

VULCAN INTERNATIONAL CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 04, 2003

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 Rule 14a-12

VULCAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)
Not Applicable

(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) (4) 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 0-1(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:

VULCAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
300 Delaware Avenue
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

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Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders
To Be Held May 8, 2003

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Vulcan International Corporation will be held at 1151 E. College St., Clarksville, Tennessee, on May 8, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. for the following purposes:

1. To elect Directors.
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has established the close of business on March 14, 2003 as the record date for determining those shareholders who will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Wilmington, Delaware

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 4, 2003

VERNON E. BACHMAN, SECRETARY

PLEASE READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND THEN PROMPTLY COMPLETE, EXECUTE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD IN THE ACCOMPANYING POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE. YOU CAN SPARE YOUR COMPANY THE EXPENSE OF FURTHER PROXY SOLICITATION BY RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD PROMPTLY.

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PROXY STATEMENT

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of and at the cost of Vulcan International Corporation (the "Company"). Under the Delaware statutes, any shareholder may revoke a proxy by voting in person at the meeting or by delivering a later dated proxy or other writing revoking the proxy before it is voted at the meeting.

The Board of Directors has established as the record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting, the close of business March 14, 2003.

VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF

The Company, as of March 14, 2003 had outstanding 1,004,707 shares of common capital stock, each of which is entitled to one vote. There are no other voting or equity securities outstanding. There is set forth below information with respect to the stock ownership of any person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the Company's common stock and the stock ownership of management as of February 1, 2003.

HOLDERS OF 5% OR MORE

Name and Address	Amount and Nature	Percent
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of Beneficial Owner	of Beneficial Ownership		of Class
(1) Dimensional Fund Advisors, Inc. 1299 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica, CA 90401	Directly Owned:	59,799	5.6%
(2) Deliaan A. Gettler 1 Filson Place Cincinnati, OH 45202	Directly Owned: Indirectly Owned: Total Owned:	3,100 128,414 131,514	13.1%
(3) Benjamin Gettler 1 Filson Place Cincinnati, OH 45202	Directly Owned: Indirectly Owned: Total Owned:	313,915 128,829 442,744	44.1%
(6) The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. One PNC Plaza 249 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222	Directly Owned:	70,866	7.0%

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SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTED COMPLIANCE

The rules of the Security and Exchange Commission require that Vulcan International Corporation disclose late filings of reports of stock ownership, or changes in ownership, by its directors, officers, and 10% stockholders. Based on its review of the copies of forms it received, or written representations from reporting persons, Vulcan International Corporation believes that, during 2002, all reports required under section 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act for its directors, officers and 10% stockholders were filed on a timely basis.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT

The total number of equity securities of the Company owned by all directors and officers of the Company as a group (6) as of February 1, 2003 is set forth below:

Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Directly Owned:	348,521 34.7%
Indirectly Owned:	137,872 13.7%
Total Owned:	486,393 48.4%

The share ownership of each of the directors and nominees is set forth below under the heading Election of Directors.

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The shares represented by the proxies will be voted for the election of the five (5) nominees listed below, each of whom is presently a Director. If any such nominee shall be unable to serve (which is not now contemplated) discretionary authority may be exercised to vote for a substitute. The terms of all of the present Directors expire upon the election of their successors in 2003. The following information is given with respect to the five (5) nominees based upon the records of the Company and information furnished by each nominee as of February 1, 2003.

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NOMINEES

Name and Principal Occupation	Age	First Became Director In	Number of Shares Owned Directly or Indirectly (1)	Percent Owned
Leonard Aconsky Consultant to and director of Acotech Services, a consulting firm on building life safety systems; retired in 1993 as Vice-President and World-Wide Technical Coordinator WITCO, a manufacturer of specialty chemical products; Director, Vulcan Corporation, operating subsidiary of Company	72	1993	6,300	(2)
Edward B. Kerin Consultant to manufacturers of chemical rubber products 1998 - 1998-2001 - Director of Chemprene Inc., a manufacturer of chemical rubber products, Consultant 1994-98 Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board of Chemprene, Inc., a manufacturer of chemical rubber products (sold to Ammeraal, Inc. 1998); 1981-1994 corporate Vice President, Witco Chemical Corporation	64	2001	500	(2)
Benjamin Gettler (3) (4) Chairman of the Board and President Vulcan International Corporation and its operating subsidiary company, Vulcan Corporation	77	1960	442,744	44.1%
Thomas D. Gettler, Esq. Attorney-at-Law	44	1992	8,806	(2)

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Stanley I. Rafalo, O.D. (4) Doctor of Optometry	78	1975	28,043	2.8%
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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following table shows the compensation and stock option awards for the last three fiscal years, and other annual compensation and all other compensation for 2002, to the Chief Executive Officer who was the only executive officer whose compensation exceeded \$100,000.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long Term Compensation	
		Salary	Bonus	Other Annual Compen- sation (\$)	Options/ SARs (#)	All other Compensation (1)
Benjamin Gettler	2002	\$275,000	(2)	0	0	\$13,000
Chairman of the	2001	\$275,000	(3)	0	50,000	\$13,000
Board and President	2000	\$275,000	\$25,000	0	0	\$13,000

