materiality or material adverse effect contained in any specific representation or warranty) on the date the merger agreement was signed (*i.e.*, November 9, 2004) and as of the date the merger is to be completed as if made at and as of that time, except:

for changes contemplated or permitted by the merger agreement,

to the extent the representations and warranties of the other party address matters only as of a particular date, they must be true and correct only as of that date, and

where any failures of such representations and warranties to be true and correct have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect, as defined below;

the other party shall have performed or complied in all material respects with all of its agreements and covenants required by the merger agreement to be performed or complied with by it before completion of the merger; and

no material adverse effect, as defined below, with respect to the other party shall have occurred since the date the merger agreement was signed (*i.e.*, November 9, 2004) and be continuing.

Material Adverse Effect

Under the terms of the merger agreement, a material adverse effect on either AMO or VISX means any change, effect or circumstance that (i) is materially adverse to the business, operation, properties or condition (financial or otherwise) of AMO and any of its subsidiaries or VISX and any of its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (ii) materially adversely affects the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement. However, under the terms of the merger agreement, none of the following, either alone or in combination, will be deemed to

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constitute, nor will any of the following be taken into account in determining whether there has been or will or could be, a material adverse effect:

any change resulting from or arising out of general market, economic or political conditions (including any changes arising out of acts of terrorism, or war, weather conditions or other force majeure events), provided that the change does not have a substantially disproportionate impact on AMO and any of its subsidiaries or VISX and any of its subsidiaries, as the case may be, taken as a whole;

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any changes resulting from or arising out of general market, economic or political conditions in the industries in which AMO or VISX and conduct business (including any changes arising out of acts of terrorism, or war, weather conditions or other force majeure events), provided that the changes do not have a substantially disproportionate impact on AMO and any of its subsidiaries or VISX and any of its subsidiaries, as the case may be, taken as a whole;

any changes resulting from or arising out of actions taken pursuant to (and required by) the merger agreement or at the request of AMO or VISX, as the case may be, or the failure to take any actions due to restrictions set forth in the merger agreement;

any change in the price or trading volume of the AMO or VISX stock, in and of itself;

any failure of AMO or VISX to meet published revenue or earnings projections, in and of itself;

any changes or effects arising out of or resulting from any legal claims or other proceedings made by any of the VISX or AMO stockholders, as the case may be, arising out of or related to the merger agreement, the merger or any other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; and

any changes arising out of or resulting from any delay with respect to the receipt by VISX or any of its subsidiaries of pending regulatory approvals relating to its proposed product offerings of no longer than three months after the date that VISX has informed AMO it expects to obtain such pending regulatory approvals (provided that at all times during such period, such approvals are still pending and can be reasonably expected to be obtained within such period).

Termination; Break-Up Fees and Expenses

Termination

The merger agreement may be terminated in accordance with its terms at any time prior to completion of the merger, whether before or after the approval and adoption of the merger agreement and approval of the merger by VISX stockholders or the approval of the issuance of shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders in connection with the merger by AMO stockholders:

by mutual written consent of AMO and VISX duly authorized by their respective boards of directors;

by AMO or VISX, if the merger is not completed by June 30, 2005, provided that neither AMO nor VISX may terminate the merger agreement on this basis if that party has breached its obligations under the merger agreement if such breach has been a principal cause of, or resulted in, the failure of the merger to occur on or before that date, or if the terminating party has not complied with its obligations relating to payment of fees and expenses described below;

by AMO or VISX, if a court of competent jurisdiction or governmental, regulatory or administrative agency has issued a nonappealable final order or taken any other action having the effect of permanently prohibiting the merger;

by AMO or VISX, if the merger agreement and the merger fails to receive the requisite affirmative vote for adoption and approval at the VISX stockholders' meeting, provided that VISX may not terminate the merger agreement on this basis if VISX has breached, in

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any material respect, the provisions of the merger agreement relating to non-solicitation, board recommendations and filing this joint proxy statement/prospectus, or if the terminating party has not complied with its obligations relating to payment of fees and expenses described below;

by AMO or VISX, if the issuance of shares of AMO common stock to VISX stockholders in connection with the merger fails to receive the requisite affirmative vote at the AMO stockholders meeting, provided that AMO may not terminate the merger agreement on this basis if AMO has breached, in any material respect, the provisions of the merger agreement relating to non-solicitation, board recommendation and filing this joint proxy statement/prospectus, or if the terminating party has not complied with its obligations relating to payment of fees and expenses described below;

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by AMO, if VISX has breached any of the provisions of the merger agreement relating to non-solicitation and board recommendations;

by VISX, if AMO has breached any of the provisions of the merger agreement relating to non-solicitation and board recommendations;

by AMO, upon a breach of, or failure to perform, any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement on the part of VISX in the merger agreement that the condition to completion of the merger regarding VISX's representations and warranties or covenants would not be met; however, if the breach or inaccuracy is curable by VISX through the exercise of reasonable efforts, then AMO may not terminate the merger agreement for 20 days after delivery of written notice from AMO to VISX of the breach, and if the breach is cured during those 20 days, or if AMO is otherwise in material breach of the merger agreement, AMO may not exercise this termination right;

by VISX, upon a breach of, or failure to perform, any representation, warranty, covenant or agreement on the part of AMO in the merger agreement so that the condition to completion of the merger regarding AMO's representations and warranties or covenants would not be met; however, if the breach or inaccuracy is curable by AMO through the exercise of reasonable efforts, then VISX may not terminate the merger agreement for 20 days after delivery of written notice from VISX to AMO of the breach, and if the breach is cured during those 20 days, or if VISX is otherwise in material breach of the merger agreement, VISX may not exercise this termination right; or

by AMO or VISX, if there is an increase in the stock portion of the merger consideration that would cause the total stock consideration to be issued to VISX stockholders, holders of assumed VISX options and holders of assumed VISX phantom stock units in connection with the merger to constitute more than 44.9% of the outstanding shares of AMO common stock following the merger, which we refer to as the walk away right.

We currently estimate that if the trading price of AMO common stock falls below approximately \$17.75, then the walk away right would be triggered. If the walk away right is triggered, then, in fulfilling their fiduciary duties, the AMO and VISX boards will each need to consider a number of factors in determining whether to exercise its walk away right. In particular, the AMO and VISX boards would need to consider whether the prior stockholder approvals remained valid in light of any such decrease in the trading price of AMO common stock and the facts and circumstances at that time. Additionally, both boards would also likely consider the reasons for the decline in the trading price of AMO common stock, the prospects of the combined company and the other original reasons for entering into the merger, as well as the fact that certain AMO employee benefit plans contain change of control provisions that provide for the automatic acceleration and vesting of all outstanding stock options in the event that AMO completes a merger that results in current AMO stockholders no longer representing at least 55% of the combined voting power of AMO common stock immediately following the merger. Based upon its evaluation of these and any other relevant factors that may exist at the time, the AMO and VISX boards would determine whether re-solicitation of stockholder approval of the merger prior to completing the merger would be required under applicable law.

Break-Up Fees and Expenses

Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO must pay a fee to VISX if either party terminates the merger agreement because (1) the merger has not been completed by June 30, 2005 or (2) the AMO stockholder approval required to complete the merger has not been obtained (subject to the conditions described above), and prior to such termination, an acquisition proposal with respect to AMO had been publicly announced (or had otherwise become publicly known) or a person had publicly announced an intention to make an acquisition proposal with respect to AMO, and such proposal or intention was not withdrawn or retracted prior to the AMO stockholders meeting or such termination. The fee is payable as follows:

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If the AMO board of directors effected a withdrawal or modification, or publicly proposed to withdraw or modify, in a manner adverse to VISX, its recommendation with respect to the merger following

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receipt of an acquisition proposal with respect to AMO, AMO must pay VISX \$8 million for expenses of VISX; and

if within one year following termination of the merger agreement, AMO enters into a definitive agreement with respect to any acquisition proposal, AMO must pay VISX a \$45 million break-up fee, less the \$8 million expense payment previously paid to VISX.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, VISX must pay a fee to AMO if either party terminates the merger agreement because (1) the merger has not been completed by June 30, 2005 or (2) the VISX stockholder approval required to complete the merger had not been obtained (subject to the conditions described above), and prior to such termination, an acquisition proposal with respect to VISX had been publicly announced (or had otherwise become publicly known) or a person had publicly announced an intention to make an acquisition proposal with respect to VISX, and such proposal or intention was not withdrawn or retracted prior to the VISX stockholders meeting or such termination. The fee is payable as follows:

If the VISX board of directors effected a withdrawal or modification, or publicly proposed to withdraw or modify, in a manner adverse to AMO, its recommendation with respect to the merger following receipt of an acquisition proposal, VISX must pay AMO \$8 million for expenses of AMO; and

if within one year following termination of the merger agreement, VISX enters into a definitive agreement with respect to any acquisition proposal, VISX must pay AMO a \$45 million break-up fee, less the \$8 million expense payment previously paid to AMO.

Expenses Generally

Except as provided above, all fees and expenses incurred in connection with the merger will be paid by the party incurring the fees or expenses, whether or not the merger is completed, other than expenses incurred in connection with filing, printing and mailing this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the registration statement, and filings by AMO and VISX under the HSR Act or any similar filing requirement of any governmental entity applicable to the merger, which will be shared equally by AMO and VISX.

