

CIENA CORP  
Form 8-K  
August 21, 2003

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

August 21, 2003

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

CIENA Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

0-21969  
(Commission File No.)

23-2725311  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

1201 Winterson Road, Linthicum, Maryland 21090  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:  
(410) 865-8500

Not applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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**Item 5 Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On August 21, 2003, CIENA Corporation issued a press release announcing its intent to acquire AKARA Corporation. The press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 7 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

99.1 Press Release dated August 21, 2003.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**CIENA CORPORATION**

Date: August 21, 2003

By: /s/ Russell B. Stevenson, Jr.

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Russell B. Stevenson, Jr.  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and  
Secretary