

INVITROGEN CORP  
Form 424B3  
November 12, 2002

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

**\$500,000,000**  
**INVITROGEN CORPORATION**

**2 1/4% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2006**  
**5,807,000 Shares of Common Stock Issuable on Conversion of the Notes**

This prospectus supplement ( Prospectus Supplement ) supplements our Prospectus dated March 11, 2002 (the Prospectus ), as amended by prospectus supplements dated March 20, 2002, April 23, 2002, June 14, 2002, and July 15, 2002, and relates to our 2 1/4% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2006, which are held by certain security holders who may offer for sale the notes and shares of our common stock into which the notes are convertible at any time, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at privately negotiated prices. The selling security holders may sell the notes or the common stock directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. We will not receive any proceeds from this offering.

This Prospectus Supplement should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus and this Prospectus Supplement is qualified by reference to the Prospectus, except to the extent that the information contained in this Prospectus Supplement supersedes the information contained in the Prospectus. Capitalized Terms used in this Prospectus Supplement and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings specified in the Prospectus.

**NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE  
SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES  
OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY  
REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**

The date of this Prospectus Supplement is November 12, 2002.

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### Selling Security Holders

We issued, and the initial purchasers sold, the notes offered by this Prospectus in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act to persons whom the initial purchasers reasonably believed to be qualified institutional buyers (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act). The selling security holders (which term includes the initial purchasers transferees, pledges, donees or their successors) may from time to time offer and sell pursuant to this prospectus any or all of the notes and common stock issued upon conversion of the notes.

The selling security holders table, as set forth in the Prospectus, is hereby amended (as amended, the Amended Table ) by the addition or revisions set forth in the Amended Table below, including changes in the selling security holders and in the selling security holders principal amounts of notes. The Amended Table sets forth information, as of November 12, 2002, with respect to the selling security holders and the respective principal amounts of notes beneficially owned by each selling security holder that may be offered pursuant to this Prospectus. None of the selling security holders has, or within the past three years has had, any position, office or other material relationship with us or any of our predecessors or affiliates. We have included information in this Prospectus regarding the selling security holders based solely upon information that the selling security holders have provided to us in writing pursuant to a registration rights agreement dated December 11, 2001. Because the selling security holders may offer all or some portion of the notes or the common stock issuable upon conversion of the convertible notes pursuant to this Prospectus, we cannot estimate the amount of the notes or the common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes that the selling security holders will hold upon termination of any such sales. In addition, the selling security holders identified below may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of all or a portion of their notes in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act since the date on which they provided the information regarding their notes.

Name of Selling Security Holder	Principal Amount of Notes	Number of Shares of Common Stock		
	Beneficially Owned			
	and Offered	Beneficially	Offered	Owned
	Hereby(1)	Owned(1)(2)	Hereby(1)	After the Offering
Arbitex Master Fund, L.P.	9,900,000	114,982	114,982	0
BTES-Convertible ARB	1,000,000	11,614	11,614	0
BTPO Growth Vs Value	4,000,000	46,457	46,457	0
Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation	7,300,000	84,785	84,785	0
Family Service Life Insurance Co.	200,000	2,322	2,322	0
Golden Rule Insurance Company	450,000	5,226	5,226	0
Goldman Sachs and Company	3,500,000	40,650	40,650	0
Guardian Life Insurance Co.	9,300,000	108,013	108,013	0
Guardian Pension Trust	500,000	5,807	5,807	0
The State of Maryland Retirement Agency	3,000,000	34,843	34,843	0
Wachovia Securities, Inc.	14,550,000	168,989	168,989	0

(1) Information concerning the selling security holders may change from time to time and any such changed information will be set forth in supplements to this Prospectus if and when necessary. In addition, the per share conversion price, and therefore the number of shares issuable upon conversion of the notes, is subject to adjustment under certain circumstances. Accordingly, the aggregate principal amount of notes and the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes offered hereby may increase or decrease.

(2) Assumes  
a  
conversion  
price of  
\$86.10 per  
share, and a  
cash  
payment in  
lieu of any  
fractional  
share  
interest.

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Information concerning other selling security holders will be set forth in prospectus supplements from time to time, if required. The above table assumes that any other holder of notes or any future transferee from any such holder does not beneficially own any common stock other than the common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes at the initial conversion rate.