If the party entitled to payment of the break-up fee has to make a claim against the other party and such claim results in a judgment against the other party, the party required to pay the termination fee will also have to pay the other party's reasonable costs and expenses in connection with the suit together with interest on the unpaid break-up fee.

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FINANCING

Under the terms of the merger agreement, AMO agreed to use its reasonable best efforts to obtain all financing required in connection with the merger such that after the completion of the merger, AMO and its subsidiaries will have an amount of working capital and other liquidity reasonable for the business, taken as a whole (after giving effect to the merger). See The Merger Agreement Reasonable Best Efforts to Complete the Merger beginning on page 121.

AMO has obtained commitments from lenders under its existing credit facilities to obtain financing in connection with the merger pursuant to an amendment to AMO's credit facilities entered into as of January 7, 2005. The commitments include:

new commitments for delayed draw term loans in an aggregate amount of \$100 million, to be available upon satisfaction of specified conditions described below, which commitments are referred to as the delayed draw term loan commitments; and

commitments to provide an additional \$100 million of revolving loan commitments, to be available upon satisfaction of specified conditions described below.

AMO expects, based upon the combination of internally available cash and borrowings under the amended credit facilities, to have sufficient cash on hand to pay the cash merger consideration and related transaction costs.

Borrowings under the amended credit facilities are collateralized by substantially all the assets of AMO and its domestic subsidiaries. Each of the revolving credit facility and the term loan facility will mature in June 2009.

Interest Rate and Fees

The revolving credit facility bears interest at a rate per annum equal to, at the option of AMO:

the higher of Bank of America's prime rate and the rate equal to the federal funds effective rate plus 1/2 of 1%; or

a rate based on certain rates offered for United States dollar deposits in the Eurodollar interbank market,

in each case plus a margin which fluctuates based upon the ratio of total indebtedness to EBITDA in effect from time to time.

Each lender under the revolving credit facility is entitled to a commitment fee on the unused portion of its revolving commitments, payable quarterly.

The term loans under the amended credit facilities will bear interest at a rate per annum equal to, at the option of AMO:

the higher of Bank of America's prime rate and the rate equal to the federal funds effective rate plus $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% plus a margin of 1.00%; or

a rate based on certain rates offered for United States dollar deposits in the Eurodollar interbank market, plus a margin of 2.00%.

The interest rate margins applicable to the term loans are subject to a reduction if certain credit ratings are achieved.

Each lender with a delayed draw term loan commitment is entitled to a commitment fee in an amount per annum equal to (a) (i) for the period from January 7, 2005 through February 28, 2005, 0.25%, (ii) for the period from March 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005, 0.50%, and (iii) for the period from May 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005, 1.00% times (b) the amount of its delayed draw term loan commitment. Such commitment fee is payable quarterly in arrears until termination or funding of the delayed draw term loan commitments.

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Certain Representations, Warranties, Covenants and Conditions

The amended credit facilities contain representations and warranties customary for credit facilities of this nature, including:

no default or event of default;

accuracy of financial statements;

enforceability of the credit facility documentation;

no material adverse change since the date of the last financial statements for AMO and its subsidiaries;

absence of material litigation;

no violation of material agreements or instruments;

material compliance with laws;

effectiveness of required regulatory approvals;

use of proceeds; and

material accuracy of information.

The amended credit facilities contain certain covenants customary for credit facilities of this nature (in each case with customary exceptions), including:

use of proceeds;

limitations on liens;

limitations on mergers, consolidations and sales of assets;

limitations on indebtedness;

limitations on investments and acquisitions;

limitations on capital expenditures; and

limitation on transactions with affiliates.

In addition, the amended credit facilities contain the following financial covenants:

a total debt to EBITDA ratio;

a senior debt to EBITDA ratio;

a fixed charges to EBITDA ratio; and

an interest charges to EBITDA ratio.

The commitments of the lenders to make the loans under the amended credit facilities to finance a portion of the merger consideration (including the increase in revolving loan commitments thereunder by \$100 million) are subject to, among other things, the following conditions:

merger documents to be reasonably satisfactory and in full force and effect;

completion of the merger;

absence of material adverse change;

approvals and consents; and

delivery of certain financial statements.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements are based upon the historical condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto (as applicable) of AMO and VISX, which are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined balance sheet gives pro forma effect to the merger as if the merger had been completed on December 31, 2004 and combines AMO's December 31, 2004 audited consolidated balance sheet with VISX's December 31, 2004 audited consolidated balance sheet. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations gives pro forma effect to the merger as if it had been completed on January 1, 2004 and combines AMO's unaudited pro forma condensed combined statement of operations, which gives effect to AMO's acquisition of Pfizer's ophthalmic surgical business, for the year ended December 31, 2004 with VISX's audited consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2004.

VISX stockholders are expected to receive 0.552 of a share of AMO common stock and \$3.50 in cash for each share of VISX common stock they own at the completion of the merger, but this mixture of AMO common stock and cash is subject to adjustment as more fully described below. Until the completion of the merger the trading price of AMO common stock could fluctuate. Because each VISX stockholder will receive a fixed number of shares of AMO common stock in the merger, the value of AMO common stock to be received could fluctuate as well. Therefore, each VISX stockholder will not know the precise overall economic value of the merger consideration he or she will receive until the closing date of the merger. As more fully described elsewhere in this Registration Statement, the merger is expected to qualify as a reorganization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which is referred to as the Internal Revenue Code. If neither counsel to AMO nor counsel to VISX is able to render an opinion at the completion of the merger that the merger qualifies as a reorganization (based on the mix of cash and stock consideration) within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, then the amount of the cash merger consideration will be reduced and the amount of the stock merger consideration will be increased, in each case to the minimum extent necessary to enable counsel to render this opinion at the completion of the merger. In the event of any such adjustment, the number of shares of AMO common stock and amount of cash received by a VISX stockholder may change, but the overall economic value of the merger consideration issuable and payable for each share of VISX common stock in the merger as of the closing date will still be calculated based on the trading price of AMO common stock at the closing and therefore will remain the same. In this situation, AMO would be required to issue a greater number of shares of common stock to VISX stockholders. AMO and VISX will not know, however, whether any such adjustment is necessary until immediately prior to the completion of the merger.

The pro forma adjustments are based upon available information and certain assumptions that AMO believes are reasonable under the circumstances. A final determination of fair values relating to the merger, which cannot be made prior to the completion of the merger, may differ materially from the preliminary estimates and will include management's final valuation of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. This final valuation will be based on the actual net tangible assets of VISX that exist as of the date of the completion of the merger. The final valuation may change the allocations of the purchase price, which could affect the fair value assigned to the assets and liabilities and could result in a change to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements data.

These unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements should be read in conjunction with the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes contained in the annual, quarterly and other reports filed by AMO and VISX with the SEC. See **Additional Information** Where You Can Find More Information beginning on page 155.

Table of Contents**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED BALANCE SHEET****AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Historical</u> <u>AMO</u>	<u>Historical</u> <u>VISX</u>	<u>Pro Forma</u> <u>Adjustments(1)</u>	<u>Pro Forma</u> <u>Combined</u>
(In thousands)				
Assets				
Current Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 49,455	\$ 14,536	\$ (175,163)(9) 200,000 (7) (16,569)(8)	\$ 72,259
Short-term investments		123,872		123,872
Trade receivables, net	189,465	31,584		221,049
Inventories	85,028	14,255		99,283
Other current assets	52,877	22,219		75,096
Total current assets	376,825	206,466	8,268	591,559
Property, plant and equipment, net	118,639	3,990		122,629
Other assets	41,825	12,367	2,721 (7)	56,913
Intangibles, net	147,895		400,300 (3)	548,195
Goodwill	391,350		484,843 (1)	876,193
Total assets	\$ 1,076,534	\$ 222,823	\$ 896,132	\$ 2,195,489
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity				
Current liabilities:				
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 1,950	\$ 3,588	\$ 100,000 (7)	\$ 101,950
Accounts payable	77,824	9,045		81,412
Accrued compensation	31,451	82,698		40,496
Other accrued expenses	82,698	31,534	(7,366)(4)	106,866
Total current liabilities	193,923	44,167	92,634	330,724
Long-term debt, net of current portion	550,643		100,000 (7)	650,643
Other liabilities	55,698		157,560 (5)	213,258
Total liabilities	800,264	44,167	350,194	1,194,625
Stockholders equity:				
Preferred stock				
Common stock	371	650	(650)(2) 276 (2)	647
Additional paid-in-capital	310,437	200,209	(200,209)(2) 1,177,318 (2)	1,487,755
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(104,389)	220,360	(220,360)(2) (453,000)(6)	(557,389)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	69,874	(67)	67 (2)	69,874
Less treasury stock, at cost	(23)	(242,496)	242,496 (2)	(23)
Total stockholders equity	276,270	178,656	545,938	1,000,864
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	\$ 1,076,534	\$ 222,823	\$ 896,132	\$ 2,195,489



See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Balance Sheet**

- (1) Under the purchase method of accounting, the total estimated consideration as shown in the table below is allocated to VISX's tangible and intangible assets and liabilities based on their estimated fair values as of the date of completion of the merger. The preliminary estimated consideration is allocated as follows:

	Amount
	(In thousands)
Calculation of consideration:	
Estimated cash consideration to VISX stockholders (9)	\$ 175,163
Estimated fair value of AMO shares issued to VISX stockholders (10)	1,130,001
Estimated fair value of vested VISX stock options (11)	47,593
Estimated direct transaction fees and expenses	13,848
Total consideration	1,366,605
Preliminary allocation of consideration:	
Book value of VISX's net assets	178,656
Adjustments to historical net book value:	
Intangible assets (3)	400,300
Deferred revenue (4)	7,366
Non-current deferred tax liability (5)	(157,560)
In-process research and development (6)	453,000
Adjustment to goodwill	\$ 484,843

A final determination of fair values, which cannot be made prior to the completion of the merger, may differ materially from the preliminary estimates and will include management's final valuation of the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. This final valuation will be based on the actual net tangible assets of VISX that exist as of the date of the completion of the merger. The final valuation may change the allocations of purchase price, which could affect the fair value assigned to the assets and liabilities and could result in a change to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements data.

