

VIVUS INC
Form DEFA14A
July 22, 2013

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

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

VIVUS, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:

(4)

Date Filed:

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On July 19, 2013, VIVUS, Inc., or VIVUS or the Company, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, a Current Report on Form 8-K, or the Form 8-K, announcing the entry by the Company into a settlement agreement with First Manhattan Co. on July 18, 2013, terminating the pending proxy contest with respect to the election of directors to the Company's board of directors at the Company's 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. A copy of the disclosure about such settlement agreement included in the Form 8-K is set forth below, and the agreement itself has been filed as an exhibit to the Form 8-K. The Company intends to file with the SEC a supplement to its definitive proxy statement in connection with its 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Important Additional Information

On June 3, 2013, VIVUS filed a definitive proxy statement and GOLD proxy card with the SEC in connection with the solicitation of proxies for its 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. VIVUS intends to file with the SEC a supplement to such definitive proxy statement. Stockholders are strongly advised to read VIVUS's 2013 proxy statement, and the forthcoming supplement thereto, because they contain important information. Stockholders may obtain a free copy of the 2013 proxy statement, the forthcoming supplement thereto and other documents that the Company files with the SEC from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or VIVUS's website at www.vivus.com.

On July 18, 2013, VIVUS, Inc. (the Company) entered into an agreement by and between First Manhattan Co. (First Manhattan) and the Company (the Settlement Agreement) terminating the pending proxy contest with respect to the election of directors to the Company's board of directors (the Board) at the Company's 2013 annual meeting of stockholders (the Annual Meeting).

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Company has agreed, among other things, (i) to amend the Company's Amended & Restated Bylaws, as amended (the Bylaws), to increase the size of the Board to comprise a total of 11 members, (ii) to reconstitute the Board as of 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013, with the following individuals: Michael James Astrue, J. Martin Carroll, Samuel F. Colin, M.D., Alexander J. Denner, Ph.D., Johannes J.P. Kastelein, Mark B. Logan, David York Norton, Jorge Plutzky, M.D., Herman Rosenman and Robert N. Wilson, and (iii) to amend the Bylaws to authorize the Board to adjourn the Annual Meeting. In connection therewith, each of Charles J. Casamento (Mr. Casamento), Ernest Mario, Ph.D. (Dr. Mario), Linda M. Dairiki Shortliffe, M.D. (Dr. Shortliffe), Peter Y. Tam (Mr. Tam) and Leland F. Wilson (Mr. L. Wilson, and together with Mr. Casamento, Dr. Mario, Dr. Shortliffe and Mr. Tam, collectively, the Resigning Directors) resigned as directors of the Company effective as of 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013.

Also in connection with the Settlement Agreement, Mr. L. Wilson resigned as Chief Executive Officer of the Company effective as of 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013. In his place, on July 19, 2013, the reconstituted Board intends to propose the appointment of Anthony P. Zook to serve as Chief Executive Officer. Upon such appointment, Mr. Zook will also be appointed to the Board as the eleventh director on the reconstituted Board. In connection with the expected appointment of Mr. Zook as the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. L. Wilson has agreed in principle to serve as an advisor to Mr. Zook, subject to the Company and Mr. L. Wilson agreeing on terms for such advisory role.

The Settlement Agreement provides that the Annual Meeting will be adjourned to August 14, 2013, and the Company will issue and mail to the Company's stockholders a supplement to its definitive proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Schedule 14A on June 3, 2013. Such supplement will state, among other things, that the Board is nominating the members of the reconstituted Board for election in lieu of its previously proposed slate, and that each of the Board and First Manhattan recommends that the Company's stockholders vote in favor of the election of each of the members of the reconstituted Board. First Manhattan has also agreed (i) to cease, and cause its affiliates to cease, any and all solicitation efforts in connection with the Annual Meeting, (ii) not to vote, deliver or otherwise use any proxies that it may have received through July 18, 2013 in connection with its proxy solicitation and (iii) to cause all shares of the Company's common stock which it is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting to be present, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting and to vote all such shares of common stock in favor of the election of each of the members of the reconstituted Board.

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First Manhattan has agreed that, on or before 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, July 22, 2013, it will dismiss, with prejudice, the action it brought against the Company in the Delaware Court of Chancery.

In addition, the Company and First Manhattan have agreed:

- that, other than as a result of the actions required by the Settlement Agreement, the Company will not take any action to accelerate the vesting of any equity compensation or accelerate the payment of any other compensation of any director, officer or employee not otherwise entitled to such acceleration, including under Mr. L. Wilson's employment agreement or certain of the Company's severance agreements;
 - that, subject to reasonable and customary compensation arrangements to be negotiated by the parties, Mr. L. Wilson and Mr. Tam agree to cooperate with the Company at its reasonable request and expense in connection with the prosecution of the patent utilized by the Company and of which they are inventors, including by providing such technical support as the Company may reasonably request;
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- that the change in the Board's composition will result in a Change of Control as such term is defined in Mr. L. Wilson's employment agreement and the severance agreements between the Company and each of the following executive officers of the Company: Mr. Tam, Timothy E. Morris, Michael P. Miller, Guy P. Marsh, Wesley W. Day, Ph.D., John L. Slebir, Charles Bowden, M.D., Calvin Theodore Broman, Michael Chen, Robert Janosky, Lee B. Perry, Craig Peterson, Jean-Luc Pilon, Barbara Troupin, M.D., and Santosh Varghese, M.D.; and
- that the termination of Mr. L. Wilson's employment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement will be deemed, and treated in all respects as, a termination without cause under Mr. L. Wilson's employment agreement.

Also in connection with the Settlement Agreement, subject to certain exceptions, (i) First Manhattan agreed that it will not, and will not solicit, cause or encourage others to, make any public comments or statements regarding the Company's current or former directors who are signatories to the Settlement Agreement (including the Resigning Directors), which are derogatory or detrimental to, or which disparage, any of the Company's current or former directors who are signatories to the Settlement Agreement (including the Resigning Directors) and that in any manner relate to the Company, the proxy contest or conduct related thereto, and (ii) the Company's current and former directors who are signatories to the Settlement Agreement (including the Resigning Directors) agreed that none of them will, and will not solicit, cause or encourage others to, make any public comments or statements regarding First Manhattan or any of its partners, officers, directors or employees, which are derogatory or detrimental to, or which disparage, any of them and that in any manner relate to the Company, the proxy contest or conduct related thereto.

First Manhattan has agreed to release and discharge all of the Company's current directors that are signatories to the Settlement Agreement (including the Resigning Directors that are signatories to the Settlement Agreement) and former directors from all claims, actions, causes of actions, whether known, unknown, past, present or future that First Manhattan ever had or may have against such current and former directors (including the Resigning Directors) of any type or in any capacity that are based upon facts that have occurred from the beginning of time through and including July 18, 2013, provided that such release does not include claims to enforce the current directors' obligations under the Settlement Agreement. The Company's current directors (including the Resigning Directors) have agreed to release and discharge First Manhattan from all claims, actions, causes of actions, whether known, unknown, past, present or future that such current directors ever had or may have against First Manhattan of any type or in any capacity that are based upon facts that have occurred from the beginning of time through and including July 18, 2013, provided that such release does not include claims to enforce First Manhattan's obligations under the Settlement Agreement.

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In connection with the Settlement Agreement, the Board has authorized the reimbursement to First Manhattan of the reasonable and documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred by First Manhattan in connection with its proxy solicitation.
