ADC TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC Form DEFA14A January 21, 2003

OuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the registrant ý

Filed by a party other than the registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary proxy statement
- o Confidential, for use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- o Definitive proxy statement
- ý Definitive additional materials
- o Soliciting material under Rule 14a-12

ADC TELECOMMUNICATIONS, 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):

- ý No fee required.
- o 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:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- o 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:	
Attachme	ts:	
	1) ADCannounce Message sent to employees of ADC Telecommunications, Inc. on January 21, 2003	
	2) Memorandum dated January 21, 2003 to eligible employees of ADC Telecommunications, Inc. from Rick Roscit and Chief Executive Officer	tt, Chairmar
	3)	

Attachment (1)

ADC Confidential For Internal Purposes Only

As I stated in the last Town Hall Meeting, ADC's Board of Directors has submitted, for approval by our shareowners, a voluntary Stock Option Exchange Program. The Exchange Program, if approved, is designed to let eligible ADC employees exchange some or all of their eligible stock options for a lesser number of options at a new exercise price.

Stock Option Exchange Program Question and Answer, dated January 21, 2003

This week, ADC filed its proxy statement related to our upcoming annual meeting. Included in the proxy statement are further details about the Stock Option Exchange Program for eligible ADC employees.

While this program directly impacts only those employees who hold eligible stock options, we believe that it is in the best interest of all our shareowners by effectively providing the employee incentive and retention objectives that the original stock options were intended to provide. Improving ADC's business performance goes hand-in-hand with incenting and rewarding employees. In this regard, this program has the potential to benefit ADC and its shareowners and employees.

As I mentioned in the December Town Hall, there are several requirements that must be met for this voluntary Stock Option Exchange Program to be available. The next requirement will be achieving shareowner approval at our Annual Shareowner's Meeting in March.

The following provides a high-level targeted timeframe that will be communicated in more detail to eligible employees:

March 4, 2003 ADC's Annual Shareowner's Meeting Approval MUST be

received from our shareowners in order to proceed

May 2003 Exchange Ratios determined

June 2003 Plan documents provided to eligible employees

(Anticipated date)

June 2 June 27, 2003 Election period (Anticipated dates)

Late December 2003 New options granted for eligible employees who elected to

participate in the Program (Anticipated date)

I'm delighted that ADC's Board of Directors approved this program for shareowner approval and I thank you for your continued efforts to win in our marketplace and return ADC to growth and profitability in 2003.

If you are an ADC shareowner, you should review the complete Proxy Statement prior to casting your vote.

Notice Concerning Stock Option Exchange Program

ADC has recently filed and begun distribution of its proxy statement in connection with the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. The proxy statement contains important information regarding the proposal related to this exchange and should be read carefully by shareowners prior to voting. ADC has not commenced the exchange offer referred to in this communication, and will not unless shareowners approve the exchange program at the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. ADC's Board of Directors has reserved the right to amend, postpone or terminate the proposed exchange program in the event of changed circumstances prior to the end of the exchange offer period. If and at the time the exchange offer is commenced, ADC will provide optionholders who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer with written materials explaining the precise terms and timing of the exchange offer. Employees who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer should read these written materials carefully when they become available because they will contain important information about the exchange offer, including certain risks associated with the exchange offer. Upon the commencement of the exchange offer, ADC will also file the written materials relating to the exchange offer with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of a tender offer statement. ADC's shareowners and optionholders will be able to obtain these written materials and other documents filed by ADC with the Securities and Exchange Commission free of charge from the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at www.adc.com/investor by clicking on Financial Information, then clicking on SEC Filings.

01/21/03

###

Attachment (2)

ADC Confidential For Internal Purposes Only

As I stated in the ADCannounce that went out this morning to all ADC employees, I would be following up with employees that currently hold ADC options.

As a current holder of ADC stock options, you may be eligible for the Stock Option Exchange Program. Some details on eligibility are included in the proxy statement. Please note that eligibility and terms and conditions may vary by country.

There are no action items on your part right now, other than the responsibility, if you are a shareowner, to review the proxy statement and vote.

ADC's stock option programs are designed to align your compensation with the creation of shareholder value, and to provide a long-term incentive to our employees. Because ADC's stock price has decreased significantly, the perception is that most options at higher prices have significantly reduced value.

To address this, ADC's Board of Directors approved the Stock Option Exchange Program pending approval from our shareowners. This program gives eligible employees a one-time choice to cancel existing stock options in June 2003 (anticipated date) and exchange them for new options to be issued on or about December 29, 2003 (new grant date). There are many details to this program, both legal and administrative and I encourage you to read everything you receive before deciding whether or not to participate.

