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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant o  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 **CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14a-6(e)(2))**  
 Definitive Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Additional Materials  
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

## META Group, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

### Gartner, Inc.

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

### Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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:

PERSONS WHO ARE TO RESPOND TO THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND UNLESS THE FORM DISPLAYS A CURRENTLY VALID OMB CONTROL NUMBER.

Filed by Gartner, Inc. Pursuant to Rule 14a-12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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Subject Company: META Group, Inc.. Commission File No.: 0-27280

On January 31, 2005, Gartner, Inc. issued the following press release.

## **GARTNER ANNOUNCES EARLY TERMINATION OF HART-SCOTT-RODINO WAITING PERIOD ON ITS PLANNED ACQUISITION OF META GROUP**

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**STAMFORD, Conn. – January 31, 2005** – Gartner, Inc. (NYSE: IT and ITB) today announced that notice has been received from the Federal Trade Commission of early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act concerning its planned acquisition of META Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: METG).

Completion of the transaction, expected during the second quarter 2005, is subject to customary closing conditions, including approval by META Group's stockholders.

### **About Gartner**

Gartner, Inc. is the leading provider of research and analysis on the global information technology industry. Gartner serves more than 10,000 clients, including chief information officers and other senior IT executives in corporations and government agencies, as well as technology companies and the investment community. The Company focuses on delivering objective, in-depth analysis and actionable advice to enable clients to make more informed technology and business decisions. The Company's businesses consist of Research and Events for IT professionals; Gartner Executive Programs, membership programs and peer networking services; and Gartner Consulting, customized engagements with a specific emphasis on outsourcing and IT management. Founded in 1979, Gartner is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, and has more than 3,500 associates, including approximately 1,000 research analysts and consultants, in 76 locations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.gartner.com](http://www.gartner.com).

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### **Safe Harbor Statement**

Statements contained in this press release regarding the consummation and timing of the pending acquisition, and all other statements in this release other than recitation of historical facts are forward-looking statements (as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995). Such forward-looking statements include risks and uncertainties; consequently, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied thereby. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: approval of META Group's stockholders of the pending acquisition; ability to expand or even retain META Group's customer base; ability to integrate META Group's current operations and business; ability to retain META Group's professional staff of research analysts and consultants; ability to achieve continued customer renewals and achieve new contract value, backlog and deferred revenue growth in META Group's business; additional risks associated with international operations; and other risks listed from time to time in the Company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2004. These filings can be found on Gartner's Web site at [www.gartner.com/investors](http://www.gartner.com/investors) and the SEC's Web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Forward-looking statements included herein speak only as of the date hereof and the Company disclaims any obligation to revise or update such statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events or circumstances.

### **Additional Information**

META Group has filed a preliminary proxy statement and other documents regarding the proposed transaction described in this press release with the Securities and Exchange Commission. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND SUCH OTHER MATERIALS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT META GROUP AND THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION.** A definitive proxy statement will be sent to security holders of META Group seeking their approval of the transaction. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the definitive proxy statement (when available) and other documents filed by META Group with the SEC at the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The definitive proxy statement and other relevant documents may also be obtained free of cost by directing a request to John Riley at 203-973-6700.

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META Group's directors and executive officers may be deemed, under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the META Group stockholders in connection with the proposed transaction. Information about META Group's directors and officers can be found in META Group's Proxy Statements and Annual Reports on Form 10-K filed with the SEC. Additional information regarding the interests of those persons may be obtained by reading the proxy statement and other documents regarding the proposed transaction when they become available.

**Contacts**

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