

AVOCENT CORP
Form SC14D9C
October 15, 2009

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14D-9

**Solicitation/Recommendation Statement under Section 14(d)(4) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Avocent Corporation

(Name of Subject Company)

Avocent Corporation

(Name of Person(s) Filing Statement)

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

053893103

(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

Samuel F. Saracino

**Executive Vice President of Legal and Corporate Affairs,
General Counsel, and Secretary**

Avocent Corporation

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*(Name, address and telephone number of person
authorized to receive notices and communications on
behalf of the person(s) filing statement)*

With copies to:

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Check the box if the filing relates solely to preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.

This Schedule 14D-9 filing consists of the following documents relating to the proposed acquisition of Avocent Corporation (the Company) by Emerson Electric Co. (Emerson) pursuant to the terms of an Agreement and Plan of Merger dated October 5, 2009 by and among the Company, Emerson and Globe Acquisition Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emerson: (i) the form of a letter from Michael J. Borman, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, to the Company's LANDesk customers and (ii) A Frequently Asked Questions sheet sent via email to the Company's employees.

October 15, 2009

Dear LANDesk Customer:

With the recent offer by Emerson to acquire Avocent, we know that it is important for you to see Emerson's position on LANDesk in this acquisition. Accordingly, please find Emerson's thoughts on LANDesk.

For now, it is business as usual, and we will have more specific details once the transaction closes. Until then, we thank you for your support and express our continuing commitment to ensuring that you receive world class products, support and overall value from us.

Sincerely,

Mike Borman

CEO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT

The tender offer for the outstanding shares of the Company described herein is expected to commence on October 15, 2009. This communication is provided for informational purposes only and is neither an offer to purchase nor a solicitation of an offer to sell any securities of the Company pursuant to Emerson's tender offer or otherwise. Any offers to purchase or solicitations of offers to sell will be made only pursuant to the Tender Offer Statement on Schedule TO (including the offer to purchase, the letter of transmittal and other documents relating to the tender offer) which will be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by Globe Acquisition Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Emerson. In addition, the Company will file with the SEC a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 with respect to the tender offer. The Company's stockholders are advised to read these documents, any amendments to these documents and any other documents relating to the tender offer that are filed with the SEC carefully and in their entirety prior to making any decision with respect to Emerson's tender offer because they contain important information, including the terms and conditions of the offer. The Company's stockholders may obtain copies of these documents (when they become available) for free at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or from the Company's Investor Relations department at (256) 261-6482.

Edward K. Feeney

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E ed.feeney@emerson.com

October 15, 2009

To: The Valued Customers of LANDesk:

As you know, Emerson has agreed with Avocent to acquire all of Avocent. The transaction is still subject to regulatory approvals and successful completion of the tender offer and merger. Until all the process steps have been completed, we are operating as independent companies.

LANDesk is an important part of Avocent. LANDesk has some of the best customers and leading edge products in the industry. As a matter of fact, Emerson is a large user of LANDesk products!

We will continue to ensure LANDesk customers receive world class products, support and overall value from the investment that you have made.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CERTAIN FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. THESE

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS MAY BE IDENTIFIED BY WORDS SUCH AS BELIEVES , EXPECTS , ANTICIPATES , PROJECTS , INTENDS , SHOULD , SEEKS , ESTIMATES , FUTURE OR SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OR BY DISCUSSION OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STRATEGY, GOALS, PLANS OR INTENTIONS. VARIOUS FACTORS MAY CAUSE ACTUAL RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY IN THE FUTURE FROM THOSE REFLECTED IN FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT, AMONG OTHERS: (1) ECONOMIC AND CURRENCY CONDITIONS; (2) MARKET DEMAND; (3) PRICING; (4) COMPETITIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS; (5) THE RISK THAT THE TRANSACTION MAY NOT BE CONSUMMATED; (6) THE RISK THAT A REGULATORY APPROVAL THAT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSACTION IS NOT OBTAINED OR IS OBTAINED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT ARE NOT ANTICIPATED; (7) THE RISK THAT AVOCENT WILL NOT BE INTEGRATED SUCCESSFULLY INTO EMERSON; AND (8) THE RISK THAT REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES, COST SAVINGS AND OTHER ANTICIPATED SYNERGIES FROM THE TRANSACTION MAY NOT BE FULLY REALIZED OR MAY TAKE LONGER TO REALIZE THAN EXPECTED.