- (2) Represents the acquisition of 100% of the equity of VISX in exchange for 0.552 shares of AMO common stock and includes the elimination of VISX's historical equity accounts at December 31, 2004. Also includes the estimated fair value of AMO's shares issued to VISX stockholders and vested VISX stock options of \$1,130 million and \$47.6 million, respectively.
- (3) Of the total estimated purchase price, \$306.1 million has been allocated to technology rights and customer relationships that are expected to be amortized over a weighted average life of 11.4 years and \$94.2 million has been allocated to tradename with an indefinite life. This adjustment is preliminary and is based on AMO management's estimates. The amount ultimately allocated to intangible assets may differ materially from this preliminary allocation. A \$50.0 million increase or decrease in value allocated to technology rights and customer relationships would increase or decrease annual amortization by approximately \$4.4 million.

Identification and allocation of value to the identified intangible assets was based on the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 141, Business Combinations, (FAS 141). The fair value of the identified intangible assets was estimated by performing a discounted cash flow analysis using the income approach. This method includes a forecast of direct revenues and costs associated with the respective intangible assets and charges for economic returns on tangible and intangible assets utilized in cash flow generation. Net cash flows attributable to the identified intangible assets are discounted to their present value at a rate commensurate with the perceived risk. The projected cash flow assumptions considered contractual relationships, customer attrition, eventual development of new technologies and market competition.

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The estimates of expected useful lives are based on guidance from FAS No. 141 and take into consideration the effects of competition, regulatory changes and possible obsolescence. The useful lives of technology rights are based on the number of years in which net cash flows have been projected. The useful lives of customer relationships was estimated based upon the length of the contracts currently in place, probability based estimates of contract renewals in the future and natural growth and diversification of other potential customers, which were considered insignificant. Management considers the VISX trade name to be the dominant name in excimer laser vision correction procedures. VISX's estimated market share of 60 percent demonstrates its commercial success. Subsequent to the acquisition, management intends to maintain and continue to market existing and new products under the VISX trade name. As management intends to continue to use the VISX trade name indefinitely, an indefinite life was assigned.

Assumptions used in forecasting cash flows for each of the identified intangible assets included consideration of the following:

VISX historical operating margins

Number of procedures and devices VISX has developed and had approved by the FDA

VISX market share

Contractual and non-contractual relationships with large groups of surgeons and

Patents and exclusive licenses held.

A history of operating margins and profitability, a strong scientific, service and manufacturing employee base and a dominant presence in the excimer laser market were among the factors that contributed to a purchase price resulting in the recognition of goodwill.

- (4) Represents deferred revenue of \$7.4 million not considered an assumed liability.
- (5) The estimated impact on deferred tax liabilities of purchase accounting adjustments of \$157.6 million. The estimate of deferred tax liabilities was determined based on the estimated excess book basis over the estimated tax basis of identifiable intangible assets acquired at an estimated statutory rate of approximately 39%. This adjustment is preliminary and subject to change based upon management's final valuation of the fair values of identifiable intangible assets acquired.
- (6) Represents the estimated charge for in-process research and development of \$453.0 million. This adjustment is preliminary and is based on AMO management's estimates. The amount ultimately allocated to in-process research and development may differ from this preliminary allocation. This amount has been excluded from the unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations as such charge is non-recurring.

Ongoing research and development of new laser vision correction procedures (hyperopic presbyopia and custom high myopia procedures) accounts for approximately 90% of this charge. The balance relates to new equipment technologies in development (for example cyclotorsional tracking of the eye). Both new procedures are in FDA clinical trials, with the custom high myopia trial near completion and the hyperopic presbyopia trial in an early stage. New equipment technologies (such as cyclotorsional tracking of the eye) are in different stages of research and development.

The fair value of these IPR&D projects was estimated by performing a discounted cash flow analysis using the income approach. Net cash flows attributable to the projects were discounted to their present values at a rate commensurate with the perceived risk, which for these

projects was between 18-20%. The following assumptions underlie these estimates.

A custom high myopia procedure is forecast to be approved for sale in the U.S. in 2005. A procedure to treat hyperopic presbyopia is forecast to be approved for sale in the U.S. in 2007. Additional research and development expenses for these procedures are expected to range from \$5 million to \$7 million. This range represents management's best estimate as to the additional R&D expenses required to bring these products to market in the U.S.

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Products based on new equipment technologies are forecast to first be available for sale in 2005 and 2006. Additional research and development expenses in the range of \$12 million to \$14 million represents management's best estimate as to the additional R&D expenses to bring these products to market.

In addition, solely for the purposes of estimating the fair value of the IPR&D projects, the following assumptions were made:

Revenue that is reasonably likely to result from the approved and unapproved potential uses of identifiable intangible assets that includes the estimated number of units to be sold, estimated selling prices, estimated market penetration and estimated market share and year-over-year growth rates over the product cycles;

Remaining developmental R&D and sustaining engineering expenses once commercialized were also estimated by management according to internal planning estimates; and

The cost structure was assumed to be similar to that for existing products.

The major risks and uncertainties associated with the timely and successful completion of the projects consist of the ability to confirm the safety and efficacy of the technology based on the data from clinical trials and obtaining necessary regulatory approvals. In addition, no assurance can be given that the underlying assumptions used to forecast the cash flows or the timely and successful completion of such projects will materialize, as estimated. For these reasons, among others, actual results may vary significantly from the estimated results.

- (7) Represents additional borrowings expected to be incurred to fund the cash portion of the merger and the estimated deferred financing costs of \$2.7 million to be incurred.
- (8) Represents expected payment for deferred financing costs and direct transaction fees and expenses net of amounts already paid.
- (9) Estimated cash consideration to VISX stockholders based upon 50,046,560 VISX shares outstanding as of February 28, 2005 at \$3.50 per share.
- (10) AMO share equivalent of VISX shares outstanding assumes an exchange ratio of 0.552 based on the terms of the merger agreement. The fair value of the shares issued is based on a market value of \$40.90 per share of AMO common stock, which is the average of the quoted market price of AMO common stock for the period beginning two trading days before and ending two trading days after the merger was announced.
- (11) Represents the intrinsic value of the converted VISX stock options which is calculated as the difference between \$40.90, the average of the quoted market price of AMO stock for the period beginning two days before and ending two days after the merger was announced, and the exercise price of the converted VISX stock options.

Table of Contents**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	Pro Forma AMO(1)	Historical VISX	Pro Forma Adjustments	Pro Forma Combined
(In thousands, except per share amounts)				
Net sales	\$ 816,976	\$ 165,858	\$	\$ 982,834
Cost of sales	300,914	42,386		343,300
Gross profit	516,062	123,472		639,534
Selling, general and administrative	357,781	42,483	26,747 (2)	427,011
Research and development	47,040	21,437		68,477
Operating income	111,241	59,552	(26,747)	144,046
Non-operating expense (income)				
Interest expense	24,503		10,355 (3)	34,858
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	403			403
Other, net	(273)	(2,035)		(2,308)
Earnings before income taxes	86,608	61,587	(37,102)	111,093
Provision for income taxes	30,312	23,145	(14,575)(4)	38,882
Net earnings	\$ 56,296	\$ 38,442	\$ (22,527)	\$ 72,211
Net earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 1.53	\$ 0.78		\$ 1.12
Diluted	\$ 1.44	\$ 0.76		\$ 1.07
Weighted average number of shares outstanding:				
Basic	36,733	49,229		64,359 (5)
Diluted	39,277	50,869		67,659 (6)

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma financial statements.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations**

- (1) Pro forma AMO results have been adjusted to give pro forma effect to the acquisition of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business as if that transaction had occurred on January 1, 2004. See Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations and related notes beginning on page 136.

