
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G
(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT
TO § 240.13d-1(b), (c), AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED
PURSUANT TO § 240.13d-2

(Amendment No.)*

Vera Therapeutics, Inc.
(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

92337R101
(CUSIP Number)

31 December 2021
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of the Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

1.	NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS Ares Trading SA		
2.	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (see instructions) (a) <input type="radio"/> (b) <input type="radio"/>		
3.	SEC USE ONLY		
4.	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Switzerland		
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	5.	SOLE VOTING POWER 1,913,501 ¹	
	6.	SHARED VOTING POWER 0	
	7.	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,913,501 ¹	
	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0	
9.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,913,501 ¹		
10.	CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) <input type="radio"/>		
11.	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 8.99% ²		
12.	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) CO		

¹ The record holder of the securities covered by this Schedule 13G is Ares Trading SA.

Ares Trading SA is a dominantly controlled subsidiary of Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is a publicly traded company (Frankfurt Stock Exchange, DAX 30) and the beneficiary of the two companies.

Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany may be deemed to possess sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the securities held of record by Ares Trading SA.

² This percentage is based upon a denominator of 21,277,614 shares of Common Stock consisting of 20,968,376 shares of Class A common stock and 309,238 shares of Class B common stock, outstanding as of November 05, 2021 as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10, 2021.

1.	NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany		
2.	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (see instructions) (a) <input type="radio"/> (b) <input type="radio"/>		
3.	SEC USE ONLY		
4.	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Switzerland		
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	5.	SOLE VOTING POWER 1,913,501 ³	
	6.	SHARED VOTING POWER 0	
	7.	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,913,501 ³	
	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0	
9.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,913,501 ³		
10.	CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) <input type="radio"/>		
11.	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 8.99% ⁴		
12.	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) CO		

³ The record holder of the securities covered by this Schedule 13G is Ares Trading SA.

Ares Trading SA is a dominantly controlled subsidiary of Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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⁴ This percentage is based upon a denominator of 21,277,614 shares of Common Stock consisting of 20,968,376 shares of Class A common stock and 309,238 shares of Class B common stock, outstanding as of November 05, 2021 as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10, 2021.

1.	NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany		
2.	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (see instructions) (a) <input type="radio"/> (b) <input type="radio"/>		
3.	SEC USE ONLY		
4.	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Germany		
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	5.	SOLE VOTING POWER 1,913,501 ⁵	
	6.	SHARED VOTING POWER 0	
	7.	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,913,501 ⁵	
	8.	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0	
9.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,913,501 ⁵		
10.	CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) 0		
11.	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 8.99% ⁶		
12.	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) CO		

⁵ The record holder of the securities covered by this Schedule 13G is Ares Trading SA.

Ares Trading SA is a dominantly controlled subsidiary of Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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⁶ This percentage is based upon a denominator of 21,277,614 shares of Common Stock consisting of 20,968,376 shares of Class A common stock and 309,238 shares of Class B common stock, outstanding as of November 05, 2021 as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10, 2021.

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

Vera Therapeutics, Inc.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

170 Harbor Way, 3rd Floor
South San Francisco, California

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

This Schedule 13G is being filed by each of the following persons (each, a "Reporting Person" and together, the "Reporting Persons"):

Ares Trading SA
Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

The Reporting Persons have entered into a Joint Filing Agreement, a copy of which is filed with this Schedule 13G as Exhibit 99.1, pursuant to which the Reporting Persons have agreed to file this Schedule 13G jointly in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13d-1(k)(l) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:

Ares Trading SA: Zone Industrielle de l'Outriettaz, 1170 Aubonne, Switzerland
Merck Serono SA: Zone Industrielle, 1267 Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
Merck KGaA: Frankfurter Strasse 250, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

The Reporting Persons Ares Trading SA and Merck Serono SA Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany are organized in Switzerland. The Reporting Person Merck KGaA is organized in Darmstadt, Germany.

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock, US\$ 0.001 par value per share

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

92337R101

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§ 240.13d-1(b), or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

Not applicable

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o);
 - (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);
 - (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);
 - (d) Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8);
 - (e) An investment adviser in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
 - (f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
 - (g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
 - (h) A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
 - (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
 - (j) A non-U.S. institution in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J);
 - (k) Group, in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).
-

Item 4. Ownership:

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,913,501⁷
- (b) Percent of class: 8.99%⁸
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 1,913,501⁷
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 1,913,501⁷
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the class of securities, check the following o.

Item 6. Ownership of More Than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

Not applicable

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company:

Not applicable

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not applicable

Item 10. Certifications:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect, other than activities solely in connection with a nomination under § 240.14a-11.

⁷ The record holder of the securities covered by this Schedule 13G is Ares Trading SA.

Ares Trading SA is a dominantly controlled subsidiary of Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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⁸ This percentage is based upon a denominator of 21,277,614 shares of Common Stock consisting of 20,968,376 shares of Class A common stock and 309,238 shares of Class B common stock, outstanding as of November 05, 2021 as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10, 2021.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

ARES TRADING SADate: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Cedric HydeName: Cedric HydeTitle: CFO**MERCK SERONO SA, COINSINS, SWITZERLAND, AN
AFFILIATE OF MERCK KGAA, DARMSTADT, GERMANY**Date: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Cecric HydeName: Cedric HydeTitle: CFO**MERCK KGAA, DARMSTADT, GERMANY**Date: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Jens EckhardtName: Jens EckhardtTitle: Head of Legal HC BD, Alliance Mgt, GMS & Governance**ARES TRADING SA**Date: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Florence JolidonName: Florence JolidonTitle: Finance Manager**MERCK SERONO SA, COINSINS, SWITZERLAND, AN
AFFILIATE OF MERCK KGAA, DARMSTADT, GERMANY**Date: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Tearaboth TeName: Tearaboth TeTitle: Treasury Director**MERCK KGAA, DARMSTADT, GERMANY**Date: January 20, 2022By: /s/ Tobias GrevenName: Tobias GrevenTitle: Head of Group Legal Services

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 99.1 Joint Filing Agreement, dated January 7, 2019, by and between Ares Trading SA, Merck Serono SA, Coinsins, Switzerland, and Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.
