FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to<br>Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 | STATEMENT ( |
|--|-------------|
| obligations may continue. See  |             |
| Instruction 1(b).  | Filed purs  |

## OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

**OMB APPROVAL** OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     DENICOLA ANTHONY J |          |                         |  |            | AI   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP [ ADS ] |         |   |                         |  |  |               |                               |   | 5. Relationship of Reporti<br>(Check all applicable)<br>Director<br>Officer (give title  |                               |  | •                                     | X 10% C                                    | )wner  |  |
|--|----------|-------------------------|--|------------|--|--|---------|---|-------------------------|--|--|---------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| STOWE  | LSH, CAR | SON, ANDERSO            | Middle)<br>ON AND                          | )          |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/11/2005                    |         |   |                         |  |  |               |                               |   |  | belov                         |  |                                       | below)                                     | (specify   |  |
| (Street) NEW YO  | ORK N    |                         | 0022<br>Zip)                               |            | 4. If  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                       |         |   |                         |  |  |               |                               |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |                               |  |                                       |  |  |  |
|  |          | Tabl                    | e I - No                                   | n-Deriv    | ative  | Se   | curitie | es Ac                                   | quired,                 | Dis  | posed o  | f, or         | Ber                           | nefic                                   | ially  | Owne                          | ed   |                                       |  |  |  |
|  |          |                         | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |            | r) E   | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year)                    |         | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |                         | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4<br>5)   |  |               |                               | Securities Beneficially Owned Following |  | ties<br>cially<br>I Following | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)        |                                       | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |  |  |
|  |          |                         |  |            |  |  |         |   | Code                    | v  | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D) |                               | Pric                                    | Report Trans (Instr.   |                               | ction(s)<br>3 and 4)   |                                       |  | (Instr. 4)   |  |
| Common Stock   |          |                         |  | 01/11/2005 |  |  |         |   | <b>J</b> (1)            |  | 4,000,00   | 00            | D                             |   | (1)  | 12,160,349                    |  | <b>J</b> (2)                          |  | By<br>Welsh,<br>Carson,<br>Anderson<br>& Stowe<br>VIII, L.P. |  |
| Common   | Stock    |                         |  | 01/11      | /2005  |  |         |   | <b>J</b> <sup>(1)</sup> |  | 2,801  |               | A                             |   | (1)  | 8                             | 2,969  |                                       | D  |  |  |
|  |          | (e.g., poned<br>n Date, | ., puts, ca                                |            | 5. Nu<br>of<br>Deriv<br>Secu<br>Acqu<br>(A) o<br>Dispo | rants, umber vative urities uired ur osed ) r. 3, 4                            | option  | xercis                                  | onvertib                | or Benefici<br>le securitie  7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instrand 4) |  | ities         | 8. Pr<br>Deri<br>Sec<br>(Inst | rice of<br>vative<br>urity              | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4)  |                               | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |  |
|  |          |                         |  |            | Code   | v  | (A)     | (D)                                     | Date<br>Exercisa        |  | Expiration or Of |               | ımber                         |   |  |                               |  |                                       |  |  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Distribution of shares by Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VIII, L.P. to its partners.
- 2. The Reporting Person is a managing member of the sole general partner of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VIII, L.P. Pursuant to Instruction (4)(b)(iv) of Form 4, the Reporting Person has elected to report as indirectly beneficially owned the entire number of securities beneficially owned by such entity. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities, and any proceeds thereof, that exceed his pecuniary interest therein and/or that are not actually distributed to him.

## Remarks:

Jonathan M. Rather, Attorneyin-Fact

01/11/2005

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.