The total estimated cost of the acquisition was as follows (in thousands):

Cash consideration to Pfizer Inc.	\$ 450,000
Direct costs	7,399
Cash acquired	(690)
	<hr/>
Total purchase price	\$ 456,709
	<hr/>

The above purchase price has been preliminarily allocated based on an estimate of the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The final valuation of net assets is expected to be completed as soon as possible, but no later than one year from the acquisition date in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The purchase price has been allocated based on AMO management's estimates as follows (in thousands):

Inventories	\$ 52,411
Other current assets	350
Property, plant and equipment	39,066
Intangible assets	135,900
In-process research and development	28,100
Goodwill	255,171
Current liabilities	(14,601)
Non-current liabilities	(655)
Non-current deferred tax liability	(39,033)
	<hr/>
Net assets acquired	\$ 456,709
	<hr/>

Of the \$135.9 million of acquired intangible assets, \$121.0 million was assigned to developed technology rights that have a weighted-average useful life of approximately 12.7 years and \$14.9 million was assigned to a trademark with a useful life of approximately 13.5 years. Annual amortization of intangible assets is expected to be approximately \$10.7 million. Approximately \$11.6 million of the goodwill is expected to be deductible for tax purposes. A history of operating margins and profitability, a strong scientific employee base and a strong presence in the viscoelastic market were among the factors that contributed to a purchase price resulting in the recognition of goodwill.

- (2) Reflects amortization of intangibles related to AMO management's preliminary estimate of the fair value of intangible assets acquired. This adjustment is preliminary and based on AMO management's estimates. The amount ultimately allocated to intangible assets may differ

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materially from this preliminary allocation and will be based on AMO management's final valuation of the acquired intangible assets.

- (3) Reflects interest expense of additional borrowings incurred to fund the cash portion of the merger and related costs. The pro forma interest expense arising from the additional borrowings has been computed based upon \$200.0 million aggregate borrowings and an average interest rate of 4.875%. Also includes amortization of deferred financing costs (\$0.6 million per annum).
- (4) Reflects the pro forma tax effect of the above adjustments at an estimated combined effective tax rate of 35% for the year ended December 31, 2004.
- (5) Reflects the expected issuance of 27.6 million shares of AMO common stock to VISX shareholders.
- (6) Reflects the expected issuance of 27.6 million shares of AMO common stock to VISX shareholders and the dilutive effect of AMO stock options exchanged for VISX stock options of 0.8 million shares.

Table of Contents**UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

	<u>Historical AMO</u>	<u>Historical Pfizer</u>	<u>Pro Forma Adjustments(1)</u>	<u>Pro Forma AMO</u>
(In thousands, except per share data)				
Net sales	\$ 742,099	\$ 74,877	\$	\$ 816,976
Cost of sales	306,164	21,623	(26,873)(2)	300,914
Gross profit	435,935		26,873	516,062
Selling, general and administrative	329,197	32,152	(3,568)(3)	357,781
Research and development	73,716	1,424	(28,100)(4)	47,040
Operating income	33,022		58,541	111,241
Non-operating expense (income):				
Interest expense	26,933		4,070 (5)	24,503
			(6,500)(6)	
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments	403			403
Loss due to exchange of 3 1/2% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2023	116,282		(116,282)(7)	
Other, net	10,620		(10,893)(8)	(273)
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	(121,216)		188,146	86,608
Provision for income taxes	8,154		22,158 (9)	30,312
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (129,370)		\$ 165,988	\$ 56,296
Business total direct expenses		55,199		
Direct revenue in excess of direct expenses		\$ 19,678		
Net earnings (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$ (3.89)			\$ 1.53
Diluted	\$ (3.89)			\$ 1.44 (11)
Weighted average number of shares outstanding:				
Basic	33,284			36,733 (10)
Diluted	33,284			39,277 (11)

See accompanying notes to unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements.

Table of Contents**Notes to Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Statement of Operations**

- (1) Reclassifications between cost of sales and selling, general and administrative expense have been made to the historical presentation of Pfizer's surgical ophthalmic business, which is referred to as the Pfizer business, in order to conform to the pro forma condensed combined presentation.
- (2) Reflects a \$28.1 million decrease related to the sale of acquired inventory adjusted to fair value, a \$0.3 million decrease in depreciation expense related to management's estimate of the fair value of property, plant and equipment and a \$1.5 million increase related to the reclassification of direct distribution costs included in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Pfizer business.
- (3) Reflects a \$1.5 million decrease related to the reclassification of direct distribution costs included in selling, general and administrative expenses of the Pfizer business and a \$2.0 million decrease in amortization of intangibles related to AMO management's estimate of the fair value of intangible assets acquired. The \$2.0 million decrease in amortization of intangibles is estimated based upon expected amortization for the year of \$10.7 million compared to amortization of \$12.7 million included in the historical AMO and historical Pfizer statements of operations.
- (4) Reflects the adjustment to decrease research and development expense by the \$28.1 million in-process research and development charge resulting from the application of purchase accounting to the acquisition of the Pfizer business.
- (5) Reflects pro forma interest expense resulting from AMO's new debt capital structure implemented at the end of the second quarter of 2004 based on LIBOR of 1.58% as of December 31, 2004, as follows:

	Year Ended December 31, 2004
	(In thousands)
Pro forma adjustment to interest expense:	
2.50% convertible senior subordinated notes(a)	\$ 4,375
Term loan(b)	4,788
Amortization of deferred financing costs(c)	1,562
Pro forma interest expense	10,725
Less interest expense on existing debt refinanced:	
3 1/2% convertible senior subordinated notes	(3,141)
9 1/4% senior subordinated notes	(3,094)
Repayment of Japan term loan	(420)
Pro forma adjustment	\$ 4,070

- (a) Reflects pro forma interest expense on the \$350.0 million of outstanding 2.50% convertible senior subordinated notes due 2024, which are referred to as the 2.50% Notes, at an interest rate of 2.50%.
- (b) Reflects pro forma interest expense on the \$250.0 million term loan under AMO's amended senior credit facility at an assumed interest rate of LIBOR plus 2.25%. A 0.125% change in interest rates would result in a change in the pro forma interest expense of \$0.3 million related to the floating interest rate of the term loan.
- (c) Reflects amortization of deferred financing fees over the expected term of the related instrument (five years for the term loan and five and a half years for the 2.50% Notes).

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- (6) Reflects the adjustment to decrease interest expense for the write-off of deferred financing fees, original discount and recognition of realized gains on interest rate swaps and the commitment fee paid to senior credit facility lenders resulting from the tender offer and consent solicitation, the private exchanges and the repayment of the Japan term loan aggregating \$6.5 million, as such amounts are not expected to have a continuing impact on AMO's operations and relate directly to the acquisition.

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- (7) Reflects the adjustment for \$89.1 million relating to the value of equity issued in excess of conversion price in the private exchanges and \$27.2 million of premium paid in the private exchanges.
- (8) Reflects the adjustment to decrease Other, net by \$10.8 million of tender offer premium and consent payments for the 9 1/4% senior subordinated notes and \$0.1 million of other debt extinguishment costs, as such amounts are not expected to have a continuing impact on AMO's operations and relate directly to the acquisition.
- (9) Reflects the pro forma tax effect of the above adjustments at an estimated combined effective tax rate of 35% for the year ended December 31, 2004.
- (10) Reflects the issuance of 7.0 million shares of AMO's common stock in the private exchanges less the 3.6 million weighted average shares related to the private exchanges already included in basic shares outstanding.
- (11) Includes the dilutive effect of approximately 2.1 million shares for stock options and 0.4 million shares for the 3 1/2% Notes not repurchased as part of the private exchanges and the after tax impact of \$0.1 million of interest expense for the 3 1/2% Notes not purchased as part of the private exchanges as follows:

Net earnings	\$ 56,296
Interest expense, after tax, for 3 1/2% Notes included in net earnings	123
Adjusted net earnings	<u>\$ 56,419</u>
Basic shares outstanding	36,733
Dilutive effect of stock options and awards	2,125
Dilutive effect of 3 1/2% Notes	419
Diluted shares outstanding	<u>39,277</u>
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 1.44</u>

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COMPARISON OF STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Both AMO and VISX are incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware and, accordingly, the rights of the stockholders of each are governed by the DGCL. Before the completion of the merger, the rights of VISX stockholders are also governed by the VISX certificate of incorporation, the VISX bylaws and the Rights Agreement, dated as of August 3, 2000, as amended, between VISX and EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent. Upon completion of the merger, VISX stockholders will receive AMO common stock in exchange for their shares of VISX common stock. As a result, upon completion of the merger, the rights of VISX stockholders who become AMO stockholders in the merger will be governed by the DGCL, the AMO certificate of incorporation, the AMO bylaws, and the Rights Agreement, dated as of June 24, 2002, between AMO and Mellon Investor Services, LLC, as rights agent.

The following is a summary of material differences between the current rights of AMO stockholders and the current rights of VISX stockholders. While we believe that this summary covers the material differences between the two, this summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you. This summary is not intended to be a complete discussion of the respective rights of AMO and VISX stockholders and it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the various documents of AMO and VISX to which we refer in this summary. We urge you to carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, the relevant provisions of the DGCL and the other documents to which we refer in this joint proxy statement/prospectus for a more complete understanding of the differences between being an AMO stockholder and being a VISX stockholder. AMO and VISX have filed with the SEC their respective documents referenced in this summary of stockholder rights and will send copies of these documents to you, without charge, upon your request. See [Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information](#) beginning on page 155.