As you are an employee who may be eligible for this program, I wanted to share with you a link to an electronic library containing information on:

STOCK OPTION EXCHANGE PROGRAM ONLINE LIBRARY

Overall summary sheet highlighting key details Support Resources for more information/place to ask questions Updated Questions and Answers Glossary of Terms Proxy Excerpt

Country Participation Status

If you are an ADC shareowner, you will be provided with a copy of the proxy statement related to this proposal.

The next communication you'll receive will be notification of the results of the Shareowner's vote. If approved, we expect to provide election materials in early June. The election window is expected to be 20 days; so if you decide to participate, submit your election early.

I'm delighted that ADC's Board of Directors submitted this program for shareowner approval and I thank you for your continued efforts to win in our marketplace and return ADC to growth and profitability in 2003.

Providing eligible employees with this choice allows ADC to reinvigorate your perception of ADC's stock options as a meaningful form of compensation and recognition. It also acknowledges your continued dedication through these challenging times.

A copy of the portion of the proxy statement that summarizes this proposal is available on Broadway in the Stock Option Exchange Program Library (Broadway/You@ADC/My Money/Stock Option Exchange Program Library)

Want to verify your stock option holdings? Check online at the UBS PaineWebber site http://www.cefs.ubspainewebber.com/ADCT

Can't remember your PIN access number? Click here to request/change your PIN to access the UBS PaineWebber site or contact them at the numbers listed below

 $UBS\ Paine Webber:$

U.S. only 888-844-2823 Outside the U.S. 201-272-7069

Notice Concerning Stock Option Exchange Program

ADC has recently filed and begun distribution of its proxy statement in connection with the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. The proxy statement contains important information regarding the proposal related to this exchange and should be read carefully by shareowners prior to voting. ADC has not commenced the exchange offer referred to in this communication, and will not unless shareowners approve the exchange program at the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. ADC's Board of Directors has reserved the right to amend, postpone or terminate the proposed exchange program in the event of changed circumstances prior to the end of the exchange offer period. If and at the time the exchange offer is commenced, ADC will provide optionholders who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer with written materials explaining the precise terms and timing of the exchange offer. Employees who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer should read these written materials carefully when they become available because they will contain important information about the exchange offer, including certain risks associated with the exchange offer. Upon the commencement of the exchange offer, ADC will also file the written materials relating to the exchange offer with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of a tender offer statement. ADC's shareowners and optionholders will be able to obtain these written materials and other documents filed by ADC with the Securities and Exchange Commission free of charge from the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at www.adc.com/investor by clicking on Financial Information, then clicking on SEC Filings.

01/21/03

###

2

Attachment (3)

ADC CONFIDENTIAL FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Stock Option Exchange Program Question and Answer

Q1 Why does ADC wish to implement this program?

A1 ADC utilizes stock options as long-term compensation incentives for employees. Due to market declines over the past two years, many ADC employees hold options priced significantly higher than our current stock price. Recognizing this disparity, our Board of Directors has approved this program, pending shareowner approval, so that our employees can start anew with options priced in a way that we hope will reward current and future efforts to grow our company.

Q2 Why is this good for me?

A2 This program may be beneficial to you if you have options with exercise prices at values significantly higher than today's current stock price and that otherwise qualify for the program. Because this program will provide you an opportunity to exchange those options for a lesser number of new options with exercise prices equal to our stock price at the time of the new grant, the result is a potentially higher return on your options moving forward.

Q3 Who is eligible to participate?

A3 To be eligible, you must be an ADC employee on the last day of the election period in June 2003 (anticipated date). Based on ADC's recent average stock trading range, the option exchange would apply to eligible employees' options that have an exercise price equal to or greater than \$4.00 per share and an expiration date on or after January 1, 2004.

Some employees outside of the U.S. may not qualify to participate in the program. In addition, ADC's five most highly compensated officers and Board members will not be eligible to participate in the program.

If the program is approved by shareowners, complete and final eligibility requirements will be included in the Stock Option Exchange Program plan documents to be distributed to employees in June 2003 (anticipated date).

Q4 Will the program be available in countries outside the U.S.?

A4 ADC intends to offer this program worldwide, where practical and feasible. Currently, we are working to evaluate the possibilities for this program for our employees outside the United States and will provide more detail as available on the exact countries where this program will be possible.

Q5 Do I have to participate in the program?

A5 No. The program is strictly voluntary. If the program is approved by shareowners, there will be an election period in June 2003 (anticipated date) of at least 20 U.S. business days where employees can either elect or decline to participate.

Q6 Do I have to exchange all of my options?

A6 Eligible employees can elect to exchange just portions of their options and are not required to exchange all of their options eligible for the program, subject to some conditions that will be more fully described in subsequent materials.

Q7 What will I have to do to participate in the program?