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Avocent Acquisition-Talking Points

For responding to questions (internal and external)

Avocent Corporation is a public company and the proposed and pending transaction is subject to several approvals

Closing process will be about 90 days close expected somewhere around Jan. 1, 2010

We CANNOT *speculate* on any aspect of this pending acquisition

Discussions of this transaction must be limited to information that is already contained in public documents or in the following talking points

Agreement:

Q: Tell me about this agreement between Emerson and Avocent

Emerson (NYSE: EMR) and Avocent Corporation (NASDAQ: AVCT) announced on October 6, 2009 that they reached agreement for Emerson to acquire Avocent, a transaction that will further Emerson's ability to deliver total infrastructure management solutions to its data center customers around the world. The Avocent Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the terms of an all-cash tender offer of \$25 per share, or approximately \$1.2 billion.

Q: When do we expect the deal to close?

The purchase is expected to close around January 1, 2010, pending customary regulatory approvals and acceptance of the offer by Avocent stockholders holding a majority of Avocent shares.

Q: Why did Emerson acquire Avocent?

To enhance our data center power and cooling infrastructure solutions and strengthen our ability to help our customers drive efficiencies in the data center

Further, Avocent has strong relationships with many of our existing Marquee customers and has a strong, global presence.

More information is contained in the joint press release filed by Emerson and Avocent on October 6, 2009

Products:

Q: Tell me more about what Avocent does

Avocent is a market leader that blends hardware, software and embedded technologies in a unified platform that simplifies monitoring, managing and problem solving in any size data center.

Q: Does this put Emerson into competition with its current Marquee Accounts (including Server OEMs)? We saw something about that in the *Wall Street Journal* story?

This quote is factually incorrect. Emerson has no intention of getting into the server business and Avocent does not develop or manufacture server products

Avocent has established very good relationships with its server OEMs as they collaborate on technologies that provide users with the necessary access needed for server management. We expect this to continue, which will only further strengthen our relationship with these OEMs. Having a stronger relationship with the server OEMs is one of the reasons behind the acquisition.

We intend to integrate Avocent's capabilities with our own to provide enhanced infrastructure management capabilities in the data center.

We believe these enhanced capabilities will strengthen our OEM relationships as we provide solutions that allow IT and infrastructure equipment to work more seamlessly together.

Q: What will become of LANDesk as there has been no mention of LANDesk?

Avocent has a number of businesses from KVM, Embedded, SecureSwitch, OEM and LANDesk. All of these businesses will be acquired by Emerson as part of the acquisition. LANDesk is an important part of Avocent with some of the best customers and leading edge products in the industry. In fact, Emerson is a large user of LANDesk products. After the acquisition, Emerson will continue to ensure that LANDesk customers, along with all of Avocent's customers, receive world class products, support and overall value from the investments they have made in Avocent products.

Structure:

Q: What will the organization structure of the new entity look like?

Avocent will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emerson and will be managed as part of Emerson Network Power.

Q: How will Emerson and Avocent teams interact between now and closure?

Until the deal is finalized, it is business-as-usual for Emerson and Avocent. We are two separate companies and must operate accordingly.

Employees of both companies are not to discuss or share any confidential or proprietary information regarding products, services or customer relationships/strategies other than in connection with completing the acquisition.

Q: Who Should I contact regarding Avocent related questions between now and closure?

You may direct them to the Emerson Web site to see the news release

o www.Emerson.com

If you receive questions from the media they should be sent to Mark Polzin at Fleishman-Hillard (314.982.1758)

If you get financial questions or questions related to the agreement, they should contact Lynne Maxeiner, Emerson Director of Investor Relations (314.553.2197)

*If there are questions about products, sales, relationships, and other market or sales channel related questions, **they should be addressed in the same manner they would have been addressed prior to commencement of the tender offer***

Q: How will this acquisition affect relationships with customers? Any product, warranty, orders, customer support, etc. be affected?

We expect the transition to be seamless for customers, and we're excited and think they will be, too, about the complementary technologies and integrated solutions that will be available after the acquisition is completed.

People:

Q: How many Avocent employees will be affected by this announcement? Will they all become Emerson Network Power employees?

Avocent employs approximately 1,800 people who will become part of the Emerson Network Power team once the transaction is completed.

Q: Will the Avocent senior management team continue to lead the business?

We cannot speculate on what decisions personnel or otherwise might be made over time.

Facilities:

Q: How many Avocent facilities are there and will they all stay open?

Avocent has facilities around the world. There are no plans at this time to change that. We are continually evaluating all our capacity to assure we remain competitive and responsive to our customers' needs.

Q: Will Avocent remain headquartered in Huntsville?

There are no current plans to change that. Emerson and Avocent will be planning and managing integration over the coming months and any changes that might emerge from that discussion will be communicated as these plans are finalized.

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