	<u>AMO</u>	<u>VISX</u>
Authorized Capital Stock	The authorized capital stock of AMO consists of (i) 120,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and (ii) 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. No shares of preferred stock are outstanding.	The authorized capital stock of VISX consists of 180,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.
Number of Directors	<p>If the proposal to amend the AMO certificate of incorporation is approved, the authorized number of shares of AMO common stock will increase from 120,000,000 to 240,000,000.</p> <p>The AMO bylaws provide that the AMO board of directors will consist of not less than 6 nor more than 12 directors, the exact number of directors to be determined from time to time by the AMO board of directors. The AMO board of directors currently consists of 7 directors.</p> <p>Upon completion of the merger, the AMO board of directors will be expanded by one member, which position will be filled by Elizabeth H. Dávila, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of VISX.</p>	The VISX bylaws provide that the VISX board of directors will consist of 7 directors.

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	<u>AMO</u>	<u>VISX</u>
Cumulative Voting	The AMO certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting and accordingly, AMO stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights in connection with the election of directors.	The VISX certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting and, accordingly, VISX stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights in connection with the election of directors.
Classification of Board of Directors	The AMO certificate of incorporation classifies the AMO board of directors into three separate classes, consisting as nearly equal in number as may be practicable of one-third of the total number of directors constituting the entire board of directors, with staggered three-year terms. This classification of the AMO board of directors creates an obstacle to an acquirer of AMO common stock from obtaining control of the AMO board of directors.	The VISX certificate of incorporation and bylaws do not classify the VISX board of directors into separate classes with staggered terms.
Removal of Directors	Section 141(k)(1) of the DGCL provides that, unless a corporation's charter provides otherwise, directors of a corporation with a classified board of directors may be removed for cause. The AMO certificate of incorporation does not provide otherwise. Furthermore, the AMO certificate of incorporation provides that any or all of the AMO directors may be removed for cause only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the AMO common stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors. This provision makes it more difficult to remove AMO directors than it is to remove VISX directors.	The DGCL and the VISX bylaws provide that unless otherwise restricted by statute, by the VISX certificate of incorporation or by the VISX bylaws, any director or the entire VISX board of directors may be removed, with or without cause, by the holders of a majority of the VISX common stock then entitled to vote at an election of directors. Neither the VISX certificate of incorporation nor the VISX bylaws provide otherwise.
Vacancies on the Board of Directors	The AMO bylaws provide that any vacancy on the AMO board of directors and any newly created directorship resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors may only be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director. The directors so chosen will hold office until the next annual election of directors unless sooner displaced. See <i>Removal of Directors</i> , above. If there are no directors in office, then an election of directors may be held in the manner provided by statute. If, at the time of filling any vacancy or any newly created directorship, the directors	The VISX bylaws provide that any vacancy created by the resignation of a VISX director may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, including those who have so resigned. Vacancies and newly created directorships created by an increase in the number of directors may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director. If the vacancy or newly created directorship is of a director elected or to be elected by any class or series of VISX common stock, then the vacancy or newly created directorship may be filled by a majority of the directors elected by such class or series then in office or by a sole remaining director. If at any time, VISX

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then in office constitute less than a majority of the whole AMO board of directors (as constituted immediately prior to the increase), the Delaware Court of Chancery may, upon application of any holder(s) of at least 10% of the AMO common stock having the right to vote for such directors, order an election to be held to fill any vacancies or newly created directorships, or to replace the directors chosen by the directors then in office.

shall have no directors in office, then any officer or stockholder may call a special meeting of VISX stockholders or may apply to the Delaware Court of Chancery for the order of an election to fill the vacancies.

If, at the time of filling any vacancy or any newly created directorship, the directors then in office constitute less than a majority of the whole VISX board of directors (as constituted immediately prior to the increase), the Delaware Court of Chancery may, upon application of any holder(s) of at least 10% of the VISX common stock having the right to vote for such directors, order an election to be held to fill any vacancies or newly created directorships, or to replace the directors chosen by the directors then in office.

Stockholder Action by Written Consent The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that no stockholder action may be taken except at an annual or special meeting of stockholders and stockholders may not take any action by written consent in lieu of a meeting.

The VISX bylaws provide that any action that may be taken at any annual or special meeting of VISX stockholders may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by the holders of VISX common stock having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be required for the action at a meeting at which all shares of VISX common stock entitled to vote on the action were present and voted. This provision allows VISX stockholders to take action without a stockholders meeting and thereby dispense with the limits on who may call, and the notice requirements of, stockholders meetings.

Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that, with respect to corrections not affecting the rights, preferences and privileges of the AMO stockholders and to the extent permitted by the DGCL, the AMO certificate of incorporation may be amended by the AMO board of directors. The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that it may otherwise be amended as set forth in the DGCL (which generally requires the approval of a majority of the AMO board of directors and the holders of a majority of the AMO common stock),

The VISX certificate of incorporation provides that VISX reserves the right to amend, alter, change or repeal any provision contained in the VISX certificate of incorporation in the manner prescribed by statute. Under the DGCL, amendment to the VISX certificate of incorporation generally requires approval of the majority of the VISX board of directors and the holders of a majority of the VISX common stock.

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except that certain articles of the AMO certificate of incorporation, mentioned below, may not be amended without the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the AMO common stock:

Article 6 Amendment to the AMO bylaws.

Article 7 Number and Classes of Directors.

Article 9 Business Combinations with Interested Stockholders (Amendment of this article requires additionally, the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the AMO common stock, excluding AMO common stock held by the interested

stockholder (as that term is defined in the AMO certificate of incorporation)).

Article 10 Calling of Special Meetings of AMO Stockholders.

Article 11 Action by Written Consent of AMO Stockholders.

Article 12 Amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation.

These provisions make it more difficult to amend the AMO certificate of incorporation than it is to amend the VISX certificate of incorporation.

Amendment of Bylaws The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that, subject to any bylaw provision requiring the approval of a larger percentage of the AMO directors for amendment, the AMO board of directors has the power to make, adopt, alter, amend, change or repeal the AMO bylaws by the affirmative vote of a majority of the AMO board of

The VISX certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that the VISX bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the holders of a majority of the VISX common stock entitled to vote or by a majority of the VISX board of directors.

directors. The AMO certificate of incorporation also provides that AMO stockholders may not make, adopt, alter, amend, change or repeal the AMO bylaws except upon the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the AMO common stock then entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting

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	together as a single class. This provision makes it more difficult for AMO stockholders to amend the AMO bylaws than it is for VISX stockholders to amend the VISX bylaws.	
Special Meeting of Stockholders	The AMO certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that special meetings of AMO stockholders may only be called by the AMO board of directors or by either the Chairman of the Board or the President of AMO.	The VISX bylaws provide that special meetings of VISX stockholders may only be called by a majority of the VISX board of directors or by either the Chairman of the Board or the President of VISX.
Notice of Stockholder Meetings	The AMO bylaws provide that written notice of an annual meeting or special meeting stating the place, date and hour of the meeting, and in the case of special meetings, the purpose for which the meeting was called, will be given to each AMO stockholder entitled to vote at the meeting not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting.	The VISX bylaws provide that written notice of an annual meeting or special meeting stating the place, date and hour of the meeting, and in the case of special meetings, the purpose for which the meeting was called, will be given to each VISX stockholder entitled to vote at the meeting not less than 10 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting.
Delivery and Notice Requirements of Stockholder Nominations and Proposals	<p>The AMO bylaws provide that, to be properly brought before an annual meeting, business must be either:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">specified in the notice of annual meeting or any supplement to the notice given by or at the direction of the AMO board of directors;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">otherwise brought before the meeting at the direction of the AMO board of directors; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">otherwise properly brought before the meeting by an AMO stockholder.</p> <p>To be timely, an AMO stockholder's notice of business to be conducted at the annual meeting must be delivered to or mailed and received at the principal executive offices of AMO:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">not less than 90 nor more than 120 days before the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">if the date of the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or 70 days after the anniversary date of</p>	<p>The VISX bylaws provide that subject to the rights of holders of any class or series of preferred stock, nominations for the election of directors and business proposed to be brought before any stockholder meeting may be made by:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the VISX board of directors or proxy committee appointed by the VISX board of directors; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">any VISX stockholder entitled to vote in the election of directors generally if such nomination or business proposed is otherwise proper business for the meeting.</p> <p>To be timely, a VISX stockholder's notice of intent to make such nomination or to propose such business must be delivered or mailed and received at the principal executive offices of VISX:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">not less than 120 days before the date specified for VISX's previous year's annual stockholders meeting in the proxy statement distributed to VISX stockholders; or</p>

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the previous year's annual meeting, not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days before the annual meeting or 10 days after public announcement by AMO of the date of the meeting.

if no annual meeting was held in the previous year or if the date of the annual meeting has been changed by more than 30 days, a reasonable time before the solicitation is made.