As a potential participant, there are no immediate actions at this time. If you are an ADC shareowner, you will have the opportunity to vote on the program beginning in January when proxy statements and voting materials are distributed.

In January, ADC will issue more details about the exchange program to employees and shareowners when it files its proxy statement. If ADC shareowners approve the program at the annual shareowners meeting in March, then in June (approximate timeframe), there will be an election period of at least 20 U.S. business days during which eligible employees must elect or decline to participate in the program. Election forms and final instructions will be made available at that time.

Q8 Why will it take so long to start the program?

A8 The June requirement is necessary in order for ADC to comply with accounting rules, which require a six-month delay from its last option grant date for eligible participants.

Q9 Will my vesting schedule change?

A9 Yes. The vesting schedule of the new options issued to employees in the U.S. and most other countries is included in the program information on Broadway/You@ADC/My Money/Stock Option Exchange Program. Please note that there may be variations on this vesting schedule in some counties in order to take advantage of local tax preferences.

Q10 Why won't I get the same number of options I trade in?

A10 The exchange will not be a one-for-one option exchange for employees because we have determined it to be in the best interest of our shareowners to establish a "value-for-value" based program. If we do not exchange options at rates that reduce the overall number of options outstanding, it eliminates a key benefit to shareowners and could affect their decision to approve the program.

Q11 What happens if I elect to participate in the program, but leave ADC voluntarily prior to the grant date?

All If an eligible employee who surrenders options in the program voluntarily terminates their employment with ADC or a participating subsidiary prior to the date of grant of the replacement options, that employee will not receive any replacement options.

Q12 What if I elect to participate in the program but am laid off by ADC prior to the grant date?

A12 Employees in this situation will be granted 20 percent of the new options they otherwise would have received in the exchange. These new options will be granted on the same date as the new options granted to other participants.

If the program is approved by shareowners, complete and final eligibility requirements will be included in the Stock Option Exchange Program plan documents to be distributed to employees in June 2003 (anticipated date).

Q13 What will the exchange ratios be?

A13 Final exchange ratios will be determined and communicated prior to the election period in June 2003 (anticipated date). You can estimate what your replacement option grant would be if you divide your current eligible option amounts by the exchange ratio for each tier.

Q14 Do I need to supply my original option agreements to participate?

A14 No. There will be an election form to document your decision.

2

Q15 I have some recent options with a relatively low exercise price. Why do I have to participate?

A15 Employees are not required to participate and may elect to exchange only portions of their options, subject to some conditions that will be more fully described in subsequent materials.

Q16 Have other companies implemented such a program?

A16 Yes. Companies such as Lucent, Nortel and Kodak have implemented similar programs. Each of these programs has some differences from ADC's program but the main program objectives were similar.

Q17 What is the difference between this program and directly repricing options?

A17 A program to reprice options directly would result in different accounting treatment and could negatively impact earnings. ADC has elected to use the stock option exchange program as an alternative to direct repricing of options because exchange programs are more commonly used in today's market and are more favorable to our accounting needs.

Q18 Why can the Board of Directors terminate the program?

A18 In our dynamic industry and economy, circumstances could change significantly prior to June 2003. For this reason, the Board has decided to reserve the right to terminate the program.

Q19 If I do elect to participate in this program, when will the new options be granted?

A19 You may exchange your current eligible options for new options to be issued on or about December 29, 2003 (new grant date).

Q20 Where do I go to get more information about the program?

A20 More information on this program can be found on Broadway/You@ADC/My Money/Stock Option Exchange Program.

Notice Concerning Stock Option Exchange Program

ADC has recently filed and begun distribution of its proxy statement in connection with the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. The proxy statement contains important information regarding the proposal related to this exchange and should be read carefully by shareowners prior to voting. ADC has not commenced the exchange offer referred to in this communication, and will not unless shareowners approve the exchange program at the annual shareowners meeting on March 4, 2003. ADC's Board of Directors has reserved the right to amend, postpone or terminate the proposed exchange program in the event of changed circumstances prior to the end of the exchange offer period. If and at the time the exchange offer is commenced, ADC will provide optionholders who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer with written materials explaining the precise terms and timing of the exchange offer. Employees who are eligible to participate in the exchange offer should read these written materials carefully when they become available because they will contain important information about the exchange offer, including certain risks associated with the exchange offer. Upon the commencement of the exchange offer, ADC will also file the written materials relating to the exchange offer with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of a tender offer statement. ADC's shareowners and optionholders will be able to obtain these written materials and other documents filed by ADC with the Securities and Exchange Commission free of charge from the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site at www.adc.com/investor by clicking on Financial Information, then clicking on SEC Filings.

01/21/03

###

3

OuickLinks

Attachment (1)

Attachment (2)

Stock Option Exchange Program Question and Answer