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STOCK OPTION PLAN

The Vulcan International Corporation Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company in 1991. The purpose of the Plan is to provide additional incentives in order that the Company may retain key personnel. The Plan provides for the granting of options to purchase totaling not more than 300,000 shares of common stock from the Company's treasury shares of which 77,000 have not previously been granted. The Plan is administered by a Stock Option Committee consisting of not less than three (3) Directors of the Corporation who are not eligible to receive options under the Plan. During the year 2002, the Committee consisted of Directors Leonard Aconsky, Stanley I. Rafalo, and Thomas D. Gettler. The Committee determines the key employees to whom the options are granted, the term of the option and the number of shares of each grant subject to the option. The option price is such price as may be determined by the Option Committee.

Each option continues for the period determined by the Committee, which shall be not less than one (1) year or more than three (3) years from the date of its grant. The Plan provides that each key employee to whom an option is granted shall as a condition of his right to exercise such option, agree to remain in the continuous employment of the Company for a period of at least two years from the date of exercise of the option, unless he is prevented

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from doing so by death or disability. Under the Plan, the Company has the option to repurchase shares from an optionee who terminates employment prior to the expiration of the two-year period. During 2001, Mr. Benjamin Gettler was granted an option for 50,000 shares at an exercise price of \$37.24 per share.

OPTION GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

None

AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

None

PENSIONS

Under the terms of the Company's retirement Plan for salaried employees, salaried personnel are entitled to retire at age 65 with benefits computed on the basis of salary and length of service. The maximum length of service which can be taken into account is 30 years. The method of computing benefits under the retirement plan is: the number of years of employment multiplied by the sum of 1.0% of average monthly salary and .65% of such salary in excess of Social Security covered compensation (all based on the highest 60 consecutive monthly salaries). The aggregate contribution made for the 2001-2002 Plan year was \$-0-. For purposes of the Plan, annual compensation means a participant's W-2 earnings for federal income tax purposes, excluding commissions and taxable fringe benefits. Mr. Gettler has reached normal retirement age and has more than 30 years of service. Mr. Gettler currently receives \$148,586 per year from the Plan based upon his selection of a joint and 100% survivor benefit.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph compares the cumulative total return (change in stock price plus reinvested dividends) assuming \$100 invested in the Common Stock of the Company, in the American Stock Exchange ("AMEX") Market Value Index, and in the Peer Group Index during the period from December 31, 1997 through December 31, 2002.

(Graph submitted to SEC on Form SE on paper)

	Value of Investment at December 31,					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Vulcan International Corporation	100.00	89.83	83.97	94.19	112.12	99.77
Selected Stock List	100.00	80.18	47.25	44.73	46.17	17.33
AMEX Market Index	100.00	98.64	122.98	121.47	115.87	111.25

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ASSUMES \$100 INVESTED ON JANUARY 1, 1997
ASSUMES DIVIDEND REINVESTED
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002

COMPANIES COMPRISING THE PEER GROUP

The peer group used in constructing the graph in the Proxy Statement showing the yearly percentage change in cumulative total return has been consistently used since 1998. It includes representative suppliers to the shoe industry. Since the Company has reduced its reliance on the shoe industry and is now manufacturing foam products, the Company has since 1998 included in its peer group the Rogers Corp., which is a corporation listed on the American Stock Exchange and which is in the business of processing and selling foam products. The companies in the peer group are:

Bontex (formerly Georgia Bonded Fibres)
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
Jaclyn Inc.
Katy Ind.
Lydall Inc.
Rogers Corp.
Vista Resources Inc.

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DIRECTORS' MEETINGS, COMMITTEE INFORMATION, FEES AND OTHER DIRECTOR TRANSACTIONS

There were five (5) meetings of the Board of Directors in 2002. All Directors attended at least 75% of the total number of Directors' meetings held during their tenure and all Directors attended at least 75% of Committee meetings held by committees on which they served during their tenure.

The Board of Directors currently has two standing committees, namely, an Audit and Compensation Committee and a Stock Option Committee. The Stock Option Committee is discussed above under the heading "Stock Option Plan." That Committee had no meetings in 2002.

The Audit and Compensation Committee is comprised of independent, non-employee directors, namely, Messrs. Leonard Aconsky, Edward B. Kerin, and Dr. Stanley I. Rafalo. That committee had two meetings during the last fiscal year. The Audit and Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing the Company's accounting functions and controls. The Committee has adopted a Charter to set forth all of its specific responsibilities. As required by the Charter:

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management;

The Committee has discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to conduct of the audit;

The Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountants required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 and has discussed with the

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independent accountant the independent accountant's independence;
and

Based on the review and discussions with management and the representative of its independent auditors, the committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the last fiscal year for filing with the Commission.

The Committee has reviewed and assessed the adequacy of the Charter.

A copy of the Audit and Compensation Committee Charter was included as an appendix to the 2002 proxy statement.