An AMO stockholder's written notice must set forth:

A VISX stockholder's notice must set forth:

as to any nominee, all information required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors in an election contest or otherwise required by federal securities laws;

the name and address of the VISX stockholder and, if applicable, of the persons to be nominated or of the business to be proposed;

as to any proposed business, a description of the business together with the reasons for conducting

a representation that the VISX stockholder is a VISX stockholder and is entitled to vote at the meeting and, if applicable, intends to do so;

the business and any material interest of the AMO stockholder in the business; and

if applicable, a description of any arrangements or understandings between the VISX stockholder and any nominee;

as to the AMO stockholder making the nomination or proposal and as to any AMO stockholder on whose behalf the nomination or proposal is made, (A) the name and address of the AMO stockholder, (B) the class and number of shares of AMO capital stock owned by such AMO stockholder, (C) a representation that the AMO stockholder is an AMO stockholder and is entitled to vote at the meeting and intends to do so; (D) any material interest in such nomination or proposed business of the AMO stockholder; (E) a representation as to whether the AMO stockholder intends to distribute a proxy statement and/or solicit proxies in support of the nomination or proposal.

any other information regarding the nominee or proposed business that would be required by federal securities laws; and

if applicable, the consent of each nominee to serve as a VISX director if elected.

AMO may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as it may reasonably require to determine the eligibility of the nominee to serve as an AMO director.

The chairman of the meeting will refuse to accept any nomination or proposal not made in compliance with these procedures.

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The AMO bylaws further provide that nominations of persons for election to the AMO board of directors may be made at a special meeting of AMO stockholders:

by or at the direction of the AMO board of directors; or

if the AMO board of directors has specified in its notice of meeting that directors will be elected at the meeting, by any AMO stockholder who provides notice that complies with the notice procedures described above for annual meetings and is given not less than 90 nor more than 120 days before the special meeting or 10 days after public announcement by AMO of the date of the meeting and of the proposed nominees.

If the facts warrant, the chairman of the meeting will determine and declare that the nomination or proposed business was not properly made in accordance with the procedures summarized above. If the chairman of the meeting makes this determination, the nomination or proposed business will be disregarded or will not be transacted, as the case may be.

Proxy

The AMO bylaws provide that each AMO stockholder represented at a meeting of AMO stockholders will be entitled to vote in person or by proxy. However, no proxy will be voted after three years from its date, unless the proxy provides for a longer period.

The VISX bylaws provide that each VISX stockholder represented at a meeting of VISX stockholders will be entitled to vote in person or by proxy. However, no proxy will be voted after three years from its date, unless the proxy provides for a longer period.

Preemptive Rights

The AMO certificate of incorporation does not grant any preemptive rights.

The VISX certificate of incorporation does not grant any preemptive rights.

Dividends

The AMO bylaws provide that dividends upon AMO capital stock may be declared by the AMO board of directors at any regular or special meeting, and may be paid in cash, property, or shares of AMO capital stock. Before payment of any dividend, the AMO board of directors may set aside out of any funds available for dividends the sum or sums as it from time to time, in its absolute discretion, deems proper as a reserve.

The VISX bylaws provide that dividends upon VISX capital stock may be declared by the VISX board of directors at any regular or special meeting, and may be paid in cash, property, or shares of VISX capital stock. Before payment of any dividend, the VISX board of directors may set aside out of any funds available for dividends the sum or sums as it from time to time, in its absolute discretion, deems proper as a reserve.

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	<u>AMO</u>	<u>VISX</u>
Limitation of Personal Liability of Directors	The AMO certificate of incorporation eliminates the personal liability of AMO directors to AMO or the AMO stockholders for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.	The VISX certificate of incorporation eliminates the personal liability of VISX directors to VISX or the VISX stockholders for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL.
Indemnification of Officers and Directors	<p>The AMO certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that AMO will, to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, indemnify any and all persons whom it may indemnify from and against any and all expenses and liabilities arising from the person's service for or at the request of AMO. They further provide that this indemnification is not exclusive of any other rights of indemnification otherwise available to any such person.</p> <p>The AMO bylaws provide that AMO will indemnify any person who is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action by reason of the person's service for or at the request of AMO if:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the action is other than one by or in the right of AMO, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and settlements actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the action if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of AMO, and, with respect to any criminal action, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the action is by or in the right of AMO, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of AMO and except that no indemnification will be made for any claim as to which</p>	<p>The VISX certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that VISX will, to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, indemnify any and all persons whom it may indemnify from and against any and all expenses and liabilities arising from the person's service for or at the request of VISX. They further provide that this indemnification is not exclusive of any other rights of indemnification otherwise available to any such person.</p> <p>The VISX certificate of incorporation further provides that VISX will indemnify any person seeking indemnification in connection with an action initiated by such person only if the action is authorized by the VISX board of directors. The AMO certificate of incorporation contains no comparable provision.</p> <p>The VISX board of directors may authorize VISX to purchase insurance against VISX's indemnification expenses.</p>

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the person is adjudged liable to AMO unless the court determines that the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity.

The AMO board of directors may authorize AMO to purchase insurance against AMO's indemnification expenses.

Stockholder Rights Plan

On June 24, 2002, AMO adopted a stockholder rights plan pursuant to the AMO rights agreement. The following description of the rights agreement is subject in its entirety to the terms and conditions of the rights agreement. You should read the rights agreement carefully. See *Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 155.

Exercisability of Rights. Pursuant to the AMO rights agreement, AMO declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of AMO common stock on June 25, 2002, and one preferred share purchase right attaches to each share of AMO common stock issued after that date and prior to the earlier of any distribution, redemption exchange, termination or final expiration date. Each right entitles the holder after the rights become exercisable to purchase from AMO one one-hundredth (1/100) of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock at a price of \$60.00, subject to adjustment.

The rights currently are attached to and trade only together with outstanding certificates of AMO common stock. The rights will not be exercisable or transferable apart from AMO common stock until the earlier of:

ten days following a public announcement that a person or group has become an acquiring person, or a person who has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 15% or more of AMO common stock, subject to limited exceptions; or

On August 3, 2000, VISX adopted a stockholder rights plan pursuant to the VISX rights agreement. The following description of the rights agreement, as amended, is subject in its entirety to the terms and conditions of the rights agreement. You should read the rights agreement carefully. See *Additional Information Where You Can Find More Information* beginning on page 155.

Exercisability of Rights. Pursuant to the VISX rights agreement, VISX declared a dividend of one right for each outstanding share of VISX common stock at the close of business on August 7, 2000, and one right attaches to each share of VISX common stock issued after that date and prior to the earliest of any distribution, redemption or expiration date. Each right entitles the holder after the rights become exercisable to purchase from VISX one share of VISX common stock at a price of \$150.00, subject to adjustment.

The rights currently are attached to and trade only together with outstanding certificates of VISX common stock. The rights will not be exercisable or transferable apart from VISX common stock until the earlier of:

the close of business on the tenth business day following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons has become an acquiring person, or a person who has acquired, beneficial ownership of 10% or more of VISX common stock, subject to limited exception; or

the close of business on the tenth business day, or a later date as may

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ten business days, or a later date as approved by a majority of the AMO board of directors prior to the time any person becomes an acquiring person, after a person or group commences, or announces an intention to commence, a tender or exchange offer, the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 15% or more of the AMO common stock, subject to limited exceptions.

Flip-In Feature. If a person or group becomes an acquiring person, or if AMO is the surviving entity in a merger with an acquiring person or any affiliate or associate of an acquiring person and the AMO common stock is not changed or exchanged, each holder of a right, other than rights that are or were acquired or beneficially owned by the acquiring person, which rights will thereafter be void, will have the right to receive upon exercise of the right that number of shares of AMO common stock having a market value of two times the then-current purchase price of one right.

Flip-Over Feature. If, after a person or group becomes an acquiring person, AMO is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or more than 50% of AMO's assets or earning power is sold, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a right, except rights of an acquiring person which have become void, will have the right to receive, upon exercise of the right at the current purchase price, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company which at the time of the transaction would have a market value of two times then then-current exercise price of one right.

Exchange Feature. At any time after a person becomes an acquiring person and prior to the earlier of (i) the acquisition of

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be determined by action of the VISX board of directors prior to the time any person or group of affiliated person becomes an acquiring person, following the commencement or announcement of an intention to make a tender offer or exchange offer, where the consummation of the tender offer or exchange offer would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of affiliated or associated persons of 10% or more of VISX common stock, subject to limited exception.

Flip-In Feature. If a person or group becomes an acquiring person or commences a tender offer or exchange offer, where the consummation of the tender offer or exchange offer would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 10% or more of VISX common stock, each holder of a right, other than rights that are or were acquired or beneficially owned by the acquiring person, which rights will thereafter be void, will have the right to receive upon exercise of the right that number of shares of VISX common stock having a market value of two times the then-current purchase price of one right.

Flip-Over Feature. If after a person has become an acquiring person, VISX is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or more than 50% of its assets or earning power is sold, proper provision will be made so that each holder of a right will have the right to receive, upon the exercise of the right at the then-current purchase price of the right, that number of shares of common stock of the acquiring entity which at the time of the transaction would have a market value of two times the then-current purchase price of one right.

