UNITED STATES

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 6, 2006

ALTERA CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction 0-16617 (Commission File Number) 77-0016691 (IRS Employer

of Incorporation)

Identification No.)

101 Innovation Drive, San Jose, California 95134
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)
Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (408) 544-7000

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- " Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- " Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

(b) Departure of Principal Officer.

On March 6, 2006, Altera Corporation issued a press release announcing the planned retirement of Nathan M. Sarkisian, senior vice president and chief financial officer, by the end of 2006. A copy of the press release is attached to this report as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

- (c) Exhibits.
 - 99.1 Press Release dated March 6, 2006.

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 hereunto duly authorized.

ALTERA CORPORATION

/s/ Katherine E. Schuelke Katherine E. Schuelke

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Date: March 6, 2006

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

DescriptionPress Release dated March 6, 2006 99.1