The Committee also reviews and recommends the salary and bonus of the Company's chief executive officer. The Audit and Compensation Committee had two meetings in 2002.

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The Company pays each of its Directors \$8,000 per year as a director fee. The members of the Audit and Compensation Committee are paid \$300 per meeting attended.

There is in effect a Resolution of the Board of Directors pursuant to which any Director of the Company or any of the subsidiary companies may purchase up to 25,000 treasury shares of company stock at the closing bid on the American Stock Exchange on the date of the exercise of such election to purchase. In the calendar year 2002, there was a total of 500 shares purchased from the Company pursuant to this Resolution.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FIRM FEES

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed to the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 by the Company's principal accounting firm, J.D. Cloud & Co. L.L.P.

Audit Fees	\$ 91,747
Tax fees (c)	19,445
Financial information systems design and implementation fees (a) (c)	88,972
All other fees (b) (c)	8,529

Total	\$208,693
	=====

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Committee's Compensation Policy

It is the policy of the Audit and Compensation Committee that the Company's Executive Officers should be compensated in accordance with the responsibilities of their position and their performance in office. Included among the factors considered by the Compensation Committee in carrying out such compensation policies are the historical compensation paid

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officers of this Company and the compensation paid to executives in similar positions in other companies as well as performance in the fiscal year in question compared to prior fiscal years.

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In carrying out the foregoing policies, the Committee also used the factors and criteria set forth hereinafter in determining the annual compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and President of the Company for 2003. Those positions are filled by a single individual, Mr. Benjamin Gettler.

The year 2002 has been a difficult year for the Company and its Chief Executive Officer despite which the earnings of the Company have grown and were more than sufficient to continue the regular dividend payments and to lay the basis for future changes which we anticipate will be beneficial to the Company and its shareholders. In the first 11 months of 2002 (the latest financial information available to the Committee as of the date of this report), the Company had an unaudited consolidated net profit before tax on continuing operations (excluding capital gains on securities and fixed assets), of \$1,716,626, compared to \$935,527 in the first 11 months of 2001.

Mr. Gettler has not requested an increase in his salary. Furthermore, he has pointed out that it is necessary for the Company to conserve its cash. Accordingly, the Committee has determined that for the Year 2003 Mr. Gettler's salary remain at \$275,000 (which is unchanged since 1997); and that a bonus of 2,000 shares of Company stock be paid to him in January 2003.

Audit and Compensation Committee, December 19, 2002

Leonard Aconsky Edward B. Kerin Stanley I. Rafalo, Committee Members

INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The principal accountant of the Company is J. D. Cloud & Co. L.L.P., certified public accountants. That firm has acted as the principal accountant of the Company since 1956. At the meeting of the Board of Directors following the May, 2002 meeting, the Board again selected that firm to continue to serve as the Company's principal independent public accountants. The practice of the Board of Directors in making a selection at such meeting has been followed by the Company since 1956. The same practice will be followed after the May, 2003 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Management is not aware of any intended change of principal independent public accountants. Representatives of J.D. Cloud & Co. L.L.P. are not expected to attend the Annual Meeting.

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PROPOSALS OF SECURITY HOLDERS

No shareholder proposals will be considered at this year's annual meeting.

In the event that any security holder intends to present a proposal at

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the 2004 annual meeting of the Company and such security holder desires that the proposal be included in the Company's proxy statement and form of proxy relating to that meeting, such proposal must be received by the Company by no later than 4:30 P.M. December 1, 2003.

GENERAL

The Company, as of March 14, 2003 had outstanding 1,004,707 shares of capital stock, each of which is entitled to one vote. The record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting is close of business March 14, 2003.

The management knows of no other business to be brought before the meeting for action by the shareholders. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, the proxies in the enclosed form, unless otherwise specified, will be voted on such matters in accordance with the judgment of the Proxy Committee.

/s/BENJAMIN GETTLER

Chairman of the Board
and President

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VULCAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

PROXY

The undersigned hereby appoints Leonard Aconsky, Thomas D. Gettler, and Dr. Stanley I. Rafalo, or any of them with full power of substitution, as the proxies of the undersigned to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Vulcan International Corporation to be held at 1151 E. College St., Clarksville, Tennessee, on Thursday, May 8, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. and at any adjournment thereof, all the shares of stock of the Company the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present, hereby granting to each of them full power and authority to act for and in the name of the undersigned at said meeting and adjournments upon the following:

(1) The election of Directors and all nominees listed in the Proxy Statement except as marked to the contrary below.

	GRANTS	WITHHOLDS
Leonard Aconsky, Benjamin Gettler, Thomas D. Gettler, Edward B. Kerin, Stanley I. Rafalo, O.D.	-----	-----

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee or nominees, draw a line through that nominee's name.)

Please mark your votes as indicated in this example X

(2) In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

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THIS PROXY, SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED AS INSTRUCTED,
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. THIS PROXY WILL BE PRESUMED TO BE GRANTS ON ITEM
(1), AND FOR ON ITEM (2). -----

Dated _____, 2003

Signature

Signature

(When signing in any other capacity
than as an individual, please so
indicate.)

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