Redemption of Rights. The VISX board of directors may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per right at any time within ten business days of any

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AMO in a merger or other business combination transaction, (ii) the sale of more than 50% of AMO's assets or earning power, or (iii) the acquisition by the acquiring person of 50% or more of the then outstanding AMO common stock, the AMO board of directors may cause AMO to exchange the rights, other than rights owned by an acquiring person which will have become void, in whole or in part, for AMO common stock at an exchange rate of one share of AMO common stock per right, subject to adjustment.

Redemption of Rights. The AMO board of directors may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at \$0.01 per right prior to the time a person or group has become an acquiring person.

Amendment of Rights Agreement. The AMO board of directors may amend the AMO rights agreement for so long as the rights are then redeemable, and after the rights are no longer redeemable, the AMO board of directors may amend or supplement the AMO rights agreement in any manner that does not (i) adversely affect the interests of the holders of the rights (other than an acquiring person or an affiliate or associate of an acquiring person) or (ii) cause the rights again to become redeemable or cause the rights agreement to again become amendable other than as described above; provided, however that the AMO board of directors is not required to amend the AMO rights agreement in order to extend the distribution date under the AMO rights agreement. The AMO board of directors may at any time prior to the time any person becomes an acquiring person amend the rights agreement to lower the thresholds described above to no less than the greater of (i) any percentage greater than the largest percentage of AMO common stock then known by AMO to be owned by any person or group, other than exempted persons under the rights agreement and (ii) 10%.

Final Expiration Date. The rights will expire on June 24, 2012 unless earlier

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person or group becoming an acquiring person. For 180 days following a change of control of the VISX board of directors that has not been approved by the VISX board of directors and occurring within six months of an unsolicited third party acquisition or business combination proposal, the new directors are entitled to redeem the rights, but only if they have followed certain procedures, or, if they have not followed such procedures and their decision regarding redemption or regarding the acquisition or business combination is challenged as a breach of fiduciary duty of care or loyalty, they are able to establish the entire fairness of the redemption and, if applicable, the acquisition or business combination.

Amendment of Rights Agreement. The VISX board of directors may amend the VISX rights agreement for so long as the rights are then redeemable by the VISX board of directors, and after the rights are no longer redeemable by the VISX board of directors, the VISX board of directors may amend the VISX rights agreement only to cure any ambiguity, to make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of holders of rights or to shorten or lengthen any time period under the VISX rights agreement.

Final Expiration Date. The rights will expire on July 28, 2010 unless earlier redeemed or exchanged by VISX.

Anti-Takeover Effects. The rights have certain anti-takeover effects and may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that acquires 10% or more of VISX common stock on terms not approved by the VISX board of directors. The rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the VISX board of directors at any time prior to the first date that a person or group has become an acquiring person.

The VISX rights agreement was amended in connection with the execution of the merger agreement to exclude the merger agreement

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	redeemed or exchanged by AMO or terminated.	and related transactions from the scope of the rights agreement. The amendment to the VISX rights agreement provides that:
	<i>Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock.</i> In connection with the creation of the rights, the AMO board of directors designated 1,200,000 shares as AMO Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock.	neither AMO nor Vault Merger Corporation will be deemed an acquiring person by virtue of the approval, execution or delivery of the merger agreement or the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement; and
	<i>Anti-Takeover Effects.</i> The rights have certain anti-takeover effects and may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that acquires 15% or more of AMO common stock on terms not approved by the AMO board of directors. The rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the AMO board of directors because AMO may redeem all of the outstanding rights for \$0.01 per right prior to the time that a person or group has become an acquiring person.	no stock acquisition date or distribution date, each as defined in the VISX rights agreement, will be deemed to have occurred by reason of the approval, execution or delivery of the merger agreement or the completion of the transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.
	The AMO rights agreement does not apply to the merger.	Accordingly, the VISX rights agreement does not apply to the merger.
Dissenters Rights	The DGCL provides that a stockholder has the right, in certain circumstances, to demand an appraisal of the fair value of his or her shares.	The DGCL provides that a stockholder has the right, in certain circumstances, to demand an appraisal of the fair value of his or her shares.
	Dissenters rights are not available to AMO stockholders in the merger. See The Merger Dissenters or Appraisal Rights beginning on page 98.	Dissenters rights are available to VISX stockholders in the merger. See The Merger Dissenters or Appraisal Rights beginning on page 98.
Certain Business Combination Restrictions	Section 203 of the DGCL protects publicly-traded Delaware corporations, such as AMO, from hostile takeovers, and from actions following the takeover, by prohibiting some transactions once an acquirer has gained a significant holding in the corporation.	Section 203 of the DGCL protects publicly-traded Delaware corporations, such as VISX, from hostile takeovers, and from actions following the takeover, by prohibiting some transactions once an acquirer has gained a significant holding in the corporation.
	A corporation may elect not to be governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. Neither the AMO certificate of incorporation nor the AMO bylaws contains the election not to be governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. Therefore, AMO is governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. This provision does not apply to AMO in the merger.	A corporation may elect not to be governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. Neither the VISX certificate of incorporation nor the VISX bylaws contains the election not to be governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. Therefore, VISX is governed by Section 203 of the DGCL. However, the VISX board of directors has expressly approved

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	<u>AMO</u>	<u>VISX</u>
Vote on Certain Fundamental Issues	<p>The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that certain proposed business combinations between AMO and an interested stockholder (defined as a beneficial owner of 15% or more of the AMO common stock) be approved by either (i) the holders of at least 75% of the AMO common stock and a majority of the AMO common stock not held by the interested stockholder or its affiliates, or (ii) a majority of the disinterested AMO directors.</p> <p>Business combinations subject to these provisions include a merger or consolidation of AMO with, or the sale or transfer to, an interested stockholder of AMO's assets in excess of \$20 million or constituting more than 5% of the book value of AMO's assets or sale or transfer involving an interested stockholder which results in an interested stockholder or any of its affiliates having direct or indirect control over, or responsibility for, the management of or any aspect of the business or affairs of AMO (other than as a director). This requirement does not apply to a business combination that either has been approved by a majority of the disinterested AMO directors or satisfies certain fair price criteria with respect to the remaining AMO stockholders.</p> <p>The fair price criteria essentially require the interested stockholder to acquire all shares at a price not less than the higher of the highest price paid by the interested stockholder for any shares of AMO common stock during the two-year period prior to the initiation of the business combination, and the highest market price of AMO common stock on the date of the first public announcement of the proposed business or the date in which the interested stockholder became an interested</p>	<p>the merger and the merger agreement. As such, the restrictions on business combinations set forth in Section 203 of the DGCL do not apply to the merger or the merger agreement.</p> <p>The VISX certificate of incorporation and bylaws have no comparable provision.</p>

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stockholder. If these conditions are met, the business combination is subject to the applicable statutory voting requirements, if any, of the DGCL or the marketplace rules of the NYSE.

The AMO certificate of incorporation provides that approval of the holders of 75% of the AMO common stock and a majority of the AMO common stock not held by the interested stockholder or its affiliates is necessary to approve any amendment, proposed by or on behalf of an interested stockholder, to the fair price provision described above, unless the amendment is first approved and recommended by a majority of AMO's disinterested directors, in which case approval of a majority of the AMO common stock is sufficient.

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DESCRIPTION OF AMO CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a summary of the material terms of AMO's capital stock. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all the information that may be important to you. Accordingly, you should read carefully the more detailed provisions of the AMO certificate of incorporation, the AMO bylaws and the Rights Agreement, dated as of June 24, 2002, between AMO and Mellon Investor Services, LLC, as rights agent, each of which has been filed with the SEC. See "Comparison of Stockholder Rights and Corporate Governance Matters" beginning on page 144.

General

As of the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, AMO's authorized capital stock consists of:

120,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and

5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

As of the AMO record date, _____ shares of AMO common stock were issued and outstanding and no shares of AMO preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

The outstanding shares of AMO common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of AMO common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the AMO stockholders. Holders of AMO common stock do not have pre-emptive rights and are not entitled to cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors. The AMO common stock is neither redeemable nor convertible into other securities, and there are no sinking fund provisions. Subject to the preferences applicable to any shares of AMO preferred stock outstanding at the time, holders of AMO common stock are entitled to dividends when and as declared by the AMO board of directors from funds legally available therefor and are entitled, in the event of liquidation, to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities. AMO has never declared or paid any cash dividends on AMO common stock or any other AMO securities. AMO does not expect to pay cash dividends on AMO common stock in the foreseeable future. AMO intends to retain future earnings to continue to fund the development and growth of its business as well as repay long-term debt. In addition, the AMO amended and restated senior credit facility prohibits AMO from paying cash dividends.

Preferred Stock

No shares of preferred stock are outstanding. The AMO board of directors may, without further action by the AMO stockholders, issue one or more series of AMO preferred stock and fix the rights and preferences of those shares, including the dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, exchange rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption price or prices, liquidation preferences, the number of shares constituting any series and the designation of such series.

Anti-Takeover Provisions

The AMO certificate of incorporation and the AMO bylaws provide that the AMO board of directors is to be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as possible. Directors are elected by classes to three year terms, so that approximately one-third of the directors of AMO are elected at each annual meeting of the stockholders. In addition, the AMO bylaws provide that the power to fill vacancies is vested in the AMO board of directors. The overall effect of these provisions may be to prevent a person or entity from seeking to acquire control of AMO through an increase in the number of directors on the AMO board of directors and the election of designated nominees to fill newly created vacancies.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent and registrar of the AMO common stock is Mellon Investor Services.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Stockholder Proposals

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, stockholders may present proposals for inclusion in a company's proxy statement and for consideration at the next annual meeting of its stockholders by submitting their proposals to the company in a timely manner.

AMO

AMO will hold an annual meeting in the year 2005. For any proposal to be considered for inclusion in the AMO proxy statement and form of proxy for submission to the AMO stockholders at the AMO 2005 annual meeting, it must comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act and be submitted in writing by notice delivered or mailed by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the Secretary, Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., 1700 East St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, California 92705, and must have been received no later than November 25, 2004. Stockholder proposals and nominations received by AMO between December 30, 2004 and January 29, 2005 may also be considered at the AMO 2005 annual meeting but may not be included in the proxy materials for next year's annual meeting of stockholders. The chairman of the meeting may refuse to acknowledge the introduction of any stockholder proposal not made in compliance with the foregoing procedures.

VISX

If the merger is not completed or if it would otherwise be required to do so under applicable law, VISX will hold its 2005 annual meeting of stockholders. For any proposal to be considered for inclusion in the VISX proxy statement and form of proxy for submission to the VISX stockholders at the VISX 2005 annual meeting, it must comply with the requirements of Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act and be submitted in writing by notice delivered or mailed by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, to VISX, Incorporated, 3400 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95051-0703, Attention: Office of the Secretary, and must have been received no later than December 18, 2004. The submission of a stockholder proposal does not guarantee that it will be included in the VISX 2005 proxy statement.

In addition, stockholder proposals to be considered at the VISX 2005 annual meeting outside the processes of Rule 14a-8 (which are not intended to be included in the proxy materials for the VISX 2005 annual meeting) must have been delivered to or mailed and received at the executive offices of VISX in accordance with, and by the date specified in, the advance notice provisions of the VISX bylaws, which was December 18, 2004 (120 calendar days prior to the one-year anniversary of the mailing date of the VISX 2004 annual meeting materials). Therefore, in order for stockholder proposals made outside of the processes of Rule 14a-8 to be considered timely within the meaning of Rule 14a-4(c) under the Exchange Act, such proposals must have been delivered to or mailed and received at VISX's executive offices on or before December 18, 2004.

Legal Matters

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Certain United States federal income tax consequences of the merger will be passed upon for AMO by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and for VISX by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Professional Corporation.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedule incorporated in this joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference to the AMO Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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The consolidated financial statements and schedule of AMO for the year ended December 31, 2002, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit report refers to a change in the method of accounting for goodwill and intangibles in 2002.

AMO has agreed to indemnify and hold KPMG LLP harmless against and from any and all legal costs and expenses incurred by KPMG LLP in successful defense of any legal action or proceeding that arises as a result of KPMG LLP's consent to the incorporation by reference of its audit report on AMO's past financial statements incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/registration statement.

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of VISX as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2004 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2004 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The combined financial statements of the Surgical Ophthalmic Business (A Business Within Pfizer Inc.'s Global Pharmaceutical Group) as of and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2003, have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. The audit report indicates that the combined financial statements were prepared to present the net assets to be sold and the direct revenues and direct operating expenses of the Business, pursuant to the basis of presentation as described in note 2 and the purchase agreement as described in note 11 of the financial statements, and are not intended to be a complete presentation of the Business' financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Additionally, the audit report states that the fiscal year of the non-U.S. operations was changed to November 30 and the combined statement of direct revenues and direct operating expenses includes the results for the 11 months ended November 30, 2003, for the non-U.S. operation of the Business.

Where You Can Find More Information

AMO and VISX file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy these reports, statements or other information filed by either AMO or VISX at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. The SEC filings of AMO and VISX are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and at the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov.

AMO has filed a registration statement on Form S-4 to register with the SEC the AMO common stock to be issued to VISX stockholders in the merger. This joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part of that registration statement and constitutes a prospectus of AMO, in addition to being a proxy statement of AMO and VISX for their respective special meetings. The registration statement, including the attached annexes, exhibits and schedules, contains additional relevant information about AMO, AMO common stock and VISX. As allowed by SEC rules, this joint proxy statement/prospectus does not contain all the information you can find in the registration statement or the exhibits to the registration statement.

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The SEC allows AMO and VISX to incorporate by reference information into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. This means that AMO and VISX can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or incorporated by reference subsequent to the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Neither AMO nor VISX incorporates the contents of their websites into this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that AMO and VISX have previously filed with the SEC. They contain important information about AMO and VISX and their financial condition. The following documents, which were filed by AMO with the SEC, are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus:

annual report of AMO on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, filed with the SEC on March 2, 2005;

proxy statement on Schedule 14A dated April 15, 2004, filed with the SEC on April 15, 2004;

current report on Form 8-K/A dated September 9, 2004, filed with the SEC on September 9, 2004;

current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated January 3, 2005, filed with the SEC on January 3, 2005;

current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated January 12, 2005, filed with the SEC on January 13, 2005;

Item 8.01 of current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated January 26, 2005, filed with the SEC on January 26, 2005;

current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated February 15, 2005, filed with the SEC on February 16, 2005;

current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated March 1, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 7, 2005;

current report of AMO on Form 8-K dated March 17, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 22, 2005;

the description of the rights agreement, contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, dated June 24, 2002, filed with the SEC on June 25, 2002; and

the description of the common stock of AMO contained in its registration statement, filed with the SEC on Form 10 dated March 1, 2002 and any amendment or report filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating the description.

The following documents, which were filed by VISX with the SEC, are incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus:

annual report of VISX on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, filed with the SEC on March 11, 2005;

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proxy statement on Schedule 14A dated April 12, 2004, filed with the SEC on April 9, 2004;

current report of VISX on Form 8-K dated February 15, 2004, filed with the SEC on February 16, 2005;

current report of VISX on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 2, 2005;

current report of VISX on Form 8-K dated March 17, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 22, 2005;

current report of VISX on Form 8-K dated March 21, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 21, 2005;

the description of the rights agreement, contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, dated August 4, 2000 and filed with the SEC on August 14, 2000, as amended by Form 8-A/A dated May 1, 2001 and filed with the SEC on May 1, 2001, as amended by Form 8-A/A dated May 16, 2003 and filed with the SEC on May 16, 2003, as amended by Form 8-A/A dated November 10, 2004 and filed with the SEC on November 12, 2004; and

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the description of the common stock of VISX contained in its registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on August 14, 2000 and any amendment or report filed with the SEC for the purpose of updating the description.

In addition, AMO and VISX incorporate by reference additional documents that either may file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the date of the AMO and VISX special meetings, respectively. These documents include periodic reports, such as annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 of any current report on Form 8-K solely for purposes of satisfying the requirements of Regulation FD or Regulation G under the Exchange Act, as well as proxy statements.

AMO and VISX also incorporate by reference the agreement and plan of merger attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A, the certificate of amendment to the AMO certificate of incorporation attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex B, the AMO 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex C, the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 Employee Stock Purchase Plan attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex D and the Amended and Restated AMO 2002 International Stock Purchase Plan attached to this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex E.

AMO has supplied all information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus relating to AMO and VISX has supplied all information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus relating to VISX.

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus through AMO or VISX, as the case may be, or from the SEC through the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Documents incorporated by reference are available from AMO and VISX without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. AMO stockholders and VISX stockholders may request a copy of such documents by contacting the applicable department at:

Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

1700 East St. Andrew Place

Santa Ana, California 92705

Attn: Investor Relations

VISX, Incorporated

3400 Central Expressway

Santa Clara, California 95051

Attn: Investor Relations

In addition, you may obtain copies of the information relating to AMO, without charge, by sending an e-mail to investors@amo-inc.com or by calling (714) 247-8348.

You may obtain copies of the information relating to VISX, without charge, by sending an e-mail to ir@visx.com or by calling (408) 773-7600.

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO RECEIVE TIMELY DELIVERY OF THE DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE OF THE AMO AND VISX SPECIAL MEETINGS, AMO OR VISX, AS APPLICABLE, SHOULD RECEIVE YOUR REQUEST NO LATER THAN 2005.

We have not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about the merger or our companies that is different from, or in addition to, that contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus or in any of the materials that we have incorporated into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Therefore, if anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to exchange or sell, or solicitations of offers to exchange or purchase, the securities offered by this joint proxy statement/prospectus or the solicitation of proxies is unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this joint proxy statement/prospectus does not extend to you. The information contained in this joint proxy statement/prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this document unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

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Annex A

CONFORMED COPY

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER

BY AND AMONG

ADVANCED MEDICAL OPTICS, INC.

VAULT MERGER CORPORATION

and

VISX, INCORPORATED

Dated as of November 9, 2004, as amended on December 3, 2004 and March 17, 2005

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